

National Malaya & Borneo
Veterans Association

Republic of Singapore – Brunei Darussalam
Hon. Chairman & National Secretary (Australia)
Richard. H. Weber

Australian Branch.
1/121 Coronation Avenue
Golden Beach.
Qld. 4551
Tel & Fax (074) 92 1697

NEWSLETTER APRIL 1995

This is the first Newsletter for the Australian Branch and the intention is to issue this on a quarterly basis January, April, July and October, missing the Christmas holiday period when many people are on holiday. Our membership is growing well even though the promised notices in RSL newspapers have not yet been published. They all come out any day. We started in late November with only 12 members and now have seventy. There is a lot of interest around to be found if everyone talks about our Association. NSW RSL did circulate all their Sub-Branches, which has produced excellent results so hopefully the newspapers will produce a flood of applications. State Branches have been formed in W.A., Victoria and Queensland, names and addresses at the end of this letter, but people are urgently required to start branches in Tasmania and NSW where membership is growing with no one to service it, and in S.A., N.T. and A.C.T. where there are very few members and some effort needs to be made. World wide there were some 1700 members as at February 95. The Australian Branch has been asked to help in getting interest in New Zealand, to which we have agreed, and if anyone has any connections in NZ please send them an application from and persuade them to join us. Initially they will join the Australian Branch and as soon as there are, say, a dozen members we will set them up on their own and they will become completely autonomous. We would love to have a NZ contingent on our re-union in Malaysia in September this year. Details of this are enclosed. UK is also planning a re-union in Australia in 1996 arriving in time to take part in our Anzac Day marches, probably in Canberra. Their trip will include Sydney, Alice Springs and Brisbane and re-union dinners will be held in their cities. It is hoped to hold our first National Re-union at that time so it could in fact become the first International Re-union.

Projects underway already are another attempt to get full recognition for our TAN Members who served in the Malaya-Borneo areas during the Emergency and Confrontation. This matter is now being taken up in London as our forces were under command of RN. There has also been considerable activity in the field of our War Graves in Malaysia and it is hoped that many of these in the Taiging area will have been moved to a central point by the time we visit and a pilgrimage there is intended. In the past these have been very sadly neglected.

The Federal Government has abandoned the terminology of "VJ DAY" after fifty years in use for the American version of VP Day. This is causing much complaint as such a big percentage of our forces served in the Indian Ocean, India, Burma, Malaya, and Dutch East Indies. Never part of the of the Pacific. It is understood that several other Veteran Groups have taken this matter up as well as questions being asked in The House. The celebration is victory over the Japanese. The matter has been taken up with the Department of Veteran Affairs with the request to "VJ DAY".

If any Member has, or knows of, any similar matters that do need some attention please send full details to National H.Q. at the above address.

The Association now has a Motto... "BONG ANIMO ESTE" ... To be of good courage." I will shortly be included in our letterheads, badges, etc.

Our most urgent business right now is increasing our Membership so there is another membership Form enclosed for your use. Please photocopy this as much as you need and give copies to anyone and everyone who you know served in the theatre. Tell them about us, When they enquire or apply to join they will be sent full details as you were. Our Membership is spread out over our vast country and one very good way of getting ourselves known is via you local papers. They are always looking for matters of interest so please write to the Editors and ask for publicity. A suggested letter at the end of this one, Insert your own phone number so that you can get a Sub-Branch running locally and also the State Branch address and phone number and they will handle enquiries and applications. If there come direct to you by all means contact the people but forward them to State HQ for processing. States that still do not have State Branches please use this Nation HQ address and phone, or put your own phone number in and give those who enquire this address. Please DO MAKE A BIG EFFORT. It is your Association. You must know many of your old mates who will certainly be interested.

This HQ now holds stocks of ties and badges but not blazers. A price list/order form is enclosed so please order direct from here. They are of very good quality and reasonable price. Please send your payment with your order as a cheque or money order. DO NOT send cash. Blazer pockets badges are available in black of navy blue and these may be put on local blazers but if you wish an Association blazer please order direct from the UK. Waiting time about 8 weeks. (See Order Form) Ladies broaches will be available shortly, which will be similar to the lapel badge.

Because of the shortage of funds Members are required to include an 8 x 4 SAE when writing to any level of the Association, for the reply. If you do not have an envelope at least put in the stamp.

Full Membership is now open to civilians who were directly involved with operations and those who were internees during the Japanese occupation, and Honorary Membership to the spouse of members and widows/ers of those who would have qualified. As 'Honorary Membership', instead of 'Associate as normal in Australia, was arranged by the International HQ, it has been decided in Australia that Honorary members will be asked for a donation of \$10 on joining to cover service. This is, however, optional but will be much appreciated. The Association adapted the once of Life membership Subscription because it was felt that those who cannot participate on an ongoing bases would not be asked to renewals every year. The Association has ongoing service costs and these have to be met by fund raising activities and/or user pays principles. Obviously even the cost of producing and posting these Newsletters cannot be met from the life Subscriptions and we are therefore asking those who wish to receive the quarterly letter to subscribe \$5.00p.a. Please complete the form enclosed and return to this address with your subscription as soon as possible.

State Branch Addresses: - - N.M.B.V.A. (**State)

<u>WA</u>	<u>Victoria</u>	<u>Queensland</u>	<u>NSW (Acting Chairman)</u>
Graham Chapman	David Hughes	David Kent	David Emerton
18 Zelkove Way	P.O.Box 295	P.O.Box 36	5 Fletcher Close
Parkwood	Ocean Grove	Budrim	Old Toongabbie
WA 6117	Vic 3226	Qld 4556	NSW 2146
(09) 457-0482	(03) 056-2062	(07) 445 1987	(02) 631-5765

Now that the Association has an International Patron and the Australian Branch is growing so fast it is high time we found ourselves a National Patron. Several suggestions have already been received but we want to give all members the chance making recommendations. The Patron should be a senior officer or officer who served in the theatre and is well known throughout Australia. We hope, that apart from this offers name being associated with the association that an active role will be taken in interest, promotion and presentation when required. Please send any ideas to Naval H.Q. by 30th April 1995 after which a choice will be made by State Chairman. We are intending to publish a full list of Australia Member in July Newsletter showing Names, address and phone numbers. This is so that you can contact any old mates. If anyone does NOT want theirs included let me know as soon as possible.

At the time publishing we still do not have any sub-branch in Australia. Who is going to be first?? All you need to do is to get a least five members, or potential members, together, hold a local meeting and pass a resolution to form a Sub-Branch. If you with anyone from your State Branch to attend and do the honours, just ask and someone will come along if available. We would like to see at least two Sub-Branched in each state by August this year. We will also publish in each Newsletter the number of new members who have joined in each State for the past three months and the winner will hold that honour until the next Newsletter.

STOP PRESS

As we are going to print, a reply from the Minister has been received regarding VJ Day. He maintains that the Official designation has always been VP Day and quotes various times when this was used including "Guinea Gold" and the fact that King George VI "Delivered a VP Day message to the Empire". He ignores the fact that VJ Day has been used for the last fifty years. We would have been prepared to accept the explanation though disagreeing with the use of VP Day, had it not been for a hand written note at the end of the letter which reads "This whole debate about the use of "VP" against "VJ" Day is frankly a *diversion* I can do without". (our italics) We have replied as follows. "If you as Minister for Veteran Affairs, do not care about the feeling of the ex-servicemen and women you are supposed to represent then I suggest that you resign from the portfolio immediately in favor of someone who does. Many thousand of men and women, from all over the then British Empire, and including very many Australians, put their lives on the line, and in many cases lost them, in order to maintain our Way of life, freedom and expression and speech, and the integrity of countries, If you feel that our feelings are a 'diversion, Then we, and especially our Glorious Dead are being betrayed. "Lest We Forget".

.....
 The Editor
 The XYZ Paper, Your address and phone number withheld
 Timbuctoo

Dear Sir,

In June last year The Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Branch last November, State Branches have already been established in W.A. Victoria and Queensland and there are members in all other states and Territories I would be most grateful you give us as much local publicity as possible and any and interested person can enquire through me....Telephone Number or direct state HQ address. The object of the Association in one 1) To bring together in true comradeship those who have served in Malay, Borneo, Singapore and Brunei during the second world war, the Malaysian Emergencies, the Confrontation and thereafter. 2) To assist Members in need. 3) To remember with pride, respect and gratitude those Nationalities who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty to ensure that those who fell and The Association is represented on the day of Remembrance at home and abroad...Lest We Forget.