



The Eight Mile Post

A Journal of The Sandakan POW's Family & Friends Queensland Inc- Issue # 1. March 2011

Committee for 2010/11.

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A Word From Our President:

Hello and welcome to the Group's first Newsletter, thanks to the efforts of our Secretary, Jeff Hufer. A big thanks to all those who helped out with the organisation and participated in the Dedication Service in February. It was fortunate the inundation of the park during January's flood didn't impact on the Memorial. A special thank you to Russ Ewin for his efforts and attendance. Russ has returned home safely and is resting up for his next visit to Queensland. After being so busy, flying fox rides at O'Reilly's and visits to many of us, as well as attending Bunny's 90th birthday this month, he deserves and needs the rest. He sends his thanks to all of his hosts and friends up here. This year's Anzac Day Service will be on the day, (25th April), and, falling on the Easter weekend, I hope that many of you will be able to attend this remembrance service. Still looking for volunteers to participate in readings though. I hope that this will be sorted out by end of March.

Regards to all, Mike Glover.

The New Plaque:

On 20th February 2011, a new plaque was dedicated on the Sandakan Memorial at New Farm Park, Brisbane.

The plaque lists the names of those Queenslanders who survived the unique hospitality of the IJA at various times whilst incarcerated in Sandakan POW Camp. These include survivors who were transferred to Outram Road Gaol in Singapore, those who were transferred to Batu Lintang POW Camp in Kuching, Sarawak, and most notably those Queenslanders who survived the

infamous Sandakan-Ranau Marches.

A large crowd of supporters and members of the Sandakan POW's Family & Friends Queensland Inc sheltered in the shade of the adjacent trees, amply watered by Lizzie Gustafson and her water boys, whilst the official ceremony was conducted.

Guests of Honour were:

The Right Honourable Andrew Fraser MP, Treasurer of Queensland and Association Patron. Grace Grace MP, Brisbane Central Electorate of Queensland.

Russ Ewin, Sandakan POW involved in the



Patron of the Association, The Hon Andrew Fraser MP, Dedicates the new plaque.



Official guests, l to r: Grace Grace MP, Bunny Glover, Claire Jackson, Andrew Fraser MP, Russ Ewin.



The new plaque, with names of the Queenslanders who survived the rigours of the Sandakan-Ranau experience.

underground movement, and Life Member of the Association.

Mrs Catherine Miller, widow of Jim Miller, Sandakan POW.

Andrew Kilgour AM, President of City-New Farm RSL Sub Branch.

After Bob Ellis-Flint's evocative rendition of "Going Home" was played, Bunny Glover opened proceedings with a short speech explaining the purpose behind the new plaque, followed by a Scripture Reading by Jeffrey Nicholls, grandson of Sandakan POW survivor, Sir Jack Rowell.

Russ Ewin delivered a moving speech, after which Rev Graham Cole conducted the Requiem, followed by the glorious voice of Neil Ballment singing Abide With Me, and the second Scripture Reading by Ms Arlie Walker, Daughter of Tod Walker, Sandakan POW.

Bunny Glover then introduced the Patron, the Hon Andrew Fraser MP, to deliver the Patrons Address and dedication of the Plaque. Andrew is the grandson of Jim Fraser, a Sandakan POW from Proserpine.

Wreath laying was carried out after the Dedication, with Mr Kyle Glover, grandson of

Bunny Glover, announcing the participants.

Wreaths were laid to the accompaniment of Neil Ballment singing Amazing Grace.

Zac Chambers closed the Ceremony with his haunting playing of the Last Post on the bugle.

Following the Dedication, most of the visitors gathered at the New Farm Bowls Club nearby for a social interlude with some food and drinks. This presented an opportunity for people to get to know



Wreath laying: The Hon Andrew Fraser MP above, Cath Miller & daughter, Denise Woods, right.



each other, chat, reminisce, browse the pictorial display, and otherwise harass the Secretary. It seemed that all of Proserpine was down for the occasion with a horde of Fraser's, descendants of Jim, in attendance. It was gratifying to see such a large group travel such a long way for the occasion. Members from further north, including from Cairns, were also in attendance. The meeting was also more poignant for the attendance of two of the remaining Sandakan POW's, two gentlemen well known in the Australian POW community, Russ Ewin and Bunny Glover. Both gents were busy with their reminiscences, and always had an eager crowd about them.

Plans are now afoot to lay a similar plaque in Cairns later this year. This will be accompanied by the planting of a Rain Tree, promulgated from the seed of a tree from Sandakan. The plaque will list all Sandakan POW's from the Cairns region. Further announcements will be made on this subject when a date has been set. It is hoped to that it will be done later this year, but the progress of the seedling in the nursery is a controlling factor.

All in all, a successful day.



The Last Post.....by Zac Chambers.



Rev Graham Cole & Bunny Glover

Duncan Walker & Peter Rowell



David & Kath Nicholls



Cath Miller

Some Photo's from the Dedication Day.



Arlie Walker



Liz Gustafson holding up the show



Neil Ballment sings Abide With Me



Claire Jackson, Ross McCowan, Dick Braithwaite



Ross McCowan, Meg Funk, Bronwyn McCowan, Mel Funk



Jan McLean & James Miller

A Serve From The Secretary:

G'day Members, and welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter. Hopefully the first of many. I intend to do only two of these a year, but this could change depending on how much material I have on hand at any given time.

I have a few ideas. Many people have included very good little biographies of their Sandakan POW relatives with their application forms. I'd like to use these in this newsletter. Please contact me if you do NOT wish me to publish your little biography.

On the same issue, I would welcome from everyone in the Association any contribution.

Particularly stories about your relative in Sandakan, Ranau, and points in between. We believe it is important to tell these stories, so that the story reaches the greatest number out there in the big wide unknowing world.

Please send me any photo's that you would like to see in print. All of these will ultimately go together to form an archive of our members, of our loved ones who enjoyed the hospitality of the Japs, and of the families remaining to this day.

Don't be shy, I don't bite. (Can't, I have no teeth). Another initiative of our president, Mike Glover, is to encourage the involvement of the grandchildren of the Sandakan POW's. You will have noticed a few in action at the dedication. The Hon Andrew Fraser MP, Jeff Nicholls, Kyle Glover, Alex Miller, Colin Miller, Gemma Glasson.

We hope to see the active participation of other grandkids in future services.

So, until the next newsletter,
Cheers.

Huf, sometimes called Jeff Hufer.



Jill McFadyen,
Arlie Walker,
& Duncan Walker



The Crowd in the shade



The new plaque looks good, and new.



KEVIN SMITH'S NEW BOOK!

Most members will recall Kevin Smith's previous books on the Sandakan story.

They are "Borneo—Australia's Proud But Tragic Heritage" and "Escapes and Incursions".

Now, Kevin has released a new book titled "Stories From Sandakan: 2/18th Battalion".

Following is a testament from 2/18th veteran Mac Cottee. He was an original member of the group that first formed the 2/18th in 1940. He has written the following remarks to aid my promotion of the new book.

Kevin Smith's latest book "Stories from Sandakan: 2/18th Bn" has given an illuminating look at one of the very blackest chapters in our military history. We are taken in fine detail from the formation of the battalion, through their training in Australia, to their destination in Singapore and Malaya where their jungle training completed a very fit and capable battalion. They fought with immense courage, but the British surrendered to the Japanese and we went into Changi.

"Working parties" meant slavery and starvation. Parties were sent to Sandakan to build a runway for enemy aircraft. They were starved and brutally beaten. Many died. The remainder, mere skeletons now, were ordered to walk 164 miles to Ranau, through very difficult mountain country.

Kevin gives an excellent account of these "walks". If you lingered behind, you were shot.

Many relatives of these men have been interviewed. A complete listing of Sandakan participants has been given in detail.

A tribute well worth making.

A record well worth owning.

Kevin's books make interesting reading, and are well worth adding to your library shelf.

You can purchase [Escapes and Incursions](#) and [Stories From Sandakan](#) directly from Kevin on Ph: 02 6772 2602

If you want a copy of [Borneo—Australia's Proud But Tragic Heritage](#) you need to contact Ryan Rowland in Perth. His contact number is 089295 2155.

New Members:

We welcome the following new members to the Association.

Member # 60.	Gordon Tully.
Member # 61.	Helen Tully.
Member # 62.	Daphne Stevenson.
Member # 63.	John Ferrando.
Member # 64.	Robert Lloyd.
Member # 65.	Peta Lloyd.
Member # 66.	Patricia Lloyd.
Member # 67.	Daphne Marshall.
Member # 68.	Ronald Marshall.
Member # 69.	Ronald Tully.
Member # 70.	Christine Tully.
Member # 71.	Suzanne Ferrando.
Member # 72.	Jeanette De Conti.
Member # 73.	Guerrino De Conti.
Member # 74.	Deborah Howard.
Member # 75.	John Rosen.
Member # 76.	Harry Butler.
Member # 77.	Muriel Butler.
Member # 78.	Ric Chambers.
Member # 79.	Zacary Chambers.
Member # 80.	Kerry Deshon.
Member # 81.	Benjamin Fraser.
Member # 82.	Bryce Fraser.
Member # 83.	David Fraser.
Member # 84.	Heath Fraser.
Member # 85.	Jo-Anne Fraser.
Member # 86.	Peter Fraser.
Member # 87.	Kristy Gardel.
Member # 88.	Brendan Gustafson.
Member # 89.	Beverley Lofgren.
Member # 90.	Ross McCowan.
Member # 91.	Carlie Rogers.
Member # 92.	John Marten.
Member # 93.	Margaret Marten.
Member # 93.	Susan Popp.
Member # 94.	Julie Nicholls.

