



**AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER
VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

P.O. BOX 552, TORQUAY, VIC, 3228

(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)

ABN 59 558 194 094

Patron

**Major General John Pearn AO, KSJ,
RFD (Ret'd)**

Telephone & Fax: (03) 5264 8244

Mobile: 0419 355 226

Email: president@peacekeepers.asn.au

Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

*Affiliated with the Soldiers of Peace
International Association – SPIA
<http://www.fname.info/aisp/eng/>*

Also assisting Veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and Peacetime Service

*Commemorating 20 Years of The Australian Contingent
to the United Nations Transitional Administration Group,
Namibia, South West Africa*

13th September 2009

The Hon Alan Griffin, MP,
Minister for Veterans' Affairs,
PO Box 6022,
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

Subject: Request for Proclamation of National Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Day – 14th September.

Dear Minister:

I write to you on behalf of the 103,000 veterans who have served in Peacekeeping Operations since 14th September 1947 and Peace Enforcement and War Operations since 1975 to the current day. Tomorrow is the 62nd Anniversary of Australia's contribution to World Peace and Security through the deployment in the field of the world's first Peacekeepers (Military Observers), in Batavia, Dutch East Indies.

As you will be aware since the 14th of September 1947, Australia through its Defence and Police Forces, have served in hazardous and arduous service in 93 Operations to 77 Different Countries.¹

This service also includes Government and Non-Government Organisations, who assist in Humanitarian Development, Disaster Response and Recovery and Nation Building Programs.

The sacrifice made by those who have served in uniform has been 55 killed on these operations, with four war dogs.²

¹ Refer to the APPVA Website under Missions: <http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/> Table of ADF and Police Operations since 14 Sep 1947.

² Refer to the APPVA Website under Vale: <http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/>

“Looking After Our Own”

To substantiate the numbers Post 14 February 1975, there have been awarded 53,013 Australian Active Service Medals; 6,134 Afghanistan Campaign Medals; 8,692 International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) Medals; 15,139 Iraq Medals; 35,339 Australian Service Medals (1975-); 1,878 Humanitarian Overseas Service Medals; and 152 Rhodesian Commonwealth Monitoring Force Medals.³

Other medals that are not necessarily Post 1975, are the following: 93,221 Australian Service Medals (1945-1975);⁴ and 3,104 Police Overseas Service Medals.⁵

The significance of Australia's Contribution toward these operations must be held in the highest esteem. These men and women have risked their lives, representing their country in order to bring peace or fight for peace to troubled nations around the world. This collectively provides world peace and security.

The data within itself is significant and it is a Military and Police milestone that has received world wide accolades in terms of the professionalism and dedication of these individuals and groups serving in the best interests of Australia.

It is therefore requested that the Rudd Government recognises this outstanding service by the Proclamation of Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Day for the 14th September.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you, should you wish to clarify any points.

Yours Sincerely,



Paul Copeland, OAM, JP,
National President.

³ Data from It's an Honour website: <http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/honours/awards/statistics.cfm> at 13 Sep 2009.

⁴ Not necessarily all Peacekeeping Operations.

⁵ Total POSM awarded since UN Force in Cyprus, 1964, to current Police Peacekeeping Operations.