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HARIM TOK TOK VOLUME 50 MARCH 2007: PRESIDENT'S UP-DATE

Until we began to complete our activity calendar, I did not realize how busy we will be in 2007. Beside our usual activities, we have two dedication ceremonies-the Chinese Memorial Bell in Brisbane in March and the NGVRIANGAU & PIBINGIB/ F) Plaques in May at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

By the time you get this issue, our first function attending the National Servicemen's Association, Queensland Branch dedication ceremony of a RAAF flag in the Wacol Chapel on Sunday 11 February will be over. A working bee on the 3 February prior to our Executive Committee meeting cleaned up the Museum grounds for its first public opening for 2007.

Our timely supply of stubbie coolers should provide a steady resource. The coolers are made of soft sponge foam-green in colour featuring the name of the Association and Museum, with badges- Our very own stubbie coolers are now available for \$7 each plus a flat postage fee of \$5 per order. Contact the Secretary with your order while stocks last. They will also be available at the ANZAC Day reception after the march. Our Secretary will also throw in a colourful and informative brochure which backgrounds the NGVR, P"GVR, the Association and Museum.

Not many people know that our Association initiated and oversaw the Brisbane/Chinese Commemorative Bell project, which was dedicated on Sunday 10 March in China Town, Fortitude Valley. In the late 1990's Joe Fisk, a founding member of our Association, suggested that there should be a Memorial to Papua New Guinea Chinese who served Australia during WW2, especially as the *New Guinea Volunteer Rifles* had an unofficial auxiliary medical platoon comprising of Chinese in Rabaul at the time of the Japanese invasion in January 1942. The platoon was 'unofficial' because Chinese could not be members of the Australian Army at the time.

Rabaul's Chinese were obliged to stay on that strategically important island during the Japanese occupation through to the end of hostilities in 1945. During this period many served the Australian war effort, often at great risk and personal cost, by providing intelligence to the Australian Army about enemy activities in that area. As might be expected, much of their assistance was in reaction to the extreme harshness of the occupiers towards them, actions that were given added impetus once word got back to the Rabaul Chinese from relatives in China about the atrocities melted out by the Japanese.

The Association proudly supported Joe Fisk's suggestion and made the initial approaches and arrangements for an Australian first-a national memorial for our brave Chinese compatriots in arms during the Second World War. The memorial project was actively pursued by our member Ralph Seeto right through until the dedication. (See full story and photos later in this issue.)

Another important coming event is the dedication ceremony of the NGVR / ANGAU and PIR Hanues at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on Tuesday 15 May 2007. Canberra is very pleasant in -.+tumn and highlighting a couple of days touring the area by attending this ceremony with friends will be an uplifting experience. (Further details in this issue)

Our 2007 calendar is set out in this issue. While details of some of these events including dates are not yet set in concrete, please diarise these events and help support your Association.

Finally I hope to see many of our members and partners at our 2007 Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion on Monday 23 April at the 6 ROR Long Tan Sergeants Mess, Gallipoli Barracks and at the ANZAC Day march in Brisbane and following reception. We need at least 50 guests or more at the Dinner to make this annual event an enjoyable and viable evening. Our Patron Major-General John Pearn, AM.RFD. (Rtd) will be attending the dinner.

Phil Ainsworth