



HARIM TOK TOK VOLUME 47 JUNE 2006: PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The main activities since the last issue of Harim Tok Tok were the ceremonies and reunions held over the ANZAC weekend in Brisbane. These included the Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion at the Long Tan Sergeants Mess, Pellipoli Barracks. The guest speaker Paul E Nerau-PNG Consul General-who spoke eloquently about the Bougainville & Solomon Islands situation. There was positive feedback from attendees with the venue and dinner catering given top marks.

Several members overnighted in Sgts Mess accommodation, but the only drawback to our new Dinner venue is the lack of nearby mixed accommodation. Our sincere thanks to Long Tan Mess Supervisor, Sgt S Lynch and the bar and catering staff for an excellent evening, and to the Mess Committee for allowing us use of their facilities once again.

A Bar-B-Q picnic open day was held the next day at our Wacol Museum. About 30 of our members and guests as well as 25 members from the Australia-Papua New Guinea Association attended and inspected the exhibits in the Museum. Overall a very successful weekend.

We were in position number 4 in the overall order of march for the Brisbane ANZAC Day march, with some 181 units and organizations making up the 2 hour long parade. The Unit was led by myself with some 80 NGVR and PNGVR members marching.

The response from well wishes who viewed the march on TV was very good and complementary about our turn out, presentation and marching prowess. This year we had the PNG Consul General, Mr Paul E Nerau, LLB, on the official saluting dais. Several NGVR and PNGVR members accompanied us in jeeps.

Immediately following the parade, members attended a brief NGVR Remembrance Ceremony in the Shrine of Memories, ANZAC Square. This annual solemn service was conducted by Paul Brown and Mal Zimmermann.

The after-march reunion was held at the Exchange Hotel and attended by some 120 members and guests. Many remarked that this was the best ever, as the facility was spacious, the quality and quantity of food plentiful with an overall ambiance perfect for the purpose. I would like to thank your committee members who put in a great effort to plan and organise these functions.

I would like to acknowledge and thank those members who traveled from afar-from the top end to the Southern Ocean and from overseas-to join their comrades on the ANZAC Day week.

Coming ceremonies include the '**Montevideo Maru**' Memorial Service to be held on Saturday 1 July in the Shrine of Memories, ANZAC Square, Brisbane at 10.00 am. This will be followed by a complementary morning tea in an adjoining room.

We are also committed to participate in the Brisbane Reserve Forces Day **March** to be held in Brisbane on Sunday 2 July at 10.00 am assembling on the corner of Creek and Adelaide Street from 9.30 am. His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery, AC.CVO.MC-Governor General of Australia-will be taking the Salute. I ask that all members in the SE of the State support the Association on this day.

Our 2006 AGM will be held again at the Long Tan Sgts Mess in August or September. Members will be advised as soon as a date is confirmed with the Mess.

In July, I will be flying to Papua New Guinea with Secretary Col Gould and Hon. Solicitor Bruce Crawford. Once in

Port Moresby, we will be joined by Vice President John Mudge and will fly to Mt Hagen to meet members of the C Coy PNGVR Ex Members Association and will present some 17 Australian Service Medals 1945-1975 to former members of C Coy PNGVR.

A further 5 ASM'S will be presented in Port Moresby on Sunday 23 July during the Papua New Guinea Remembrance Day celebrations and march.

Ex PNGVR members in Rabaul and Port Moresby are also making moves to form their own Company Ex Members Associations.

Whilst in Port Moresby we will explore the possibility of organizing a 10-12 day tour of PNGVR and historic sites in 2007 for members and friends, which, if possible, we will coincide with further ASM and/or ADM presentations.



NGVR/PNGVR
ex-Members Association
PO Box 885
Park Ridge Qld 4125
pngvr@optusnet.com.au
Mobile: 0424 562 030

We thank the Australian Department of Defence for their valued assistance in bringing the ASM project to fruition.

The Museum work is progressing. John Holland has used a donation of \$3000 from the Minister for Veteran's Affairs to purchase additional display cabinets, and other essential items. Thanks to a donation of \$18,381 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, which is funded by the Queensland Government, air conditioning of the entire museum is almost complete. Much work in sorting the volume of existing material held is being done and will soon be ready for cataloguing. A computer is in hand and we are currently seeking a suitable computer program to register our exhibits.

Now that people can see our memorabilia and artifacts etc, housed in a secure and interesting home, John is now receiving many offers of donations in goods and articles for our museum. We expect this to continue at an increasing rate as word of mouth advertising of our facility occurs.

There is talk that the whole heritage listed National Servicemen's site may be relocated elsewhere within the former Wacol Army Barracks site. While we cannot be directly involved in this decision, we are insisting that should such a relocation occur, it would be done without any detriment to our existing facility and that security is paramount, which must include proper fencing and on-site security personnel.

The sorting of the museum documents is bringing to light many interesting items and articles. For instance, Bob Collins located Lt Colonel Madden's 25 page report on his involvement with PNGVR as its second CO from 1950 to 1953. This is a very informative and important document covering the early development of PNGVR. I am sure that extracts of this document will find its way into Harim Tok Tok in the near future.

An application for financial assistance has been made to the Port Moresby RSL to enable us to publish a selection of personal stories of NGVR veterans. Bob Collins has collected and edited over 20 stories over a period of years on his travels throughout Australia. If this submission is successful, we will have 1,000 hard cover, quality book published for distribution to institutions such as libraries and museums and for limited sales to interested parties and members.

Regular Executive Committee meetings are held on a Saturday afternoon at the museum and are preceded by a working bee and BYO/Bar-B-Q picnic. All members, partners and friends are invited to attend these, to do a little bit of work and renew friendships. Dates and timings will be published in Harim Tok Tok.

Phil Ainsworth