

**HUBUNGAN  
(THE CONTACT)  
ISSUE 18**

**Newsletter**  
of the  
Queensland and Brisbane  
Branch  
of the  
NMBVAA Inc



Serving the Community in times of  
Conflict and Peace

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 11/2/2014**

Another year has come and gone without too many problems for our Branch. We have had some members that have been in hospital for short periods. Just to mention a few; knee ops (Judy, Peter), back operation (Annette). To John and Jan who are not travelling too well at the moment, get well soon.

We have gained many new members in the past year and I wish to say THANKS MATE to all of them and hope to meet with all of you at our meetings.

Just a short reminder from our Secretary / Treasurer that all fees are due on the 1/1/ of each year and it makes it easier for her to finish the book work if you can get them in as soon as possible.

Fees for members: \$20.00. Associate Members: \$10.00. Children: \$5.00. So far this year we have added to our membership another O.A.M. recipient. Congratulations Marge Hayes, so come along to our next meeting on the 25/2/14 at the Wynnum R.S.L. to have a yarn with her.

My thanks to the many members who have stepped up to the plate to help with the running of our Branch, to the many that helped with our wreath laying service in August, what a great success, to John and Jan for setting up our Christmas party and making it a great success. To Dell our Editor, without her dedication to our Branch newsletter we would not get to read about our past history. To all honorary members that serve us well. To all people involved in our Branch. THANKS MATE.

The word is getting out to people all over Australia about the N.M. &B.V.A.A.inc, much to the delight of people who served over there and thought that they had been forgotten.

Happy New Year for 2014.

President

Allen Edwards

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



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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**



**Congratulations  
Mrs Marjory Hayes OAM**



Member NMBVAA Qld & Brisbane  
Sub-Branch

Mrs Marjory Hayes, a long-time resident of Wynnum and member of the NMBVAA Queensland and Brisbane Branch, received the OAM in this year's Australia Day Honours' List for her services to the Wynnum Community.

Marjory was born in Maryborough on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1924. It was not long before her family moved to Wynnum where she has lived for 80 years. She went to the Manly State School. After moving into the work force, she worked for ten years with the Medical Hire Service, hiring out equipment for the disabled. She worked in the staff canteen at the Pleasantville Nursing Home at Wynnum for seven year and for the Red Cross Medical Loans Department for a number of years.

Marjory married and had two boys.

Marjory has had a close association with the NMBVAA Qld and Brisbane Branch. Her husband was a Korean Veteran and one of her sons a Vietnam Veteran. For many years she has made wreaths for Veteran Associations and the Wynnum Red Cross and sold badges for legacy and the RSL. She aptly describes herself as "an excellent fundraiser."

MRS MARJORY HAYES OAM

Her story continued.

Fundraising activities have been many. Marjory worked in the Salvation Army jumble shop for seventeen years. She has had a long association with local organisations. She belonged to the Redland's Trotting Club and owned her own trotter. She was a member of the Mt Gravatt Show Society, acting as a steward in the Doll Showing Section and Quilting Section. She has also exhibited her own dolls.

The charities that claim most of her time these days are the Salvation Army and Mission Australia, in particular, Camp Quality which is well known for its involvement with the caring of children with cancer. She helped to provide Camp Quality with sewing machines and materials which were used to assist young ladies gain skills to get them into the work-force. Marjory was instrumental in forming a group of ladies to do knitting for Camp Quality. There are at present seventeen ladies in this group.

In 2006 Marjory received the "Woman of the Year" award from the Quota Club and in 2011 received the "Senior Citizen of the Year" award from the Brisbane Lord Mayor. At 89 years of age she is still actively involved in fundraising and working for her charities. The OAM is a well-deserved honour for a lady who has done so much helping others.

NMBVAA QUEENSLAND AND BRISBANE BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Pictures below show NMBVAA Queensland and Brisbane Branch members enjoying their Christmas Luncheon Party at the Wynnum RSL Club.



Top Centre – The Celebration and the Drawing of the Raffle.

Prizes for all



Good Company



In early December 2013 a group of Malaysia Club members who golf regularly at Gales Golf Club went on a golfing tour in Malaysia and Thailand. The tour was designed to coincide with the wedding dinner celebrations of one of the golfer's daughters in Penang. After months of preparations, the tour was launched in Kuala Lumpur with a durian feast in SS2 on 4 December, after the members of the group arrived separately and assembled at the One World Hotel in Damansara Utama. Fully loaded with durian and other good local food, the group had a golf game at KLGCC (partially washed out by rain) and then departed northwards in an air-conditioned 40-seater bus. Other tour friends would join them at different stages. Zeb, the Malaysian tour guide and Hussein the bus driver from Discovery Overland provided the local logistics expertise.

After a brief detour to Bidor to sample the local food, the group arrived in Ipoh where many memories were revived of past exploits and legendary local delicacies. The heritage-listed Ipoh railway station still looks imposing and reminiscent of the old British days. The Meru Valley Golf and Country Club provided a very scenic backdrop for the first "official" golf game of the tour. After Meru Valley the next stop was Penang for a leisurely couple of days before the big wedding dinner at the historic E & O hotel. In the meantime the famous Penang nasi kandar lived up to its name. Line Clear restaurant is very popular but was very crowded with a very long queue. The group went across to the Hameediyah Tandoori restaurant nearby which was equally highly recommended. Lunch was washed down with the best cendol (by the fastest cendol man) in Penang. After a big night at the wedding dinner, it was off to Cinta Sayang Golf Club at Sungei Petani for a mid-day tee-off.

Penang sea front - Gurney Drive



Omelette-wrapped Thai fried noodles

Leaving Penang behind, it was a leisurely and enjoyable drive up to Bukit Kayu Hitam (Thai-Malaysia Border) to tee-off at the Black Forest Golf Club while the ladies did some duty free shopping. This area is in the buffer zone between the Malaysian border control and Thai border control. A mandatory local Thai tourist guide joined the bus at this point. At Black Forest Golf Club, the caddies were Thai but spoke Bahasa Malaysia too. After a refreshing lunch at the clubhouse, it was across the border into Thailand and onwards to Hatyai. The Centara Hotel in downtown Hatyai was very nice and comfortable, with an excellent band in the lounge that provided great music in the evenings after dinner.... a good place to enjoy a beer or two. The hotel is right in the middle of the town and everything was within walking distance.



Above: Hatyia Street food – Try one?



MCQ Golfers at Southern Hill GC with caddies



Above: Hatyia Street by night

Southern Hills Golf Club provided the venue for the final round of golf and was an excellent finale for the golf tour. After a leisurely evening in Hatyai the group departed for Kuala Lumpur. Some stayed in Kuala Lumpur pending flights home while others left for local destinations.

Overall: a very enjoyable tour with good food, interesting golf courses and a very happy wedding celebration at the E & O hotel.

Tan Teng Hee [Tan Teng Hee is President of the Malaysia Club of Queensland and was born in Malacca (Melaka), Malaysia

# KAPOOKA TRAINING ACCIDENT 1945

*Information provided by John Balabouhin (If you wish to find more information on this subject, Google the heading above.)*

In May 1945, Australia suffered a horrific military training accident when an explosion at the Kapooka Army Base resulted in the death of 26 men. The tragedy occurred during an RAE training lecture taking place in a dugout at the Base on May 21, 1945.

Only one man survived, a sapper named Allan Bartlett. He was badly injured by the force of the explosion. Sgt Herbert "Jack" Pomeroy was lecturing a class of young sappers in the dugout when the explosion occurred. Exactly what happened is still a mystery although it is known that there were explosives in the dugout.

The military funeral for the twenty-six soldiers took place in Wagga Wagga.

The site of the bunker now lies on private property, however, a new Memorial built near the site, and a change in the boundary line of the Kapooka Military Area, allows the memorial to be visited by members of the public. A special service is now held each year at the memorial site.



Mr Ron Virgen OAM, a member of the NMBVAA Qld. and Brisbane Branch, is assisting members of the Pinkenba Community to obtain grants to build a memorial near the Pinkenba wharf. This project is hoped to be completed for the Commemoration of the Centenary of the 1915 landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli. The Pinkenba area has great historical significance for the people of Queensland. Service personnel were once transported to Pinkenba by train and then boarded Troop ships at the Pinkenba Wharf for service overseas. It was from here that family and friends came to farewell their loved ones during WW1. For many of our service men and women the Pinkenba area was the last piece of Australian soil they trod before they made the supreme sacrifice.

**At Right:** A troop ship leaving Pinkenba Wharf. (Library photograph)



**REMINDER:** Meetings are held at the Wynnum RSL Club. Time: 11am. Bus Trips to be advised. Subscriptions for 2014 are now due. Meeting Dates: February 25, March 25, April 22, April 25 Anzac Day, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26 AGM, August 31 Malaya & Borneo Day, September 23, October 28, November 11 Remembrance Day, November 25, December 13 Christmas Break-up Party.



**Above: HMAS SYDNEY MEMORIAL at Geraldton**

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