

**HUBUNGAN
(THE CONTACT)
ISSUE 31
December 2016**

**Newsletter
Queensland and Brisbane
Branch
NMBVAA Inc**



**Serving the Community
In times of Conflict and Peace**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 14/10/2016.

As this will be my last report for the year I will try to keep it short.

May I start by thanking all of our members and committee members for the great help that has made this branch, one of the best. To all that have hospital stays over the past year I hope you have regained your health. There are still some of our member having a short break to get patched up so we wish them all the best and a speedy recovery.

We have gained two new members to our branch and I would like to welcome them and hope to meet with them soon.

I would like to thank Bob Bain for laying the flowers on Remembrance Day as Laraine was not in the best of health on the day, but now is back on track. We have our last meeting coming up next month and then our Xmas party so please help me by turning up on the day to get the presents out of the house so I can see just what is left. Our treasurer has asked if everyone can have their fees paid up by the 1/1/2017.

To the members that can't come to the Xmas party we would like to wish you a very merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Take good care,
Allen.



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

Queensland & Brisbane Branch

PO Box 86 WYNNUM 4178

President: R.A. Edwards Secretary: L.J. Edwards

Phone: 3396 6705 Fax: 33966705 Email: robertedwards14@bigpond.com Mobile: 0408 431 590

The NMBVA was officially established in 1995 and is a self-funding, non-profit association which uses only unpaid volunteers.

Patron Queensland and Brisbane Sub-Branch: Mr Brian Avery

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



**VALE
MR LEN DIXON**

To all members.

I wish to inform you of the sad passing of Len Dixon, Service number 16597, on Saturday 15 October 2016 Len's Service was held at the MtGravatt Chapel, Mains Road, Macgregor on Friday 21 October 1200 hrs.

Medals were worn. **REST IN PEACE, LEN.**

A true gentleman, who will be sadly missed.

Signed and dated, Allen Edwards 18 October

In Flander's fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset
glow,
Loved and were loved, and now
we lie
In Flanders fields.*



VETERANS V360 AUSTRALIA 1800 VET 360

V360 Australia Ltd. Are proud to announce the first NATIONAL FREE CALL number for veterans, their families and friends to contact our Outreach Team and seek information or assistance for any ex-service personnel who are vulnerable, at risk or experiencing homelessness.

[1800 838 360](tel:1800838360) will be manned 24/7 by our experienced operators and link callers directly with Outreach staff.

REMBRANCE DAY 11th November 2016



At Left: Mr Bob Bain about to place flowers on behalf of the NMBVAA Brisbane and Queensland Branch.

Below: Denise Koch (on left) and Barbara McKaskill.

Photos courtesy of Meegan Ebert.

*Take up our quarrel
with the foe:
To you from failing
hands we throw

The torch; be yours to
hold it high.
If ye break faith with us
who die
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae (1872–
1918)*





REMEMBRANCE DAY - 11th NOVEMBER

At the going down of the Sun.....

I crouched in a shallow trench on the hill of exposed beaches.....
steeply rising foothills bare of cover.....a landscape pockmarked
with war's inevitable litter.....piles of stores.....equipment.....
ammunition.....and the weird contortions of death sculptured in
Australian flesh.....I saw the going down of the sun on that first
ANZAC Day.....that chaotic maelstrom of Australia's bleeding.

I fought in the frozen mud of the Somme.....in a blazing
destroyer exploding in the North Sea I fought on the
perimeter of Tobrukcrashed in the flaming wreckage of a
fighter in New Guinealived with the damned in the place
cursed with the name Changi.

I was your matethe kid across the streetthe med. student at
graduation.....the mechanic in the corner garage the baker who
brought you breadthe gardener who cut your lawn ...the clerk
who sent your phone bill.

I was the Army private.....a Naval commander an Air Force
bombardierno man knows meno name marks my tomb, for I am
every Australian servicemanI am the Unknown Soldier.

I died for a cause I held just in the service of my landthat you
and yours may say in freedomI am proud to be Australian.

Australia's Unknown Soldier's remains were removed from a cemetery in France in 1993 and transported to Australia. He was interred in the Hall of Memory at the War Memorial in Canberra on 11 November 1993. He represents all Australians who have been killed in war.

His tomb reads - "AN UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER KILLED IN THE WAR OF 1914-1918"



The System Is Really Quite Simple

A friend once told me he didn't understand the military system. Dumb civilian, I said to myself, but openly I said, "The system is really quite simple."

You see, all people in the Army are soldiers, all privates are soldiers, but not all soldiers are privates. Some are officers who are commissioned, but some are officers who are not commissioned. Obviously if every private was called private it would be confusing, so some privates are called things like trooper, driver, gunner, craftsmen, sapper or signaller. Not all of the drivers actually drive because some of them cook, but we don't call them cooks, for that matter, not all drivers are called drivers – some of them are privates or gunners. Gunners as I'm sure you know are the blokes that fire guns, unless of course they are drivers or signallers in which case we call them gunners rather than drivers or signallers just to make it clearer. All gunners belong to the artillery, except that in the infantry we have gunners who are called privates because they fire a different sort of gun, for the same reason we call our drivers and signallers private as well.

A Lance Corporal is called Corporal, unless he is a Lance Bombardier then we call him Bombardier to distinguish him from a full Bombardier, who is just like a Corporal. All other ranks are called by their rank for the sake of simplicity except that Staff Sergeants are called Staff, but they are not on the staff, some Warrant Officers, who are not officers, are called Sergeant Major although they are not Sergeants or Majors. Some Warrant Officers are called Mister which is the same thing that we call some officers but they are not Warrant Officers. A Lieutenant is also called Mister because they are subalterns, but we always write their rank as Lieutenant or Second Lieutenant, and second comes before first.

When we talk about groups of soldiers there obviously has to be clear distinction. We call them Officers and Soldiers although we know that officers are soldiers too, sometimes we talk about officers and other ranks which is the same as calling them soldiers. I guess it is easiest when we talk about rank and file which is all the troops on parade except the officers and some of the NCOs - - and a few of the privates – and the term is used whether everyone is on parade or not.

A large unit is called a battalion, unless it is a regiment but sometimes a regiment is much bigger than a battalion and then it has nothing to do with the other sort of regiment. Sub units are called companies unless they are squadrons or troops or batteries for that matter. That is not radio batteries and don't confuse this type of troop with the type who are soldiers but not officers.

Mostly the Army is divided into Corps as well as units, not the sort of Corps which is a couple of divisions but the sort which tells you straight away what trade each man performs, whether he is a tradesmen or not. The Infantry Corps has all the infantrymen for example and the Artillery Corps has all the gunners. Both these Corps also have signallers and drivers except those who are in the Signals or Transport Corps. In fact the Signals Corps is not a service at all because it is an Arm. Arms do all the fighting, although Signals don't have to fight too much, rather like the Engineers who are also an Arm but they don't fight too much either


So you see, it's really quite simple.

HEALTH CHECK


Shingles is an illness that can be both painful and dangerous. It begins with a rash, then blisters and scabs appear. If it is diagnosed within the first 72 hours, medication can lessen the effects of the disease. Those who had chicken-pox as children are in danger of getting shingles in later life.

For these people, aged 70 years and over, free vaccinations were introduced on 1 November 2016.

If younger, vaccination is still available but at a cost of \$240. This illness can cause nerve damage and more serious health problems. Getting the vaccination is well worth considering.



*The President and Committee
of the
NMBVAA Queensland and Brisbane Branch
wish all members, associate and junior members,
their families and friends
a Happy and Holy Christmas
and a Wonderful New Year.*



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
AT THE
BUFFET WORLD RESTAURANT,
REDLANDS SPORTING CLUB,**



**20 ANSON ROAD,
WELLINGTON POINT
ON 10TH DECEMBER**



**AT 11.00AM FOR 11.30AM.
COST FOR THE LUNCHEON: \$17.00**

**PLEASE BRING A SMALL GIFT
(COST TO BE NO MORE THAN \$12.00)
FOR A "SECRET SANTA."**

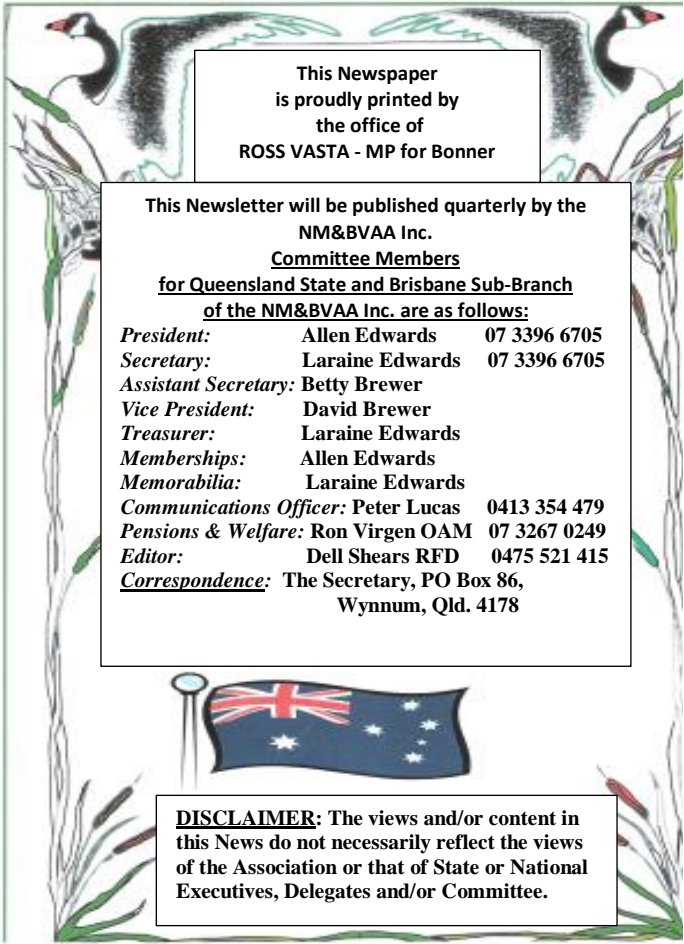
RAFFLES TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE



RSVP



**MRS LARAIN EDWARDS PH. 07 3396 6705
BY 5TH DECEMBER**

**This Newspaper
is proudly printed by
the office of
ROSS VASTA - MP for Bonner**

**This Newsletter will be published quarterly by the
NM&BVAA Inc.
Committee Members
for Queensland State and Brisbane Sub-Branch
of the NM&BVAA Inc. are as follows:**

President: Allen Edwards 07 3396 6705
Secretary: Laraine Edwards 07 3396 6705
Assistant Secretary: Betty Brewer
Vice President: David Brewer
Treasurer: Laraine Edwards
Memberships: Allen Edwards
Memorabilia: Laraine Edwards
Communications Officer: Peter Lucas 0413 354 479
Pensions & Welfare: Ron Virgen OAM 07 3267 0249
Editor: Dell Shears RFD 0475 521 415
Correspondence: The Secretary, PO Box 86,
Wynnum, Qld. 4178



DISCLAIMER: The views and/or content in
this News do not necessarily reflect the views
of the Association or that of State or National
Executives, Delegates and/or Committee.

Serving the Community in times of Conflict and Peace