



The Listening Post

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc

Winter Issue 2023

President's Address



Welcome to the winter edition of Listening Post.

As we approach the Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day one is reminded what it is about.

This day is prom-ligated to remember all those who served during the Malaysian Emergency and the Indonesion Confrontation, a day to pay our respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to set a country free of oppression.

Whilst the average Australian may not even know of the two conflicts it is our duty to educate as much as possible so the future generations will remember.

If you are holding a service in your state invite as many influential people as possible as they will be an avenue to broaden the knowledge.

This edition contain a lot of information of interest, SA/NT contribute many items of interest and in Victoria *will read how enterprising people in country Victoria have used hay bales to sell the Anzac Message to passers by.*

Also the story behind two veterans who were part of the motorcade at the MCG on

Anzac Day, one of whom was 100 year old Jack Bradie.

The other member was Brian Roberts his service outlined in detail.

An initiative by the Victorian Member Officer Tanya Douglas is the sending to members installments of the papers produced by the late Ron Lee on the Malayan Emergency.

As I always say we could do with more so please send items to me.

Regards

Owen Marshall
National President
NMBVAA

Merchandise available to order online www.nmbvaa.org.au

Support your association with the purchase of Bumper Stickers, badges, caps, shirts and other items. Detail online on our website.



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VIC BRANCH



Brian Roberts in the Motorcade of Veterans at the MCG on Anzac Day. Photo: Dylan Burns/AFL Photos.

HUMBLING ANZAC DAY

Kirstin Nicholson

Anzac Day for Brian Roberts this year was one that he will cherish after he participated in the Melbourne Anzac Day march and was part of the Motorcade of Veterans at the MCG.

Brian was invited to attend the Motorcade of Veterans by the Malaya Borneo Veterans Association and was on the third vehicle to enter the ground. Seated on the tray of a ute, he was driven around the perimeter of the MCG to the applause of the crowd – and a crowd it was, with a record Anzac Day attendance of 95,179.

"You realise how big the MCG is

when you come out, and everyone's clapping," Brian said, "I felt esteemed and humbled to be there. It was quite daunting and exhilarating.

"It was an honour to be part of it – you only get one chance at it," he said.

Brian said he was given some advice just before entering the MCG, and that was to take it all in – and that's what he tried to do.

Guests of the AFL, Brian and the other veterans were served refreshments before being escorted to their vehicles. Afterwards, Brian was guided to his seat to watch the traditional Anzac Day football match between Collingwood and

Essendon, where he was joined by his son-in-law, Shawn Jeserkowski, who served in the navy and had flown in from Toowoomba.

Earlier that morning, Brian marched with the Malaysia Borneo Veterans Association in the Melbourne Anzac Day march from Princes Bridge to the Shrine of Remembrance. It was the first time Brian had marched in Melbourne and he was impressed with the big crowd and the co-ordination of the event.

Brian's military career spans 44 years, having served across much of Australia from 1975 to 2018. During that time, he served in Malaysia from 1985 to 1987.

Motorcade on The 'G

Kirstin Nicholson

When you settle in to watch the Pies and Bombers AFL match on Anzac Day, keep your eyes peeled for Cohuna's Brian Roberts. Brian won't be donning his footy shorts, but will be taking to the hallowed turf of the MCG as part of the Anzac Day Motorcade of Veterans.

With an extensive military career spanning 44 years, Brian served across much of Australia, including Sale, Adelaide, Darwin, Melbourne and Sydney from 1975 to 2018. He also served in Malaysia from 1985 to 1987.

It's this service in Malaysia that saw him invited to be part of the Motorcade of Veterans by the Malaya Borneo Veterans Association.

The motorcade will take place prior to the observance ceremony and the commencement of the game. Following the motorcade, Brian will watch the match with his son-in-law from Toowoomba who served in the navy.

Both will take part in the Melbourne Anzac Day march in the morning. It will be the first time Brian has taken part in the Melbourne march, having been involved in the Cohuna march since moving here in 1996.

"I'm looking forward to the privilege of being part of the Anzac Day service at 'The G'," Brian said.

Brian is also looking forward to watching the footy – and barracking for Essendon.

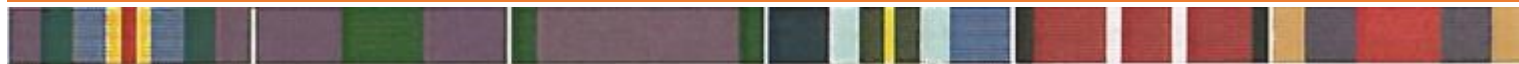
Victoria



Contact

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Photos are of Jack Bradie (100 year old) & In the MCG motorcade.

VIC BRANCH



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VIC BRANCH

“Hay, that’s nice”



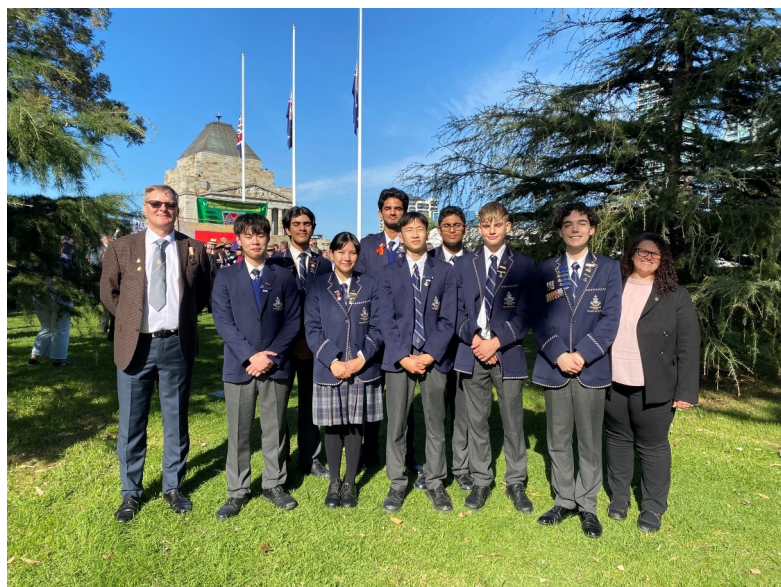
Bobby Dixon works on his Anzac artwork for display in Gunbower. Photo supplied.



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VIC BRANCH

Photos Thomas Carr College - Anzac Day March



Photos Thomas Carr College - Veterans Service



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VIC BRANCH

An instalment of the history behind the 'Malayan Emergency'

by Ron Lee.

EMERGENCY CONFRONTATION AUSTRALIAN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MALAYA/BORNEO 1950 – 66

THE EMERGENCY

On the morning of the 16th June 1948, Three European estate managers on the EPHIL and SUNGEI SIPUT estates in PERAK, in Northern Malaya, were murdered by Guerrillas of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP), despite the presence in the area of companies of Gurkhas who had been sent in to calm the situation. The murders in PERAK followed growing unrest throughout Malaya, particularly in PERAK (where a number of attacks on estate managers had occurred). At 8.30am

on the morning of the 16th June 1948 three comrades from the MCP cycled up to the main gate of the ELPHIL estate, on the LINTANG ROAD some seven miles from SUNGI SIPUT Township. There the 50 year old estate manager, Arthur Walker, who had spent the occupation years incarcerated in CHANGI JAIL, was engaged in last minute paperwork. He and his wife were scheduled to depart for the UNITED KINGDOM on home leave the following week. The three comrades, all Chinese, pushed open the door leading to Walker's room, one greeted him in Malay: 'Tebek Tuan' (good morning sir). As Walker's dog barked in protest of the intrusion, the estate manager returned the greeting 'good morning,' moments later, the comrades fired at point blank range, shooting Walker through the head and chest. As swiftly as they had arrived the men departed on their bicycles, leaving the estate manager slumped and dying on the floor, his safe keys beside him. Curiously the estate safe remained untouched.

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VIC BRANCH

Thirty minutes later, at the SUNGI SIPUT Estates less than two miles back down the LINTANG Road, a separate guerrilla unit, this time comprising 12 comrades, one armed with a Tommy Gun, besieged the main plantation office. The manager 55 year old JOHN ALLISON and his 21 year old assistant, IAN CHRISTIAN, a former Gurkha officer, was newly arrived in MALAYA and due to be transferred the next day to the KANTON Estate, several miles to the South near IPOH. It was to be a promotion to acting estate manager for the fledgling planter.

This second attack, obviously co-ordinated with the ELPHIL raid was better planned and more deliberate, ALLISON and CHRISTIAN were quickly immobilized with their hands tied behind their backs. One of the comrades discovered a set of keys on ALLISON. The two estate safes were opened and \$1,000 in cash was taken. With their hands still bound, the two planters in full view of office staff were frog marched to a nearby bungalow as the guerrillas searched for weapons. Both were then led back to the verandah. There, again in full view of workers, they were bound to separate chairs and executed with repeated bursts from the Tommy gun.

Before cycling off, the Malay speaking leader of the raiding party calmly told the estate's chief clerk, 'we are only for European strikebreakers.'

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S.A / N.T BRANCH

ANZAC DAY

Tuesday 25 April 2023

Cadet Aishwarya Srikanth, Assistant Social Media Coordinator with No 604 Squadron AAFC, wrote about her experience at the Anzac March in Adelaide.

This tradition has been passed on through many generations. I got to witness Doctors, Nurses, Engineers, IT Specialists, Air Force, Army and Navy representatives, as well as the Air Force Cadets. After attending the Dawn Service, the love for my country drove me forward throughout the March around the city. I was not only representing 604 Squadron; I was also representing 6 Wing; every Cadet in South Australia, was who I was representing, and the pride that I felt was incredible.

The March lasted for 3 hours, with us Cadets starting our March near the end.

Doing the March allowed me to see many high officials that I would never see, such as the Governor, Premier etc if not for joining the Australian Air Force Cadets. Apart from the exhilarating experience, I also learnt discipline and conducted perfect drill movements, as this is essential for a Cadet in the AAFC and also in the RAAF.

The main highlight of this activity for me was doing an eyes-right every time we passed the Australian flag.

We Will Remember Them



Two former Assistant Military Attachés and veterans of United Nations missions – Major Ansel Mathews PKB (ret'd) and Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd).



Vicki Crannaford carried the Malaysian National Flag in memory of her brother, Signaller John Tassell.



The new Sarawak Flag with polished two-piece wood staff, and the new black frog bearing the NMBVAA crest.

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S.A / N.T BRANCH

ANZAC DAY

Tuesday 25 April 2023

Late last year, Jesse Isaac from No 604 Squadron, AAFC was announced as the first of three recipients of the 'Cadet Sergeant Eleanore Tibble Pilgrimage'.

Earlier (as a Cadet Sergeant at that time) Jesse Isaac had been a member of the Catafalque Party for our 2022 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration.

The 'Eleanore Tibble Pilgrimage' award allows the selected Cadets to visit various military and civilian establishments and participate in a significant Anzac Day activity.



CDTSSGT Collett and CUO Isaac place a floral tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Wellington on 25 April 2023.



Placing a floral tribute on 25 April 2023 – note Bill Russell (with the green beret) of the Hutt Valley Branch and national Vice-President of the New Zealand Malayan Veterans Association.

CUO Isaac later reported: *"This was a particularly important aspect of the trip as we honoured and remembered those who served for us and those who sacrificed for us".*

During this service at the National War Memorial, CUO Isaac had the privilege of placing a floral tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior on behalf of the Australian Defence Force Cadets.

He was accompanied by Cadet Staff-Sergeant Esmae Collett of the Wellington City Cadet Unit (New Zealand Army Cadets).

CUO Isaac later reflected on his journey: *"This pilgrimage was a very powerful and moving experience".*

Since promoted to Cadet Under Officer (CUO), Jesse Isaac and another CUO from NSW visited the Australian War Memorial and the Treloar Technology Centre in Mitchell, and met with the Chief of Air Force and other key RAAF senior leadership identities.

For their pilgrimage, CUO Isaac and CUO Charlie Smith visited New Zealand, where they first attended the Anzac Dawn Service at Upper Hutt near Wellington.

CUO Isaac said: *"I had feelings of pride and honour. I am so grateful for the Service personnel who fought and made sacrifices for me to be able to stand peacefully while waiting for dawn to come".*

They then attended the New Zealand National Commemorative Service at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington.



CUO Jesse Isaac in Wellington with Willie Apiata VC, New Zealand Special Air Service.

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Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM

Thursday 22 June 2023

In a very special and personal investiture ceremony at the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur the Australian Chargé d'affaires Ms Clare Gatehouse, on behalf of the High Commissioner His Excellency Dr Justin Lee, presented the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) to Dato Lim Kian Hock.

Dato Lim received the Medal of the Order of Australia (Honorary):

"For service to Australia-Malaysia relations, particularly to commemorating the role played by Australians in Sarawak, Malaysia, during World War II".

In addition to this, Dato Lim played a significant role in establishing the Sarawak Heroes Cemetery to include the graves of Iban Trackers from Sarawak who were killed in action during the Malayan Emergency, previously buried at various sites in Malaya and Singapore.

Dato Lim has also played a key role in acknowledging the service of Australians and New Zealanders during the period of Indonesia's Confrontation with Malaysia.

Dato Lim was accompanied by his elder son Wilfred Lim and daughter-in-law Stephanie Goh, and grandchildren Natasha, Timothy and Natania, and Dato Lim's younger son Eric Lim.

In the lead up to the ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, Dato Lim sent us this email:

Many thanks for your esteemed email enclosure and tribute for which I am very grateful to you.

I am humbled by the presentation of the award and your great effort to join me and my family in the simple celebration as I could not have the achievement without all the support and contribution of you all.

It is our joint effort in the interest of the spirit of ANZAC and the great sacrifices of all Australians and Commonwealth veterans.

God Bless.



President Paul Rosenzweig presented Dato Lim with this Certificate on behalf of the SA/NT Branch.



President Paul Rosenzweig said: "It is our pleasure to acknowledge the contributions you have made and to do everything possible to perpetuate the Anzac connection with Sarawak".



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S.A / N.T BRANCH

The Order of Australia

Australia's national honour, the Order of Australia, was established by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, on the advice of the Prime Minister of Australia, by Letters Patent dated 14 April 1975.

It was created to be "an Australian society of honour for the purpose of according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons for achievement or for meritorious service".

The purpose of the Order of Australia is to recognise, by national honour, those who have made outstanding contributions that benefit their communities, and ultimately our country.

The Order has an additional purpose – it serves to identify role models at all levels and in all spheres of the community.



The emblem of the Order of Australia is a gold convex disc representing a single flower of mimosa ('Golden Wattle'). The disc is surmounted by the Crown of Queen Elizabeth II.



MC for the ceremony was Ms Kate Wiencke (left), First Secretary (Political Economic).



Chargé d'affaires Ms Clare Gatehouse presents the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) to Dato Lim.



Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM with Clare Gatehouse, Chargé d'affaires at the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.



President Paul Rosenzweig presented Dato Lim with a Certificate on behalf of the SAINT Branch (image courtesy of the Australian High Commission).

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President Paul Rosenzweig with Dato Lim and members of his family who attended the investiture.

Australian High Commission Malaysia
@AushCMalaysia

The High Commission was delighted to present an Honorary Medal of the Order of Australia to Dato' Lim Kian Hock OAM — for his service to Australia-Malaysia relations through his work commemorating the role of Australians in Sarawak during WWII.

Congrats and TQ Dato Lim! 🎉



Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM sent the following message:

"Heartiest congratulations to you Dato Lim for the wonderful work you are doing for Sarawak and Australia. A well deserved award".

Dato Lim sent this message to the SAINT Branch:

"I hereby record my heartfelt thanks to all of you for all your collaboration, support and guidance for me to be able to walk forward to receive the award. This also shows the strong spirit of brotherhood of Australia/NZ (ANZAC) and Sarawak/Malaysia since WWII".

Dato Lim's son Wilfred wrote to Paul:

"Thank you firstly for making the journey to KL, and your personal stories during my dad's investiture. And thank you for your friendship, that was very heart warming to see".

The Australian High Commission release on Twitter.



S.A / N.T



Contact

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The Moorlands Kids

QLD BRANCH

The year was 1944 and Australia was at war, and my life was about to crash with the sad news that my mother had just passed away at the age of 38. My father who was just 34 was now left with four children aged from 14 to 7. At that time he was a fireman but had come out from Scotland on a work ship at 18 after serving 15 years in a Naval academy orphanage. He worked with the bullock wagons hauling timber in Ingham for some time then returned to Brisbane when my mother came out from England and they were married. At some time, and with ill health, he joined the Australian Army and was at Kelvin Grove for nearly a year before being discharged as medically unfit. Somehow, and perhaps they were desperate for men, he managed to become a fireman, and part of his job was to ride a bicycle around the suburbs and check the water pumps outside peoples houses in case of a fire. That is what he was doing when he had a massive heart attack and passed away just 15 months later. Now we four children were in real trouble as we did not have one single relative living in Australia, and we were not able to be sent to my fathers sister in Scotland because of the war. We were fostered out to a family in Wynnum where they had five children already, and remained there for many months while the powers that be tried to decide what to do with us. Eventually in July of 1946 Moorlands Legacy Home at Auchenflower was opened with the first double orphans of Service men being admitted. My brother went there before me so that split us up for the first time, then I went in and the four of us were only together one more time in our lives about 20 odd years later. Moorlands was just wonderful and we were treated just like one big family. There was a Matron and a sub matron who looked after us in every way with medical, dental (I still have the gold in my teeth) nice clothing, pocket money, outings, schooling, church great food and lots of activities. There was plenty of ground to play in and plenty of friends to play with. Every Saturday morning we went in to town to attend gymnastics where we said The Oath to thank our parents for their gift of life to us. Life at Moorlands was just wonderful and I will forever be grateful for my short time there, but in 1948 our situation changed and we were to become State Wards and a very different life style. I was sent to a Catholic boarding school where life for me and several other orphans was very difficult. We were treated as third class citizens with no money and no one to supply us with the little extras of life. I spent 4 years at boarding school, and am grateful that at least I had a good education. My brother was sent to an orphanage where his treatment was unbelievable (nothing like the wonderful Moorlands). and he ran away several times. I will forever be grateful for my short time at Moorlands and at my current age of 86 I am still proud to be known as a "Moorlands Kid"

LAUGH ALONG

Having risen quickly through the ranks by the age of thirty, our squadron leader was on a panel of Officers interviewing prospective pilots and technicians. "How old do you think I am?" he asked one applicant. "About 40 sir" came the reply. Eager to impress on the youngster the prospect of rapid promotion, the squadron leader countered. "What if I said you were ten years off?" With complete innocence, the young man replied, "Gee sir, you don't look 50."

Queensland



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VALE

Captain (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Rambahadur Limbu VC MVO (1939-2023)

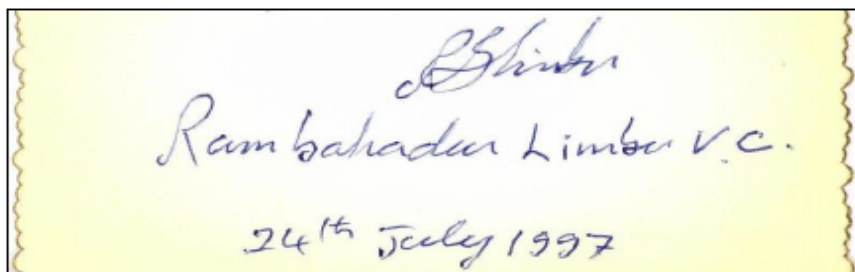
On Saturday 22 April it was announced that Captain Rambahadur Limbu VC MVO had passed away in Nepal, aged 83. He is survived by his second wife Eunimaya and three children, Bhakta, Chandra and Giwan.

Rambahadur Limbu had previously been invited by the SA&NT Branch, NMBVAA to take part in Adelaide's 2015 Anzac Day ceremony, but his travel arrangements were cancelled due to the earthquake in Kathmandu. He was again invited by the SA&NT Branch to take part in Adelaide's 2018 Anzac Day ceremony, but he was unable to travel from England due to poor health. At that time, Captain (QGO) Rambahadur Limbu VC MVO (retired) was granted the status of Honorary Life Member of the SA&NT Branch.

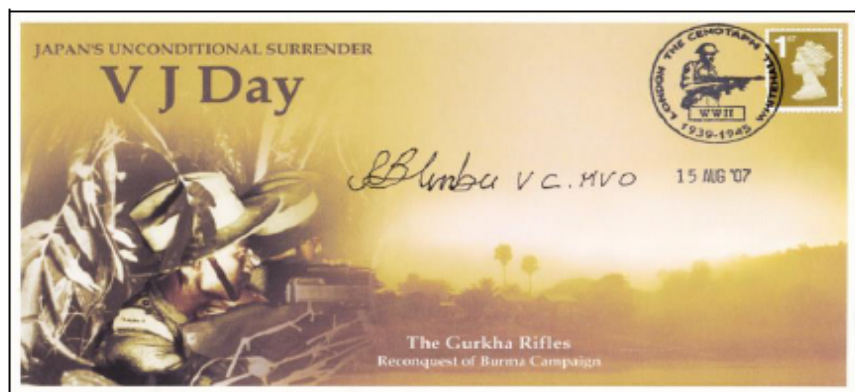
On Saturday 12 October 2019, the Branch held the inaugural 'Gurkha Dinner' at The Gurkhas Restaurant in Adelaide, in honour of Rambahadur Limbu VC MVO. The traditional Gurkha Kukri was ceremonially passed.



Lance-Corporal Rambahadur Limbu VC at Buckingham Palace on 12 July 1968 following his investiture, with his 5 year old son Bhakta Bahadur and Field Marshal Sir William Slim, 1st Viscount Slim.



A card bearing an original signature of Captain (QGO) Rambahadur Limbu VC MVO.



A Commemorative Cover released on 15 August 2007, bearing an original signature of Captain (QGO) Rambahadur Limbu VC MVO, then aged 68.

The Gurkhas suffered 367 deaths during the twelve years of the Malayan Emergency, and also two fatalities in suppressing the Brunei Revolt in December 1962. Gurkhas were involved in some of the fiercest fighting of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, losing 43 killed and 83 wounded.

Lance-Corporal Rambahadur Limbu of the 2nd Battalion, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles was the only recipient of the Victoria Cross during these three post-war campaigns. He was decorated for his valour at Gunung Tepol in Indonesia (near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border, in the Bau District of Sarawak) on 21 November 1965.

Limbu was presented with his Victoria Cross by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at an investiture at Buckingham Palace in 1966. He was accompanied only by his son Bhakta Bahadur, as his wife Tikamaya Bhega had died in the British Military Hospital in Singapore earlier that year.

Lest we Forget

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCjeJ8lfuY