

NATCON/JF/92

NATIONAL COUNCIL, VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, INC.

13TH NATIONAL CONGRESS.....LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA

MINUTES

Saturday 16th May 1992

A. PRESENT

1. National President	John Methven
2. Snr National Vice President	Tim McCombe
3. National Vice President	Rob Cox
4. National Treasurer	Nev Varley
5. National Secretary	John Printz.OAM.

B. STATE DELEGATES

1. Queensland	Jim Muir	John Koosache
2. New South Wales	Mick Scrase	Ray Fulton
3. Aust Capital Terr	Robin Harris	Proxy
4. Victoria	Geoff Trevor-Hunt	Alan Hughes
5. Tasmania	Jim Arnold	Kevin Walker
6. Sth Australia	Norm Coleman	Barry Newman
7. W Australia	Rob Cox	Sandy Coutts
8. Nth Territory	Garry Casey	Valda Casey

C. OPENING

President John Methven opened the 1st working period of the 13th National Congress of the VVAA at 0902 AM on the 16th May 92 at the RSL Function Rooms in Launceston, Tasmania. He Welcomed all Delegates and expressed appreciation to the local Veterans attending as observers.

D. DISPENSATION FOR QLD TO VOTE

Moved : WA Seconded : VIC

That on the recommendation of the National Executive, and with precedence available that Voting Rights for Qld be approved.

CARRIED(Unanimous)

Nil Action

E. MINUTES OF THE 12TH NATIONAL CONGRESS

Moved : TAS Seconded : WA

That the minutes as circulated are a True and Correct record of the 12th National Congress.

CARRIED(Unanimous)

Nil Action

F. MATTERS ARISING

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|
| 1.0 | South Australia | Notice of Motion |
| 1.1 | Wynard Sub-branch | Letter |
| 1.2 | Victoria | |
| 1.3 | National | AATTV/Port offer |
| 1.4 | National | Nambus |
| 1.5 | West Australia | Fiegie Letter |

It was resolved that these items be dealt with in General Business

G. REPORTS TO CONGRESS

NIL Action

1.0 THE CHEMICAL ISSUE

Snr Vice President, Tim McCombe issued a written report and addressed the meeting giving expanded information and an update on current cases.

NIL Action

1.1 MOTION ARISING

Moved ; SA Seconded : WA

That this National Congress, Re-states its National Policy that where the US DVA has recognised illness due to service in Vietnam, the Australian Repatriation Commission (and DVA) automatically accept also.

CARRIED (Unanimous)

Completed NTS

*Restate Policy
Action -
Nat Policy H/B
Minsk*

2.0 NURO-TOXIC STRESS DISORDER

National President, John Methven reported on the standing of the Project which has now been passed by the Ethics Committee of both the RGH and Dendenong District Hospital(s). That preparations for Veteran members taking part was now in the planning stages.

NIL Action

3.0 CONSTITUTION/INCORPORATION

National Treasurer, Nev Varley reported on the Incorporation of the National Council, VVAA.

Complete

3.1 MOTION ARISING

Moved : SA Seconded : TAS

That the Treasurer have the power to complete the amendment letter to finalize incorporation.

CARRIED (Unanimous)

Completed N/T

3.2 MATTERS ARIZING

- a. State Names
- b. Request for charity status
- c. State Constitution
- d. State Incorporation

? NT

It was resolved that the Treasurer would approach each state separately tomorrow for the information.

4.0 CHILD ABNORMALITY

Snr Vice President, Tim McCombe re-stated the requirements for the conduct of a Child Abnormality Case

Nil Action

5.0 AUST VETERANS & DEFENCE SERVICE COUNCIL

Snr Vice President, Tim McCombe reported on the AV&DSC of which the VVAA is a member association and on the representation on that Council

Nil Action

6.0 KINDRED ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE (KOC)

National Secretary, John Printz reported on the two meetings for the year which included the lack of real understanding of Vietnam Veteran concerns when the VVAA is not involved.

X

7.0 MORTALITY REGISTER

Report Nat Coun
by N/Sec.

Snr National Vice President, Tim McCombe reported on the project being conducted for the National Council by the NSW VVAA and underlined that the information was coming in very slow. It was resolved that State Delegates are to pressure their states for a satisfactory result.

Report N/Coun
by NSW Rep

8.0 DEBRIEF

National President, John Methven reported on the issue and responses from the edition just issued.

Nil Action.

8.1 MOTION ARIZING

Moved : SA Seconded : VIC

That the National President be empowered to produce a June/July issue to not exceed a cost of \$3,000

CARRIED (Unanimous)

Completed.

8.2 MATTERS ARIZING

- a. That the NT Proposal be included in the National Council's discussions on future editions of the DEBRIEF

Costing made
untenable +
mailing costs.

b. That the following reports be in the hands of the National President by the last day of May.

- :- State Reports
- :- Chemical Report

For Debrief

c. That each state be responsible to attain two advertisements for DEBRIEF per state.

9.0 EMERG ACCOMMODATION...ADVISORY COUNCIL

Snr Nat vice president, Tim McCombe reported on the successful completion of the setting up of the Emergency Accommodation scheme and that the Advisory Council would soon dissolve.

10.0 ORGANISATIONAL REVUE

Nil Action

It was resolved to leave this subject to a 'workshop' tomorrow

11.0 POLICY HANDBOOK

It was resolved to leave this subject to a 'workshop' tomorrow

Paint - n/see

12.0 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Moved : SA Seconded : NSW

That this previously presented item be adopted as a National By-Law

Dave

CARRIED (Unanimous)

Note ! This will be published as a Chapter on By-Laws in the Policy Handbook.

13.0 MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

Snr Vice President, Tim McCombe reported on the preparations of the package for dissemination at the memorial opening. States are asked to send the information required ASAP.

14.0 ADVOCATE HANDBOOK

Report - TMC

Snr Vice President, Tim McCombe reported on the project

15.0 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Report - T.Mc

National President, John Methven reported on the Project

15.1 MOTIONS ARISING

Moved : SA Seconded : VIC

That the National President write to the Memorial committee and state that the VVAA National Congress has discussed the possible inclusion of the names on the memorial, such as the moat, even at a later date.

CARRIED (12 For/4 against)

Completed.

15.2 MATTERS ARISING

It was resolved that the National President write to the Memorial committee President requesting information on the protocol of the March and the possibility of any change.

Note ! The President was to communicate with State Presidents prior to dispatch of the letter.

Completed.

THE PRESIDENT SUSPENDED PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL OPENING OF CONGRESS

1. Invited Guests arrived and were seated
2. The Mayor of Launceston arrived and was seated
3. The Governor, General, Sir Phillip Bennett arrived and was seated
4. The President of the Launceston VVAA Introduced The State President Mr Jim Arnold
5. The State President welcomed all and invited the Governor to open the National Congress
6. The Governor addressed the National Congress and officially opened the Congress
7. The National President responded
8. The State President invited the Mayor to address The Congress
9. The President of the Launceston S/B responded
10. The Opening over all were invited to a light lunch

N/A

THE PRESIDENT RECONVENED THE CONGRESS

16.0 MEMORIAL RECRUITING

President John Methven reported on the intention of the National RSL to set up recruiting stands at entry points around Canberra as well as stands at the memorial opening.

It was resolved to discuss this subject in general Business tomorrow.

17.0 NAMBUS

Report - J M

President John Methven reported on the project with Nambus in Victoria, about the lessons learned, how to use it for Education, Public awareness and welfare fund raising. He reported the financial results which showed minimal results while used in

educational visits to schools but had excellent results for the awareness and understanding of both students and teachers.

When placed in public areas and shopping areas the financial gain was improved. The Nambus Company stocks sold well and was a 100% gain to them.

The use of two 'Full time operators' Mr Len Curd and Mr Keith Goss demonstrated the need for this type of operation to gain best control and efficiency. Local members supplement and look after local items.

A precis on organisational procedures by local sub-branches to set up a visit is being prepared and will be circulated later.

17.1 MATTERS ARISING

It was brought up that perhaps the VVAA should have its own bus however this was not the honorable way to go when we had entered a business arrangement with the NAMBUS committee.

The Meeting was suspended until 9am Sunday the 17th May 1992

Sunday 17th May 1992

THE PRESIDENT RECONVENED THE CONGRESS (At 0905 AM)

18.0 WORLD VISION

Moved : SA

Seconded : VIC

That \$1300 be made available for travel costs for the National President to accept the invitation to accompany World Vision to Vietnam.

CARRIED (Unanimous)

18.1 It was resolved that Tim McCombe was to prepare a report for National Council on the need to send him to the USA on Chemical issue matters.

19.0 FUNDRAISING

President John Methven reported on various methods of National fundraising currently in action or proposed.

19.1 Moved : WA

Seconded : NSW

That the National Executive table an investigation on costing, artwork and production of "The Slouch Hat Project".

CARRIED (Unanimous)

Actual Report by Tim Mc
Not done.
Continual difficulties with Wise Company.

20.0 SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

McArthur

National Secretary, John Printz reported on the increased administration and the production of the National Executive Diaries and correspondence Float file but believed it had improved communication. That the use of modern communication technology had increased efficiency. There is still a lot that the VVAA can do to improve its operations but need the co-operation of State Bodies, particularly State Secretaries and Sub-branch Secretaries.

20.1 It was resolved that the State Branch hosting a National Congress was responsible for the supply to the National Executive and State Delegates a current copy of the Minutes of the previous Congress and a copy of the current constitution so as to save excess cost and weight for the National Secretary.

21.0 TREASURERS REPORT

National Treasurer Nev Varley circulated his Report and answered any questions.

21.1 Moved : National Treasurer Seconded : NT

That the Treasurers report as tabled be received and that the expenditure by the SA Branch for hosting the 12th National Congress be paid.

CARRIED

21.2 It was resolved that the National Secretary produce a form and a method of recording financial members in the membership Register as required by the auditor and the Rules of Incorporation.

22.0 PRESIDENTS REPORT

Table at N/Congress

← N/SA

National President, John Methven reported on the year from the National Association and declared that the Association was in good stead but needed further efforts by both the National and State bodies working together. He declared all officebearers positions vacant and invited Mr Mark Brown, President of the Launceston Sub-branch to chair the election of office bearers.

H. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

1.0 VOTE OF THANKS

Moved : SA Seconded : WA

That a vote of appreciation be recorded for the effort given by the National Executive for the year

1.2 CARRIED (Unanimous)
Moved : VIC Seconded : SA

That as there is only nominations tabled by the incumbents for the positions that those nominees be re-elected.

CARRIED (Unanimous)

1.3 The President, John Methven thanked the congress on behalf of the National Executive.

I. STATE MOTIONS

NEW SOUTH WALES

1.0 MOTION NO 1 ASSOCIATION SYMBOL

Moved : NSW Seconded : VIC

The National Office of the VVAA Register the Symbol/Logo with the Australian Patents Office for the following categories..... (a) Woven Cloth, (b) Wood, (c) Paper, (d) Metal and (e) Plastic Composition.

NIL ACTION

DEFEATED (4 For/12 AGAINST)

1.1 MOTION NO 1A ASSOCIATION SYMBOL

Moved : SA Seconded : TAS

X

That as the Symbol has been recognised over a period of Years and is legally the property of the VVAA then the Symbol/Logo be standardised and that the National Office have control of, and supervises the Sale and production of any such items.

NIL ACTION

CARRIED (Unanimous)

1.2 MOTION NO 2 TENDER OF MATERIAL(S) FOR SALE

Moved : NSW Seconded : SA

X

The National Executive is charged with securing all items from suppliers by tender for the use and sale for State and National Branch Products that carry the Association Symbol other than Letterheads, Membership Cards and State Journals

CARRIED (Unanimous)

Poss Project Not feasible

?

1.3 MOTION NO 3 PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Moved : NSW Seconded : WA

That Office Bearers of the VVAA refrain from making public statements regarding controversial matters not pertaining to Vietnam Veterans welfare, that can be seen as being policy or views of the VVAA

CARRIED(15 For/2 Against) ✓

1.4 MOTION NO 3A THE VVAA GOLDEN PRINCIPLE

Moved : WA Seconded : NSW

That the VVAA Golden Principle be adopted as National Policy

CARRIED(Unanimous) ✓

1.5 MOTION NO 4 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Moved : NSW Seconded : SA

That Mr Paul Hibbard be appointed a National Life Member

CARRIED(Unanimous) ✓

1.6 MOTION NO 5 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (NATIONAL) NO1

Moved : NSW Seconded : SA

That the Granville RSL be awarded the First National Certificate of Merit.

CARRIED(Unanimous) ✓

1.7 MOTION NO 6 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Moved : NSW Seconded : WA

That Mrs Shirley Rousell be appointed a National Life Member

CARRIED(Unanimous) ✓

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

2.0 MOTION NO 1 DEBRIEF

Moved : SA Seconded : ACT

That each issue of the DEBRIEF contain some information and update concerning claims for disability pensions from DVA.

CARRIED(Unanimous)

Not Satisfactory

2.1 MOTION NO 2 AVWVT.....EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

Moved : SA

Seconded : WA

That the VVAA officially supports the endeavors of State Branches to obtain Funds from the AVWVT funds for establishment and maintenance of emergency accommodation and retreats for veterans.

Completed + Refused.

CARRIED (Unanimous)

2.2 MOTION NO 3 GULF LINK

Moved : SA

Seconded : TAS

That the constitution be amended or by-laws framed to allow Gulf War veterans to be linked to our association and to the support structures associated with the VVAA

DEFEATED (6 For/10 Against)

NIL Action.

2.3 MOTION NO 3A GULF LINK

It was resolved

That the National Executive investigate the possibility of a suitable method of membership of Gulf Veterans to the VVAA.

CARRIED

*Associate Membership
same rights ?*

2.4 MOTION NO 4 TARDY PAYMENTS BY DVA

Moved SA

Seconded : WA

That the VVAA lodge an official complaint to the DVA over inordinate lengthy delays in the payments of pensions and arrears payments to veterans following determinations in the veterans favour.

CARRIED (Unanimous)

Note !! SA to document 2 occurrences for the National Secretary to comply with the motion.

Not renewed.

2.5 MOTION NO 5 HOSPITAL INTERGRATION

Motion lapsed for the want of a seconder.

2.6 MOTION NO 6 CONFIDENTIAL FILES

Moved : SA

Seconded : NSW

The VVAA Deplores the actions taken by the DVA and the Repatriation Commission in providing confidential files

on veterans to other government agencies under cover of a Subpoena to the court without the prior knowledge of the veteran.

CARRIED(12 For/4 Against)

*Completed
act is a matter for
coming legislation*

2.7 MOTION NO 7 NAMES ON MEMORIAL

The motion was withdrawn

NORTHERN TERRITORY

3.0 MOTION NO 1 MOTTO ON LETTERHEAD

Moved : NT

Seconded : WA

That the National Motto, "Honour the dead, but fight like hell for the living!" be placed on National Office letterhead.

Nil Action

CARRIED(Unanimous)

3.1 MOTION NO 2 BANNER FOR MEMORIAL

Moved : NT

Seconded : SA

That a VVAA Banner be prepared for the National Dedication in Oct, bearing the National Motto and that the National Office pay for such Banner and the ACT as the home branch, produce such banner locally and carry same.

CARRIED(10 For/4 Against/2 Abst)

It was resolved, subject to cost, logistics and approval of the memorial committee.

No Action Cost

3.2 MOTION NO 3 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN CANBERRA

Moved : NT

Seconded : SA

That the next National Council meeting be held in Canberra immediately after the Memorial Dedication either the Mon or Tues the 5th or 6th of Oct 92

CARRIED(Unanimous)

It was resolved to have the National Secretary and the ACT branch investigate this possibility.

J

GENERAL BUSINESS

1.0 MOTION NO 1 (QLD) CHOICE OF DRS

Moved : QLD

Seconded : SA

That rather than attend the departmental Dr(s) for examination when making a claim, the veteran should be able to attend a Dr of his/her choice, usually his local Dr who has a long knowledge of the claimant and his health problems

CARRIED(17 For/1 Against)

Completed in discussions with DVA

Policy? Had book

1.1 MOTION NO 2 (QLD) VVCS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Moved : QLD

Seconded : TAS

That due to the slow erosion of financial and staff support to the VVCS in real terms this Congress directs the National Executive to make the strongest representations to the Minister, Repat Commission and the VVCS.

CARRIED(Unanimous)

Completed

1.2 MOTION NO 3 (QLD) REHABILITATION

This Motion was withdrawn after the National President outlined the discussions opened by the National President and National Secretary with the Repatriation Commission.

1.3 MOTION NO 4 (NSW) RECOGNITION OF OTHER CIVILIANS ✓

Moved : NSW

Seconded : VIC

That the VVAA support the efforts to gain recognition and support to those civilians NOT accredited by the Australian government who also supported the Australian presence in Vietnam.

CARRIED(Unanimous)

1.4 It was resolved that NSW was to work through this subject and present at the next National Congress a information package and recommended actions to pursue this issue.

1.5 MOTION NO 5 LIFEMEMBERSHIP

Refer DeQ For NSW

Moved : QLD

Seconded : SA

That Mr John Thompson be appointed a National Lifemember

CARRIED(Unanimous) ✓

1.6 MOTION NO 6 LETTER OF SUPPORT

Moved : VIC

Seconded : TAS

That the VVAA write a letter of support to the CO and men

serving in Cambodia with the UN
CARRIED

Completed

1.7 MOTION NO 7 ASSOCIATION HISTORY

Moved : WA Seconded : VIC

That the VVAA investigate how to compile the History of the Association

CARRIED

?

*Who - Project
John Mithun.*

1.8 MOTION NO 8 DSHL

Moved : NSW Seconded : VIC

That the VVAA investigate the aspects of the DSHL as supplied by the NSW State Branch

CARRIED

?

1.9 MOTION NO 9 CONGRESS 1993

Moved : NT Seconded : WA

That next years 14th National Congress be conducted with the Victorian State Branch the Host.

CARRIED

It was resolved that after next year the ACT State Branch would have preference in any rotational option system of allocation of future National Congress.

CARRIED

K GENERAL ITEMS ARISING

1.0 DIRECTORS INSURANCE

Mr Jim Muir was empowered to investigate a useful type of Director's Insurance to cover any well intentioned decision making by the council members.

ok -

1.1 FIEGE LETTER

The National Secretary was to answer the letter as directed

1.2 CHARITY STATUS

the National Treasurer is to investigate and report on CHARITY STATUS of the National Council of the VVAA.

*cannot
complete*

Completed.

1.3 AATTV PORT OFFER

The National Secretary explained the offer of the AATTV Port Committee who had a fundraising project, for welfare, of which 90% of the project was completed. That for the assistance of National, State and Sub-branches by putting a Flyer (As attached) in their newsletter the VVAA would be eligible to nominated welfare projects for funds from the Port Project.

Completed.

1.4 MOTION ARIZING PORT PROJECT

Moved :WA

Seconded : VIC

That the VVAA accept the offer

CARRIED

1.5 WYNYARD LETTER

It was resolved that action taken by the National President resolved this subject

Completed.

L WORKSHOP RESULTS

1.0 ORGANISATIONAL REVUE

The revue was discussed and considerations are to be followed up by the National Executive

1.1 RECRUITING PACKAGE

The Recruiting package was to be pursued by the National executive and prepared for the Memorial Opening.

TimC.

1.2 POLICY HANDBOOK

The National Secretary was tasked to complete the Handbook with the alterations as noted

It was resolved that the National Secretary compile the By Laws as directed of which was to become Chapter two of the Handbook

M ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS

1.0 OFFICEBEARERS FOR 1992/93

National President	JOHN METHVEN
Snr National Vice President	TIM McCOMBE
National Vice President	ROB COX
National Treasurer	NEV VARLEY
National Secretary	JOHN PRINTZ.OAM.

See earlier motion re: election of officebearers

2.0 APPOINTMENTS

2.1 AUDITOR

Moved : WA

Seconded : SA

That the VVAA's current Auditor be re-appointed for the next association year.

CARRIED ✓

2.2 HONORARY SOLICITOR

Moved : NSW

Seconded : TAS

That the VVAA's current Honorary Solicitor be re-appointed for the next association year.

CARRIED. ✓

Meeting Closed