




Speech by
Ian Kaye

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 12 July 2012

FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE NAVY ASSOCIATION

 **Mr KAYE** (Greenslopes—LNP) (2.33 pm): I rise in the House to speak of my honour in having met with Rudi Bianchi and Tony Issac, members of my electorate from the Far East Strategic Reserve Navy Association, otherwise known as the FESR. The FESR is a non-profit organisation which unites and supports veterans who have served in the Royal Australian Navy. It fosters and preserves military traditions and the associated history of the Far East Strategic Reserve.

We should not forget that the Far East Strategic Reserve Navy was the longest operational commitment in Australian military history, spanning some 16 years from 1955 until 1971 during a time of regional conflict. It was 57 years ago last week that two Royal Australian Navy tribal class destroyers—*HMAS Arunta* and *HMAS Warramunga*—took up station in Malayan waters to join the British Far East Strategic Reserve. Many other Australian warships later joined them. In total, 26 Australian warships, many with multiple tours of duty, were deployed. Their mission was to maintain security in the region by helping to halt the spread of communism in the region and participate in Commonwealth operations against communist terrorists.

During the troubled times of the Malayan emergency and the Borneo-Indonesian confrontation, the Australian servicemen aboard these fighting ships discharged valuable seaborne protection to Malaya and her regional interests. They sacrificed their lives in the fight against global communism, and thanks to their brave efforts Malaysia and Singapore are prosperous democracies.

The FESR of today exists to celebrate the legacy of mateship and camaraderie of those servicemen, both living and fallen. Over the years the brave navy men and women have fought hard for proper recognition of their service, and the FESR has been an important part of that process. I would like to personally thank Rudi Bianchi, who is president of the Queensland branch of the club, for his efforts in the community with regard to supporting other veterans and for the keen interest he has taken in ensuring that their important part in Australian history is not forgotten. I look forward to working with the FESR in the future, and I encourage them to continue the good work they do for veterans in my community and many others.