



The Listening Post

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc

Winter Issue 2018

President's Address



Welcome to the winter edition of listening Post.

This is indeed an exciting edition so much news and reports from all states.

We have of course coming up very soon our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day and preparations are under way in all states to ensure the services are well attended.

This is a very important day so please make the effort to attend, participate and take the opportunity to meet up with fellow veterans.

The project to have a memorial at the AWM is still on track, it takes time and money so if you can assist in any way let our Man in Canberra Ian Davenport know, all are welcome to contribute to ensure this memorial is built sooner than later.

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.

During recent months aside from the Anzac Day Services, which are featured in this edition there have been several events taken place, all of which you will read about.

In South Australia a service was held to mark the 70th anniversary since the commencement of the Malayan Emergency.

This service was well attended by veterans and several dignities.

In Victoria the annual service at Thomas Carr College was held in May, the college has a memorial to the Malayan Emergency & Indonesian Confrontation.

This memorial is situated near the college chapel where the service is held.

Thomas Carr does so much to assist our association and for that we are very grateful

The annual MCG parade on Anzac Day was attended by two of our veterans, photos and a letter of appreciation from one of the attendees.

In the WA Section is a wonderful story of a veteran who served at the highest level of service, nothing more elite than an SAS soldier.

I was honored to be invited to attend and speak on behalf of the association at a Gala Night organized by the Sabah Sarawak Borneo Natives Organization.

This was wonderful night where I had the opportunity to meet great people, learn so much and hear them speak with such passion of their homeland.

There are some photos in this edition; I do have a full photo collection on a USB if anyone would like to see that, just let me know.

I must give a special mention of a contribution in the NSW/ACT section of a wonderful poem sent to me by Alan Sheather, to me it says it all about the feelings only the loss of a veterans can evoke in those left behind.

By the way you are allowed to have some tissues handy when reading the poem.

Recruiting of new members continues in all states and this makes the future of the association much more secure.

To you all enough from me, keep up the good work you do in your state.

Stay strong and help your mates.

Owen Marshall
National President



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A PEOM FOR ANZAC Day DADDY's POEM

*Her hair was up in a pony tail,
her favourite dress tied with a
bow. Today was Daddy's Day at
school, and she couldn't wait to
go.*

*But her Mummy tried to tell her,
that she probably should stay
home. Why the kids might not
understand, if she went to
school alone.*

*But still her Mother worried, for
her to face this day alone. And
that was why once again, she
tried to keep her daughter
home.*

*But the little girl went to
school, Eager to tell them all.
About a Dad she never sees, A
Dad who never calls.*

*There were Daddies along the
back wall, for everyone to meet.
Children squirming impatiently,
Anxious in their seats.*

*One by one the teacher called a
student from the class. To
introduce their daddy, As
seconds slowly passed.*

*At last the teacher caller her
name, every child turned to
stare. Each of them were
searching, for a man who wasn't
there.*

*"Where's her daddy at"? She
heard a boy call out. "She
probably doesn't have one"
Another one called out.*

*And from somewhere near the
back, she heard a daddy say.
"Looks like another dead beat
dad, too busy to waste his day."*

*The words did not offend her, as
she smiled up at her Mum. And
looked back at the teacher, who
told her to go on.*

*And with hands behind her back,
slowly she began to speak. And
out from the mouth of a child,
Came some words that were
unique.*

*"My Daddy couldn't be here,
because he lives so far away. But
I know he wishes he could be,
since this is such a special day."*

NEW SOUTH WALES / A.C.T BRANCH

*"And though you cannot meet
him, I wanted you to know. All
about my daddy, and how much
he loves me so."*

*"He loved to tell me stories, He
taught me to ride a bike. He
surprised me with pink roses,
and taught me to fly a kite."*

*"We used to share fudge
sundaes, and ice-cream in a
cone. And though you cannot see
him, I'm not standing here
alone."*

*"Cause my daddy's always with
me, Even though we are apart. I
know because he told me, He'll
forever be in my heart."*

*With that, her little hand
reached up, and lay across her
chest. Feeling her own
heartbeat, beneath her favorite
dress.*

*And from somewhere in the
crowd of dads, her mother stood
in tears. Proudly watching her
daughter, who was wise beyond
her years.*

*For she stood up for love, of a
man not in her life. Doing what
was best for her, doing what was
right.*

*And when she dropped her hand
back down, staring into the
crowd. She finished with a voice
so soft, but it's message clear
and loud.*

*"I love my daddy very much,
He's my shining star. And if he
could he'd be here, but heavens
just too far."*

*"You see he was a soldier, and
he died this past year, when a
roadside bomb hit his convoy.
And taught brave men to fear."*

*"But sometimes when I close my
eyes, it's like he never went
away." And then she closed her
eyes, and saw him there that
day.*

*And to her mother's amazement,
she witnessed with surprise. A
room full of daddy's and
children, all starting to close
their eyes.*

*Who knows what they saw
before them, who knows what
they felt inside? Perhaps for
merely a second, they saw him
at her side.*

*"I know you're with me daddy",
to the silence she called out.
And what happened next made
believers, of those once filled
with doubt.*

*Not one in that room could
explain it, for each of their eyes
had been closed. But there on
the desk beside her, was a
fragrant long-stemmed pink
rose.*

*And a child was blessed, if only
for a moment, by the love of a
shining star. And given the gift
of believing that heaven is never
too far.*



NOTICE: Staff and volunteers at the Australian War Memorial are currently researching, digitising and indexing records to create a searchable roll representing Malayan Emergency, Malay Peninsula and Indonesian Confrontation.

The Roll will be due for release online in June 2019.

N.S.W / A.C.T



Contact

Ian Davenport (02) 6258 8988

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ANZAC Day 2018

VICTORIAN BRANCH



Anzac Day - Lindsay Warner, Lawrie Wilson and Ben Thurlow



Anzac Day @ MCG



Marched through town with Nashos from 8RAR and Vietnam Vets (Cobram Vic)



XMAS lunch at Batman on the Hill.



A most pleasant time experienced by all who attended. The far end of the table won most of the items raffled. Thanks must be given to Vern and Mercina Joseph for supplying, decorating and wrapping the prizes raffled

Ron Lee (left) Lawrie Wilson & wife receiving a Thomas Carr Badge



Malaya and Borneo Commemorative Service - Thomas Carr College May 7th, 2018 taken by Thomas Carr College



Victoria



Contact

Owen Marshall 0414 238 698

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QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Brisbane ANZAC Day Parade



Ms Lisa Miller, an associate member, laid a wreath in honour of all who served our country, on behalf of the NMBVAA Australia and Brisbane Branch at the Gaythorne ANZAC Day Dawn Service. She was accompanied by her dog, Cara.



The crew of HMAS Queenborough at the ship's re-commissioning ceremony at Garden Island naval base in Sydney in late 1954. The Queenborough had just been converted from a destroyer to an anti-submarine frigate. In 1957 the Queenborough bombarded communist guerrilla positions in Malaya. [AWM 305389]

Courtesy ANZAC Portal.

Queensland



Contact

Allen Edwards (07) 3396 6705

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S.A & N.T BRANCH

70th anniversary of the start of the Malayan Emergency, 1948-2018 MBV Day Ceremony

In 2018, we commemorated the 103rd anniversary of the Gallipoli landings in 1915, and the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day when - on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month - the guns fell silent on the Western Front. This Great War had seen the mobilisation of over 70 million people, with as many as 13 million dead and perhaps one-third of them with no known grave.



In 2018, we also commemorated 70th anniversary of the start of the undeclared war known as the 'Malayan Emergency'. This was a guerrilla war fought in the Federation of Malaya which lasted from 1948 until 1960 and cost the lives of 39 Australians.

The sacrifice of our 39 Australians, among the 1,800 Malayan and Commonwealth troops who lost their lives in this 12 year conflict, was not in vain, serving to uphold the sovereignty of Malaya allowing the successful attainment of independence on 31 August 1957, and the eventual creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963.



The Catafalque Party, the Honour Guard and the Guides were provided by Cadets of several Squadrons from No. 6 Wing Australian Air Force Cadets based in Adelaide.



The Guest of Honour was the Branch Patron and Governor of South Australia, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC. There were approximately 90 Branch members, family and friends and other VIPs included representatives from Dept of Veterans' Affairs, South Australian Government, RSL SA, War Widows Guild, the RAR Association, the RAAF Association, TPI, and Veterans' Voices Radio.



Dinner with Datuk Dr. Philip Ting AM PGBK Honorary Australian Consul to Sarawak Malaysia



Thank you to everyone who made the trip into Adelaide for the dinner with Datuk Philip Ting on Saturday evening at The Gurkha's Restaurant in Angas St. Philip has added his personal donation to the amount we raised for our three schools in the Bau district bring the total to MR1500 for each school...we had a great night.

Brian Selby



S.A / N.T



Contact

Brian Selby 0416 118 843

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Gympie tales of war, brotherhood and unmarked graves.

Following article published in the *Gympie Times* by Tom Daunt, 21st Nov 2017.



THE Sandy Beret of Australia's Special Air Service Regiment is the unmistakable material symbol of our elite fighting force.

It is rare to see them, and the soldiers who are qualified to wear them in public.

The work of the SAS is often shrouded in secrecy.

So too was the life, and death of former regiment member and Gympie man Norman McCullough, who's head stone was unveiled in a special service at Gympie cemetery on Saturday.

Corporal McCullough served in Malaya, Thailand and Vietnam before being discharged from the Special Air Service squadron in 1976.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH



ELITE: Zoltan Simon served with Corporal Norman McCullough in Vietnam as part of an SAS troop.

He died in Western Australia in 1983 and his ashes were brought to Gympie and interred with his mother, Ada Meiers in an unmarked grave.

Zoltan Simon (pictured) served with Corporal McCullough in the SAS. "I actually remember on one contact drill, dropping a 40mm high explosive shell a little bit close (to Norm).

"He ended up with a little bit of shrapnel in his leg. It was a shared moment," Mr Simon said.

It took a special kind of soldier to be considered for the SAS. Mr Simon said Corporal McCullough was made of the right stuff.

"He was very dependable, a total professional," Mr Simon said.

"You knew you could rely on him in a hard moment. Today (Saturday) is special for me particularly because I hadn't seen Norm since the last day we parted in Vietnam. That was in February 1971."

"I didn't even know he had died at such an early age because back in the 1980's we didn't have an association or the internet of course, so communication was a little bit lax compared to what it is today. When I heard this commemorative service was going to be prepared, I made the trip."

"It was lucky that John (fellow former SAS soldier John Ison) offered to say a few words because it would have been a trial for me," Mr Simon said.



British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. [AWM 300199]

The destroyers Arunta and Warramunga leaving port with a light fleet carrier in 1955. Having seen action in the Second World War, both vessels were modernised in the early 1950s and converted to a mainly anti-submarine role. In mid 1955 Arunta and Warramunga became the first Australian warships to be attached to the newly formed



Photos from our enjoyable Christmas Lunch (thanks to Ken Mutton)



Western Australia



Contact

Owen Marshall 0414 238 698

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TASMANIA BRANCH

Certificate of Appreciation

OUR BANNER IN THE PARADE AND THE PRESIDENT ABOUT TO LAY A WREATH FOR NMBVAA OUR BANNER WAS ALSO PARADED AT A LATTER SERVICE REGARDS MIKE. LUNCH LATTER CAMERA LEFT IN CAR THINK THEY CALL IT OLD AGE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET SOME PHOTOS WILL SEND THEM IF I DO .



HMAS Sydney

Australian soldiers being ferried in a small craft, from troop transport HMAS Sydney on its arrival in North Borneo (Sabah) as part of their defence aid programme to Malaysia.

Photo: Courtesy Australian War Memorial.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Lest We Forget



Tasmania



Contact

Mike Priest (03) 6228 5034

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Sabah Sarawak Borneo Natives Organisation Gala Night 2018

Sabah Sarawak Gala Night Dinner
"The Story From Borneo". ~ Striving to Spread
Hope, Determination, Human Rights, Aspiration
and Serve Where We Can. ~ Our Dignity, Spirit,
and Responsibility Drive Us Towards Unity. ~
Dedicated by Sabahan Sarawakian in Australia.



Photos are Courtesy of Emily Edwards, The President and the Initiator of
the Sabah Sarawak Borneo Natives Organisation