



NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA Inc.

Patron: Major-General J C Hughes, AO, DSO, MC
P.O. Box 670 Jamison Centre ACT 2614
Tel: 02 6258 8988 Fax: (02) 6258 2593 Email: davenport@pcug.org.au
Association Representatives throughout Australia
ABN 31 340 936 038 www.nmbvaa.org.au

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER LISTENING POST

Inaugural Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day 31 August 2011

Ceremonies were conducted in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Bendigo and Canberra.

The **Adelaide** Ceremony was held at the **Torrens Parade Ground** and from all reports it was very successful. The Governor of South Australia Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR delivered the Address in the presence of Federal and State MPs, DVA representatives, ESO representatives, members and friends. Some logistical hurdles were overcome and noted for future ceremonies. Over 100 people were in attendance and the Adelaide Advertiser ran a brief article and photo on the ceremony on 2 September. Following the ceremony a very enjoyable social gathering was held and made for a fitting conclusion to the day.

The **Brisbane** ceremony was held at the **Memorial Walk Enoggera Barracks Enoggera** and the crowd was estimated at around 130 including members, guests and visitors. President Allen Edwards is singing the praises of Ron Virgen OAM and Dell Shears who made significant contributions to the success of the day. Dad's Army did a wonderful job of setting up the Memorial Grounds and organising the food. Padre Bob Rogers conducted the service and did a great job. Names of our fallen troops were read out by members of the three Services and wreaths were laid. Allen extends his thanks to all who help to organise the day in any shape or form and to all those who attended for make the day complete. Photographs may be viewed on the Association website.

The **Melbourne** Ceremony was held at the **NMBVAA plaque and tree at The Shrine, St Kilda Rd.** President Reg Poole was disappointed

with the turnout of members but the day was a success just the same. Association Patron Maj. Gen Jim Hughes AO, DSO, MC was in attendance and Owen Marshall welcomed those in attendance. Some important new contacts were made and it is hoped the ceremony will grow in status in future years.

The annual Merdeka Day ceremony in Bendigo was well attended and it is hoped that next year the Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day theme will be adopted. The 2011 publicity in Bendigo area had already promoted Merdeka Day before the new Day was chosen.

The **Canberra** ceremony was held under clear blue skies at the **Western Courtyard of the Australian War Memorial**. The Australian War Memorial Staff are highly organised in holding these ceremonies with several being conducted each week of the year. President Ian Davenport was disappointed with the number of members in attendance but due to some newspaper and radio publicity members of the veteran community turned up and helped fill the seats. Brig. Chris Appleton the Director of the Office of Australian War Graves delivered the commemorative address in the presence of His Excellency Mr Paul Madden, British High Commissioner, Commodore Ross Smith Defence Adviser New Zealand High Commission, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan RSL National President, Brig Matthew Hall representing the CDF and local political representatives. Unfortunately due to the Malaysia Day celebrations in Canberra the Malaysian High Commission were unable to send a representative. Photographs of this ceremony may be viewed on the Australian War Memorial site in the Flickr heading at the bottom of the home page.

Western Australia has also conducted a Merdeka Day ceremony but due to their apparent defection from the NMBVAA Inc no information on this has been provided to the Association.

“Lest We Forget”

“BONO ANIMO ESTE”
(Be of Good Courage)

“Andai Nya Kita Terlupa”

National AGM

The National AGM to elect the members of the National Management Committee (NMC) is scheduled for **Saturday the 24th of September** at All Seasons Olims Canberra Hotel corner of Limestone & Ainslie Avenues near the Australian War Memorial.

The meeting will commence at **1100hrs**.
Nominations for the NMC closed at 4pm 26th of August 2011.

At that time the following financial members had been nominated for positions on the 2011/2012 National Management Committee:

National President Mr Owen Marshall (Victoria)
National Vice President Mr Reg Poole (Victoria)
National Treasurer Mr Ben Thurlow (Victoria)
National Committee Mr Ian Davenport (ACT)

The position of **National Secretary** did not attract any nominations. Accordingly this position will be open to nominations from the floor at the AGM.

As there are no positions where more than one person is nominated for that position there is no balloting required.

Special Resolution

A revised Constitution has been in circulation around the State Branches for many months now and suggestions made by members/Branches, where accepted, have been incorporated into the revision. The revised version, developed by the ACT Branch, has been endorsed by the NMC, Qld, SA and Victoria Branches.

The following Special Resolution will be put to those in attendance at the Association AGM in the ACT on 24th of September 2011:

The Amended Constitution Version 4 as tabled is to be adopted by NMBVAA Inc to replace the existing version subject to approval by the ACT Registrar General. Moved Ian Davenport, Seconded Terry O'Brien.

Please be aware that it requires a 75% majority of members in attendance at the AGM for a Special

resolution to be adopted. Only after ACT Registrar General approval of the alterations do they become effective.

New Caps in stock.

National have a new supply of Association caps. These are of the baseball style with a good shade peak, adjustable rear strap and embroidered with the Australian Flag included in the Association logo. They are available in Royal Blue or Dark Green by order through your local Branch. Photographs will be posted on the Association website
www.nmbvaa.org.au

Plaque at the SANZAC School Kota Kinabalu Sabah.

In 2006 a wonderful ceremony was conducted at this location to dedicate a plaque to Australian Forces who served and perished during Confrontation in Malaysia.

Sadly the plaque has been stolen from its plinth and is no more. Scrap metal value to someone apparently.

The ACT Branch is in preliminary negotiations with the Office of Australian War Graves with the aim being to have a replacement plaque installed in a more secure location at the Kundasang War Memorial. Mr Laurie Nelms who was the initiator of the original plaque is also involved in the replacement but has asked NMBVAA Inc to pursue it further.

More information will be provided as matters progress.

Tell us a story

In the last edition we asked for contributions from members with, so far, a poor result. Arthur Seddon of the Melbourne Sub-Branch has provided a story of a rather contemporary nature which is a little too long for inclusion the newsletter. It will be placed on the Website in the near future for all to access. You too can have your story "on the web" so get those keyboards clicking or narrate your tale to someone who can type it out for you and send it in on disc or by email attachment.