



# THE LISTENING POST

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2010

## VETERANS REVIEW BOARD RELOCATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL EXPENSES

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- M I A Update.
- State Secretaries.
- Medical Expenses Reimbursement.
- VRB Relocation.
- War Memorial Update
- NMBVAA Inc Logo

#### **Section 170A of the Veterans' Entitlement Act refers.....**

The SA and NT VRB has been relocated to Brisbane as part of the ongoing restructuring of the DVA. All veterans needing to be reimbursed for the expenses incurred obtaining the necessary medical reports for lodgement of appeals with the VRB, are now required to submit claims with the Brisbane office of the DVA.

The expectation that DVA would pay for these expenses in advance, no longer applies. This is due in part to the fact that some veterans had not passed on the funds to the particular medico, who then billed the DVA again. Hence the practice is that a receipt for these expenses must accompany any claims for reim-

bursement.

Section 170A of the Act provides that the Commonwealth may pay an applicant to the Board an amount (within regulated limits) to cover medical expenses incurred.....

The Department having said that realizes that there may be some hardship in some cases for the applicant(s) to pay such fees and therefore is happy to engage in discussing alternative payment methods for reimbursement as :

(a) an ex-service organization may pay the medico on behalf of the applicant(s). DVA will then reimburse the ESO up to the regulated amount.

(b) the applicant(s) may pay the medico with a credit card

or a post dated cheque. DVA will fast track the reimbursement in an attempt to have cleared funds in the applicants account before the credit card payment is due or the cheque is presented for payment.

*DVA attention needs to be drawn to this reimbursement method to ensure the speedy payment. END.*



Kota Kinabalu (Jesselton) by night.

## NEW ASSOCIATION BADGE

At the AGM in Victoria it was agreed by the majority present that the NMBVAA Inc badge/logo should be changed to replace the full image of the Union Jack with the Australian National Flag. This means we retain the Union Jack in the image but also add the Southern Cross. This image is included in the masthead of the

News Letter and will be used on all correspondence from now. The original badge is copyright of the NMBVA UK. The NMBVAA Inc gained approval to add the AUSTRALIA scroll some years ago and thereby assumed copyright of the design. Mr Scott Doherty, son of SA Secretary Peter, designed the latest version

latest version and has kindly granted NMBVAA Inc copyright over it's usage. The Association Banners, regalia and merchandise will remain current and will continue with the older design until new stocks are required.

Terima kasih banyak banyak.

## ACT, NSW AND QLD BRANCHES

The NSW Branch is now combined with the ACT Branch until such time as a committee is formed to represent this Association in Sydney and NSW. All members of NSW who chose to remain with the NMBVAA Inc last year and have been receiving this and the ACT news letter can rest assured that they are still considered members of the NMBVAA Inc. Should you feel you would like to launch a new

Sydney Branch (we have never had one by the way), please contact the National President who will arrange a meeting with you and explain the simple process you would need to complete to start up a much needed Branch.



The former Brisbane Sub-Branch is now the NMBVAA Inc, Brisbane and Queensland Branch. The Brisbane and Qld President is Mr Allen Edwards is a Malayan Emergency Veteran who has shown his true fighting spirit in recent months to establish this Branch. Allen and his committee are very active socially and in recruiting new members. See the back page for all contacts.



## TASMANIA BRANCH

The former Hobart Sub-Branch has also fought the good fight to establish itself as the Hobart and Tasmania Branch of the NMBVAA Inc. They too, are a very social group who is keen to attract new members intent on enjoying themselves as they have more time to relax.

Executive and Committee :

President: Vern McTye

Vice Pres : Ken Miller

Secretary : Lyn Miller

Treasurer : Barb Challenger

Committee :

Vicki Hemingway

Margaret Hughes (Welfare)

### VALE

All members are advised of the passing of Tasmanian Committee Member John Hemingway.

Sincere condolences to Vicki and Family.

Andai Nya Kita Terlupa

Congratulations and very

Best Wishes

for a new era

of the

NMBVAA Inc.

## AUSTRALIAN MIA'S IN BORNEO

You will find scant public record, and very little military records detailing particular operations conducted in Borneo and the Malayan Peninsular during the Indonesian Confrontation between 1962–1966. The Australian public is still unaware of what really happened because of the poli-

tics being played by Canberra (and still are). The casualty lists have never been published and the records do not accurately contain the details. It is a blight on history. In 1965, "Operation Claret" involved 3 RAR and SAS members in several actions. Lt Pat Beale (Brig ret) and Lt Doug

Byers (Lt Col ret), were platoon commanders with 3 RAR, A Coy and B Coy, and were each awarded the Military Cross. **Did you have any idea ???** At this time, a Search Party is in Sarawak, confirming info passed on by some local Ibans, which is irrefutable and will confirm the site



of the remains of these Missing In Action soldiers. **It is an indictment which has been a fact for 45 years. What is the difference between these men and those from Viet Nam ?**

*Lest We Forget*

**OPERATIONAL AREAS—VETERANS’ ENTITLEMENT ACT**

**Veterans’ Entitlements**

No. 27, 1986 .

SCHEDULE 2 sub sec 5 (1) and para 5 (3) ©.

**The period from 27.6. 1950 to 19 .4.1956 inclusive.**

1. The area of **KOREA**, incl the waters for a distance of 185 km seaward from the coast.

**The period from 29.6. 1950 to 30.8.1957 inclusive**

2. The area of **MALAYA** , incl the waters to the coast of Malaya for a distance of 18.5 km seaward from the coast.

**The period from 1.9.1957 to 27.5.1963 inclusive.**

3. The areas comprising the territories of the countries then known as :

**The Federation of Malaya** and the **Colony of Singapore**

**The period from 31.7.1962 to 11.1.1973 inclusive.**

4. **VIET NAM (South Zone).**

**The period from 31.7.1962 to 11.1.1973 inclusive.**

5. All that part of the Federation of Malaya contained in the area bounded by a line commencing at the intersection of the western shore of the FoM at high water mark and the boundary between the states of PERLIS and



**OPERATIONAL AREAS CONTINUED.....**

5. cont with the railway line from PENANG TUNGGAL to TAIPING; thence following that railway line S, E and S to it’s intersection with the parallel 4 deg 51 min N lat; thence proceeding due S in a straight line to the intersection of that line with the parallel 4 deg 30 min N lat; thence proceeding along that parallel to it’s intersection with the E bank of the PERAK RIVER; thence proceeding along that bank to

it’s intersection with the parallel 4 deg 47 min N lat; thence proceeding in a straight line to the intersection of the boundaries of the states of PERAK, KELANTAN and PAHANG; thence proceeding along the boundaries of KELANTAN and PAHANG to it’s intersection with the meridian 101 deg 48 min E long; thence proceeding in a straight line to the intersection of the E bank of the RAYA RIVER with

the E bank of the NENGGRI RIVER; thence following that bank to it’s intersection with the W bank of the GALAS RIVER; thence following that bank and the E bank of the KELANTAN RIVER to the E shore of the FoM at the high water mark; thence following that shore at the high water mark to it’s intersection with the boundaries of the FoM and THAILAND; thence proceeding along that boundary to the W



**OPERATIONAL AREAS CONTINUED.....**

5. cont shore of the FoM and Thailand at the high water mark; thence following that shore of the FoM at the high water mark to it’s point of commencement.

**The period from 31.7. 1962 to 11. 1.1 1973 inclusive.**

6. All that area of land and waters (other than those

islands and waters forming part of the Rep. of the Philippines) bounded by a line commencing at the intersection of the N shore of BORNEO at the high water mark with the boundary between KALIMANTAN and SARAWAK; thence proceeding SE, E and N along that boundary to it’s junction

with the boundary between KALIMANTAN and SABAH; thence proceeding along that boundary to the W shore at the high water mark following that shore line N and SE to it’s commencement point.

Additional info is available from your local DVA office. **END.**



Malaysia Boundaries

www.nmbvaa.com

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**THE NATIONAL MALAYA AND BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED ESTABLISHED JUNE 1995**



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**Foot Note:** The two colour patches to the left were worn by Australian Troops based in Sabah and by the two RAA Batteries based in Butterworth. 1964—1968.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**DID YOU KNOW.....**

**ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR** was written by Peter Dodds McCormack (1834-1916), and voted as the official anthem of Australia in a referendum held on 8 February 1974. The runner up was *Waltzing Matilda* (Banjo Patterson), and the *Song of Australia* (Carl Linger) was in third place. The first recital was by Andrew McFarlane on 30 November 1878 during the St Andrew's commemoration services held in Sydney.

At the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia ceremonies in 1901, a choir of 10,000 performed the song. God save the Queen is now only played when British royalty is present. Copyright ended in 1966. McCormack was awarded 100 Pounds for the song in 1908. The 1974 referendum saw 2500 lyric and 1400 music entries, non of which were considered better than the original three selected. How many verses are there ?

**From:** John Balabouhin, Qld.

Reg Poole, Victoria Branch President, and member of the Organising Committee for the War Memorial to be established for the post WW 2 Malayan Conflicts, has advised that a further \$5000.00 has been raised and deposited in a fixed term interest bearing account. Members wishing to become active with this major project should contact your Branch Secretary in the first instance.

The estimated cost/funds needed at this time is AUD\$3 million.



Here's a thought..... those with an artistic flair should consider submitting designs for the memorial site which can be passed on to the Memorial Committee. Designs are not restricted to NMBVAA Inc members, family might want to have a go also. Ed.