



# THE LISTENING POST

MAY-JUNE 2011 PATRON MAJ GEN JC HUGHES AO DSO MC



## Inside This Issue

### VALE

Reg Miller RAA  
Peter Brosnan RAA

### RAP

Ben Thurlow VIC

### HOSPITAL

Ron Virgen QLD

### UNWELL

Sandy McHutchison

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- SCAMS
- DVA NOTES
- RARA SA
- PT PIRIE RSL
- FUND RAISING
- THOMAS CARR COLLEGE

## Letters to The Editor

## WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS ?

The DVA is one of the oldest government departments in Australia. It was established as the Repatriation Commission following the end of WW 1. Over the last 90 years, the department has evolved to become the single-agency service provider to Australia's veterans and ex-service men and women, as well as for their families.

Today, DVA provides a dedicated service to Australia's 300,000 vets, war widows, ex-service people and their families.

The DVA is responsible for the administration of claims for assistance and compensation for Australia's returned service personnel, their families and dependants. It supports the work of the Repatriation Commission and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (MRCC).

The Veterans' Affairs portfolio is made up of a number of agencies

and bodies responsible for implementing and carrying out programs to fulfil Australia's obligation to war veterans, members of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants.

They are:

- Repatriation Commission.
- Military Rehab & Comp Comm.
- Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service.
- Office of Australian War Graves.
- Veterans' Children Education Bd.
- Veterans' Review Board.
- Repatriation Medical Authority.
- Specialist Medical Review Auth.
- Australian War Memorial.

Claims for compensation for war- or defence-caused injuries are determined by the independent Repatriation Commission and/or the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission.

The President of the Repatriation

Commission and the Chair of the MRCC, is also the Secretary of the Department.

The client base is very broad. The oldest DVA client is 100 years of age, the youngest is only a few weeks old.

The Dept administers relevant Acts of Parliament which set out the entitlements of these clients.

The three principle Acts governing veteran's entitlements are *Veterans Entitlement Act 1986*, *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

As at June 2010 numbers were:

Disability Pensions	122,355
War Widows	101,090
Income Support	261,933
Other Support	21,830
Gold Card	207,945
White Card	49,621
Orange Card	10,614

## 2066 YEARS ?

So, what have we learned in the last 2066 years?  
"The Budget should be Balanced, the Treasury should be Filled, Public Debt should be Reduced, the Arrogance of Officialdom should be Tempered and Assistance to Foreign Lands curtailed, lest Rome is Bankrupt. People must again learn to work and not rely on Public Assistance".

CICERO 55 BC R. Baldwin OAM

## CHARITY

**DID YOU KNOW** that a percentage of all RED CROSS funding is provided to the Taliban ? No? Well, it is. The reasoning is that it is part of the "7 Principles" and that the money and goods are received only by the women and children associated with this murderous terrorist blight on humanity.  
If you believe that spin Horatio, you are at the head of the queue for the award of "The World's Most Gullible"

## BRANCH AGM

Members are reminded that all Branch AGM's should be completed and the results notified to NHQ by 31 August annually. The *National AGM* nomination papers will be available from your Branch and all candidates for the NMC will be advised then. If you wish to nominate personally for a Branch, or, NMC position, please advise your Branch. It is your Association.

SA NT NOTES NMBVAA INC SA NT AND THE RARA SA

The weather could not have been any better this year for ANZAC Day. Not a cloud in the sky and 24C. The TV coverage by ABC1 was much better due in part to a correct commentary piece and changed camera setups which gave a longer exposure time and wider angles. The SA RSL March Committee made sure the SA NT Branch had the Head of the Line. Thank you to the 31 members who made the effort to form up, and welcome to the new members who signed up on the day. Next meeting 17 June Hilton RSL.

**“Confrontation..the forgotten Conflict”** by WA member Hugh Ritchie, was presented to the RARA SA Association at a function at the RAR RSL. The book is a comprehensive account of the events in which 3RAR, 4RAR and 111 LAA Bty were engaged with during the Indonesian Confrontation of 1963–1966. The book fills the void of the “lost” period between Korea and SVN in which some RAR battalions were deployed in SE Asia. The RARA SA President, Mike von Berg MC accepted the book on behalf of

the RARA SA and extends a very warm invitation to all our SA NT members to visit the RAR RSL at any time. The NMBVAA Inc SA NT Branch and the RARA SA have had discussions regarding the future directions of both associations, both having kindred paradigms. The long term future of both associations is almost parallel, except that the NMBVAA Inc has a finite period. The benefits of joint ventures is clearly advantageous for both of the associations. More later. The RARA will be at 31 August.



INAUGURAL  
MALAYA & BORNEO  
VETERANS DAY  
31 AUGUST 2011  
CONTACT YOUR BRANCH

NATIONAL LIAISON  
DUTIES  
Malaysia & UK—  
Ian Davenport.  
NZ—Brian Selby.  
FESR—Reg Poole.

SCAM WARNING FREE ELECTRICAL BANK SCAM

Members are warned that there are a number of scams being tried out using Microsoft as a bait. **Microsoft does not phone** anyone to discuss the status of their operating system, **particularly from India !!** The pretext is that “Microsoft has observed some problems with your computer”. **DO NOT** become involved with these crooks. **DO NOT** discuss your computing and passwords !! Hang up fast.

Members may have received an email using RSL membership as a hook. The SA RSL is not aware of any agreements with this company or of fees for membership to use the service. The schpeil indicates 4 x free call-outs per year for basic electrical needs, e.g. Change over of lights, new power point. The email address given to sign up is in Preston Victoria at [freeelectricalservices.com.au](http://freeelectricalservices.com.au)

Again from **the Sub-Continent !!** Relates to recent discoveries by some banks, and the class actions being put together to recover “overcharging” of fees to clients...**DO NOT** fall for the line that “we have found that you have been overcharged some fees and need to confirm your bank account details. Can you tell me the Visa Card number on the back of your card Sir”. **DO SO AT YOUR IMMEDIATE PERIL.**



IV

4 RAR

held a national re-union in Townsville with former members from all States attending. The unit colours are laid up at Singleton and were made available for the event.

*The Fighting Fourth*

PORT PIRIE RSL MEMORABILIA WAR MEMORIAL

A new NMBVAA Inc plaque was presented to the Port Pirie RSL on 19 May by Qld Branch Pres Allen Edwards. The plaque was accepted by the RSL President Hadyn Madigan. There are an unknown number of eligible ex-service members who will now become aware of the NMBVAA Inc in the greater Iron Triangle area of SA when items are heard on the regular radio program that Hadyn conducts from Pt Pirie.

SA & NT members are requested to consider handing over pieces of memorabilia on loan that will be put on display as part of the TPI SA memorabilia display. The spot in the building would be known as the **Malaya Borneo Corner** and will compliment the items on display from other conflicts. The items will be fully catalogued and well protected in glass cabinets and, or wall sites which are first class.

The fundraising project for the Malayan Wars War Memorial is now at the point where one procedure has been worked out using the Victorian RSLs as the model. Tin Cans are to be installed with a text explaining the plan to erect a suitable monument to Australian Military actions, post WW2, in Malaya, Malaysia and Borneo. Ideas and Volunteers are needed to help in all of our Branches.

**Reg Poole.**



101 Field Bty RAA

held the unit national re-union in Adelaide this year and marched on ANZAC Day behind the unit banner. Former Gunners from States made the effort to attend.

Ubique

**WHAT IS THE DVA CONTINUED.....**

DVA pays pensions to it's clients. There are two types of pension..... Compensation and Support. A *compensation pension*, commonly referred to as a Disability Pension may be paid to an eligible veteran or an eligible person who has an injury or disease related to their service. It is not taxable or subject to income or assets tests. A *income support pension*, also referred to as a Service Pension, is similar to the Age Pension and paid by Centrelink, but is only available to those veterans with Qualifying Service. A veteran is eligible to apply for

A Service Pension from age 60, note, a Service Pension is subject to an assets and income test as for a Aged Pension. A ex-service person who does not qualify for a Service Pension may be eligible for an Aged Pension and should apply direct to Centrelink. Disability Pensions are also called : The General Rate. The Extreme Disablement Adjustment. The Intermediate Rate . The Special rate. War Widows Pension Orphan Pension.

The veteran may also be entitled to a pension if they served with a Commonwealth or allied country and they lived in Australia before enlistment. For ADF personnel ineligible for veterans' benefits, compensation for service-caused injuries may be available from the Military Compensation Group also located in DVA. For those ex-service personnel with service between 1972 and 1994, compensation may be available under both schemes, but one is offset against the other. For enquiries phone : non metro 1800 555 254 metro 1300 551 918 **DVA.**



Strike me lucky !!!..... As if the job isn't difficult enough !!

**VICTORIA**

The annual Malaya & Borneo Remembrance Service was held at Thomas Carr College on 30th May. This is a well established memorial service conducted in the grounds of the college at which the traditional elements are observed, and includes wreath placing, readings and the bugler. The Order of Service is included in the Victorian page of our web site at [www.nmbvaa.org.au](http://www.nmbvaa.org.au) **R. Poole.**

**FAIRER INDEXATION**

A 2 June 2011 **MEDIA RELEASE** by Hon Stuart Robert MP, Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel, announced that all 150 members of the House of Reps have supported the Coalition's plan for fairer indexation of military superannuation pensions. *"This is a watershed moment in the Coalitions long fight to ensure all of Australia's past and present military personnel are able to live out their lives in the knowledge they have financial security"*. Further, *"In the face of the overwhelming support by the House of Reps, I expect the Gillard Labor Govt to drop their petty opposition to the Coalition's Bill currently before the Senate, and vote with their colleagues in the House"*. Amen to that !! **L. Wilson**

**DVA NOTES**

**UBON SERVICE**

between 21 June 1965 and 31 August 1968 inclusive, by RAAF personnel only, has been put to the Govt by Directorate Honours and Awards, to receive the Viet Nam Logistics Support Medal. What about 2RAR !??. Eligible members can contact: Directorate Honours & Awards Dept of Defence T-4 PO Box 7952 CANBERRA ACT 2610 Free call 1800 111 321 **DVA.**

The current system of calculating Pensions has not been changed by the Federal Government in the recent budget announcements. What has been added is of great benefit to our surviving WW2 POWs. A fortnightly, tax free amount of \$250.00 will be paid from the first pay period in October 2011. It does not apply to widows of former POWs. **DVA.**

Applications for Grants by ESOs will be subject to more accountability. The increase in the number of small ESOs has caused some reduction in the amount of funding that would have otherwise been available per request. The number of funding rounds has also been reduced to two per annum in order to control expenditure. ESOs are encouraged to consider alliances. **DVA.**



**MALAYA VETS**

**Did you serve with Australian or Allied Armed Forces in WW2 or between 1948–1960 in the Malayan Emergency, or 1962–1966 in the Indonesian Confrontation, or since then on the Peninsula, Ubon, Timor ? Sign On Now** by contacting your nearest Branch. Details on pg 4.



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JUNE

- 1 1941 Evacuation of Crete completed over 4 days.
3 -6 1942 Battle of Midway.
3 1944 Last major air combat of RAAF over Biak.
6 1944 D Day
7 1917 Capt RC Grieve VC Messines
7-10 1917 Pte J Carroll VC Messines
8 1942 Sydney and Newcastle shelled by Japs.
10 1940 Italy declares war on the Allies.
10 1945 9 Div lands in Brunei.
12 1901 Williamsrust battle 18 Australians killed.
15 1901 Sgt J Rogers VC Thaba 'Nchu South Africa.
16 1948 Malayan Emergency declared.
18 1953 Aust Korean POWs released at Panmunjon.
19 1941 Lt AR Cutler VC Merdjayoun Lebanon.
20 1943 Darwin bombed by Japs.

ASSOCIATION AIMS

- COMRADESHIP for those who served in Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, Ubon, the Thai-Malay Border, Brunei and Timor during WW2, the MALAYAN EMERGENCY and the INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION post WW2.
To ASSIST members in times of need.
To REMEMBER with Pride, Respect and Gratitude, those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the line of duty and to ensure those who fell are represented on ANZAC Day in Australia and Remembrance Day abroad.
To PROMOTE the Association and it's Aims.
To STRENGTHEN TIES with Malaysia and Singapore.



THE NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED ESTABLISHED JUNE 1995

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Buddah said.. .....If you are Right there is no need to get angry.....If you are Wrong you have no right to get Angry.

FOOT NOTE

The office of Andrew Southcott MP is gratefully acknowledged for printing The Listening Post in SA.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sincere condolences to Allen and Laraine Edwards and family on the passing of Allen's mum.

Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day Adelaide

The venue for After the Service has been relocated to the Torrens Rowing Club premises directly across from Torrens Parade Ground.

What colour were bin Laden's eyes ?....blue.

One blew this way and one blew that way. Team 6

Contributors to this spot in the news letter are very welcome. However, when letters are sent with no signature details and to simply deny the authenticity of certain items, don't expect it/ them to be printed. It is also common courtesy for the authors of the articles to provide a return address as well. A recent letter from some anonymous people has been filed appropriately. It may pay them to discover the details as written by a former Royal Arty officer attached to a certain unit from 1963-1966.

Found GSM Campaign Medal 29430 MJ Rooney. Contact Salisbury RSL in SA 08 8258 6016.

CLARIFICATION of Commands. Far East Land Forces.....

FARELF is the command in which all Commonwealth Land Forces from Australia, NZ and UK incl RAAF, RNZAF, RMAF and RAF served with Post WW2, in Malaya, incl HK & Singapore. In the Malaya and Borneo areas of FARELF, 28 Commonwealth Brigade commanded that area. Far East Strategic Reserve..... FESR refers to all naval units that served in those areas from the RAN, RNZN, RMN and RN.

DID YOU KNOW

Some people are alive..... only because it is illegal to kill them
Google is the name for a number with 1 million zeros.
University of Alaska spans 4 time zones.
The Moon is moving away from Earth at 2" per year.
Artificial Intelligence is no match for Natural Stupidity.
Being healthy is merely the slowest possible rate that one can die.
If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?
We all should take a lesson from nature.....it pays no heed to any criticism.
Does illiteracy benefit from alphabet soup? Various.