



**National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association Australia Inc**  
**South Australia & Northern Territory Branch**  
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*2015, Centenary of ANZAC*

## 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Selamat pagi dan Selamat datang.....Good morning and Welcome....*

The Centenary of ANZAC commemorations have commenced in Australia and in some other countries, in particular, Turkey and France. The knowledge of the enormity of the war and loss of life in WW1 has been reinforced with the release of archive material never before seen, and the schools throughout Australia have been given several very detailed information kits for students to become involved with research of members of communities who served...a grant of AUD\$1Billion has been promised to France to design and build the Monash Memorial Centre at Fromelles which will perpetuate the memories of battles of Villers-Bretonneux, Fromelles and the Somme, each more devastating to Australian units than Gallipoli, but, with a outcome never again lost. Funds are available for appropriate use to renew, replace and erect new Memorials throughout Australia from the Centenary of ANZAC Grants Committee and I have an application pending a decision here in Adelaide for a new Malaya & Borneo Memorial to be sited in the War Memorial Gardens at Hilton where the annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day service is conducted. The Memorial will consist of a Mintaro granite block with a polished face to which a bronze plaque with the NMBVAA Inc badge will be fixed in memory of the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation. Tilletts Memorials will complete the piece in due course.

The fund raising BBQ's under the direction of Jenny Cameron have been a huge success this year. The benefits will have a impressive impact on what we can now put back into social activities for our members and in effect, pay our own way which is the underlying premise. The chefs and helpers are much appreciated as are the members who donate goods on the day .....*banyak bagusla dan terima kasih....*

The planning and preparation for the 50th Anniversary Tour to Sarawak in August 2016 is well underway. As a result of the tour to Sarawak in 2014, we have established a very cordial network of contacts in Kuching, including former Malaysian Rangers and Iban Trackers who worked with Australian troops during the undeclared war of the Konfrontasi. In February this year, Barbara Atan, ASEAN Sarawak Tourism Board Director, made a visit to Adelaide after a tourism conference in Perth to catch up with those whom she met in 2014. In conjunction with Mr Lim Kian Hock, Barbara will be coordinating the local Sarawak organisations for the NMBVAA Inc Memorial dedication and unveiling, in the Sarawak War Memorial Gardens in August 2016. The Sarawak government has refurbished the gardens and donated the space for our Memorial which will be next to the Australian SAS Memorial unveiled on 4 August 2015..... No funds are available from DVA for these Memorials....

The list of merchandise items available in the Branch includes lapel badges, bullion blazer badges, engraved name badges, embroidered caps and stubby holders; additional items are available from NHQ and these are shown on our web site at [nmbvaa.org.au](http://nmbvaa.org.au).....

The Hilton RSL sub-branch is the “home” of our Branch and as such, the President Bob Mundy, ex RAN, has agreed to, and offered space in the club, for a display of memorabilia and artifacts from both of the Malayan Campaigns. To this end, members are asked to lend items including pictures, sketches, maps, books, badges, webbing, ration pack items, field note books, training PAMs and pieces, e.g., universal can openers, contents lists and personal pieces such as badges of rank, corps colour patches, bayonets, SLR Combination tools, sewing kits, bibles, AB83's, paybooks and your Corps plaques etc, are the types of items needed. A proper catalogue of items will be compiled to ensure owners details are not forgotten, or, misplaced. The first item is the Corps plaque of Capt Aileen Ryan RAANC. Appropriate cabinets are to be sourced e.g. glass counter style with a glass center shelf. Our Banner, Australian National Flag, Malaysian Flag and Sarawak State Flag are now displayed in Hilton RSL.

Earlier this year RSL SA took a 20 year lease of the Avoca Hotel on South Rd at Edwardstown. Subject to agreement, a NMBVAA Inc plaque will be presented to the hotel for display in the main bar, or, dining room with a framed accompanying descriptive page.

The Highlander Hotel on North East Rd is the venue for semi regular socials under the banner of some RAR members who served with 2RAR, 3RAR and 4RAR and guests from other Corps who are considered to be friendly.....it was also agreed that a NMBVAA Inc plaque should be presented to the hotel for display in the main bar where the socials are held.

The SA NT *Observation Post* is the universal vehicle used to inform members about association business featuring local and relevant international items including pictures. As a permanent memory implant, members are again asked to contribute written and pictorial pieces for inclusion, and politically incorrect pieces will never be rejected outright.....

It is now 5 years since the meeting by a few members who were not going to accept the unethical and unwarranted split up of the SA & NT Branch by people who used misinformation to create a lookalike group. The rebuilding of the SA & NT Branch has reached the point of being well and truly complete, very able to punch above it's weight and financially viable.

The initial “meeting” was in a coffee shop on King William St just before ANZAC Day 2010 to identify the issues and put some ideas down as a counter to the fragmenting of the original SA NT Branch. The decision to make a credible alternative ESO was easily agreed and the first official meeting was conducted in TPI House on Richmond Rd, Richmond on 20 June, 2010.

Since those times, the network of the contacts now includes the relevant and kindred Australian ESO groups, the SA Governor's office, the Consul for Nepal as our interface for the Gurkha Army, the Sarawak government, the Sarawak ESO's and the Penang ESO. A semi formal contact channel has been opened with the SA, NSW and the UK Royal Marines Association.

SA & NT Branch membership is heavily weighted with former Australian, Malaysian and UK ARMY members. As a dotted line to these ex service members, the family members including grand children, are very welcome to become members...there is a finite and declining number of veterans from the two campaigns.....so, catch up with your former mates and put them in the picture to sign on.....one objective for 2016 is to inform ex RAN, RN, RAAF and RAF members about the NMBVAA Inc....unless we do the heavy lifting, the knowledge of the association will not become common in the ex-services community. There will again be appropriate advertising in RSL, DVA, ESO and local news papers.

There have been inquiries regarding the 2016 Sarawak Tour from the Royal Marines Association in SA, NSW and the UK and the Parachute Regiment in the UK. At this time, the notices have been sent to the RAR and RAN associations and a request for our NHQ to advise the New Zealand MVA. The government representatives from Malaysia, Sarawak, Australia, New Zealand and the UK will be invited of course.

To again reiterate my appeal to everyone; your continued support is necessary to help keep the SA & NT Branch where it rightfully belongs...a very active Branch of the NMBVAA Inc which is the original and only representative ESO for personnel who served in either of the undeclared wars of the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation...and with the Rifle Company Butterworth post the Indonesian Confrontation.....

The immediate future is very busy and one of the unfinished projects to be continued is to gain the committment from the Federal government, through the incumbent Minister for Veterans' Affairs, at this time Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson, to compile, complete and publish the Nominal Rolls for all Australian Armed Forces personnel who served in these two campaigns. These are the only Nominal Rolls to **not** be a matter of record...why?

My thanks to the Committee members for your input and debate both at meetings and elsewhere....the challenges are endless, however, experience and intestinal fortitude will always overcome the bs.

Lastly, the three remote schools in Sarawak we have "adopted" will have regular contact from here, suggestions for newsy snippets and as a longer term idea, your grand children's letters as possible Pen Friends are very welcome.

*Terima kasih dan banyak bagusla.....*

Ubique

Brian Selby

21 August 2015

**N.B.**

The 20th Anniversary of the formation of the NMBVAA Inc was in June 2015.....

No information is available to update the status of the Malayan Wars Memorial project.....

***Lest We Forget***



***Courage Mateship Pride***

***Kami Jangan Lupakan***