

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Aust. Qld Inc.

THE ONLY OFFICIAL NMBVAA INCORPORATED IN QUEENSLAND

Patron: Major-General J C Hughes, AO, DSO, MC

<http://nmbvaaofincorporatedaustralianstates.org/>

Affiliated with the Navy Association of Australia

“Berita Queensland”

The Official Newsletter

“Lest We Forget”

“Bono Animo Este”

“Andai Nya Kita Terlupa



QUEENSLAND



The National Monument—Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

Located in the Lake Gardens in Kuala Lumpur, the National Monument consists of a great bronze sculpture designed by Felix de Weldon, creator of the famed Iwo Jima memorial in Washington U.S.A. It was constructed in 1966 to commemorate the Nation's heroes and all members of the various Security Forces and Civilians who fought in the cause of Peace and Freedom, thereby securing the democratic success that the vibrant country of Malaysia enjoys today.

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Queensland State

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Disclaimer. Letters and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the editor, or of the association. Neither the editor nor the association accepts any liability for such articles. "Editing is the process of selecting and preparing written, visual, audible and film media used to convey information. The editing process can involve correction, condensation, organization, and many other modifications performed with an intention of producing a correct, consistent, accurate and complete work". However, I did incorrectly attribute the printing of the August Berita to the wrong office for which I apologize. It was actually printed by the office staff of Ted O'Brien. We thank Ted O'Brien, Federal Member for Fairfax and his electoral office staff also for the reproduction of this newsletter.

IN MEMORY OF

DAVID HADLAND KENT, CPM

Who died at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital on 22 Oct 2017.

He served in Malaya in 1949 to 1958 with the Federation of Malaya Police Force.

He is survived by his wife Kaye, their three sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Andai nya Kita Terlupa Lest we Forget

I would like to sincerely thank those of the organization for the beautiful flower arrangements and cards and most of all for being at David's funeral service. It was a lovely day with family and friends all together and was a great comfort. Kaye Kent

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID

David Kent was born in England in 1926 and commenced wartime national service in 1944. He served in the Royal Navy in communications with service in Colombo and Singapore. On leaving the service in 1947 he became a "Bobby" in the London Metropolitan Police. He probably found the life somewhat mundane after his experiences in the Asian area because in 1949 he joined the Federation of Malaya Police Force.

The Communist insurgency war known as the Malayan Emergency had been raging for a year when he arrived in Alor Setar as a Sub-Inspector and it was to continue for another eleven years at the cost of more than 13,000 lives.

The Light Infantry Arm established by the Police at the beginning of the Emergency did much of the fighting to contain the Communist Terrorist forces until the Colonial power had built up the necessary military forces, including those from Australia. It was during that time of turmoil when David and a section of police under his command were ambushed. David continued fire at the enemy and managed to contain the ambush until the others had withdrawn to safety. For this action **"The King has been graciously pleased to approve the immediate award of the Colonial Police Medal for Gallantry to Assistant Superintendent David Hadland Kent of the Federation Malaya Police Force."**

While on leave in England in 1956 David and Kaye married. They returned to Malaya together. He continued his police career and over time served as Officer Commanding Police District (OCPD) at several locations. He was serving as OCPD at Ipoh prior to retiring after a distinguished career and returning to England in 1958. After poultry farming for some years David and Kaye with their three young sons emigrated to Queensland. The family spent some years in Rockhampton and Brisbane with David involved in commerce before retiring to the Sunshine Coast in 1979.

During 1995 David became a founding committee member in the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia (NMBVAA) when he accepted the position of President/Chairman of the Queensland Branch. The Assoc. was originally a branch of the parent association in the United Kingdom (NMBVA) until June 1995 when Australia became its own incorporated association with the National Headquarters registered in Queensland.

David and Kaye have been involved in the Queensland committee of the Assoc. for 22 years. For many years he remained President and Secretary and Kaye as Treasurer and social organiser. They also produced the quarterly newsletter until 2006. David remained President until 2014. Since then until David passed away both he and Kaye have been involved in several aspects of Sub-Committee activities. During 2013 David had life membership bestowed on him by NMBVAA Queensland Inc., in recognition of his service.

He was an outstanding, unflappable, leader and organizer. This was evident no more than when, in 2008, he steered the Branch out of a difficult situation caused by a recently elected intransigent and authoritarian National Committee based in Canberra. The new committee wanted to operate outside of the constitution and resisted requests for financial account details. The result was that states incorporated independently with a National Liaison capability. The Assoc. has functioned very well from that time.

We have lost a loved and respected family man, comrade and friend who will be sadly missed.

Vale David, RIP

.....Ed



**NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS
ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA TASMANIA INCORPORATED**

President – Mr. G W Ohara, 22 Riverview Pde, Rosetta TAS 7010

Public Officer & Secretary – Mr. Ken McNeill, U2/21 Scott St, Beauty Point TAS 7270

Mr Ivor Rich
Secretary NMBVAAQLDINC
19 Starkey St
Palmwoods QLD 4555

Dist: Mail & email

Re the recent passing of David Hadland Kent, CPM

On behalf of the NMBVAA in the States of Tasmania, New South Wales, and South Australia, I send our deepest condolences on the death of the former President of NMBVAAQLD Inc, Mr David Kent. David was a founding member of the Association in Queensland and until the recent ascension of Mr Fred Simpson, he led the Branch with great dignity and distinction.

Many of your members will recall the dark days of 2007 to 2009, when the then national hierarchy of the Association led by Messers Selby and Davenport, lapsed into various nefarious forms of alternative management procedures which left the State Branches with no option but to incorporate their own affairs. David combined with other State Presidents in providing sagacious advice regarding the progress of the Association's future governance; this resulted in a charter that still encompasses those Incorporated States into a loosely and amicably held agreement to cooperate with each other whenever possible.

Please inform your members that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Sincerest regards,

Ken McNeill
Secretary NMBVAATASINC, &
International Liaison Officer
NMBVAA Inc States.

**IN MEMORY OF
PETER HAINES**

**Who served in Malaysia from 1963 to 1964 in the Australian Army 2 & 3 RAR
And was a member of the NMBVAA Qld, Inc. Brisbane
Sub-Branch from 7TH May 2012.
He passed away on the 22nd October 2017
Condolences to his dear wife Erin
VALE PETER**

**IN MEMORY OF
BRYAN LITTLEWOOD**

**Who served in Malaya from 1957 to 1959 in the British Army REME
and was a member of the NMBVAA Qld, Inc. Brisbane
Sub-Branch from 25th July 2011.
He passed away on the 14th of September 2017
VALE BRYAN**

REPORTS

Queensland State

The past few weeks have been a sad period for our association with the passing of three members, details provided in other reports. It was particularly sad to see the passing of David Kent, past State President and a friend to all members. Things have generally been very quiet although there have been an increasing number of members on sick parade. We wish them all a speedy recovery and that they will soon be feeling well. Several members attended Remembrance Day Services at many locations around the state. As we approach a new year we need to consider what activities we can plan for to enhance participation of members. Hope everyone has a relaxing and safe Christmas period.

President Fred said that he would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a happy Christmas and a happy New Year and hope that you all make the most of it to relax and recharge the batteries for 2018.

Secretary **Ivor**

Brisbane Central Sub Branch

What a sad period we have just been through with the demise of 2 members from Brisbane Central - Peter Haines and Bryan Littlewood. Followed by the person who set up and for years kept the NMBVAA in Queensland going - David Kent.

Peter was a regular attendee at our lunches until his illness and doctor visits prevented him. He had been a carer for his wife Erin who suffered from poor vision.

A sign of the times that unfortunately with our aging membership, numbers will continue to decline.

Bryan had no relatives in Australia. Arrangements were made by his daughter who had to travel from UK.

On a brighter note, Fred Black organised a visit for some of us in September to the Qld Maritime Museum. We spent about 2 hours exploring the Diamantina and exhibits before lunch at the Ship Inn located just outside the museum entrance, where we were joined by others that missed the museum visit. Also nearby is the nearly unveiled memorial to Qld sailors of the RAN.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Yours in comradeship, ***Bob Watson*** (Secretary)

FUTURE LUNCH MEETINGS: - Lunch Coordinator George Wilson Ph 0424 878 291

February Wednesday 21st - 1200 hrs **East's Leagues Club**, 40 Main Ave, Coorparoo Ph 3397 8885

March Wednesday 21st - 1200 hrs **Yeronga Services Club**, cnr Fairfield Rd and Kadumba St. Yeronga Ph 3848 0796

April Wednesday 18th -1200 hrs **TBA**



Visiting the
Qld Maritime
Museum

Memorial to
Qld sailors
of the RAN



Sunshine Coast Sub Branch

Lunch meetings are going well with good food and fellowship.

Our last lunch went well going on the reports I received when travelling in the USA during October, enjoying the high life on board Princess Cruise ships.

Next Sub Branch Committee meeting will be held on **30th November 2017 (NOT 4th DECEMBER)** at my place from 10:00 hrs, all members are welcome. This will also apply to the State Committee meeting. This is due to my last minute travel arrangements.

Our condolence to Kaye Kent and Family on the passing of our past State President David Kent on 22nd October. Also to our Brisbane Sub Branch members, Peter Haines and Bryan Littlewood.

Nineteen Members attended lunch at the Brightwater Hotel 14th November and enjoyed good food and company.

FUTURE LUNCH MEETINGS: - Lunch Coordinator Kaye Kent, Phone 54451987
All lunch times 1130 hrs/1200 hrs dress casual.

December: - Tuesday 12th – Maroochydore Hotel. This is our Christmas lunch and the last time we had lunch here it was very good food. My apologies as I will be somewhere between Sydney and Maroochy airport at this time.

February: - Tuesday 13th – Maroochy Bridge Hotel (Trader Duke's) Denna St. Maroochydore.

March : Tuesday 13th – Caloundra Bowls Club, Arthur St. Caloundra

For reasons beyond our control these venues can sometimes change so always check.

My thanks for your support over the past year and I wish all members a very happy and safe Christmas and good fortune into the New Year.

Yours in Comradeship **Brian McGee** *President /Secretary*

Remembrance Day 11-11-2017

This day marked 99 years since the end of World War 1. It was a war that took the lives of more than 60,000 Australians with 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner. About 416,000 volunteered and 324,000 served overseas from a population of 4,500,000 million Australians. The sacrifice was commemorated at ceremonies around the world. Our members attended events at many state locations.



Mr Robert Walford
President and MC of
the Mudjimba RSL
Sub Branch
commemoration

Kevin laid a wreath on
behalf of the NMBVAA



Maroochydore

Nine members attended the Remembrance Day Service at Kawana RSL and paid their respects to all past members. **We will remember them.**



Merdeka Day on The Sunshine Coast

The 31st of August, marks a significant day in the history of Malaya and subsequently Malaysia. On that day Malaya became an independent self-governing nation. The Australian Government subsequently declared it “Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day”.

All Australians should take pride in the part that our forces played in making possible the declaration of “Merdeka” on 31Aug1957. It is the day that we remember all who served and those who made the supreme sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency and Konfrontasi; Lest we forget.

The Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch remembered with a picnic lunch for state members and friends at the Maroochy Botanic Gardens and were pleased to welcome new members, Jim & Sylvia Fern, from Rockhampton.



Those at the Maroochy Botanic Gardens were looking just a little older but were smiling just a little wider.

IPOH YESTERDAY & TODAY

By Kevin Carter

Our NMBVAA pilgrimage to Ipoh in June 2018 will as usual include attendance at the annual commemoration ceremony organized by the Warriors Association Malaysia (WIRA) on the 15th June. That will be followed by a cultural program and brunch in the Ipoh Town Hall. If the town hall is still undergoing renovations the brunch will no doubt be moved to the Royal Ipoh Club.

The character and atmosphere of the location and the commemoration vibrates with respect and appreciation of those who gave so much. Emphasis is provided by the attendance of dignitaries from several countries, including Australia and New Zealand.

During the last hundred years, for so many conflicts, armies of servicemen and women have passed by where we stand. One can be conscience of the passing of Malaysians, Malaysians, British, Indian, Australians, New Zealanders, Rhodesians, Fijians, Japanese etc,. The awareness is heightened by the location of the Cenotaph. The granite memorial is set in a beautifully landscaped park between the Town Hall and the Railway Station. Both buildings are of Colonial Anglo Asian architecture.

The century old colonial Asian aspect of the location was recognised by movie makers when in 1999 the railway station was used as a shooting location for the film Anna and the King, starring Jodie Foster. The building also houses the Majestic Hotel.

Continued next page.....

Town Hall

Cenotaph

Railway Stn



ANZAC Day 1956

Aust Army honour guard at the
Cenotaph in front of the Railway
Station

Gary Burgoyne from WA, as a
member of 126 Transport Platoon
was on the parade.



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FEED BACK

From Harry Freestone

Looking at the Gurka losses in Malaya mentioned in you last newsletter. Two of the fatalities occurred two weeks before we moved into Sungei Patani in early 1955. They were on a training exercise outside the camp and surrounded and attacked an old hut which they had used for training for some time. This time it was occupied by the CTs who came out firing, killed two and wounded three of them. One of the medics at the MRS had souvenired a shirt with blood and bullet holes complete. Worried us somewhat as we had to sit out on the old airstrip there on our own all night.

Harry was part of a small RA Sigs team active in the area.....Ed



NMBVAA Incorporated States – Pilgrimage Program for Ipoh - 2018



< Badge TAS, QLD & NSW

SA Badge>

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| WED 13JUN18 | 1630hrs | Pool Party- for Registration (fee, RM300.00 ea) Note: Certain things have to be arranged prior to the Pilgrimage, so a fund is required to pay for buses, wreaths, Registration Party, Taiping New Club, and on the Saturday,- Morning Tea @ Kinta Golf Club & Lunch with the planters at the Royal Ipoh Club (RIC). |
| THURS 14JUN | 0800hrs 0930hrs 1100hrs 1200hrs | Bus to Taiping Kamunting Rd Christian Cemetery Taiping...NMBVAA Service New Club (refreshment & brunch) Depart Taiping for Sungai Siput to see the Planters Monument & Gallery, then back to Syeun. |
| FRIDAY 15JUN | 0830hrs | Ipoh Railway Station Cenotaph Ceremony - run by the warriors Association Malaysia make your own way... (taxi ..around RM10-12.00) cultural program & brunch afterwards at ...the Town Hall is currently under renovation....it will probably be the Royal Ipoh Club. |
| SAT 16JUN | 0530hrs 0615hrs 0730 hrs 0945hrs 1230hrs 1430hrs 1900hrs | Breakfast Bus to Batu Gajah Holy Trinity Church Service – Afterwards, Wreath Laying at Graveyard (God's Little Acre). Morning tea at Kinta Golf Club. Batu Gajah *Bus to # 2 Rangers Camp for 1100hrs Gurkha Service Royal Ipoh Club - Lunch with Malaysian Palm Oil Assoc members. Bus Return to Syeun Hotel Troops Night(perhaps,we await news from Warriors Assoc) |
| SUNDAY 17JUN18 | | Sleep in We will spend 1&1/2 weeks in KL after this. |

NB>You will note GLA falls on 16JUN18...The date in 1948 when the Planters were murdered, and "The Emergency" began. As is usual, the Planters have said nothing, so I don't know if they plan to do something special for the occasion.

We travel via **Air Asia**...by far the cheapest & best airline. Whilst in Ipoh, the majority of our members choose to dine at the Royal Ipoh Club in the evenings.

For the Pilgrimage please contact the Liaison Officer, Bookings at the Syeun will be made by the Liaison Officer so that our special rate is applied.

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