

# VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## 14th NATIONAL CONGRESS

held at  
CANBERRA on 28 & 29 May 1994

### MINUTES

The President opened the Congress at 9-00 A.M. and welcomed all to the Congress.

#### PRESENT:

##### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

National President:	John Printz OAM
National Junior Vice President:	Rob Cox
National Secretary:	Geoff Trevor-Hunt J.P.
National Treasurer:	Nev Varley

##### DELEGATES

Western Australia:	Rob Cox, Percy White DCM
New South Wales:	Ray Fulton, Col Ford
Queensland:	David Luff, Brian Stevens
South Australia:	Graham Nybo, Alan Mahomet
Tasmania:	Doug Richardson, Alistair McHoul
Northern Territory:	Garry Casey, John Sheppard
Victoria:	John Methven, Alan Hughes
Australian Capital Territory:	Jim Talbert, Bob Shearing

#### 1.0 MINUTES

Proposed: WA

Seconded: NT

That the minutes of the 14th National Congress as distributed be received. CARRIED

#### 2.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

##### 2.1 DISABILITY SURVEY

The Secretary presented to all delegates a copy of the survey results as received so far.

##### 2.2 PSYCHIATRIC SURVEY

The delegates were presented with the results of the survey as received to date.

#### 3.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

Proposed: QLD

Seconded: SA

That the correspondence as presented be received. CARRIED

#### 4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

##### 4.1 DON McDOUGALL

The letter from Mr Don McDougall in regards to the request for this association to ask for full benefits for members on DFRDB Pensions and no tax on the DFRDB.

Proposed: NSW

Seconded: QLD

That this request not be supported. CARRIED

##### 4.2 NATMOC

Nominations were requested for a VVAA representative on the NATMOC committee. Nominations were:-

Ray Fulton - Proposed Col Ford

Geoff Trevor-Hunt - Proposed ACT, Seconded VIC

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: NSW

That this matter be held over to Sunday. CARRIED  
NSW requested that a brief of the position be made available.

##### 4.3 DISABLED VETERANS OF AMERICA

It was resolved that a photograph of the Vietnam Memorial be sent to the DAV and that ACT organise the photo and pass it to the Secretary.

#### 5.0 NATIONAL REPORTS

##### 5.1 NEURO TOXIC TRIALS

John Methven reported that the death of Dr Van Teglen had interrupted the process and that reports were at RGH Heidelberg waiting to be carried out.

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: WA

That a letter be written to the Minister for Veterans Affairs requesting that the trials be carried out. CARRIED

##### 5.2 KINDREDS ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

John Printz advised the Congress that all motions put forward by the VVAA had been accepted.

##### 5.3 NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John Printz reported that Dr Neville O'Connor had been appointed Chairman of the NAC to replace "Digger" James. Victoria queried whether any nominations had been called for and were advised that this had not been done.

## 5.4 MORTALITY STUDY

This is to be the subject of a workshop on Sunday.

Victoria requested that information already collected be made by New South Wales. New South Wales apologised for not co-ordinating with Terry Loftus and reported that Terry Loftus stated that the information was his own property.

The Congress expressed concern about the misuse of the information collected on behalf of the VVAA for personal use.

It was suggested that the Budget did not allow sufficient funds for a full Mortality survey.

## 5.5 DEBRIEF

John Methven asked that the Congress be aware of the costing of producing etc. of Debrief and that States supply advertising or Debrief only be produced twice yearly.

The mailing list includes overseas addresses and there were too many returns. It was recommended that States or Sub Branch mail their own copies overseas.

Proposed: NSW

Seconded: WA

That National reimburse States for the cost of Debrief Mailing labels. CARRIED with TAS and SA against.

It was resolved that John Methven supply a a package to States for the purpose of obtaining advertising.

New South Wales applauded John Methven for keeping the Debrief costs low.

It was requested that deadlines for Debrief be published in the magazine.

The deadline for the next issue is 4th August 1994.

## 6.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

### 6.1 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Proposed: S.A.

Seconded: TAS

That this Congress ratifies the unanimous vote of the VVAA South Australia to award Mr Barry Newman Life Membership of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (National)

CARRIED Unanimously

### 6.2 CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

Proposed: S.A.

Seconded: VIC

That a Certificate of Accreditation be awarded to Welfare and Pension Officers, which would confirm attendance at a recognised Welfare or Pensions course.

DEFEATED

### 6.3 MALAYSIAN WAR GRAVES

Proposed: S.A.

Seconded W.A.

That the VVAA give every support to the War Graves Commission to have the Australians who died in Vietnam and were buried in Malaysia, for their remains to be returned to Australia.

DEFEATED

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: W.A.

That if the VVAA is specifically approached by the next of kin for assistance for the remains of Vietnam Veterans to be returned then this assistance be made available.

CARRIED

### 6.4 DEFENCE SERVICE HOME LOAN

Proposed. A.C.T.

Seconded: QLD

That the Minister for Veterans Affairs be lobbied to raise the current maximum loan assistance available under the Defence Service Home Scheme (\$25,000) to an amount of \$110,000 which better represents 1990's house prices.

CARRIED

### 6.5 P.T.S.D. BOOK

Proposed: A.C.T.

Seconded: QLD

That the Minister for Veterans Affairs be approached with a view to initiating a project to complete and publish a book on PTSD similar to the one recently published by the DVA and titled "Dementia - A Positive View".

CARRIED

Proposed: N.S.W.

Seconded: N.T.

That the VVAA be able to provide names and resumes of suitable persons to have input to the book. National is to be notified by States of recommended persons by a date to be decided by the National Executive.

CARRIED

### 6.6. CENSURE

Proposed: N.S.W.

That Mr John Printz, the National President of the VVAA, be censured over action taken by him without consultation with the members.

LAPSED FOR WANT OF SECONDER

## 6.7 VIC NAME CHANGE

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: QLD

That all the words contained in Rule 15 (d) (8) of the Constitution be deleted and replaced with the words "VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA - VICTORIAN BRANCH INCORPORATED".

CARRIED

## 6.8 FALSE VIETNAM VETERANS

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: NT

That the National Secretary maintain a record of known persons falsely claiming to be Vietnam Veterans.

CARRIED

The Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Hon Con Sciacca officially opened the 14th National Congress

Meeting Adjourned for lunch at 12 noon  
Resumed at 1-50 P.M.

## 7.0 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Proposed: QLD

Seconded: NT

That a Special Council Meeting be held, in camera, prior to the start of the Sunday business session and to commence at 8-00 A.M.

CARRIED

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: WA

That both delegates attend the in camera meeting.

CARRIED

## 7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 7.1 DISPENSATION TO VOTE

Proposed: QLD

Seconded: NT

That ACT be granted dispensation to vote as capitation fees had not been received by the National Treasurer.

CARRIED

### 7.2 VETERANS OMBUDSMAN

Proposed: WA

Seconded: QLD

That the office of a Veterans Ombudsman be established.

Deferred to the next Council Meeting

### 7.3 MEMORIAL IN SOUTH VIETNAM

It was resolved that a letter be sent to the Minister for Veterans Affairs requesting that the VVAA have input to any proposal for the erection of a memorial in South Vietnam

### 7.4 SECTION 31 APPEALS

Tasmania stated that the Section 31 appeal system is underused. It was stated that this system works quite well in other States.

### 7.5 T.T.I. PENSION RATE

Tasmania questioned as to why extra benefits were not available to TTI recipients. Advised that this was already in the Legislation and that an appeal should be lodged.

No further action

### 7.6 NECKTIES

Proposed: WA

Seconded: NT

That the ties Produced by Townsville Sub Branch be adopted as the National tie.

DEFEATED

### 7.7 NATIONAL PTSD CENTRE

New South Wales expressed concerns as to Professor Phillip Morris' knowledge of PTSD

### 7.8 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND STANDARD OF PROOF

New South Wales stated that the High Court had explained the meaning of a Reasonable Hypothesis and considered that this had changed after 1st June.

John Methven agreed that this had happened and suggested that all decisions be watched over the next few months.

It was resolved that this be formed as a policy.

### 7.9 CAPITATION FEES

New South Wales congratulated Victoria on attaining 1000 members and questioned whether capitation fees had been paid. Victoria stated that they were paying capitation fees in advance.

### 7.10 MEDALS

New South Wales stated that persons who served in South Vietnam after 1st July 1973 only received one medal and were not entitled to the Service Pension.

Proposed: New South Wales

Seconded: TAS

That Terry Loftus (NSW Vice President) prepare a submission and submit it to the National Secretary for submission to the Government.

CARRIED

#### 7.11 AUST AID

South Australia requested comments on support for Aust Aid.

Proposed: SA

Seconded: TAS

That the VVAA give support to Aust Aid for the repair of Hoa Long school.

It was suggested that this is against the Constitution and Policy.

RULED OUT OF ORDER

#### 7.12 PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Proposed: SA

Seconded: VIC

That the Congress discuss the feasibility of obtaining a an Insurance Policy for Public Liability.

A quote had been obtained for Public Liability Insurance for the amount of \$4,400 for Australia wide.

No agreement was reached, the National Secretary is to send details to all States.

#### 7.13 INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION

Victoria spoke on Insurance Companies refusal to insure members who have accepted disabilities.

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: WA

That this Congress condemn the action of Insurance Companies and that the Government be approached for action on the matter.

CARRIED

#### 7.14 NEWSPAPER DISCRIMINATION

Victoria spoke on the use of Vietnam Veteran as a "headline grabber" when this was not done with other sections of the community.

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: TAS

That the government be approached over newspaper discrimination is using Vietnam Veteran as headlines.

CARRIED

## 7.15 HISTORY PROJECT

John Methven had been commissioned by Congress in May 1993 to carry out the history project and requested advice as to whether this project is to be continued in the light of printing of a history in the NSW Newsletter.

It was resolved that the project continue.

## 7.16 MORTALITY STUDY

Concern was expressed by Victoria that information passed to the NSW State Branch and stated that this information belongs to the VVAA.

NSW Delegate, Ray Fulton, stated that Terry Loftus considered the information his own personal property.

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: QLD

That all information given by States be withdrawn and passed on to National.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN**

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: QLD

That a new mortality database be started and that States supply information already submitted to NSW, to the National Secretary, and all new information be passed to the National Secretary.

**CARRIED**

## 7.17 VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

The Congress was notified that the US Veterans had started discussions with Vietnamese Ex Service Organisations to assist in finding MIA's for both sides.

It was resolved that this be left to individual members.

## 8.0 REPORTS

### 8.1 TREASURERS REPORT

On presenting his report the National Treasurer requested that National take action on outstanding creditors.

Proposed: Nev Varley

Seconded: NT

That the Treasurers Report as presented be received.

**CARRIED**

Queensland questioned as to why NSW are not paying their share of air fares.



Proposed: QLD

Seconded: VIC

That the NSW stance on travel to Council and Congress meetings is not constitutional.

CARRIED with NSW against

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: WA

That no further action be taken on NSW outstanding travel costs and that, if NSW feel so strongly about their stance, then NSW is to produce a notice of motion at the next National Council meeting.

CARRIED with QLD, SA (1) and TAS (1) against.

#### 8.1.1. RANDWICK OFFICE

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: SA

That the National Executive, in consultation with NSW, be empowered to settle the distribution of the furniture, computer and other items in the Randwick office and that the office be closed.

CARRIED

#### 8.2 SECRETARYS REPORT

The National Secretary apologised for any requests which had not been replied to but due to circumstances beyond his control (hospitalisation) had had to prioritise items. Other matters will be attended to as soon as possible.

During the past twelve months, States had been requested to supply copies of their Constitution and Sub Branch information. To date the only reply had been from QLD and a reply from NSW which stated that this information is in their newsletter. The information required was to include names and telephones numbers, this was not in the newsletter. Sub Branch information is required to keep Debrief up to date and for the Secretary to respond to any requests for referral.

Membership lists were also required, on disc if possible, with the exception of QLD these had also not been received.

It was pointed out that communication is a two way street.

The Secretary had attended the DVA Health Conference which was not a conference, but, instead members attending were told what is and had happened. This is believed to be changing for the next conference.

As Debrief was supposed to be available at this Congress, there is a further report in that issue.

#### 8.3 PRESIDENTS REPORT

The National President, John Printz, gave a short resume of his actions throughout the year and that he hoped to be able to work through problems that are there or perceived to be there.

The President thanked all involved and who work hard for the betterment of Veterans.

He reminded members of the in camera meeting at 8-00 A.M. Sunday.

The meeting adjourned for the day at 4-45 P.M.

Meeting resumed Sunday 29th May "In Camera" at 8-00 A.M.

Present:- WA, QLD, SA, TAS, NT, VIC, ACT, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

## 9.0 SPECIAL BUSINESS

Proposed: QLD

Seconded: SA

That this Congress deplores the actions of the New South Wales Delegates in their attitude towards the guest speaker, the Hon Con Sciacca MP, bearing in mind that the statements occurred in open Congress. It is further suggested that the statements made against Professor Phillip Morris could be interpreted by some to be slanderous. The non attendance of the NSW Delegates on the Sunday morning only goes to show their contempt for the National Congress and that the New South Wales Delegates be censured for their actions.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

It was pointed out by the NT Delegates that a person or persons had advertised in Katherine that the NSW Branch had Pensions Officers going to Katherine (Northern Territory) for Pension purposes.

Western Australia stated that the NSW Delegates appeared to have no interest in the Congress.

ACT stated that, during the Congress, the NSW Delegates did not bother to vote for, against or abstain on most motions and, instead just leant back from the table.

The members of Congress present expressed concern about the negative impact of the NSW attitudes on the Veteran Community and felt that the Delegates were not properly representing their members.

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: SA

That a letter be sent to all NSW financial members listing all the concerns of congress and that prior to any action being taken, legal advice be sought.

**CARRIED**

8-30 A.M. Open Congress resumed.

8-35 A.M. The NSW Delegates resumed their position at the Congress.

## 10.0 NATIONAL ELECTIONS

The President declared all positions vacant and vacated the chair and Peter Brook assumed the position of chairman for the elections.

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT:** As John Printz was the only nomination, he was duly declared elected.

**NATIONAL SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:** As Rob Cox was the only nomination, he was duly declared elected.



Proposed: NT

Seconded: WA

That the matter of the Royal Commission be taken back to States for further discussion.

**CARRIED - John Methven and David Luff against.**

9-10 A.M. The Congress was informed that the NSW Delegates had left the hotel.

### 13.0 1995 CONGRESS

The 1995 Congress would normally be held in New South Wales.

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: WA

That NSW be given the right to take up the option of running the 1995 Congress with the guarantee that the Congress be given the respect it deserves and a reply is to be supplied by NSW within 21 days.

**CARRIED**

### 14.0 PROFESSOR PHILLIP MORRIS

It was felt by Congress members that the remarks made by the NSW Delegate against Professor Phillip Morris were derogatory.

Proposed: SA

Seconded: WA

That this Congress disassociates itself from any remarks made the the NSW Delegate (Mr Ray Fulton) on Saturday to the Minister for Veterans Affairs, during question time, about Professor Phillip Morris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 15.0 FURTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

#### 15.1 MERCHANDISING

WA asked that, if States are selling their merchandise outside their State, then it would be courteous for the State in which the merchandise is sold, to be notified.

#### 15.2 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: WA

That this Association keep an eye on the National Vietnam Memorial for deterioration and that the appropriate authority be requested to repair any damage.

**CARRIED**

### 15.3 AVWVT NOMINATIONS

Proposed: WA

Seconded: TAS

That the nominations of Mr Jim Greenwood and Mr Norm Robertson to the AVWVT be ratified.

CARRIED

### 16.0 STATE REPORTS

#### 16.1 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

as attached

#### 16.2 QUEENSLAND

*NOT SUBMITTED IN WRITING SA*

#### 16.3 SOUTH AUSTRALIA

as attached

#### 16.4 NORTHERN TERRITORY

as attached

#### 16.5 VICTORIA

Victoria was going strong with 18 Sub Branches active. Development of comradeship is excellent. The Membership is growing due to the State being run by the Sub Branches and moving meetings around the State. A "Back to Basics" weekend had been held in conjunction with DVA Health Week and was a success. An Advocacy training course had been run in conjunction with the RSL and DVA. Victorian had taken up the idea of a "Badge Day". A fulltime State office was at Kew and manned from 10 to 2 daily. A museum trailer is being designed and built and may be made available to other States. John Methven will step down as State President at the AGM in November and thanked all present for their assistance and friendship.

#### 16.6 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

as attached.

### 17.0 CHEQUE AUTHORITY

Proposed: Nev Varley

Seconded: TAS

That Jim Talbert replace Tim McCombe as a signatory on cheques.

CARRIED

### 18.0 GEELONG

Geelong Sub Branch requested permission to address the Congress. This was granted.

Geelong thanked all Delegates present and the ACT for the Saturday Night activity and hoped that the Delegates remained in harmony.

Garry Casey (NT Delegate), on behalf of the Congress, thanked Geelong for attending the Congress.

## 19.00 AVWVT REPORT

Norm Robertson reported to congress on the activities of the AVWVT and distributed copies of the Annual Report to Delegates.

The President welcomed Admiral Neil Ralph and Professor Morris to the Congress.

The meeting adjourned at 1045 A.M. for the Memorial visit.

The Meeting resumed at 1-30 P.M.

## 20.0 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: NT

That a posthumous Life Membership be granted to Steve Poulter for his work for the Association.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 21.0 PTSD WORKSHOP

The President invited John Methven to chair the PTSD session.

John Methven introduce Adm Neil Ralph (Services Member of the Repatriation Commission), Professor Phillip Morris (RGH Heidelberg) and James Rogers (Acting Director of the VVCS).

All of the above members addressed Congress prior to the commencement of the workshop.

John Printz resumed the chair and thanked Neil Ralph, Phillip Morris and James Rogers for their efforts for the Congress.

## 22.0 VVCS NAME CHANGE

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: NT

That Delegates go back to their States and request guidance from their members.

**CARRIED**

## 23.0 CARDS

Proposed: TAS

Seconded: NT

That the ACT produce blank cards with the logo as shown at the Congress for distribution to State and Sub Branches.

**CARRIED**

A vote of thanks was given to the ACT for organising the Congress.

**CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION**

John Printz thanked the ACT Congress Committee members for their excellent efforts for the Congress.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

The National President declared the 1994 national Congress closed at 3-00 P.M.



.....

SECRETARY

.....

PRESIDENT

## TASMANIAN STATE REPORT

This year has seen the new Constitution of the State Branch invoked with the AGM now no longer held in July in Hobart, but, held every February with all branches having the chance to hold the AGM similar to the format of the RSL. This year the AGM was held at the new RSL headquarters at Devonport. Next year it will be held in February at a date to be fixed at the Burnie RSL.

It is very pleasing to report that the Bush Retreat has received a Federal Government Grant under Joint Ventures for a new diesel generator, which will alleviate the problems and dangers of Veterans and their families of carrying petrol for the old 5KVA generator. The new generator which, as I talk, is being tested at the Bush Retreat ready for the official launch on the 6th June.

Hospital Monitoring Committee. It is felt that this committee's charter, whilst is supposed to deal with hospital integration matters, solely, should now be elevated to the role of reporting on complaints by Veterans of a medical nature. As Tasmania was the first to undergo this transition, it has shown up many faults in our medical system, but, without Federal sanction of these committees, will have only limited input into obtaining a better and fairer system of health care for Veterans.

Childrens Education Scheme. In Tasmania, it still provides a great support to those 208 children (young people) who, without its support and because of the very nature of their parents background, may have found themselves at a great disadvantage in life.

Tasmania has decided to hold a Tasmanian reunion on the 18th August 1996. At the first meeting of the Reunion Committee it was decided to call the Reunion "Vietnam Veterans Family Reunion 30 years Onward" and we wish to invite all Veterans and their families to come and join us.



Anzac cottage; this project is running along smoothly and should start taking place in this coming year.

... was ... the ...

... in ... to ...

... the ...

... of ...

... the ...

President's Report

The past few months have been very busy for the committee. The committee has been in the way of the... together... and government departments is... Although our membership tends to fluctuate... even the past few years our biggest concern... enthusiasm within the membership... several meetings which have held... have been dismal to the point... for want of a quorum.

There have been many significant occasions... Annual Day as usual had a very good attendance... and on the 15th.

The unveiling of the Andrew Drummond Memorial... which day highlighted what can be achieved... and a fellow veteran when everyone... the same...

Congress was possibly the most productive... term as President a full report of this congress was... 1988-89.

Vietnam Veterans Day; once again this... military precision that is required... the... the fact that Percy White was...

The Entombment of The Unknown Soldier... delegate of this historic event was...

On a sad note we also witnessed the... veteran community. Two of these were... fought freely for our cause.

- Tom Evans, President
- Cass van Bergen
- Steve Boulton, President V.V.A. Southern
- They will be sadly missed.

Hollywood Regent General Hospital... Today I was present at the... Ramsay Health Care Group who were... acquisition of the hospital... appointment if you will receive information...

In the national... we have witnessed... cancers by the... has been... the... the...

Life style management... a... was... the...

The...

## **ACT PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 15TH NATIONAL CONGRESS**

### **Membership**

The ACT has a high Service and Public Service population, and although the membership itself is subject to quite a high level of change, the actual number remains around the 75 to 80 mark. The estimated number of veterans in the ACT is around 450 to 500 but, this is also considered to be quite a conservative estimate and therefore the membership is quite low compared against the possible level of membership.

### **Finance**

The Branch continues to maintain a comfortable level of finance, mainly through membership subscriptions, port promotions and donations. There is a possibility of financial support from the ACT Government and this will be pursued during 94/95.

### **Advocacy**

There are no VVAA advocates in the ACT and local members use the service provided by the RSL. This has sufficed to date, but mainly because of the small membership and low number of new claims.

### **The Phill Thompson Centre**

Unfortunately, the Phill Thompson Centre was closed in February 94 by the Board of Management. The Centre was opened in December 1989 in a house provided at low rent by the local housing authority. It was opened to provide short term accommodation for veterans travelling to or through Canberra for medical and other reasons. Money was provided by the RSL, the RDFWA, the VVAA, the AVVWT and the K&SEAFA. A board of management was set up to run the Centre with members from the these organisations.

The Centre continued to operate quite well both financially and in its level of occupancy until October 1992 when there was a marked downturn which continued through to the end of 1993 when there was little or no use of the Centre by veterans.

After 1992, the Centre experienced problems in fund raising due to the low occupancy rate and little or no assistance from outside sources. Losses due to veterans running up large debts and disappearing without paying did nothing to help. Ongoing management was also a problem and for most of the period, the house did not have a live-in manager.

Average monthly costs for the house were around \$1,000 to \$1,100 with income averaging around \$300. In November, the Board of Management made the decision to close the Centre, considering that firstly, it would be a dereliction of their duty to continue to operate in this manner and secondly, that the Centre was no longer being used. It was formally closed on 4 February 1994.

Remaining funds were dispersed back to the original donors and to other welfare organisation. The furniture and fittings returned to the Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul. A final audit was completed on 26 April 1994 and presented to the ACT Branch at their May meeting.

### **Business Arising From The Last Congress**

The Branch has purchased its own set of flags and has acquired a key to the flag posts at the Australian Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. The Association can be assured that flags will be flown at the Memorial on appropriate occasions.

The Branch has spent a great deal of time and energy in preparing for the 1994 Congress and is quite confident that Delegates will be very happy with the venue, accommodation and facilities provided.



Jim Talbert  
President  
ACT Branch Inc.

28 May 1994



# Vietnam Veterans Association of South Australia Inc.

c/- Walkerville RSL  
98 Walkerville Terrace  
P.O. Box 71  
Walkerville S.A. 5081  
Tel. (08) 269 7679

Sub Branches:  
Broken Hill:  
Eyre Peninsula:  
Riverland:  
Mt Gambier:

## 1993-1994 National Congress Report

Dear Members

The new committee was voted in at our AGM on the 20th March, 1994 the ready acceptance of our members to fill all positions is indicative of the dedicated volunteers who support our association in South Australia.

We thank National President John Printz who officiated at that meeting.

Our first committee meeting was held within 14 days of the AGM tasks were allocated and objectives confirmed for the ensuing year.

Priorities of our objectives include:

1. Welfare
2. Communications
3. Secretariat

### WELFARE

1:1 We are pleased to report our Welfare Officers/Advocates ably led by Mike Schar are successfully assisting our Veterans for compensation claims and hands on support. A recent Welfare and Advocates course has bought forward more of our members to assist Mike and his team.

Further training of our new Welfare Officers to accreditation (or certificate of attendance) standard will give them the skills and confidence to support our Veterans and families.

### COMMUNICATIONS

1:2 The vast distances between our branches has caused difficulty particularly in visitations. Cost and time the main causes. This committee has resolved that this July, a State Conference will be held to improve our communications.

### SECRETARIAT

1:3 In association with our Walkerville RSL our new office is nearing completion this is an outstanding achievement as within days we will move in.

This concept is in the form of an entrance and office and will be dedicated to the memory of Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop.

To have our files and office equipment in an office environment will set the scene for improved secretariat support.

## FUND RAISING

Badge Day was a great success our team of volunteers raised in excess of \$7500. This is our main source of revenue, but we believe this can be further enhanced and work will commence in the near future to prepare for an increased result.

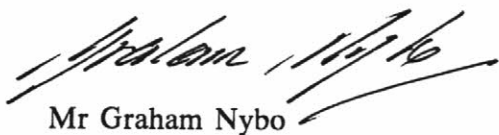
Our port wine sales are on track to clear by Christmas. A total of 960 crocks were produced. Profits from this venture will enhance the ability for forward budgeting to support Welfare.

We continue to have good relations with the DVA and VVCS there is an emphasis on building trust. This was debated at a meeting attended by VVA-SA. RAR Association RSL, VVMC, ALSF Association and other supportive groups, we plan to meet by monthly to continue this initiative not only with the DVA and VVCS but importantly to bring together common support between the service organisations.

Finally, Congratulations to President Mike McDonald, his committee and members of the new branch at Mt Gambier. We wish them well for the future in there support for Veterans Welfare.

Yours sincerely

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF SA INC.



Mr Graham Nybo  
President

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (N.T. BRANCH) INC.

ANNUAL REPORT TO NATIONAL CONGRESS, CANBERRA 1994

As you are all aware, our branch suffered a great loss with the sudden and untimely death of our then President, Steve Poulter on 27 December 1993. For those of you that knew Steve, I think, will agree that he was a loving and caring person and dedicated to the cause of Vietnam Veterans. He worked tirelessly towards this cause and earned the respect due to him from all corners of the community.

This was evident at his funeral service by the attendance of The Administrator, Government Ministers, Service chiefs, Service organisations, workmates, mates and veterans. Once again I would like to thank John Printz and John Methven for their attendance. Their attendance was very important to his widow, Bonnie, who saw it as recognition for Steve's contribution and their friendship.

The service was conducted by the Army Chaplain and Honorary Padre, David COCKRAM, who is himself, a Vietnam Veteran. Steve was escorted to his final resting place by members of the Vietnam Veterans Motor-cycle Club.

Some of Steve's important achievements are as follows;

- . maintained a strong liaison with local, Territory and Federal Government.
- . established a better relationship with other service organisations, including the RSL.
- . obtained a computer and printer from the NT Govt. for use by Vets in Coral House.
- . obtained a 15 seater bus from the NT Govt. for the Association.
- . became a member of and thereby formed a better relationship with Legacy.
- . purchased a mobile phone for 24hr contact and emergency situations.
- . providing education material on Vietnam to schools.
- . promoted community awareness by attending other service and community gatherings.

We have all lost a great friend and colleague. Rest in peace my friend. Your shoes will be hard to fill.

Steve's death appears to have generated a renewed interest in the Association. It has brought people closer together and as a result attendances at meetings and social events has increased, however membership is still down.

As mentioned previously, the NT Govt. has donated a bus to the Association. The bus has undergone major mechanical and cosmetic repairs and apart from the signing is ready for use on the road. We have been hampered in fitting a lift for wheelchair capability due to the expense but have settled for the option of ramps. The refurbishment of the bus was due to the magnificent and tireless efforts of Wally Barnes, a member but not a veteran, but dedicated to the cause. Expenses on the bus have been kept to a minimum by the generosity of the community in providing the necessary repairs and materials.

Fundraising is underway and commenced with the Defence Forces Charity Golf Day in April which raised just over \$3,000.00 for the Association. This is the second year that it has been held and it will now continue to run. This year it was won by the US. MARINES who took it off the Police. It was fitting that the trophy went to a team member whose father was a US. Vietnam Veteran.

We have just launched a major raffle for a tool box. This proved to be very popular on the last occasion and Wally Barnes again got Repco to sponsor (at the right price) another tool box. Tickets are selling well and I hope that all delegates will assist by purchasing a ticket.

Coral House under the management of Jill Barnes is running well and we are grateful for the donation received as a result of the unfortunate closing of the Phil Thompson Centre. Thank you A.C.T.

The wives and widows have got together and now have a ladies night at Sizzlers on the first Tuesday of every month. This is proving to be very popular and now appears to be a firmly established social event.

The Centralian Sub-Branch is alive and well and look after their own fundraising by catering at sporting events with the usual fast food and drinks.

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held on the 3rd of June. Results of the election of office bearers will be advised as soon as possible after the election.

The Territory Branch although small, is alive and well.

GARRY R. CASEY, PRESIDENT

JOHN SHEPPARD, DELEGATE