



SA & NT BRANCH

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 August 2016

Selamat tengahari dan Selamat datang Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the 50th Anniversary of Deployments Tour to Malaysia in August 2014, the idea of commemorating the 50th. Anniversary of the Cease Fire and Declaration of the End of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia in August 2016, was first discussed and the idea was run past a few people in Kuching who were very keen to continue the personal associations we had established.

Throughout 2015 and 2016, the planning and procedures for the 50th. Anniversary have been fine-tuned and the official Commemoration service will be conducted in the “*Hero’s Graveyard*” of the Hero’s Memorial Park, Jalan Taman Budaya, Kuching, Sarawak at 0930 hrs on the 29th August, 2016.

There will be 36 veterans, some family members and friends travelling from SA, NT, WA and NSW to pay their respects and to visit some of the old bases and strong points established in the Bau and Serikin areas.

The Catafalque Party is being mounted by some Australian Air Force Cadets from 602, 603, 604 and 622 Squadrons in Adelaide and the Riverland. This is a first for any Australian cadet groups.

The Memorial tablet listing all Australian Army and Air Force personnel who Died on Operational Service during the Confrontation has been made from Sarawak black granite by a local Kuching stonemason and is being mounted next to the Australian SAS Memorial tablet unveiled on 4 August, 2015.

A request to some very senior politicians and the regal representative to provide a short speech/note that could be read at the Commemoration service was declined...

The Federal government declined to grant any funds to assist with the Memorial and there will be no commemoration service in Australia under the sponsorship of the Dept of Defence, or, Dept of Veterans’ Affairs... so much for the Centenary of ANZAC spirit...

The entire funding requirements have been raised by a few members of the SA NT Branch who manned the bi-monthly bbq’s at Bunnings Warehouse Modbury, and the raffles organised at the Bridgeport Hotel in Murray Bridge. Thank you to our Victorian Branch and the 3RAR SA Association for their generous donations.

The annual SA & NT Branch Malaya & Borneo Veterans’ Day service is being held on Saturday, 17 September, 2016, at 1100 hrs in the War Memorial Gardens, Hilton, followed by light refreshments in the auditorium of the Hamra Library adjacent to the Memorial. This date is a once off to allow adequate time for those returning from Sarawak.

On ANZAC Day the Association formed up with 60 veterans in the new assembly point on North Tce. The reduction in the numbers of WW2 veterans is very noticeable and it will only be a few years before the same formation style for unit banners will be in place as for all WW1 units. The automatic consolidation of former groups causes the remaining veterans and associations to “move up the line”.

The move to the RSL Avoca Hotel for Branch meetings and some social functions has proved to be a worthwhile change. The ambience is good, the meal choices and prices are good value and RSL members are given a discount on beverages and dining choices.

The SA Governor, the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, accepted the request to become the SA & NT Branch Patron and attended the 2015 Branch Christmas lunch. He has pencilled in this year's Christmas lunch on 3 December; a Certificate of Membership and a NBVAA plaque were presented to him at Government House on 6 July during a morning tea. He has also penned a note to be read at the Commemoration service in Kuching.

The Centenary of ANZAC Memorial Wall has been unveiled on Kintore Avenue starting at the SA Cenotaph on North Terrace and finishing at the Pathway of Honour at Torrens Parade Ground.

The hectic schedule of events and functions that have been the norm for the last 3 years will slow down in the foreseeable future....there are no major anniversaries, or, large events on the calendar, so, with the funds being accrued I would like to think that the Branch members can consider attending some social lunches etc., and have the costs subsidised. For example; Christmas lunch this year is a primary event where the cost per head can be reduced more so than would be usual.

The proposed move of the Ward 17 facilities from RGH Daw Park to a new complex at Glenside will commence in 2017. The new facilities will be much more user friendly and able to cater to the needs of families during visits and outpatient visits. A name is yet to be decided.

In a bold move, RSL Care NSW has underwritten the purchase of RGH Daw Park and will construct a large residential precinct. The chapel, museum, aquatic rehabilitation facility and some other structures will be retained and refurbished.

I would like to thank the committee members who have assisted me during these last 12 months, and it would be remiss to not thank Jenny Cameron for her continued mastery of the Branch financial records and organisation of the bi-monthly bbq function at Bunnings Warehouse Modbury. The accrued nett this year is a record amount after expenses.

Up the Old Rooster.....*Terima kasih*....

Ubique

B J Selby

Brian Selby...

President

SA NT Branch

19 August 2016.