

Moved. WA  
Seconded VIC  
That minutes  
be endorsed.

SEVENTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE V.V.A.A.

Notes on the meeting held on Sunday 5th May, 1986.

9.37 Meeting was formally declared open. Mr. Phill Thompson discussed the happenings in the VVAA in the last year.

Minutes of last year's AGM were read and tabled.

MOTION: By Les Fenton - Qld.

That this meeting accept the comments made by the Chairman of ~~the history~~ <sup>of the</sup> and others made be the Association.

amendment

Seconded - Col Evans - W.A. Carried.

MOTION: By Col Evans - W.A.

That the Minutes as read be accepted.

Seconded - Jim Muir - Qld. Carried.

MOTION: By Les Fenton - Qld.

That if the Auditor advises to do so, that you are to pay \$960.00 to the Association and the Association to make a donation of \$1,000 to Namvet Enterprises.

Seconded - Mick Scrase - NSW Carried.

MOTION: By Don Wilson - NSW

That we seek advice from Department of Finance and Department of Veterans Affairs to change the financial year to 1st January - 31th December each year to fit in with with State branches so that audited reports can be placed before the Annual Congress on the first weekend in May each year.

Seconded - Les Fenton - Qld. Carried.

Election of Office Bearers was then held.

Kevin Gill took the chair.

Nominations for position of President:

Col Evans - W.A. nominated Phill Thompson.

Seconded - Mick Allwright - Tas.

Carried - Phill Thompson elected National President and accepted.

Nominations called for position of Vice-President:

Mick Allwright - Tas nominated Lachlan Irvine.  
Seconded - Col Evans - W.A.

Carried - Lachlan Irvine elected  
Vice-President and accepted.

Nominations called for position of Secretary:

Jim Muir - Qld. nominated Rick Haines.  
Seconded - Grant Collins - S.A.

Carried - Rick Haines elected Secretary and accepted.

Nominations called for position of Treasurer:

Grant Collins - SA nominated Tim McCombe.  
Seconded - Col Evans - W.A.

Carried - Tim McCombe elected as Treasurer and  
accepted.

Nominations called for position of Auditors:

Col Evans - W.A. nominated Sue Tagg.  
Seconded - Mick Allwright - Tas.

Carried - Sue Tagg was elected Auditor for the  
Association.

Nominations for Honourary Solicitor.

Col Evans - W.A. nominated Bob Wyburn.  
Seconded - Grant Collins - S.A.

Carried - Bob Wyburn was elected as Honorary Solicitor.

MOTION: By John Dellacca

That all alterations or amendments to the National  
Constitution should be forwarded to the National  
Secretary of the VVAA by the 1st March each year and  
such alterations or amendments be circulated to the  
States at least one calendar month prior to such  
annual meeting to be voted upon at State level for  
final decision at the National Congress.

Seconded - Grant Collins - S.A.

AMENDED: By Les Fenton - Qld.

"At least one month" to be deleted and changed to "by  
the 1st April each year".

Seconded - John Printz - Vic. Reg. & Metrop.

Carried.

MOTION: By Les Fenton - Qld

That the DVA restore the mileage allowance component of the travelling allowance benefit to its original rate prior to last years' reduction to 11.16 cents per klm.

Seconded - John Dellacca - Vic Carried.

MOTION: Les Fenton - Qld.

That the service pension be increased to a reasonable level to alleviate the present poverty trap and that the income variation rates be increased to \$60.00 per week for single recipients and \$100 per week for married beneficiaries.

Seconded - Mick Allwright - Tas. Carried.

MOTION: By Les Fenton - Qld.

That TPI and intermediate disability pensioners receive the Amputation allowance where applicable currently only paid to veterans who are in receipt of 100% or below disability pension.

Seconded - Col Evans - W.A. Carried.

MOTION: By Mick Allwright - Tas.

That the Department of Veterans Affairs investigate the need for additional compensatory payments in excess of the nominated percentages of disability pensions to paraplegics, quadraplegics, bed-ridden veterans and veterans with artificial mechanical devices which have been implanted for irreversible medical conditions.

Seconded - Jim Muir - Qld. Carried.

MOTION: By Les Fenton - Qld.

That the DVA and the Government be commended on their joint venture program.

Seconded - John Printz - Vic. Reg. & Metrop. Carried.

MOTION: By Grant Collins - S.A.

In relation to the Evatt Royal Commission the VVAA requests that:

- A. The Government appoint an independent panel to re-evaluate available evidence related to human health effects of chemical agents used in Vietnam;
- B. The panel consist of a bio-chemist, an epidemiologist and a member of the legal profession;
- C. The panel examine the following aspects - exposure, toxicology, morbidity, birth anomalies and cancer;
- D. The evidence to be evaluated be limited to the following:
  - (1) Oral evidence presented to the Royal Commission and recorded in the Transcripts of Evidence;
  - (2) Written evidence presented to the Royal Commission and recorded in the Exhibits Lists in Volume 9 of the Final Report;
  - (3) Other written evidence of a primary source nature submitted by interested parties without additional comment.

Seconded - Col Evans - W.A. Carried.

MOTION: By Grant Collins - S.A.

That an independent committee be appointed to investigate the effects of the post traumatic stress disorders suffered by Vietnam Veterans and that those findings be reported and appropriate treatment programs implemented as a matter of urgency.

Seconded - Jim Muir - Qld. Carried.

MOTION: By Mick Scrase - NSW

That the National Council meet at least half yearly and telephone conference calls be held at least quarterly with agendas predistributed and sufficient notice to Branches.

Seconded - Grant Collins - S.A. Carried.

MOTION: By Mick Scrase - NSW

That the Minister for Veterans Affairs investigate toll free access to 24 hour emergency service e.g. Repatriation Hospitals, Counselling or other crisis oriented matters concerning Veterans.

Seconded Les Fenton - Qld. Carried.

MOTION: By Mick Scrase - NSW

Uniformity of badges and letterheads as agreed by the 1983 Congress be adopted by all branches of the VVAA after current stocks run out.

Seconded - Grant Collins - S.A. Carried.

MOTION: By Don Wilson - NSW

That this Congress adopt the proposed constitution of the VVAA as submitted to the Seventh Congress of the Association with the following amendments:

1. Amendments to the Constitution shall not have effect unless supported by two-thirds of delegates eligible to attend and vote at the National Congress.

2. That Clause 12 be deleted.

3. That Clause 13(b) be amended to read:

"There may be one Branch in each State or Territory."

That Clause 13(c) be deleted.

That Clause 13(e) be deleted.

In Clause 13(f) delete the words "after duties" and insert the words "in accordance with the Constitution" in lieu thereof.

That Clause 13(h) be deleted.

That in Clause 13(g) "Regional Associations" be replaced by the words "Sub-Branches and Zone Representatives".

Move Clause 13(1) to Clause 23.

That in Clause 13.6 we change the words "Vietnam Veterans Family Association of West Australia" to read "Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia West Australian Branch".

4. That only financial ordinary members be entitled to vote at meetings of the Association and that Annual membership cover the period of one calendar year.
5. That provision be made for Honourary Life Membership and to provide a membership category for Dependents and Decendants and Associate Members.
6. That State Branches (bearing in mind Clause 13(g)) may establish their own Constitution and may become incorporated should they resolve to do so.
7. Provision for Capitation fees as defined at National Congress - unless Capitation fees are paid by Branches they will not be entitled to vote at the National Congress.

General:

That National Executive be empowered to vary Clause 21(a) (financial ending 30th June) to end the financial year on 31st December should the DVA and our Auditors recommend accordingly.

Seconded - John Printz - Vic. Reg. & Metrop. Carried.

MOTION: By Mick Scrase - NSW

That a second delegate of a State Branch be entitled to move and second and speak to any motion submitted to the Congress.

Seconded - Jim Muir - Qld. Carried.

MOTION: By Grant Collins - S.A.

That the next National Council Meeting be held in Launceston, Tasmania.

Seconded - Mick Allwright - Tas. Carried.

The meeting was thereupon closed by Mr. P. Thompson.

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SEVENTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF V.V.A.A.

Notes on meeting held on Saturday 4th May, 1986.

- 10.15 Meeting opened by Mr. P. Thompson who then introduced Mr. Greenwood to formally open the Congress.
- Mr. Greenwood spoke about the importance of having a Congress and congratulated the VVAA on the formal Constitution, spoke about Vietnam veterans as Legatees, significant work on new legislation and discussed \$3.1 billion Repat pensions \$1.5 billion on service pensions. There has been no significant improvement in the amount of time to get cases through the VRB.
- 10.35 Mr. P. Thompson spoke about the 7.30 Report concerning the Evatt Royal Commission findings. He spoke about how it showed the Royal Commission report as being biased and how we had submitted a prima facie case to the Government. The Government is to appoint a mutual consultant to look at same.
- 10.45 Senator Gietzelt gave his speech. (see attached).
- 11.00 Phill Thompson gave thanks to Senator Gietzelt and acknowledged helpful work he also gave thanks to the Government for not off-loading us and advised that we are definitely not looking for another Royal Commission but are looking to some investigation.
- Questions were then asked of Senator Gietzelt by members of the Congress.
- Phill Thompson then introduced Mr. Tim Fischer.
- 11.15 Mr. Tim Fischer thanked the Association for the chance to address the Congress. He then spoke about Fringe Benefits Tax not applying to veterans Defence homes. He further discussed subsistence allowance, dental scheme and assets test. (see notes attached).
- Questions were then asked of Mr. Fischer by members of the Congress.
- 11.40 Phill Thompson thanked Mr. Fischer and then introduced Senator Macklin.
- 11.40 Senator Macklin discussed making your application at the time your disability arises at the earliest opportunity so that it is on record. He also discussed how the Royal Commission Report appeared to be a biased report and he would table the document we had submitted in the Senate. Senator Macklin further discussed the Royal Commission report and also discussed having a place for veterans to go, having a memorial of some sort not necessarily bricks and mortar, and something

to benefit veterans spouses and children. Also discussed commemoration for Long Tan Day. (see notes attached).

2.00 Lachlan Irvine thanked Senator Macklin for his speech.

\*\*\* Morning Tea \*\*\*

12.25 Mr. Ian Gollings gave his address, paid compliments to previous speakers, discussed the ex-service community, and how we must all unify towards the same goals.

Questions were then asked of Mr. Gollings by the members of the Congress.

1.00 Phill Thompson thanked Mr. Gollings and introduced Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths.

Admiral Griffiths discussed how the VVA must be clearly seen as a nationally strong organisation. He also discussed how when the RRT was abolished, 3,500 applications were pending and the VRB estimates 15 months with 13,000 applications in arrears, marked decrease in success rate of claims and appeals. Admiral Griffiths also discussed how ADVAC had 18 members associations. He discussed how we have to get closer together and if the RSL want to get the ex-service community under the one banner, they have to have a hard look at themselves. He discussed how we had two major problems, one in the VEB and what can be done about the ex-service community.

Questions were then asked of Admiral Griffiths by the members of the Congress.

1.30 - 2.30 \*\*\* LUNCH \*\*\*

2.30 Phill Thompson gave thanks to Ric Johnston for organising the venue etc. Ric Johnston gave his thanks to the Association for all their support.

Phill Thompson then introduced Mr. Rick Haines.

Rick Haines discussed the VVAA submission to the Government on the findings of the Royal Commission report. Discussed the submission in detail and thanked people for their assistance.

Questions were then asked of Rick Haines by the members of the Congress.

3.25 Phill Thompson introduced Mr. Don Wilson.



Mr. Don Wilson discussed the Class Action in America and the latest developments there.

3.40 Phill Thompson then introduced Mr. Brian Donellan.

Mr. Brian Donellan discussed the VRB new legislation, discussed the Counselling Service and TPI etc.

4.06 \*\* Afternoon Tea \*\*

4.50 Mr Rick Marshall addressed the Congress and discussed the Counselling service running four years etc. He also discussed the problems encountered during that time and what the service was now able to offer veterans and their families and dependants.

Questions were then asked of Mr. Marshall by the members of the Congress.

5.20 Phill Thompson thanked Mr. Marshall and then introduced Mr. Theo Penglis.

Mr. Penglis discussed how they were promoting the Counselling Service etc. and their involvement with other agencies.

5.37 The meeting was closed by Mr. Phill Thompson.

