

**HUBUNGAN
(THE CONTACT)**

**ISSUE 25
JULY 2015**

**Newsletter
Queensland and Brisbane
Branch
NMBVAA Inc**



**Serving the Community
in times of Conflict and Peace**

President's Report for September, 2015

Once again another A.G.M. has come and gone. All committee members were voted back into their positions. Thank you to all who have made our Branch a great one. It is with a very sad heart that I must report the sad loss of one of our oldest and fondest members, Mrs Catherine Jessie Matilda Calverley. Born 4/4/1932 - 8/9/2015, Catherine was cremated on the 15/9/2015 at the Centenary Memorial Gardens. David, Betty, Laraine and I attended. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Fine weather and good food was enjoyed by all at our 31/8/2015. Having succumbed to the dreaded Brisbane bug it was left up to David to carry the Banner (when the diggers got it to him) David also had to be my voice for the day. THANKS MATE. The lack of a bugler, plus no Pipes and Drums this year did nothing to help him. To Dell (our Editor) THANKS MATE for the long hours and hard slog you put into your work to make our day a great one. We now have a new member in Lt Col Brian Avery (retd) who may be of a big help to you. To Ron Virgen, for sending out the invites (many late replies), plus being our M.C. for the day. THANKS MATE. To our Salvation Army Major Gary Craig who always steps up to the plate for us, GREAT WORK, MATE. To all of our invited guests who laid wreaths for our fallen, thank you for your kind thoughts. Now we start work for the 11/11/2015 plus our Xmas Party. I am looking forward to meeting a few more of our members soon.

May God bless you all,

Allen

**NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO
VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA Inc.**



**Queensland & Brisbane Branch
PO Box 86 WYNNUM 4178**

**President: R.A. Edwards Secretary: L.J. Edwards
Phone: 3396 6705 Fax: 33966705 Email: kog
Mobile: 0408 431 590**

Email Address: robertedwards14@bigpond.com

The NMBVA was officially established in 1995 and is a self-funding, non-profit association which uses only unpaid volunteers.

**Patron: Major-General J. C. Hughes AO DSO MC
ABN 31 340 936 038**

<http://www.nmbvaa.org.au/>

"The Brisbane & Queensland Branch of the N.M.&B.V.A.A. Inc. is the only Nationally & Internationally recognized & affiliated Branch in Queensland of the worldwide N.M.&B.V.A.A."

MATES HELPING MATES



Vale

Catherine Jessie Matilda Calverley

It is with much sadness that we acknowledge the passing of one of our NM&BVAA members, Catherine Calverley, at the Princess Alexandra Hospital on Tuesday 8th September 2015. Catherine along with her husband, George, have been members of our Association for many years. Catherine was a much loved Wife, Mother, Aunt, Nan and Grand-Nan. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.

Rest in Peace, Catherine.

Catherine and George celebrated their 60th Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 13th August 2015.



CAMBODIA

Cambodia is one of the most heavily mined areas in the world; some estimates run as high as ten million mines (in a country of 11.5 million people), though the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) estimates 4 to 6 million mines. Cambodia is also littered with other kinds of unexploded ordinance (UXO), left over from half a million tons of bombs dropped on Cambodia by the United States in the late 60s and early 70s. The figures here are not known, though there is an estimated "dud" rate of 10 percent for UXO (Cambodia Daily website). There are many different kinds of bombs and mines: US material from the "Vietnam" war era, and Chinese, Soviet and Eastern block made materials left from the Khmer Rouge era in the 1970s and a decade of civil war that followed in the 1980s.

This legacy of three decades of war had taken a severe toll on the Cambodia people; some 40,000 people live as amputees, one of the highest rates in the world. At least that number again must have died in remote areas before they could be transported to medical facilities, before they were discovered, or because of infections. Because of the lack of a working medical system throughout the country, many Cambodian amputees have had multiple surgeries, one at the time of the initial injury, but others later when infections could not be contained. Mine injuries cause more fatalities among children, and those children who do survive are more likely to be seriously injured (UNICEF website).

The costs of laying mines are low, as little as \$3 US per mine, but the costs of removal are very high, \$1000 US per mine or more. One study, cited on a UN website, noted a particular project in Cambodia where 45 deminers worked seven months. They found 265 mines and 943 units of unexploded ordinance. The cost of the project was about \$378,000 US, or about \$1,400 US a mine or \$5 US for every square meter of cleared land. About one third of this money went for international salaries and benefits, 27 percent for radios, computers and other equipment, and 20 percent for metal detectors. Only about 4.5 percent went for local salaries, and 8 percent for local administration

The story of landmine removal in Cambodia is, however, as one deminer says, "not a story of gloom and doom. It is a story of success." (Cambodia Daily website). There are three main organizations working to clear landmines in Cambodia: the Cambodia Mine Action Committee (CMAC), the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and the Halo Trust. Between 1993 and 1999 the three groups cleared 66,027,761 square meters, or 66 square kilometers. Each year they have been clearing faster than the year before. In 1999, the three groups combined cleared 11,857,920 square meters, with CMAC, the government body that also coordinates all demining, clearing 9,573,821 square meters

Those who are still being injured know that the areas where they travel and work are mined. The leading cause of landmine injuries, according to the NGO forum report is poverty. Thirty-eight percent of injuries result from people tampering with ordinance, usually to try to get the scrap metal to sell. Fifty-six percent of injuries occur when people are trying to earn a living; farming, carrying water, collecting wood, collecting forest products, and so on. As the war of the last three decades has ended, people have returned from refugee camps along the border with Thailand, from service in the military, and from being internally displaced within the country. There is not enough land for everyone, so people are willing to risk living and farming in areas that are being demined in order to stake their claim to some bit of land. (Article supplied by member.)

WELCOME TO THE NEW PATRON

for NMBVAA (Queensland and Brisbane Branch)

Mr Brian Avery (Lt Col Retd) has agreed to accept the position of Patron for this Sub-Branch. Mr Avery served as CO of 4RAR and has written several books on the conflicts in Malaysia.

Mr Avery will be welcomed at the next meeting of the Sub-Branch, 27 October 2015. If you are available, please attend this meeting.

VETERANS REMEMBERED



AN AWESOME MONUMENT

Anthem Veterans' Memorial, Arizona.

England's Stonehenge, Egypt's Karnak or Abu Simbel has nothing on us! Our Memorial even has a plaque pedestal to explain it all. Archaeologists of the future won't have to "guess" what this site is all about! Once a year, at 11:11 AM, the sun shines perfectly on this Memorial.

At precisely 11:11 A.M., on the 11th Day of the 11th Month (Veterans Day), the Sun's rays pass through the ellipses of the five Armed Services pillars to form a perfect solar spotlight over a mosaic of The Great Seal of the United States.

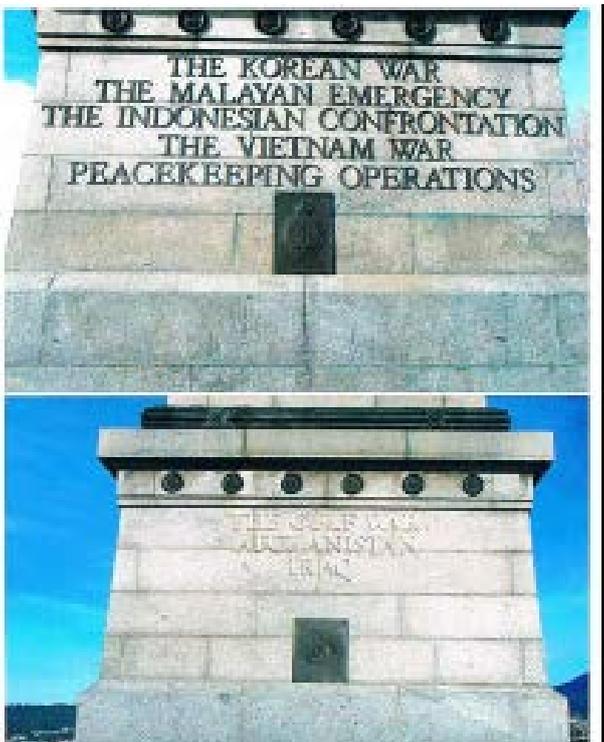
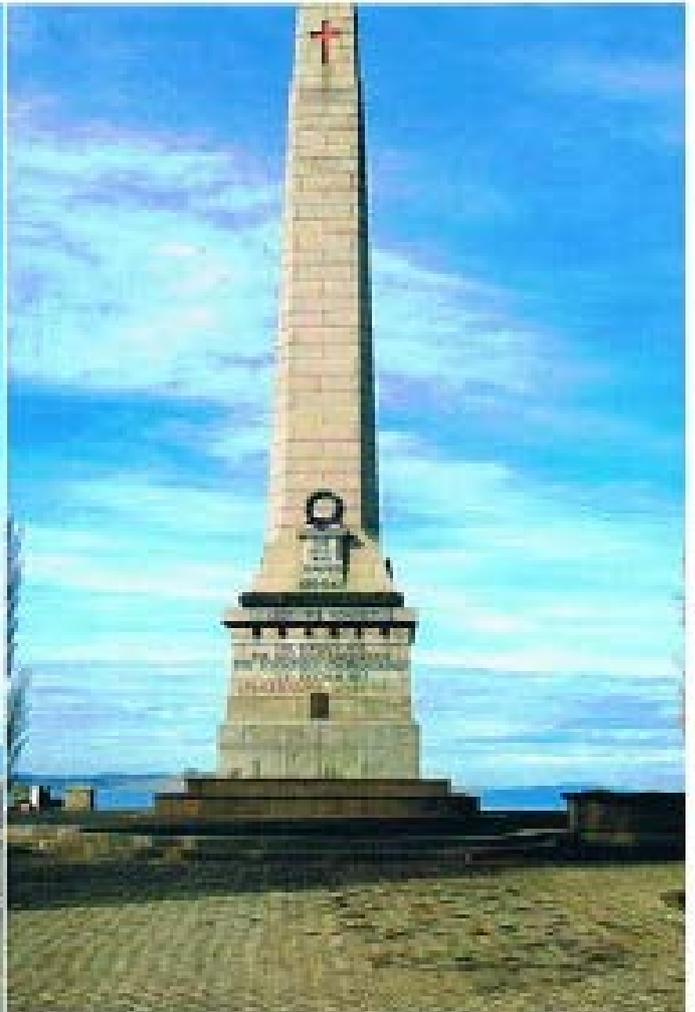
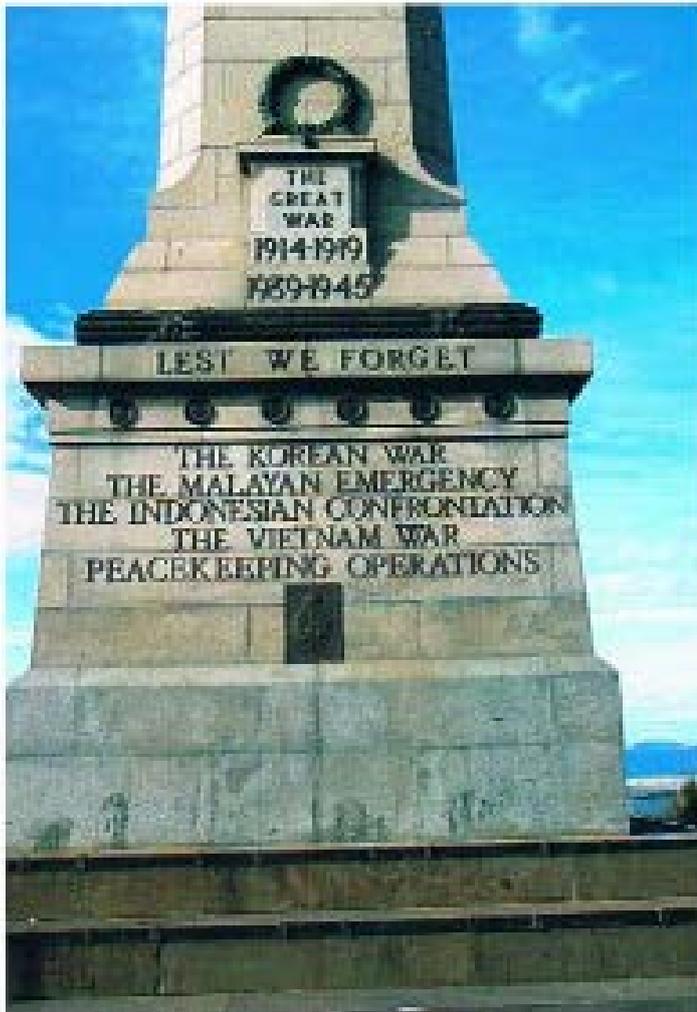
The Anthem Veterans' Memorial, located in Anthem, Arizona, is a monument dedicated to honouring the service and sacrifice of the United States armed forces. The pillar provides a place of honour and reflection for veterans, their family and friends, and those who want to show the respects to those service men and women who have and continue to courageously serve the United States.

The memorial was designed by Anthem resident Renee Palmer-Jones. The five marble pillars represent the five branches of the United States military. They are staggered in size (from 17' to 6') and ordered in accordance with the Department of Defence prescribed precedence: the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, and the United States Coast Guard.

Additionally, the brick pavers within the Circle of Honour are inscribed with the names of over 750 U.S. service men and women, symbolizing their support for our Armed Forces. The pavers are red, the pillars reppure white and the sky is blue to represent America's flag. The circle represents an unbreakable border.

Anthem resident and chief engineer, Jim Martin, was responsible for aligning the memorial accurately with the sun. Anthem Veterans' Memorial, 41703 N. Gavilan Peak Parkway, Anthem, Arizona.

In God We Trust



TASMANIAN CENOTAPH HOBART

Photographs by Mike Priest

Note: "Queensland War Memorial Register" is an excellent website for information about war memorials in Queensland. Submissions can also be made to this website.



2016 TOUR ITINERARY

KUCHING SARAWAK

24TH AUGUST - 1ST SEPTEMBER 2016

FROM HOME PORTS TO KUCHING via KUALA LUMPUR with Malaysian Airline Systems (MAS)

Wednesday 24 August 2016

ADELAIDE	1430 hrs - 2350 hrs	MH138 and MH2534
BRISBANE	2320 hrs - 1000 hrs	MH134 and MH2564
MELBOURNE	0805 hrs - 2115 hrs	MH128 and MH2564
PERTH	0125 hrs - 1000 hrs	MH126 and MH2504
SYDNEY	0725 hrs - 1745 hrs	MH142 and MH2528

Based on current trends, Economy return air fares may be around AUD\$850.00 - \$950.00 pp

FROM KUCHING TO HOME PORTS via KUALA LUMPUR with Malaysian Airline Systems (MAS)

Tuesday 1 September 2016

ADELAIDE	MH2529 and MH139
BRISBANE	MH2547 and MH135
MELBOURNE	MH2517 and MH149
PERTH	MH2521 and MH127
SYDNEY	MH2517 and MH143

NMBVAA MEMORIAL UNVEILING

The NMBVAA Memorial will be unveiled on Friday, 26th August 2016 in the Kuching War Memorial Gardens at 0930 hrs.

FREE TIME

There will be ample free time for sightseeing and shopping during the week. A informal lunch and a farewell dinner will also be arranged to include our Kuching friends. It is suggested that we have a lunch at a local Kuching restaurant that is not western style and the more formal dinner at one of the chain hotels.

KUCHING ACCOMMODATION

The choices available range from budget to international chains. Rates are per suite per night and most include breakfast in the price. Some suggestions will be advised with rates and proximity to the Kuching CBD.

Rates range from AUD\$85.00 - \$150.00 per night for 3, 4, 5 star.

Members may wish to travel before and after the above scheduled dates to visit Kota Kinabalu, Balikpapan and other places in Sabah, Sarawak and the Peninsula.



National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association Australia Inc
South Australia & Northern Territory Branch
73 Berrima Rd, Sheidow Park SA 5158
ABN 31 340 936 038

National Patron Maj Gen J C Hughes AO DSC MC

SA President: Brian Selby www.nmbvaa.org.au **Vice President:** Don Cameron

Ph: 08 8387 1672 E: oneoneecho111@gmail.com Ph: 08 8264 2858 E: wildcanyon@adam.com.au



2015, 100th Anniversary of ANZAC

WARNING ORDER

AUGUST 2016 MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CEASE FIRE AND DECLARATION OF THE END OF THE INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION WITH MALAYSIA

Plans are now being developed to conduct a 50th Anniversary Tour to Kuching, Sarawak with the intention of marking this significant Anniversary by unveiling a Memorial to all Australian Armed Forces personnel who paid the supreme sacrifice and who served during this undeclared war, regardless of the Area of Operations of deployment.

It is intended that attempts will be made to contact, and invite, the NOK and families of the Australian casualties wherever possible.

It is believed that this significant Anniversary is in keeping with the spirit of the Centenary of ANZAC.

A bronze enamelled Memorial plaque and black granite plinth will be unveiled on 26 August, 2016, in the War Memorial Gardens at Kuching, Sarawak.

Members of the surviving Malaysian Rangers and Iban Trackers Association, Malaysian Army members, Sarawak dignitaries, Malaysian government and Australian government representatives will be in attendance.

Comprehensive Itinerary, accommodation and International travel information will be available as details are confirmed. A draft document will be published to allow full consideration of the tour.

Tour dates are; 24 August to 1 September 2016.

Please advise your family and those who you served with.....

Ubique

Brian Selby

Lest We Forget



Courage Mateship Pride

Jasamu Dikenang



**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CEASE FIRE AND
END OF THE INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION
SARAWAK TOUR
24 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER 2016**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NAMES

ADDRESS

PH

MOBILE

EMAIL

SHIP / UNIT / SQUADRON

POSSIBLE NUMBER IN MY PARTY

**MALAYSIAN AIRLINE SYSTEMS (MAS) HAS DAILY SERVICES
FROM ALL AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL CITIES TO KUCHING VIA
KUALA LUMPUR**

RETURN TO:

BRIAN SELBY

73 BERRIMA RD

SHEIDOW PARK SA 5158

E: oneoneecho111@gmail.com



Email received from Owen Marshall.

Hi All,
Please put any concerns you have to rest as this response to my email to RSL National clearly states the Governments position.

"Thanks for the inquiry.

Though understandable the concerns of your members are unfounded.

Minister Robert has made it crystal clear that as a former serviceman himself (and a member of the RSL), a separate Department of Veterans' Affairs will remain. I have met with both PM Turnbull and Minister Robert since the change of Government and have absolutely no doubt that they are committed to retaining a separate Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Hope this helps,

Ken Doolan"

Reminder Notice to pay fees for 2015

If you have already paid the fees for 2015, please disregard this notice.

Our fees need to be paid by the 1/1/ each year.



THE MARCH
31/8/2015
NM&BVAA
Queensland
and Brisbane
Branch
marching prior
to the
11am Service at
the
RAR National
Memorial
Walk, Enoggera

Dear Members & Co-Associates,

The Royal Marine Corps Luncheon will be held on the 1st November at Chatswood RSL CLUB in the Auditorium. Cost per person will be \$30pp. Widows will be free (As per normal... OK Sam?).

Dress will be Blazers, tie, Medals, black socks and black shoes (unless you are wearing a surgical appliance!) Lounge suits are also acceptable. Ladies are free to choose their own apparel.

PLEASE inform us that you will be attending this function ASAP, contact the secretary at anchorman@optusnet.com.au or Treasurer: Sam HP SMITH @ 34 St Johns Road Bradbury NSW.2560....or 02.4620 5267 or

Mob: 0418 478 564

We extend a very cordial invitation to you all.

Our Brother Associations; please inform your members and take numbers and return it to the above addresses.

Our best regards to all from John W Lees,
State Sec RMA NSW.

This Newspaper
is proudly printed by
the office of
ROSS VASTA - MP for Bonner

This Newsletter will be published quarterly by the
NM&BVAA Inc.
Committee Members
for Queensland State and Brisbane Sub-Branch
of the NM&BVAA Inc. are as follows:

President: Allen Edwards 07 3396 6705
Secretary: Laraine Edwards 07 3396 6705
Assistant Secretary: Betty Brewer
Vice President: David Brewer
Treasurer: Laraine Edwards
Memberships: Allen Edwards
Memorabilia: Laraine Edwards
Communications Officer: Peter Lucas 0413 354 479
Pensions & Welfare: Ron Virgen OAM 07 3267 0249
Editor: Dell Shears RFD 0475 521 415
Correspondence: The Secretary, PO Box 86,
Wynnum, Qld. 4178



DISCLAIMER: The views and/or content in this News do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association or that of State or National Executives, Delegates and/or Committee.

Serving the Community in times of Conflict and Peace