



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES  
AND  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES  
EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC.



VOLUME 42 JULY 2005

## 2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### GREETINGS.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in September at the Long Tan Sergeants Mess. A final confirmed date has yet to be determined by the Mess.

Following the recent loss of our Founding President, Lt. Colonel Harry Green, MBE.ED, the Executive Committee has decided to hold a **POSTAL BALLOT** for all positions on the Committee for 2005/6. Nomination forms are enclosed with this newsletter. Please note, that under our Constitution, only former members of NGVR and/or PNGVR are eligible to be nominated for the Committee or nominate / second a member for Committee. All such members must be financial at the time of nomination etc. Those so nominated for the Executive Committee must agree to be nominated before the form is sent in to the Secretary.

Nominations close with the Secretary on Friday 12 August at 5.00 pm.

Immediately after nominations close, a **BALLOT PAPER** will be sent to all eligible members listing details of all nominations received. Members will be asked to cast their vote and return their sealed ballot paper to our external Election Returning Officer, in the address envelope supplied.

Our Returning Officer is Mr Hank Cosgrove, Secretary of the Australian-- Papua New Guinea Association Inc. When the return of ballots closes, Mr Cosgrove, in the presence of our observer, Hon. Solicitor, Bruce Crawford, OAM, will open all sealed envelopes and finalise the count.

Election results will be declared at the Annual General Meeting.

If sufficient nominations for all positions are received, there will be no nominations called for on the night of the AGM. If in the event there are more nominations received for the limited number of "Committeemen", then the Returning Officer will select the required number in order of the number of votes received for each nominated person.

Finally, for the benefit of all members especially those who have recently joined our ranks, Phil Ainsworth had prepared a Brief on the history of our Association which he compiled from various documents and records. Thanks Phil.

Colin Gould—Secretary & Editor

**New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and  
Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles  
(NGVR/PNGVR) Ex-members Association Inc.**

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION**

July 2005.

PNGVR and its WW2 counterpart, NGVR were the only volunteer Australian Army Reserve units which were formed, served and disbanded overseas. They were at all times in the Australian Army Order of Battle, that is, they were front line units.

During the last PNGVR camp at Finschhafen in August 1973, a rumour of the imminent disbandment of PNGVR circulated. On 6 September 1973, the Australian and Papua New Guinean Ministers for Defence jointly announced PNGVR would be disbanded because it was deemed inappropriate for an Australian CMF unit to be operating in PNG after it obtained its self Government. PNGVR was officially disbanded on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1973.

In 1975 Joe Fisk and Norm Mundy renewed their friendship after a chance meeting of their wives at Slacks Creek primary school. Joe and Norm began writing a nominal roll of ex-Members. When One Training Group was raised at Enoggera in 1976, Joe, Norm and several other ex-PNGVR members joined and renewed their PNGVR association through impromptu get togethers.

The network of contacts expanded, and included Peter Rogers and Terry Egan, who were stationed at the Army School of Aviation in Oakey. This eventuated into a formal dinner being held at Oakey Sergeant's Mess on 26 March 1983, at which 14 attended. This meeting decided to remain an informal group, without office bearers, with the aim of arranging regular reunions and get togethers. The next reunion was held at Enoggera on 28 May 1983 when 34 attended, with 13 apologies. Further reunions were held at Wacol and Enoggera. From 1983 to 1989 regimental ties, plaques, badges etc were designed, produced and sold to members. In reality Joe Fisk and Norm Mundy organised the group.

Another chance meeting, between Joe Fisk and Harry Green at the Daisy Hill post office was the catalyst for a meeting at Harry's home in 1989. This was attended by about 21 ex-members with the view to formally establishing an Association, with Harry invited to be the inaugural President. Other inaugural office bearers were Secretary Bill Kelly, Treasurer Doug Ng, and Members representatives Joe Fisk and Norm Mundy et al. All who attended donated money to start the Association.

The first Association newsletter, "Harim Tok Tok" was produced by Joe and Val Fisk about 1990 and regular issues followed. In 1990, Joe on behalf of the Association arranged for the Association to march in Brisbane Anzac Day parades as a separate entity.

In 1991 the Association was formally established. In reality it was a social club with a written constitution and was called "NGVR and PNGVR Association". In 1994 the Association was incorporated as the "New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-members Association Incorporated" with major changes in its objectives. The objectives of the Association are:

- (a) To bring together the returned and Ex-Servicemen members of the Association as a Returned and Ex-Servicemen's Group or Organisation.
- (b) To promote and encourage through the Association a close relationship with the people of Papua New Guinea.

**RESERVE FORCES DAY 2005.**

**Brisbane:** Lt Doug Ng our Treasurer had a tough decision to make at the start of the Brisbane parade – to keep step with the Navy Brass band in front of us OR with the National Servicemen's Pipe and Drum band behind us.  
Decisions decisions decisions! That's why Officers get the big bucks Doug.

Great Queensland weather greeted the many organisations and Associations who marched in Brisbane. Doug Ng led our small group of NGVR/PNGVR representatives (see photo ) showing our flags and banner during the march. Two Army Cadets kindly offered to carry our banner. Representing the Association were Doug Ng, Paul Brown, Col Gould, Mal Zimmermann, Bruce Crawford and Peter Rogers with our own 'Snappy' Tom Dowling recording on film the day's events. We would like to see more members make parade next year.

Each year the Brisbane parade gets bigger and bigger. The National Servicemen's Association Branches were out in force as were many Army, Navy and Air Force serving Units.

( PS Doug selected the band in front to keep the step – no offence to the excellent NSA Band behind us.)

**Canberra:** Jes Hansford reports on the Canberra march.

An overcast cold day with light rain presented itself for this year's gathering at the Australian War Memorial. Representing NGVR/PNGVR complete with their new Banner ( see previous Harim Tok Tok ) were Jes Hansford, Michael White, Byron Sullivan, Charlie Schuster, Charlie Nelson, and Ian Sayers.  
Well done chaps!

The ceremony began with a short march and on seating ( yes, instead of standing) at the western courtyard of the AWM, at 1430 hours, Major-General Ian Gordon, AM, representing the Chief of the Defence Force addressed the gathering.

The ceremony was short, and at 1515 hours we all retired poste haste to the Canberra Club for a free cocktail party ( drinks and finger food) . A fine time was had by all and it was great to get together with some of the ACT members of PNGVR and reminisce at length.

**MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**1 July 2005**

**Shrine of Memories – ANZAC Square Brisbane.**

20 Members and guests attended the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the tragic loss of some 1039 soldiers and civilians who were captured during the invasion of Rabaul and surrounding areas in January/February 1942, and were lost during the sinking of the prison ship on 1 July 1942.

Rev Alan MacFarland led the service for the Association.

Ex NGVR member, Jack Goad, who lost his father, also NGVR, on the Montevideo Maru, laid a wreath during the service ( see photo) We welcomed two senior members of the War Widows Guild in Brisbane who also laid a memorial tribute.

Following the service, Paul Brown and John Holland organised a morning tea and refreshments in the old RSL rooms next to the Shrine. This was a first, and allowed those present to remain behind and share memories and stories of the tragic incident. Our thanks to the RSL for allowing us use of their rooms.



occur within 12 to 18 months.

- (xix) **Trade Store** *Administration/Fund Raising*  
This involved the organising of the design and production of various clothing items, badges, and other paraphernalia appropriate to the Association objectives for the use of and sale for funds to support the Association's activities. These included t-shirts, caps, pocket badges, blazers, ties, car badges, hat badges, lapel badges and Association plaques.
- (xx) **Grant of \$10,000 for equipment** *Fundraising*  
A grant of \$10,000 was arranged for the Association to purchase a new computer, printer, fax and photocopier which has greatly facilitated the administration of the Association.
- (xxi) **Annual Raffles** *Fundraising*  
Annual raffles for fundraising has been generously supported by sponsors, particularly those who have given airline tickets, accommodation etc as prizes.

Harry was President of the Association for 16 years, from its official start in 1989 until his death on 9 April, 2005. Similar to other organisations most of the work was left to the President and committee members. Some of the above achievements were obtained purely on the initiative and effort of one or two individuals. The Association was always fortunate to have dedicated and efficient committee members to undertake the tasks. Harry's long leadership focussed these energies, which allowed the Association to achieve so much.<sup>1</sup>

**Phil Ainsworth**  
July 2005

<sup>1</sup> Compiled and written by Phil Ainsworth from three background papers by Joe & Val Fisk, Norm Mundy, Bob Collins, et al:

- Part 1: The seed of PNGVR Association (2 pages),
- Part 2: Birth and background of the PNGVR Association and early Days of Development and Establishment (6 pages),
- Part 3: Achievements during and after 1989 (5 pages),
- Various NGVR/PNGVR Ex-members Association documents;
- James Sinclair book "To find a Path, Volume 2, Chapter 12".

**New Guinea Volunteer Rifles  
And  
Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles  
Ex Members Association Inc.**

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Colin Gould - Secretary



- (c) To offer scholarships, awards, annual prizes and bursaries to members of the Australian Army and the Papua New Guinea Defence Force.
- (d) To preserve the memory, records and artefacts of those who served in the Second World War theatre of Papua New Guinea and to arrange exhibitions of the same from time to time in Australian and Papua New Guinea.
- (e) To provide plaques and memorials to honour members of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles who served and died in action or as prisoners of war in Papua New Guinea.
- (f) To affiliate with any other organisation which possesses similar aims and objectives upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon.

The setting of the objectives of the constitution were influenced by the activities and functions of the association since its start in 1983. Regular activities and functions are:

1. ANZAC Day march in Brisbane and other centres where members live. The Brisbane march usually has 90 to 120 members marching.
2. Since 1989, formal annual regimental dinners have been held on the closest Saturday to ANZAC Day.
3. Bi-annual bush dinners are held at Barry Wright's acreage at Jimboomba. These started in 1998.
4. Annual attendance at memorial services at the Brisbane Cenotaph for NGVR on ANZAC Day and the sinking of the Montevideo Maru on 1 July each year.
5. The Annual General Meeting of the Association usually held at Enoggera barracks for the election of officers and a major mid year reunion of members.
6. At least 6 regular executive committee meetings are held each year.
7. 4 to 6 issues of Harim Tok Tok, the Association newsletter are published and distributed each year to all members.
8. Attendance at deceased members funerals and upon request the Associations funeral segment in the service is used.
9. Contact with and assistance to sick and bereaved members, whenever we are aware of the situation and are able to respond location, time and resource wise.

The Association was alive and vital from the outset. The combined experiences of having lived in PNG and sharing a common CMF background in the PNG environment created a unique bond between the members of the Association. Under Harry's leadership, the PNGVR was arguably the best "turned out" in the Brisbane Anzac March. It is a cohesive group, which supports each other and each other's families in times of need and stress.

The Association grew until its membership peaked around 300 in 2003. While new members are admitted, natural attrition through death ensures membership will continue to decrease. Membership of ex-NGVR is less than 6 at the time of writing.

The Association has many achievements to its credit in advancing its objectives. These achievements include the following, but which are not necessarily in the order of importance:

- (i) **PNG medals 1991-2002** *Objective (a), (c), (d) and (e)*  
Much time was spent corresponding and travelling to PNG and Canberra researching eligibility and presentation of same to appropriate parties.
- (ii) **Australian Medal with PNG clasp** *Objective (a), (c), (d) and (e)*  
Initially, the Australian Service medal with clasp was refused because many members had not served in the Australian Army, but deemed by the bureaucrats to have served in the PNG Army. The Association eventually obtained approval for most of its members.



- (iii) **Australian National Service medal** *Objective (a), (c), (d) and (e)*  
Assistance was provided with letters and other documentation to support members applying for the National Service Medal.

Incredible frustrations were encountered in the negotiations for these medals. Red tape and lack of response from the authorities was commonplace. Harry never gave up. All those entitled to members benefited greatly from Harry's efforts. As Harry always said "his men were entitled to their entitlements".

- (iv) **Memorial plaques** *Objective (a), (c), (d) and (e)*

(a) The NGVR plaque was dedicated in the Hall of Memories, Brisbane Cenotaph in 1993.

(b) The Montevideo Maru plaque was dedicated the following year in the Cenotaph.

(c) Association Memorial Board - This portable Board is designed as a memorial for departed Association members and is displayed at Association's formal meetings.

- (v) **Visit to 1<sup>st</sup> cavalry Division** *Objective (a)*

In 1991 a visit to 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association reunion at Ford Hood, Texas, USA was made by four members of the Association at their own expense, to acknowledge the bond formed at Los Negros Island in July 1944 between the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and ANGAU/NGVR, for which the Distinguished Unit Citation (now the Presidential Unit Citation) was awarded to PNGVR in 1952 in Rabaul.

- (vi) **Funeral Segment** *Objective (a) and (e)*

An Association segment or protocol for inclusion in funeral services of deceased members was produced. The format is similar to RSL procedures.

- (vii) **Assistance to the National Service Association (NSA)** *Objective (a) and (f)*

Committee members assisted the NSA when it was establishing itself, and the relationship between the Association has been maintained.

- (viii) **Affiliations with other service clubs** *Objective (a) and (f)*

These affiliations include various RSL clubs including Salisbury, Greenbank and Mitchelton, National Service Association, Commando Association, 2/22 Battalion Lark Force Association, Melbourne, NGVR/ANGAU Association, Sydney and the United Services Club, Brisbane.

- (ix) **Tsunami Collection** *Objective (b)*

After the Aitape tsunami on 17 July 1998 when two to four thousand people were killed, the Association raised funds, in conjunction with the PNG Society to purchase refrigeration equipment for several fishing villages to preserve their catches.

- (x) **Support to the Chinese Community - Memorial Bell** *Objectives (b), (d), (e)*

When approached the Association provided advice and assistance for the Chinese community war service memorial to be erected in China Town, Brisbane. To date, \$25,000 has been donated by the Federal Government, \$15,000 by the Queensland Government while the Brisbane City Council will install the Chinese Bell memorial. This project is expected to be completed by Remembrance Day 2005.

- (xi) **Sponsoring a PNG ex soldier to Anzac Day** *Objective (b)*

Ben Moide, an original "fuzzy wuzzy angel" and Papuan Infantry Battalion soldier in



WW2 and ex-member of PNGVR attended our 2003 Regimental dinner and marched on Anzac Day with the Association. Morea Gaigo who was a sergeant in the Mortar Platoon, Support Company, Port Moresby from 1968 to 1973 attended the 2005 Regimental dinner and the Anzac Day march.

- (xii) **Assisting PNG Consulate** *Objective (b)*

Support has been regularly provided to the Consulate on a diverse number of activities, but more particularly the annual PNG National Day. The Consulate reciprocates by inviting executive committee members to Consulate functions. This is a very effective networking activity and facilitates the Associations access to Papua New Guinea bureaucrats and politicians, as well as fostering good relations between Australia and PNG.

- (xiii) **Trips to Papua New Guinea** *Objective (b)*

Several trips have been made to Papua New Guinea by various executive members of the Association to maintain relationships with the PNG Government and the Armed Service chiefs and their senior staff.

- (xiv) **Sponsoring awards to Australian Army Reserve units** *Objective (c)*

(a) The military excellence award is presented annually to 31 RQR, Townsville for the most experienced soldier below the rank of sergeant. The first award was made in 1993, and although there was a lapse of several years owing to the wishes of 31RQR, the award has now been reinstated.

(b) Following the success of the above award, the Association expanded its sponsorship with 9RQR. This award is an annual award for the most efficient section in military skills. Each member of the winning section receives a medallion and a certificate. This award is called "Steel Tuff".

- (xv) **Recording of personal histories** *Objective (d)*

The Association has recorded the histories of about 15 NGVR ex-members and recorded 5 personal histories of PNGVR ex-members. This is an ongoing project and it is intended to incorporate the NGVR stories into a book. Additionally, the Association, would like all the stories, including details of significant events, photographs etc to be incorporated in a CD for archival purposes and sales to members and interested parties.

- (xvi) **Promotion Video** *Objective (d)*

A 12 minute promotional video "NGVR - The Gallant 500" containing interviews of NGVR and PNGVR ex-members has been completed and over 50 copies sold. Copies are still to be sent to libraries for archival purposes. This promo was to be used for a 60 minute movie, which did not proceed due to lack of funding and frailty of members.

- (xvii) **Major memorabilia displayed at PNG Consulate office** *Objective (d)*

In April 1999, 12 members arranged a significant display of Association memorabilia on the ground floor of the PNG Consulate. It was opened by the Queensland Governor, Major General Arnison. It was favourably reviewed by press and radio. The display included weapons and equipment used by NGVR and PNGVR, all shown in contextual environments, with photographs and documents.

- (xviii) **Permanent Home for Associations memorabilia** *Objective (d)*

The NSA is to be given a site within Wacol Army Barracks for heritage purposes. Five buildings are to be preserved and moved to the site. The Association is working with NSA to obtain accommodation to bring our collection under one roof. This may