



THE OBSERVATION POST

The official publication of the
National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc
South Australia & Northern Territory Branch

National Patron: General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC(Mil) CVO MC (ret'd)
SA/NT Branch Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

What a great Christmas Lunch we had at Club Marion on Saturday 10 December last year, with great food and even better company.

We are extremely grateful for the attendance of the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency Dr Justin Lee, and his wife Jeane.

Our other special guests were Mrs Janice Silby, Deputy Commissioner SA for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and her husband Gary.

His Excellency kindly agreed to present seven certificates in recognition of 10 years' membership of the SA & NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc since its reformation in 2010.





NOTICES

RAP

Captain Aileen Ryan
(ret'd), RAANC

COMMITTEE

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Public Affairs Officer

Don Cameron
Vice-President
Ceremonial Officer

Paul Bayliss

Jenny Cameron
Treasurer

Vicki Crannaford

Di Davies

Beverley Dubois
Minutes Secretary

Jeff Hiscock

Chris Selby

Mal White
Merchandise Officer

THANK YOU

We thank Tony Zappia MP
and the staff of his Makin
Electorate Office for their
generous assistance with
our printing needs.

BRANCH UPDATES

The year has started off relatively quietly, so we are taking this opportunity to catch up with some images from various events from the end of last year.

Our Vision statement reminds us of our identity and our purpose. We have adopted a four-pronged approach to commemoration, and one of these components is "Honour the living". We acknowledge the service of our surviving veterans through formal ceremonial events, social gatherings, an active advocacy and welfare program (including home and hospital visits), and recognition of service and achievements. To support this, the Branch Committee has instituted a Certificate of Membership.

Association records are incomplete, and there have been organisational and structural changes since 1995. The Branch Committee has taken this initial opportunity to acknowledge those who have been members of the SA/NT Branch since its reformation in 2010.

At various events and occasions in December, certificates were presented in recognition of 10 years' membership of the SA/NT Branch since 2010.

The next step is to determine those who have been members of the NMBVAA since its formation in Australia, and appropriate recognition will be forthcoming in due course.

Our meetings will resume this month – at the **Maid of Auckland Hotel**. To allow time for setting up the room please note the meeting start time is now **11.15 am**.

We had a few interviews broadcast on the 'Service Voices' program last year (on Radio Adelaide, and available from the website). Just a reminder that Helen invites all veterans and family members to join her for a pre-recorded interview about their experiences at Terendak Camp and during the Emergency and/or Confrontation, or military life in general.

If you haven't already done so, I invite you to renew your membership of the SA/NT Branch for another year. We have come through the pandemic, and have a strong Branch Committee leading us forward. Please contact Jenny Cameron to make payment – and use the Membership Renewal Form if any of your personal details have changed. We look forward to your continuing membership and engagement.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February meeting: 1115h Friday 17 February 2023
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch

Date of interest: *Monday 6 February: 71st anniversary of the day in 1952 when Princess Elizabeth, as heir presumptive, acceded to the throne as Queen Elizabeth II, the fourth monarch of the House of Windsor*

March meeting: 1115h Friday 17 March 2023
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch



Visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NMBVAAadelaide/>



Christmas Lunch Saturday 10 December 2022

Here are some more images from our annual Christmas Lunch held at Club Marion last December. Congratulations to all raffle prize winners – your contributions, and the generous donations we received, will go towards this year's contribution to the three schools in the Bau District of Sarawak which we sponsor – these schools are located in areas where Australian forces were deployed during Confrontation. The photos from the lunch may be found here:

[Christmas Lunch 2022](#)



On display at the lunch were various mementos received during 2022 from the Sarawak Tourism Federation, the Bau District Office and the schools in the Bau District which we support.



Seated, clockwise from front: Barbara Taylor, Rosina Parsons, Beverley Dubois, Helen Adamson, Helen Meyer, Barbara Boxer. Standing: Peter Taylor, Bernie Boxer, Bill Parsons.



Clockwise from front: Sharon Mathews, Natalie Beattie, Jim Litchfield, Mal White, Dave McCarthy, Bill Voyce, Jim Deering, Ansel Mathews.



Left to right: Jeff and Louisa Hiscock; Chris Selby; Ian and Vicki Crannaford; Di Davies.

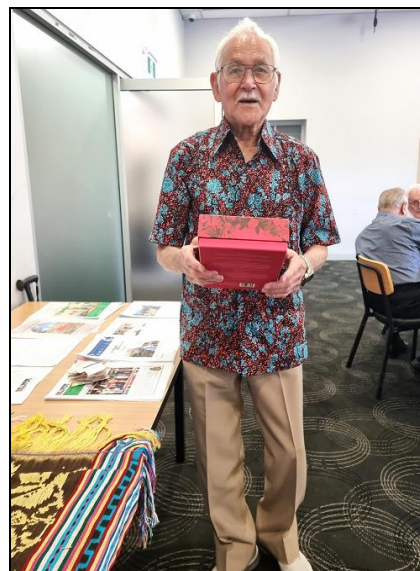
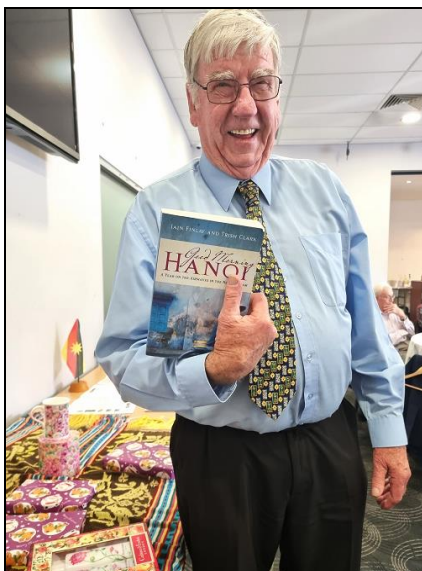


Christmas Lunch Saturday 10 December 2022

Congratulations to all raffle prize winners, and a special thank you to the many people who donated prizes.

Your contributions, as well as the generous donations we received, will go towards this year's contribution to the three schools in the Bau District of Sarawak which our Branch sponsors – SK Serabak, SK Stass and SK Suba Buan.

These schools are located in areas where Australian forces were deployed in 1965 and 1966 during Confrontation.





Iban Princess Beer

In July last year, Branch President Paul Rosenzweig attended a Malaysian Night in Tawa, north of Wellington, hosted by the Malayan Veterans Association of New Zealand and the New Zealand Malaysian Society.

One of the highlights of the night was the chance to sample the locally-made 'Iban Princess' beer, produced by a local craft brewery 'Fortune Favours'. This was the initiative of Sarawakian Laura Munan, who is of New Zealand origin but has lived in Kuching for a number of years.

Laura grew up in Kuching but returned to NZ to complete her tertiary studies at the school of music at Victoria University in Wellington. During this time, while working as a bartender, she created a unique beer that would pay homage to her Iban roots. "That is how 'The Iban Princess' was born!" she said.

The Iban Princess beer incorporates tropical flavours such as pandan and lemongrass, giving the beer a fresh and tangy taste.

At our annual Christmas Lunch held at Club Marion last December, many stories were told and a number of raffle prizes were won.

Nestled among the raffle prizes were two unique cans of beer.

They were two bespoke cans of Iban Princess Beer, produced by Fortune Favours in Wellington, New Zealand.

They have the motto – "*Fortune Favours the bold, Fortune Favours the brave*".

The 946 mL cans of 'Iban Princess' beer were won by Dave McCarthy and Bill Parsons.

Helen Meyer spoke with Paul Rosenzweig about how these cans came to be available as raffle prizes – for broadcast on the 'Service Voices' program on Radio Adelaide.

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NMBVA SA/NT: IBAN PRINCESS BEER
POSTED ON: MON 19 DEC 2022

At the recent National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association SA/NT's Christmas lunch, nestled among the raffle prizes were two large cans of beer. Paul Rosenzweig OAM tells us how they came to be there.

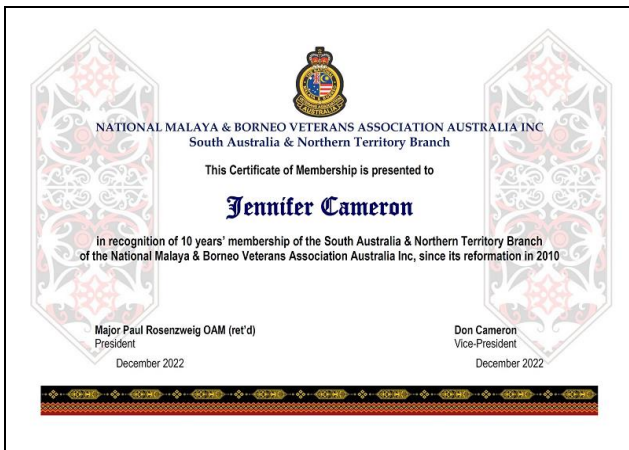
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Paul Rosenzweig OAM about the Iban Princess beer
Photos provided by NMBVA SA/NT and used with permission.
Former Royal Marine Dave McCarthy who won one of the cans in NMBVA SA/NT's Xmas raffle.

Service Voices offers news, perspectives and memories from the veteran, volunteer and Defence communities through oral history, giving a voice to a large sector of our community which is not available elsewhere on air.

Listen to Paul talk about the Iban Princess Beer on 'Service Voices' on Radio Adelaide, 101.5 FM:

<https://radioadelaide.org.au/2022/12/19/nmbva-sa-nt-iban-princess-beer/>



Certificates of Membership Saturday 10 December 2022

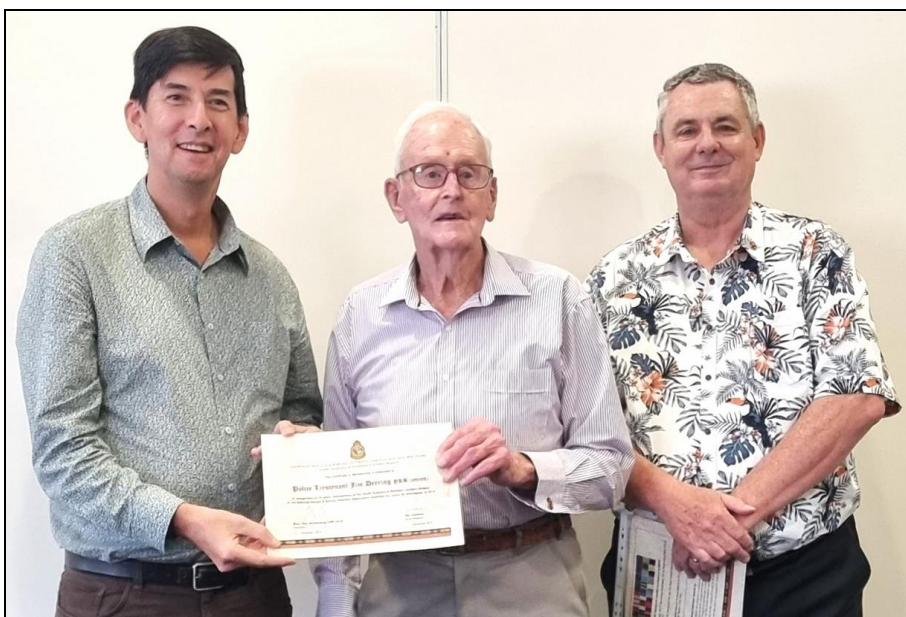
At our Christmas Lunch, we were very privileged to have the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency Dr Justin Lee, present Certificates of Membership to some of our members.

His Excellency presented seven certificates in recognition of 10 years' membership of the SA & NT Branch of the National Malaysia & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc – counted from the reformation of the Branch in 2010.

A further four certificates, for those who could not be present, were presented on Friday 16 December. Arrangements were made for an additional five certificates to be presented individually.

These Certificates celebrate 10 years' membership of the SA/NT Branch since its reformation in 2010.

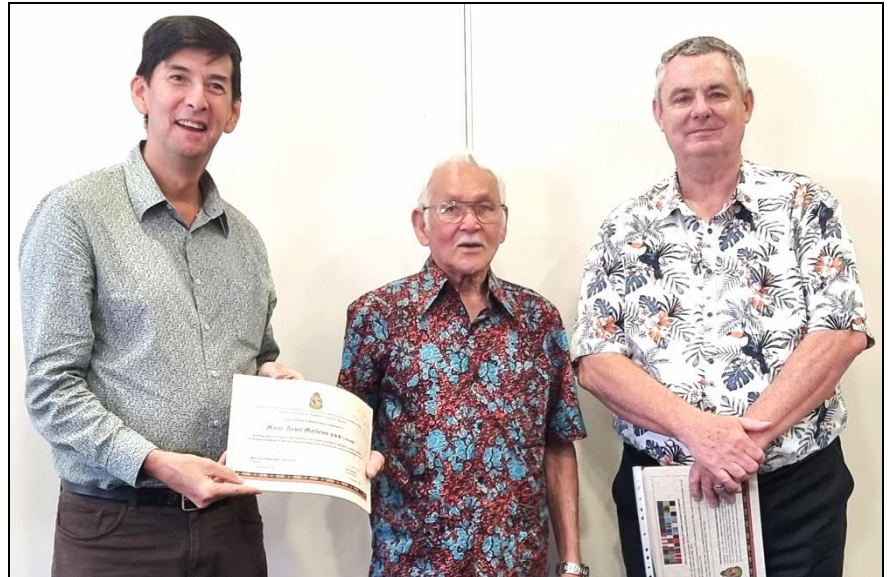
Dianne Davies,
and also
Allan Davies



Jim Deering



Beverley Dubois



Ansel Mathews

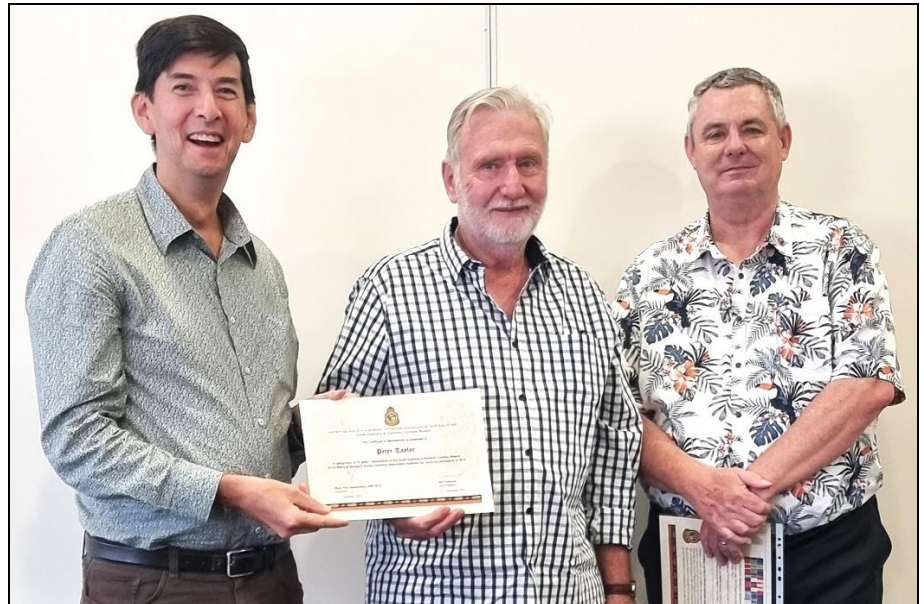


Sharon Mathews



Chris Selby,
and also
Mathew Tee,
Benjamin Tee
and
Nicholas Tee

Peter Taylor



Boyce and Helen Moffatt received their 10 Year Membership Certificates on Friday 16 December 2022.

We also congratulate the following members who have received their 10 Year Membership Certificates, presented by Vice-President Don Cameron and Treasurer Jenny Cameron:

Malcolm 'Digger' Digance

Oscar Johnsson

Joe Kelly

Marian Kelly

Captain Aileen Ryan (retired), RAANC

We look forward to presenting certificates this year to members who have had continuous membership since 2013, or a total of 10 years' aggregate membership.



No 601 Squadron, AAFC End of Year Parade, 17 December 2022

No 601 Squadron AAFC (Keswick Barracks) held its 2022 End of Year Parade on Saturday 17 December.

On our behalf, Sergeant (AAFC) Kim Edgar presented Certificates of Appreciation to four Cadets who had supported our 2022 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration on 26 August last year.

Two of these Cadets then attended the 604 Squadron AAFC End of Year Parade at Hampstead Barracks on 18 December, to be officially presented with their Certificates of Appreciation by our President and Vice-President.



Leading Cadet Charlene Bhasme Bhasme, a member of the Catafalque Party



Leading Cadet Jonas Dixon Honour Guard member



Leading Cadet Zane Settimio, Door Opener for the Vice-Regal vehicle



Leading Cadet Nikolas Fountas, Honour Guard member



Leading Cadets Jonas Dixon (left) and Nikolas Fountas on duty with the Honour Guard on 26 August 2022.



Leading Cadet Charlene Bhasme Bhasme on duty with the Catafalque Party on 26 August 2022.



Left to right: Flying Officer (AAFC) Kieran Wandel, Wing-Commander (AAFC) Siobhan Forrester, CUO Kshitij Sapdhare, Mr Mark Lawson-Kent, RSL Payneham Sub-Branch President.

No 604 Squadron, AAFC Dining-in Night, 10 December 2022

No 604 Squadron held its annual Dining-in Night at Payneham RSL, hosted by the Commanding Officer Flying Officer (AAFC) Kieran Wandel.

The Dining President was Cadet Under Officer Kshitij Sapdhare, Cadet Executive Officer of No 604 Squadron – who was the Catafalque Party Commander for our 2022 Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day service.

The guest of honour was Wing-Commander (AAFC) Siobhan Forrester, who was appointed Officer Commanding No 6 Wing in December 2022.

Siobhan is a former Commanding Officer of 604 Squadron, and members may recall her supporting earlier Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day services in the West Torrens Memorial Gardens.



End of Year Parade, 18 December 2022

For the 604 Squadron End of Year Parade at Hampstead Barracks on Sunday 18 December, the Banner Party (left) comprised Cadet Under Officer Kshitij Sapdhare (Banner Bearer) and Cadet Flight Sergeant Athanasios Bolimos (Banner Warrant Officer).

The Banner Escorts, carrying innocuous F-88 Austeyr rifles, were Cadet Corporal Ryan Truong and Cadet Corporal Juliana Buerano.

CUO Sapdhare had the privilege of being the Catafalque Party Commander for our 2022 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens last year.

CFSGT Bolimos has gained both the Bronze and Silver Awards in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. CUO Sapdhare and CCPL Buerano have each gained the Bronze and Silver Awards, and are current Gold Award participants.



Branch member Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Denny AM BM (ret'd) was Reviewing Officer for the parade.



Proud to support

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AUSTRALIA



The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global framework for non-formal education, which challenges young people to discover their potential and find their purpose, passion, and place to become #WORLDREADY

We have adopted a four-pronged approach to commemoration, and one of these four components is "Look to the future". In accordance with our philosophy, the SA/NT Branch is now a *Friend of the Award*.

We are making a small annual donation which will help at least two disadvantaged young South Australians to participate in the Award where they might not otherwise have the opportunity.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is an enriching program in which young people aged 14 to 24 years participate in activities and non-formal education over a minimum length of time to qualify for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Each level of the Award is progressively more challenging. Through this contribution, we are pleased to be playing a small part in the development of emerging South Australian leaders and community members.



MERCHANDISE

Our Malaya-Borneo scarf has proved to be very popular and sold out very quickly . . . but don't worry, we have more on order.

They are very high quality, and good value at \$33 each, plus postage if you need it mailed to you.

We now also have stubby coolers available (see the new design above), in the colours of the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia*, available for just \$10 each.

We also have lapel badges, bullion blazer badges and other memorabilia.

Proceeds from the sale of our merchandise go towards our donations to the three schools in the Bau district and the 'Sarawak Defenders Historical Trail'.

Please contact Mal White: malwhite@mail.com



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Greenock Aviation Museum visit

The Elizabeth/Salisbury Branch of the Air Force Association is planning a visit to the Greenock Aviation Museum in the Barossa Valley on Sunday 26 March.

They are booking a 27-seater bus, so there may be a couple of seats available if you are interested. The bus will depart from the Salisbury RSL.

If you would like more information, or details on how to RSVP and pay, please contact Paul:

paul.rosenzweig@hotmail.com

Post-WW2 Memorial – Unveiling

Ian Smith, Chair of the RSL (SA) Anzac Day Committee, has advised that a grant from the South Australian Anzac Day Commemoration Fund has been received to update Adelaide’s Post-WW2 Memorial at the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue.

This memorial commemorates Service personnel with close links to South Australia who lost their lives as a result of their service in an overseas conflict or operation since the end of World War 2.

Our Branch has long been keen to fix one key error on this plaque and two omissions – notably to include Signalman John Tassell of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, who served on the Malay Peninsula attached to the 208th (Commonwealth) Signals Squadron, of the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group.

The intention is to unveil the refurbished memorial at the Dawn Service on Anzac Day. All members are encouraged to attend and witness this significant occasion.



PUBLICATIONS

Sarawak Museum Journal

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Sarawak Museum Department has published the following research paper in the *Sarawak Museum Journal*:

Rosenzweig, PA (2022) ‘In our Neighbours’ Soil our Anzacs Sleep’. *The Sarawak Museum Journal*, LXXXV (106): 47-75.

The SA&NT Branch, NMBVAA has a strong connection with Sarawak through our reunion visits, tree-planting ceremonies, support to three schools in the Bau District, and our various services of commemoration. This relationship honours the service of Australian military forces in Sarawak in 1965 and 1966 during the period of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia and, in particular, the eleven Australians who died as a result of operational service in defence of Sarawak.

Through our various activities, the SA & NT Branch remains committed to honouring Australian service and sacrifice during the post-WW2 Malayan wars.

The document can be downloaded here: [Sarawak Museum Journal](#)

The Sarawak Museum Journal, LXXXV (106) (2022): 47-75

IN OUR NEIGHBOURS’ SOIL OUR ANZACS SLEEP

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ABSTRACT

The Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching contains a black marble plaque, installed on 29 August 2016, honouring the Australian military personnel who died during the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia. Incomplete records however, led to this plaque containing minor errors and omissions. Three years later, as a member of the South Australia and Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association of Australia Inc, I was invited to deliver a commemorative address for Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day in Kuching on 29 August 2019. This presented the opportunity to extensively research the fallen, and a new plaque was installed prior to this ceremony. My address, included here, drew attention to the 50 Australian fallen from the Malayan wars who remain buried overseas, acknowledging Malaya and Singapore for looking after our Anzacs. In particular, of the Australians who died during Confrontation, I noted that eight died in Sarawak (while a further three died after being evacuated from Sarawak). This paper includes this commemorative address, followed by an analysis of the circumstances of each of the eleven Australian defenders of Sarawak in 1965-66 who lost their lives. Concluding this research, the graves of the Australian fallen in Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore were visited and photographed in December 2019, including the four Australian soldiers who died in Sarawak and remain buried overseas. The significance of the 2019 ceremony in Kuching has been heightened by the inability of veterans to schedule any further reunion visits because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Keywords: Confrontation, Veterans, Commemoration, Australia, Sarawak, Sacrifice



He Toa Taumata Rau

The 'Place of Many Brave Deeds' can be found in the lower grounds of the Royal New Zealand Police College, below the New Zealand Police Museum, in Porirua north of Wellington.

This permanent outdoor tribute was opened on 18 October 2022. This memorial precinct commemorates Police and civilians who have been awarded New Zealand's highest awards for bravery – from the George Cross and George Medal, to the New Zealand Cross and New Zealand Bravery Medal – in 27 events since 1950.



MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – February

Honouring the sacrifice of the 45 Australians who died on operational service during the general period of the Malayan Emergency, 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960.

1/3822 Corporal David Arthur Seesink,
3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
28 February 1958

O3606 Wing Commander Norman Henry
Nixon DFC, Royal Australian Air Force:
9 February 1961

2/7789 Sergeant Lionel Aubrey Tucker,
101 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery:
26 February 1961

Lest we Forget

CONFRONTATION Roll of Honour – February

Honouring the sacrifice of the 26 Australians who died during the general period of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, 24 December 1962 to 11 August 1966.

38094 Private Peter John Robinson,
'B' Company, 4th Battalion,
Royal Australian Regiment:
25 February 1966

Lest we Forget

