

2009 QUIET LION TOUR THAILAND

Led by our Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association Secretary, Tour Organiser & Tour Leader Eric Wilson, 115 participants departed from Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane & Darwin for Thailand on 17th April last. In attendance were three ex POWs, Bill Haskell BTRMA Senior Vice President, Neil MacPherson Vice President and Snow Fairclough. Sadly our stalwart ex POW Ernie Redman was a late withdrawal due to illness and later died. Other BTRMA committee members included Chairman Hugh Warden, Country Liaison Officer David Piesse and Assistant Secretary Krishna Vanderweide.

40 Juniors attended including several Defence Service Cadets. High School students and teachers from City and rural communities were represented by Esperance, Carnamah, Three Springs, Mingenew, Carine and Wongan Hills. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority had a junior attending. There were also a number of non school juniors present. Anzac Day was the central point of the pilgrimage commencing with a well attended Dawn Service in Hellfire Pass, followed at 11 O'clock with the main wreath laying ceremony at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. Bill Haskell delivered the main address followed by Neil MacPherson reciting the Ode. The Australian Government was represented by NSW National Party Senator John Williams. Quiet Lion juniors provided the escorts for dignitaries laying wreaths.

During the 5 days spent at the resort of Home Phu Toey, where our host Kanit Wanachotie provided us with full amenities, the party hiked along the rail trace to Compressor Cutting then back to Hellfire Pass. A group of Buddhist Monks conducted a Buddhist ceremony to honour the POWs who lost their lives during the railway constriction.

The 2010 Quiet Lion Tour is now being planned and will commence on 16th April 2010.