

# VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA

## NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

held at  
LAUNCHING PLACE on 11/12/13 SEPTEMBER 1993

### PRESENT:

NATIONAL PRESIDENT: John Printz  
NATIONAL SNR VICE PRESIDENT: Tim McCombe  
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT: Rob Cox  
NATIONAL SECRETARY: Geoff Trevor-Hunt  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: John Methven

SECRETARY - NEW SOUTH WALES: Ray Fulton  
PRESIDENT - VICTORIA: Richard Culliford  
PRESIDENT - A.C.T.: Jim Talbert  
PRESIDENT - SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Norm Coleman  
PRESIDENT - WEST AUSTRALIA: Rob Cox  
PRESIDENT - TASMANIA: Doug Richardson  
PRESIDENT - NORTHERN TERRITORY: Steve Poulter

### APOLOGIES:

National Treasurer (Nev Varley), Queensland Branch.

### OPENING OF MEETING

President, John Printz, opened the meeting at 1-45 P.M.

The minutes of the previous National Council Meeting at Geelong were not read as they were considered irrelevant to this meeting.

### 1. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was read and tabled  
It was resolved that the Correspondence be received.

#### 1.1. AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL

Proposed: NSW  
Seconded: NT

That this Council supports the KSEAFSA in having the AGSM awarded to all Australian personnel who qualify for the award. CARRIED

#### 1.2. TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

There was a small dispute from other Ex Service organisations who wish the term "soldier" altered.

It was resolved that this Council consider that the name remain the same.

#### 1.3. FRIENDS OF THE MEMORIAL

Proposed: VIC  
Seconded: NT

That the National Executive enquire into the actions of the Friends of the Memorial. CARRIED

#### 1.4. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Proposed: TAS

Seconded: WA

That the Constitution be amended as follows:-

Clause 10 (b) - After the word "institutions" in the sixth line, insert the words "that is a non-profit organisation" and add the following words to Clauses 16 (h) and 18 (b) "provided the number of such members is not less than three".

CARRIED

#### 1.5. NON ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Proposed: WA

Seconded: NT

That this Council feels strongly that all States should attend Council meetings. CARRIED

#### 1.6. SUPPLY OF TAX FILE NUMBER

A complaint had been received from a Graham McLeod re supplying of his Tax File number to DVA.

This complaint is to be referred to a Constitutional lawyer.

#### 2.0. TREASURERS REPORT

Proposed: SA

Seconded: ACT

That the Treasurers report as presented be received. CARRIED

It was resolved that any outstanding accounts for Debrief be referred, in the first instance, to the Editor.

ACT require Receipts or Receipt numbers as they are required by their Auditor. (FOR TREASURERS ATTENTION).

#### 3.0. SENIOR VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

A report was given on AVADCS and pointed out that it had been brought up at the meeting that a Training Course for Service Members be introduced.

The Submission on Chemical Issues is to be rehashed before submission.

#### 4.0. PRESIDENTS REPORT

The National President reported on the KOC meeting held on the 18th August.

The National Director of the VVCS is moving to Foreign Affairs and the vacancy will have, by now, now been gazetted. He is still assisting the Acting Director.

The President also reported on his trip to the U.S. and the National Congress of the US VVA. He had addressed the Congress and made presentations on behalf the VVAA. The U.S. Secretary for Veterans Affairs had addressed the congress.

## 5.0 LIFESTYLE MANAGEMENT COURSE

John Methven reported on the Lifestyle Management Course run in Victoria by the VVAA in conjunction VVCS and DVA. The course had been a success. A report is in the upcoming issue of Debrief.

## 6.0. DEBRIEF

John Methven also reported that this issue of Debrief would be late as States were late in their input for the Issue.

All States would be given close off dates for the next few issues and it is a requirement that all material be in by those dates.

## 7.0. DVA HEALTH PROMOTION INITIATIVES

The Council was addressed by Alison Turner and Barbara Broad of DVA.

Proposed: WA

Seconded: SA

That the principles of the Health Promotion Initiatives be accepted subject to approval of the Draft. CARRIED

## 8.0 VVCS ACTING DIRECTOR

The meeting was addressed by Christa Hageneur of the National VVCS Office who distributed copies of the Strategic Plan for 1993/94.

## 9.0. VVCS CLINICAL EVALUATION

Alun Jackson and Mark Creamer addressed the Council on the Evaluation to be carried out. They will be contacting State Secretaries when interviewing State VVCS and clients.

## 10.0. STATE MATTERS

### 10.1. TASMANIA

#### 10.1.1 CHILDRENS EDUCATION SCHEME

Tasmania reported that there was concern over the new rules for the committees of the Soldiers Childrens Education Scheme. The new rules state that "organisations with a vested interest" can be members of the committee but does not specify any particular organisation.

#### 10.1.2. HOSPITAL INTEGRATION

Concern was expressed that after Hospital Integration, there was no room for Veteran Patients. The Tasmanian DVA Branch are to rethink their situation. There is a distinct possibility of an increase of complaints by Veterans.

### 10.2. VICTORIA

#### 10.2.1. NATIONAL BANNER

A banner design was shown to Council members and it was stated that this would cost about \$500. NT are to send to the Victorian President another design to assist.

Proposed: VIC  
Seconded: NSW

That the VVAA badge remain the same as the original.

After discussion the motion was withdrawn and it was resolved that the white ensign remain on the badge.

Proposed: VIC  
Seconded: TAS

That a National Banner to the value of \$500 be purchased. Such purchase to be made in time for the Entombment of the Unknown Soldier. CARRIED.

#### 10.2.2 GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Proposed: VIC  
Seconded: SA

That the VVAA develop a graveside service for use by the VVAA with the poppy remaining as the symbol. CARRIED

Richard Culliford is to take on the project.

#### 10.2.3. TRANSFER FORM

It was resolved that the Transfer Form be the same as the one issued to the Congress. The National Secretary is to send to each State a Master copy of the form.

#### 10.3. WESTERN AUSTRALIA

##### 10.3.1. NATIONAL WELFARE DIRECTORY

Proposed: WA  
Seconded: SA

That a National Directory for Welfare Officers be produced. CARRIED

##### 10.3.2. HOSPITAL INTEGRATION

Rob Cox gave a short report on the Hospital Integration in WA. A full report is in this issue of Debrief.

##### 10.3.2. CENTRALISED BUYING - deferred

#### 10.4. NORTHERN TERRITORY

##### 10.4.1. MALAYSIAN WAR GRAVES

Steve Poulter stated that he had read that some War Graves in Malaysia were to be moved and asked about the possibility of those Vietnam veterans interred there, being returned to Australia. This Question is to be put to the Minister.

## 10.5. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### 10.5.1 ADDITIONAL NAMES ON MEMORIAL

As it appeared that more than one name had been added to the scroll in the National Vietnam Memorial, a letter is to be sent to the National War Memorial and the National Capital Planning Authority as to the criteria used for the addition of extra names, if any.

## 10.6. SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### 10.6.1. ALLOTMENT FOR DUTY

A request had been received from the Logistic Support Force Association for support in their submission for clarification of the term "allotment for duty".

### 10.6.2. FUNDRAISING

Norm Coleman presented a fundraising submission. To be sent to States for comment. (NOTE:- INCLUDED WITH THESE MINUTES)

## 10.7. NEW SOUTH WALES

### 10.7.1 MONITORING COMMITTEE

It was brought to the attention of the Council that NSW had no representative on the State Hospital Integration Monitoring Committee and it was also revealed that the National was not represented on the National Monitoring Committee. This is to be brought to the Ministers attention on Monday.

### 10.7.2. PHSYCHIATRIC CARE

New South Wales were finding it difficult to get approval for patient admission to private hospitals for care and also for alcohol programs. For Minister on Monday.

### 10.7.3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Proposed: NSW

Seconded: WA

That Terry Loftus be granted life membership of the National Association. CARRIED

## 11.0. STANDARDISED NAME TAGS

It was resolved that all States use standard name plates. These name plates are available from WA through Rob Cox.

### 11.1. STANDARDISED MEMBERSHIP DATA BASE

It was resolved that the Data Base developed by Grant Collins be the standard Data Base for Association Membership. Norm Coleman is to arrange extra copies from Grant Collins.

### 11.2. MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The Secretary queried whether states are using membership cards as, due to the efforts of the Geelong Sub Branch, trade discounts will be made available to members on production of their current membership card. Details of companies involved will be made available as they come to hand. It was requested that other States also follow this line up.

### 11.3. CORPORATE AIR RATES

Proposed: SA

Seconded: NT

That the Corporate rate for air fares be obtained from Ansett if possible. CARRIED

### 11.4. CHANGES OF EXECUTIVE

The Secretary requested that he receive written advice of any changes to State Executives instead of having to read it in those Newsletters which are received, as these give insufficient detail.

### 11.5. MORTALITY LIST

The Mortality listing is required for presentation to DVA, as information for the Media and for arguments against DVA.

The list is currently kept in a book, need to be computerised and a program developed.

The program is to be developed by the ACT in co-operation with NSW This list should be completed within three months.

### 12.0. UNVEILING OF US WOMENS MEMORIAL

The President stated that the unveiling of the US Womens Memorial is to take place shortly and that John Francis of Portland is attending.

Proposed: NT

Seconded: WA

That John Francis of Portland be the National Representative at the unveiling and to lay a wreath on the Association's behalf. CARRIED

### 12.1. VVAA GRAVE PLATE

A query had been received about the fitting of a VVAA badge to grave plates. A badge is currently available. The National Secretary is to follow this up.

### 13.0. COST OF RETURN TO FRANCE

John Methven stated that the cost of the recent return to France trip appeared to be excessive and that the money could have been better spent. Deferred.

### 13.1. ASSOCIATION HISTORY

John Methven stated that his request for information on the History of the Association appears to have been published in only 2 State's Newsletters. He requested that this be rectified.

14.0. SENATOR BELL'S CHEMICAL COMMITTEE

Proposed: NSW

Seconded: TAS

That this Association does not take part as it is considered to be outside our Charter, but the Association will co-operate with the committee.

15.0. 1994 NATIONAL CONGRESS

Jim Talbert reported on the preparations for the 1994 National Congress.

The Venue would be the Canberra International Hotel.

ACT is currently carrying out fundraising with a raffle being run of which the first prize is a Computer, other prizes being a dinner for two with a full nights accommodation, dinner for two at the Canberra International. Other prizes are still being sought.

Rosemary Follett of the ACT Government will host the Friday night reception.

A short service is to be held at the National Vietnam memorial on Sunday. Timings are to be confirmed.

It was emphasised that the running of National Congresses should not become a competition.

Proposed: ACT

Seconded: VIC

That the National Council Meeting on the Friday night be held at 5-30 P.M. CARRIED.

16.0 MEMORIAL NAMES

John Methven stated that there had not been overwhelming support for the placing of all names on the memorial.

Proposed: John Methven

Seconded: VIC

That the VVAA take no further action with regards to the names on the memorial. CARRIED

17.0. MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS.

The Minister accompanied by George Masri, Neil Cameron and Christa Hageneur attended the meeting on Monday.

The Minister addressed the meeting.

Notes of this meeting are attached.

The President thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 12-45 Monday 13th September.



SECRETARY

.....  
PRESIDENT

## MINISTER'S MEETING NOTES

### 1. FRIENDS OF MEMORIAL

Concern over their charter  
Concern over the location of momentos and the whereabouts of monies left at the National Memorial  
No Connection with the VVAA  
(THE ABOVE TO BE MADE BY WRITTEN APPROACH TO MINISTER)

### 2. ALLOTMENT FOR DUTY

Log Support Pers (incl Civilian) should have same period of allotment as all others.  
(Paper from Log Support Assn handed to Minister)

### 3. REHABILITATION

Minister has heard good reports (verbal), but requires written evaluation. This can take up to 12 months.  
Concern expressed by VVAA over time delay and that it is more economical to run courses as Vic has done

### 4. CHEMICAL ISSUES

Welcomed decision to accept US decision but believe that other cancers, already proven at VRB, AAT, Federal Court level should also be included.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO BE MADE.

### 5. STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE

It was suggested that DVA had been selective and that SOP's were not following AAT or Court decisions.

No provision had been made for Stress to be connected to Hypertension.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO BE MADE

### 6. MALAYAN WAR GRAVES.

Minister aware of only shift of Christian Cemetery.  
Minister requires copy of RSL info.

### 7. VVCS

Confidentiality of documents. Request made to previous Minister four years ago.

### 8. HOSPITAL INTEGRATION

Requested that VVAA be represented on both National and NSW monitoring committees.

(SUGGEST BE FOLLOWED BY WRITTEN REQUEST AND NOMINATIONS)

Other matters i.e. bed availability to be followed by written submission.

### 8. VRB

Delegates at Primary level should be able to refer veterans to Ex Service organisations prior to decision making.

Lack of consistency between Boards.

Minister replied that there should be a close examination of the appeals system.

(SUGGEST A SUBMISSION MIGHT BE IN ORDER FOR THIS ONE)

### 9. JOBLINK

No response from Minister.

Responsibility of Beazley

### 10. ALCOHOL

This was not really raised, but maybe a submission on this one too???



TREASURER'S REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING 11-13/9/93.

Balance as per Cash Book. 31/8/93.....\$12,173.86

Balance as per Bank Statement 31/8/93.....\$12,173.86  
(copy attached).

Add

Deposited since 31/8/93 (payment inv 61).....\$ 805.55  
(NSW cont to Nat Congress). \$12,979.41  
**TOTAL CASH AT BANK. \$12,979.41**

ADD Outstanding Invoices.

Inv 58 (Albie Cunningham - Adv Debrief) \$200.00  
Inv 43 (Stadkim P/L - Adv Debrief) \$250.00  
Inv 48 (Venture Holidays " " ) \$250.00  
Inv 51 (Old Branch Cont to Special  
Edition Debrief Oct 92 \$400.00 \$ 1,100.00  
**\$14,079.41**

ADD. Current Invoices

Balance. \$ 5,482.60  
**\$19,562.01**

ADD.

Tax File Number Tax Incorrectly  
charged. Recovery action Commenced. \$ 385.00  
**Total Cash Asset. \$19,947.01**

In moving the Treasurer's report I would ask the Council to refuse to accept further advertising from those Companies whose accounts remain unpaid despite reminders having been sent. I would also ask Council to approve permission to commence recovery action.

On another note, I have sent a copy of a letter from the NSW Chief Secretary's Dept which outlines amendments required to finalise our registration as a Registered Charity. Their Legal people assure me that the Council has the authority to approve these changes as they do not alter the basis of the Constitution and are considered Administrative changes only. If approved I will require a letter from the Council pointing out that the changes have been approved. Please accept my apology for not being present with you. Best Wishes to all.

  
Nev. Varley  
National Treasurer.