

The FESR Visitors Log

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Message started by Joe_Linaker on Nov 26th, 2007, 3:43pm

Title: FESR NAVY ASSOCIATION- BUSINESS AS USUAL

Post by Joe_Linaker on Nov 26th, 2007, 3:43pm

I wish to reassure our national membership that last Saturday's change to the political landscape of our country will not stifle the resolve of your national executive to put forward our issues of concern, to the new Labor Government.

Our submission to the former Prime Minister about the DFRB/DFRDB anomalies was not acknowledged, but I did receive a courteous email response from Alan Griffin MP then Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs. This will be pursued when the portfolios of Defense and Veterans' Affairs are allocated by the new Prime Minister later this week.

The issue of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) was before ex- Minister for Veterans' Affairs Bruce Billson since October 2006 without response, so this matter will be included in a submission to Prime Minister Rudd before years end.

This submission to the Prime Minister will present a case against the ongoing discrimination toward RAN personnel who served in the FESR. I believe we of RAN service in the FESR from 1955- 1971 or any post WWII service for that matter, have sufficient examples on which to build such a case.

We have paid dearly for the "Silent Service" syndrome and discrimination for us started when the defense mind-set elected to treat our service differently from our brothers in arms in the respective theatres of conflict.

The historic Mohr Review proved how arcane the criteria for recognition of RAN service are, but it continues today. Highly discriminatory procedures with the award of the ASM with clasp FESR preceded the Mohr Review, as did the battle for the award of the VLMS.

Recognition of our service is a continual battle with the bureaucracy. Public acknowledgment of our theatres of operation on national war memorials is a work in progress, albeit some 50 years after our service.

Outrageous criteria set by our government for the award of the PJM to RAN personnel who served in the FESR is another example of the government determination not to recognize our service- we understand The Malaysians wish to do so.

The debacle of our lack of representation at the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of Merdeka Day in Kuala Lumpur in August of this year beggars belief. The Malaysians even questioned our absence. Again, we were refused a mission to the event for quite shallow reasons.

Our marketing initiative to stimulate membership of ex-service organizations like ours was rejected by former Minister Bruce Billson on the basis among other reasons that it would not work. The Queensland RSL has used the concept with striking results.

The concept is included in a Victorian Veterans Council submission to their state government and we await the outcome. I shall re-submit the concept to the new Minister for Veterans' Affairs in December for appraisal.

I have a copy of the 28-page election 2007 policy document "Labor's Plan for Veterans' Affairs" which I shall work through in collaboration with your National Executive and National Council. We will pursue the content in the interests of our membership.

As you know our charter is apolitical, so you may all rest safe with the knowledge that my

such under liberalism and will not change under socialism.

For information, I confirm our AGM is scheduled for Monday 30th June 2008 in the Woy Woy Leagues Club. This occasion will be supported by a river cruise Tuesday 1st July, celebration of National FESR Day & Service in Woy Woy Memorial Park Wednesday 2nd July, followed by a Memorial Dinner in the Gosford RSL that evening.

Our NSW Division will dispatch expressions of interest to our national membership soon. I understand the river cruise has quite significant bearing on our RAN service. I encourage all members and their wives who are capable of travel to come along. We need you to make it a memorable three days in "Cockroach Country".

JL.

Title: **Re: FESR NAVY ASSOCIATION- BUSINESS AS USUAL**
Post by **sluggo** on **Nov 26th, 2007, 8:12pm**

I have sent emails to the PM, Billson and some other libs and never got an answer to any of them, I have also sent emails to Graham Edwards, Kevin Rudd and other Labor MP's and received an answer to all of them,,,I sent off one yesterday congratulating him on their comprehensive win and reminded him that I would be awaiting his promise of a \$30 p/f rise and the attachment of the full TPI to the MTAW in September of 2008,,,Just to remind him that we did take notice and do expect it to be honoured,,,,,will be waiting with baited breath to find out if it will come true,,,,,havent had an answer to that one yet, but will post it here,,,,,he is probably very busy with more important things at the moment, but I'm sure his staff will answer it, unless it gets lost in the moving of offices,,,,,regards,,,Shep

Title: **Re: FESR NAVY ASSOCIATION- BUSINESS AS USUAL**
Post by **Ernie D** on **Nov 27th, 2007, 11:15am**

Yes I agree with you as many would and should!

During the Malayan emergency 13 ships served on active service, and sharing 37 tours of duty between them. Only six ships crews Qualified outright for the PJM over six tours of duty! Not a great amount considering there were 37 tours of duty officially listed. I cant list the ships, or their duty tours from the end of the emergency onwards. However, there are ex members of ships crews with the AASM but No PJM. Likewise, ther are those with a PJM and yet NO AASM. I also realise ships crews that served before August 1957 that did the hard yards, are not considered for inclusion for the award of the PJM..

Regards...Ernie "D"

Lets Hope in the not to distant future, the Naval Family, gets the recognition they so rightfully deserve, in comparison with their Brothers in arms. Equity with the other 2 services would be an Honrable justice...