

# 2008 ANNUAL MEETING OF BRANCH DELEGATES & NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 5 JULY 2008

## 1.0 ROLL CALL:

The following people registered at the meeting

National Executive: National President Len Knapp; National Secretary Jim Perry; Vice Presidents Russ Byrne, George Smith; Hemana Cliff Waak; Hiro Hamilton; and Ray King-Turner (who also

Branch Representative Delegates: Bill Nathan Kaitia-Far North; Theo Brunt & Matiu Clendon Manurewa; Brian Sherbourne Waikato; Dick Frew & Matt Cropp Tauranga; Aidan Donner & Peter Gallacher Rotorua; Brian Frost Wanganui; and Bruce Wesley Mid-south Canterbury.

**LAST POST:** Barry Allison read the following names

B.I. Akehurst; H.W. Allen; L. Brown; R. Chippendale; G.W. Downie; Joe Gantley; D.W. Gargett; D.B. Hall; G.S. Hall; R.J. Henderson; Peter Houlihan; JMP Hudson; IA Johnson; HH Karaka; JRF Murray; JB O'Conner; JC Pahl; LR Paton; Rev Joe Patuwairua; J.Te H Pirika; JR Ruland; WE Stewart; DS Tatum; LG Williams; and Bob Wilson.

## **WELCOME:**

President Len Knapp welcomed all to the meeting which was now declared open.

**APOLOGIES:** received from Bill Mayor Northland, Ray Morrissey Waikato and Ross Sleeman Far North - Kaitia.

Motion: apologies be received and accepted - Brunt/Sherborne

AGREED

**MINUTES 2007** Motion: That the 2007 Record of Business Transacted be received: Smith/Brunt. AGREED

Business Arising: None

**Motion:** that the Record of Business Transacted be adopted as true and accurate Sherbourne/Brunt AGREED

**SPECIAL BUSINESS:** Barry Allison was granted special permission to present his business prior to having to leave to take part in the National Malayan Veterans Association Snooker Championships, which were being played at the same time as the meeting.

1.0 Rod Hinchco: Waiheke Island was not happy with the time taken to get replies to enquiries and requests, and cast some aspersions about the apparent lack of life in certain nether regions of the anatomy of the officials of the National Executive. He threatened to establish a counter group on the island.

2.0 Selamat: The Treasurer had eliminated those who have not paid the \$10.00 agreed to at

the BGM 2007. The distribution list had dropped from 600+ to 400+. Some discussion ensued. Both the National Secretary and George Smith took minutes at the BGM meeting, but both failed to record any decision reached. The National Secretary recalled Bill South suggesting the \$10 charge for Selamat, but could not recall if it was seconded or by whom. George Smith said that Mid-South Canterbury had offered their members until the end of 2008 financial year in July 2009 because they would only have received one edition of Selamat after the BGM and by the end of the Financial Year 2008. Len Knapp and Brian Sherbourne said Waikato was leaving it as a donation from members.

The meeting was asked to decide. Status Quo accepted - donation only.

3.0 Website: Bob Kingsley has the website up and running. He read a letter from Bob Kingsley

including a new address and suggestions on how to keep the website up to date. A full report is in the next copy of Selamat.

4.0 He was excused.

Russ Byrne: Takes on board what Barry had said, and at the next representative meeting in July 2009 will put forward a recommendation to the 2009 BGM.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The National Treasurer was absent and had not submitted a report.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Len Knapp reported verbally on the following:

1.0 A letter of support for the Maori carvings from the marae in Malaya / Singapore received from LJ. Blackman, a Nelson TV viewer - - who would support any petition circulated.

2.0 A son of a deceased member wished to join the Association but the present rules did not allow it.

Jim Perry reminded the meeting he had submitted a remit last year to allow for widows, wives and family members to join the Association as associates, but Bill Mayor had persuaded members to vote against it. Jim further reminded the meeting the same remit was being re-submitted today. He suggested that after 40 years, Association members should be mature enough to wake up to allowing their wives and families into the Association. He said that there was few Maori veterans left alive in the 28th but the reunions are attended by up to 3000. He further stated that RSA clubs accepted associate members. Theo Bruntsaid Manurewa had 27 associate members who were valued and who valued their membership of the branch.

Russ Byrne agreed that the rules did not preclude branches from accepting associate members, but the Constitution did not specifically allow for such.

Dick Frew said that if we did not do anything, then when the last person dies, the Association dies too.

Jim Perry said that the problem was that if the remit or notice of motion was presented today, no decision could be made, but a notice of motion to the next AGM would then result in a notice of motion to the BGM 2009, but nothing would result until 2010. He asked if it were possible to short circuit the process, because it is a way for things to take so long that we are not making progress.

Russ Byrne said it could be included as part of the Supplementary Rules, as long as it did not directly affect or alter the Constitution.

**Motion:** that Associate members be permitted at national level as in branch level and this to be included in the Supplementary Rules of the Association. Smith/ Byrne AGREED

3.0 Name change: Len Knapp said he would like to see the Association name changed to Malaya and Singapore Veterans Association, but withdrew it after hearing some discussion that suggested troops stationed in Singapore were not veterans. They had not fought on Singapore.

Theo Brunt said once you are sent to an overseas posting, you become a veteran because you served in that posting for the required time. He maintained it had nothing to do with active involvement in warfare and an exchange of bullets, therefore, service in Singapore with training in Malaysia made the people involved into veterans.

Russ Byrne reminded the meeting he had a remit to be introduced later.

#### **BRANCH REPORTS:**

##### **Far North Branch -Kaitia (Bill Nathan)**

1.0 The Annual Joe Yandall Trophy tournament was still being undertaken and will be held in Whangarei.

2.0 Membership is maintained at about 18 members, with about 4 - 6 attending monthly meetings.

3.0 The *raffle* is still the only way used to raise funds.

4.0 A party of members went to Gold Coast, Australia, for ANZAC Day. Funds raised were used to assist.

##### **Manurewa Branch (Theo Brunt)**

Membership 69 (42 veterans and 27 associates);

Malaysian Defence Attache Lt Col Faizalei is an honorary member;

Reunion09 Planning in hand, fundraising continuing, registration forms and accommodation lists printed in *Selamat*, programme will be different from any previous reunion;

Annual Malaya v Vietnam veterans sports competition for the Kukri Shield to take place soon;

A Merdeka Day dinner will be held; (2009?)

Matiu Clendon is to lead a 14-day trip to Malaysia;

Walter (who?) gave a synopsis of why Association name should be Malayan not Malaysian

##### **North Shore Branch:**

No report but Jim Perry advised receiving a letter earlier saying that the branch was in desperate need for members, but the four remaining had decided to continue the branch. The recent death of John Murray had devastated the branch. Jim offered assistance to provide names of some veterans who reside on the North Shore area, and who may be encouraged to join the branch.

##### **Waikato Branch:**

Another good year has passed for our branch with the following activities undertaken with success:

1.0 A recruitment drive led by Wally Bilton was successful in increasing our membership to 40 but the downside was that some of our long term members have chosen to drop out not pay a branch sub.

2.0 Also during the year, we lost our Vice President John Ruland who had been ill for some time. John's funeral was attended by a large number of Veterans and this was remarked on by his family who were very appreciative of our presence.

3.0 Our branch meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month and are still rotated between Te Awamutu, Hamilton and Ngaruawahia RSA clubs which means the same people are not doing all the travelling.

4.0 Those who attended the Christchurch reunion reported back on a well run function and congratulations to the Christchurch branch for their efforts at short notice.

5.0 Fundraising at Waikato is mainly from our Annual Golf Tournament and we would like to see more veterans take part as currently we are heavily reliant on members of Ngaruawahia Golf Club to make up the field. This is always a good day out.

6.0 The reports from those who went on the Merdeka Memories Tour were that it was a great tour and well worth the effort to get there.

7.0 The unveiling for Sid Maguire was held on 8th December 07 and was well attended.

8.0 We are looking forward to hosting the 2011 reunion in Hamilton and the committee has started already on your behalf.

9.0 Recently we held a graveside service with members of the late Tom Kereopa who passed away in 1980. This was followed by a luncheon at the Hamilton Combined Services club and a presentation to the Kereopa Family of Tom's medals which had been upgraded and mounted by the branch. As Year of the Veteran project, we only have one more medal bar to complete for Heke (Jim) Eketone.

10.0 Welfare is also high on our agenda and this is being well looked after by Ray Morrissey, who is our branch President, and has a very high success rate in the Pensions side of Welfare with many of our members benefiting from his expertise and knowledge.

11.0 Waikato branch was also involved with the carving and presentation of a memorial plaque for the late Private Bain on 29th May which is now at Te Awamutu RSA. Blackie Graham and Ray Morrissey were involved with this project and they were also invited to take part in the ceremony at Waiouru Camp 13 - 15 June 08.

12.0 Our Annual BBQ was held at the home of Barry Marston again.

13.0 ANZAC Day was well attended again with members at several venues and once again we laid five wreaths at Otorohanga, Te Awamutu, Hamilton, Cambridge and Ngaruawahia.

14.0 At our AGM in June all sitting officers were re-elected and Wally Bilton was elected to Vice President to fill the vacancy left by John Ruland.

To all branches we wish you success for the future and look forward to a good year ahead. Ray Morrissey, Branch President.

#### **Rotorua Branch: (Aidan Donner)**

- a. A close working relationship has been established with TAMRSL - Te Arawa Maori Returned Services.
- b. A Christmas 'do' has been organised and has been a success in the past.
- c. The Lou Phillips Trophy will be re-introduced between Waikato, Rotorua and Tauranga.
- d. 2009 will be the 50th year since 2 Battalion was sent to exchange with 1 NZ Regiment in Malaya.
- e. The branch meets regularly every 2nd week of the month.
- f. Membership was fairly static, but the branch was in good heart.
- g. Raffles are run regularly, and keeps the branch solvent.

Wairoa Branch:

#### **Wanganui Branch:**

At the last AGM Dave Mills was re-elected the Branch President.

We sadly lost Jim Catterick last year. Jim would have been a great support for the external problems we have. Judi is still in Wanganui but is planning to move to Hamilton.

We have Dennis McKenna join us recently with his wife Lynne. He was 63-65 1RNZIR 12 Pl d Coy. We have a branch membership of 23 including wives, partners and widows.

We still believe trademarking the name Malayan Veterans/Services essential to protect the Association and also to stop the misuse of the name. We do support a change of name. the medal has Malaya on it!

The Wanganui Malaya Veterans Association continue to cause problems for the branch. The latest they took over one of our Poppy Day stalls. The Wanganui RSA is not doing anything about the problem.

We recently discovered that our branch was formed in 1976 but what with all the nonsense going on we forgot to celebrate our 30th.

We are continuing with our weekly Thursday raffle from which a donation is made to the 3 Wanganui cadet units and it also helps towards the Branch delegates costs to the national association meetings.

Brian T Simmons, Secretary

#### Mid-South Canterbury (Bruce Wesley)

To all MVA delegates and the Executive I bring good wishes from all at Mid-south Canterbury Branch, Ashburton.

As we did a recruiting campaign last year and got several new members from South Canterbury, we have changed our name to suit all and now go as Mid-South Canterbury Branch.

This year we have been having our meetings on a Sunday, when we meet monthly and have a social hour and dinner and then hold the meeting. This has proved very popular with up to 36 people attending.

We alternate having the meetings at Timaru RSA and Ashburton RSA.

Our Christmas Dinner was held at Village Inn in Geraldine in December and we had several members of the Christchurch Branch attend. As this proved a popular place with our members and all enjoyed the environment we held our mid-winter Christmas dinner there, 31 people attending, it was very good to see so many come along.

The six from our branch that went to Malaysia in August all thoroughly enjoyed it and another three went to Malaysia with INZRegt in October.

There were 10 from our branch at the reunion in Christchurch and at this stage we have several members thinking of the reunion in Manurewa at Labour Weekend 2009. We are hoping to raise funds for this to help members attend. The members would like to know if there will be transport to and from accommodation, so we can book accordingly.

We are gradually getting more members and now have 31 plus wives/partners so the membership in our part of the country is slowly growing.

I wish MVA all the best for a successful year.

**REMITTS:** Jim Perry said that, because of the time frame, the remits submitted should rather be put as notices of motion to the next delegates' meeting in 2009, although this could mean long delays in reaching decisions. The alternative was to present remits as resolutions to this meeting and have them decided now.

Russ Byrne said remits can be made into resolutions, treated as ordinary motions and used to add to the Supplementary Rules and instituted straight away, as long as they did not effect any change to the constitution.

The meeting proceeded to discuss those resolutions meeting these criteria.

**a. membership card:** Aidan Donner proposed that we return to the old system of old whereby two receipts plus the membership card were contained in a book. The card will be given to the member showing they have paid a branch and a national subscription. One receipt will be sent to the National Treasurer along with a list of branch members. The other receipt will be retained in the book. Aidan showed a mock-up of the card described.

**Motion:** that all branches will adopt this system and the Rotorua Branch will accept responsibility to produce and distribute books of receipts and membership cards - Donner/Brunt AGREED

**Motion:** that branches will purchase books of receipts and cards from Rotorua Branch at a cost of \$217.00 per book of 50 cards - Frew/Sherbourne AGREED

**b. Decals** Jim Perry asked that the Quartermaster be authorised to prepare for sale a decal/transfers of service/campaign medals which distinguish a member as having served in Malaya/Borneo. The QM would need to produce a series of decal/transfers to accommodate 32 years of NZ military involvement over three services.

**Motion:** that the QM be authorised to produce for sale appropriate ribbons decal/transfers and that a decal/transfer showing the Association logo and the words Malayan Veterans Association for sale to all members - Perry/Brunt AGREED

**c. Standardised membership application forms:** Aidan Donner displayed the following different forms: one which appears in *Selamat* designed by Barry Allison; the annual membership form from *Selamat*; a new membership application form and annual membership form designed and produced by Jim Perry; and an information form also designed by Jim Perry.

**Motion:** that a standardised form be designed and produced - Donner/Byrne AGREED.

**Motion:** that Russ Byrne design the form - Cropp/Brunt AGREED

**d. Change of Name:** Jim Perry replied to a question from Russ Byrne saying he had not registered the change of name from the last BGM because of the excessive costs which would be incurred changing stationery, letterheads and printing as well as Inland Revenue specifics, rubber stamps, etc. Jim also pointed out that he knew there would be at least two challenges to the 2007 name change in 2009, so thought it would be more prudent to wait for developments.

**Motion:** that a Notice Of Motion be entered into the minutes, indicating: That the name of NZ Malaya Veterans Association be changed to be The New Zealand Malayan Veterans Association - Byrne/Brunt AGREED

**Motion:** That no name change for the Association be entered into for the next 10 years following the adoption of the Notice of Motion above - Perry/ Frew. AGREED

The Notice of Motion in reference to the change of name will be promulgated at the 2009 National Committee/Delegates Meeting where all of the above will be presented.

**e. Merit Life Member Pocket:** Jim Perry proposed that Merit Life Members be presented with cloth pockets/badges . The words Merit Life Member be embroidered on the pocket to distinguish them from other members.

**Motion:** That the QM be authorised to have cloth pockets made to cover the current Merit Life Members. (20 was suggested ) - Perry/Hamilton AGREED

Cliff Waaka presented a verbal report as follows:

**a. Programme & Poster:** Delegates were presented with copies of the programme and poster for the 2009 National Reunion. Some positive remarks made. The programme included an itinerary, timetable and layout of committees.

**b. Shirts:** members. Proposed shirts and decorations displayed. Positive remarks given.

**c. Mauri O Ngatoa:** The National Executive has been notified of some need to correct the written explanation on top of the carving. The changes were only corrections and not any need to effect any changes.

Russ Byrne said Mauri O Ngatoa is covered by the rules. There will need to be a change to the rules to remove or add any alterations. A discussion held on when to present any changes. Nothing was decided.

### **TUMATUENGA MARAE**

**a.** A written query from I.J. Blackman, 32 Selbourne Avenue, Nelson in reference what can be done to restore the old Tumatauenga Marae from Terendak/Dieppe

**b.** Cliff Waaka gave his version of what had happened and what he would like to see happen.

**Motion:** that a Task Force be appointed to investigate and act on the whereabouts of the carvings from Tumatauenga Marae, Malaya/Singapore, That the Task force consist of Cliff Waaka and Russ Byrne, That the Task Force write a petition for circulation, seeking support to re-establish the Terendak / Dieppe Barracks Tumatauenga Marae on a NZ Army base , That the Task Force negotiate the suitability of either Linton or Burnham as the best camp site for the marae, That the Task Force ensure that the local Iwi is consulted to get the local cultural issues addressed properly, hat the Task Force be authorised to co-opt a

committee to pursue the resurrection of the Tumatauenga Marae from Malaya/Singapore - Perry/Frew  
AGREED

**AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY:**

Notice is hereby given that all REMITS for presentation at the 2009 Annual General Meeting *must be received in writing by the National Secretary at least 10 weeks prior to the notified date of the National Committee meeting.*

All Remits will be distributed to all bona-fide branches at least 10 weeks prior to the date of the next scheduled meeting.

The member or branch presenting remits are asked to distribute copies to branches at the same time as a copy to the National Secretary. The National Secretary will otherwise have to copy all the remits at his personal cost - prior to any reimbursement - whereas the member can ask the Branch to assist with printing and postage costs.

Remits not received by the due date will not be admitted to the meeting.

*NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the National Committee & Delegates will be held over the second weekend of July 2009, either Friday 10, Saturday 11 or Sunday 12. This means that the 10 week date is from 26 April to 1 May. Remits arriving AFTER 1 May will not be admitted for inclusion.*

*It is therefore advisable to post any REMITS to the National Secretary and/or Branches in the week beginning 20 April 2009*

Confirmation of the actual date will be advised as soon as possible.