

V.V.A.A. National Presidents Notes

October 2015

The Minister for Veterans Affairs has appointed me to the Strategic Governance Board of the new Advocacy Training and Development Program, it has been decided that the board members although nominated by ex-service organisations do not represent those organisations and they report only to the Minister.

That said I do intend on maintaining a steady flow of information and briefings to the V.V.A.A. Executives and members on the progress of the program.

During the month I have attended the first board meeting of the SRG and also a briefing and discussion session with the current Training Information Program (TIP) managers.

A proposal was put to the V.V.A.A. National Council that as part of our responsibilities under the new advocacy training program we should appoint advocacy training and development officers within the V.V.A.A. and I have been appointed, by the V.V.A.A. National Council to that position at a national level.

I now look forward to each state involved in assisting veterans with compensation claims, appeals and welfare matters to appoint training officers at state and subsequently at sub branch level and to contact me when those appointments are made.

This structure is, in my opinion, necessary to protect and assist individuals and the V.V.A.A. organisation as a whole.

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The V.V.A.A. National executive met during the month in Canberra and had a productive and worthwhile meeting and discussion.

This was followed by the regular October meeting of the V.V.A.A. National Council which was also briefed by Major General Craig Orme as a current repatriation commissioner, the National Council appreciated the time given and the fact it was possible reinforced the decision to hold meeting such as this in the Canberra area.

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The next year will involve a number of significant commemorations and events; these include the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and the repatriation of our war dead from Malaysia and Singapore, by now all applications for funding for the Long Tan commemorations are being evaluated at DVA and hopefully all will be approved in the near future.

The next meeting of the National Council is in May next year, in Canberra, and as that includes the election of the national executive I ask you all now to start considering the future of our association from next year, of course much of that relies on the decisions made at sub branch and state levels as they consider their future administration and office bearers.

Ken Foster OAM JP
National President
1 November 2015