

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at the Kew RSL, Melbourne.
on 23/24 November 1996

MINUTES

PRESENT:

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:

NATIONAL PRESIDENT:	Clive Mitchell-Taylor
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:	Rob Cox
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:	Brian McKenzie
NATIONAL SECRETARY:	Geoff Trevor-Hunt
NATIONAL TREASURER:	Peter Liefman
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:	Apology

DELEGATES:

QUEENSLAND:	John Smith
WESTERN AUSTRALIA:	Rob Cox
NORTHERN TERRITORY:	John Sheppard
TASMANIA:	Brian McKenzie
SOUTH AUSTRALIA:	"Doc" Russell
VICTORIA:	Alan Hughes
NEW SOUTH WALES:	Jim Holland
AUST CAPITAL TERRITORY:	Clive Mitchell-Taylor

NATIONAL SENIOR ADVOCATE:	John Printz
NATIONAL CHEMICAL CO ORDINATOR:	Mick Scrase

The President declared the meeting open at 9-45A.M.

1.0. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was distributed to Delegates.

2.0. TREASURERS REPORT:

Proposed: WA

Seconded: NT

That the Treasurers Report as presented be received. **CARRIED**

Proposed: VIC
Seconded: NSW

That Mr Courteny Thomas be appointed the National Auditor. **CARRIED**

Proposed: WA
Seconded: NSW

That the Association use Quickbooks as the electronic accountancy method and that this be adopted by States where possible. **CARRIED**

3.0. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CONGRESS:

3.1. NSW OFFICE:

The NSW office is now open and was dedicated to the Association by the owners of the building. Reasonable success in bringing some of the old Sub Branches back to the VVAA. A South West Region Sub Branch is to be formed at Campbelltown. Activity will increase when the equipment is installed. The office is working well at the moment. School talks have been introduced. The aim is to get the Association back into one group. The AGM will be held in March when a State Executive will be elected.

3.2. PREVIOUS TREASURER:

Due to the fact that the full information has not been compiled, no action had been taken, yet. Any action at this stage may impinge on other legal matters currently in progress.

Proposed: VIC
Seconded: TAS

That no further action be taken in respect of the previous National Treasurer. **CARRIED**

3.3. MORTALITY STUDY:

A meeting is to be held on 28th November, when it is hoped that the study will be finalised. States will be provided with the report when it becomes available.

3.4. HEALTH STUDY:

The letter from John Methven was discussed and it was stated that funds were the problem of not holding an Executive meeting.

Arthur Fittock was invited so as to pay for some of the fares.

The proposed health study questionnaire was distributed to delegates and discussed. John Methven believes that the questionnaire be a short one as a long one could possibly put veterans off.

John Printz advised that it was understood by the VVAA that we will only get one shot at the study.

Further discussion on the questionnaire was deferred to Sunday to allow delegates time to read the document.

3.5. RECRUITING CAMPAIGN:

Brian McKenzie addressed the meeting and presented his report on the progress of the campaign. Recruiting of former members was also discussed.

3.6. DEBRIEF:

This has been held up by the non availability of funds. It was admitted that this is not the greatest thing for members. States have been asked for input, but only a small number have supplied information. It was suggested that information, other than State reports could also be supplied by States. Debrief is to be supplied to Financial members only. If States require it to go to unfinancial members, then States must bear this cost.

Queensland asked if there was a policy in regards to Debrief. The President advised that this was controlled by financial ability.

3.7. INSURANCE:

A presentation was given to the Delegates by Lowndes Lambert. The written version was supplied to delegates.

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: TAS

It was resolved to accept this insurance package be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

3.8. FUNDRAISING:

This matter was addressed by Peter Liefman. He stated that no input had been received from States as was requested at Congress.

This will now be presented at the 1997 Congress.

3.9. CIVILIANS CONTRACTED BY DEPT OF DEFENCE:

This matter was addressed by John Printz. It was stated that these civilians were presenting with similar symptoms Vietnam veterans. Initial response from people approached was a mixed reaction.

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: WA

That John Printz frame a notice of motion to alter the the Constitution to include all civilians who served in Vietnam. **CARRIED**

3.10. LENGTH OF CONGRESS:

It was stated that some time was wasted during Congress due to Official Openings etc.

Proposed: QLD

Seconded: NT

That Congress commence on the Friday and finish on the Sunday. This is to commence in at the Congress in May 1997, **CARRIED**

3.1.1. NATIONAL POLICY HANDBOOK:

John Printz was given the task of updating the National Policy Handbook at the previous National Congress.

John stated that he had concentrated on TIP and waited for this Council meeting for any extra issues and a draft would be issued before the next Congress. All States are to read the Handbook and advise John Printz on any perceived omissions, admendments etc.

3.12. STATE MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE:

One or two States had complied with the directive from the National President. States were to be supplied with a letterhead by the National President. States were requested to comply with the request for information flow.

4.0. GENERAL BUSINESS:

4.1. AVADSC REPRESENTATIVE:

It appeared that we may be entitled to two representatives on AVADSC.

Jim Talbert was attending about 1 out of 3 of the meetings and was not reporting to the National Executive. The President is to resolve the issue of two representative and write to Jim Talbert.

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: NT

That Jim Holland be appointed the representatives on AVADSC. **CARRIED**

4.2. PUBLIC OFFICER:

Proposed: SA

Seconded: WA

That Clive Mitchell-Taylor be appointed the Public Officer of the Association. **CARRIED**

4.3. CAPITATIONS FOR HONORARY MEMBERS (QLD):

There was no capitation fees for Honorary members.

4.4. CAPITATION FEES FOR LIFE MEMBERS (QLD):

This item was covered in the Policy Handbook.

4.5. DUAL MEMBERSHIP (QLD):

This was decided to be a State matter.

4.6. FINANCIAL YEAR CLASP (QLD):

Queensland broached the subject of supplying Financial Year Clasps to financial members. It was decided that membership cards could be sufficient as clasps would be an administrative nightmare. All States are to supply the Secretary with a membership card which is currently in use.

4.7. TIP TRAINING:

John Printz addressed the meeting on his tasks of recording Welfare and Pensions Officers.

To get the latest information to the practitioners in the field and that he required a list of these practitioners. Many important items are available to practitioners and it is this type of information which needed to be sent to practitioners. A one page newsletter is envisaged with States paying the postage.

Proposed: WA

Seconded: SA

That the proposal of a one page information newsletter to be posted to practitioners with States being charged for the postage be accepted. **CARRIED**

Eventually Statements of Principle would be available on the internet with an input code.

Factors discussed at the RMA conference were discussed with the Delegates.

DVA is to supply a glossary of definitions but these are not binding as they will be guidelines.

Clinical Onset - the RMA declined to further define this term as it would make the term to mean on diagnosis, whereas the current term means that the onset is when the veteran notices the symptoms.

The RMA were requested to reply to any submissions and the RMA stated that this would occur.

Drugs - The RMA are considering whether to put out an SOP in relation to drugs prescribed for accepted disabilities.

The RMA will provide a list of all references used in the production of Statements of Principle.

Draft SOP's are to be faxed to each State with any replies or comments to be returned immediately.

Clarity of statements within an SOP was discussed and this is to be investigated by the RMA.

DISTRIBUTION of SOPS. These are available in electronic form (disc). Electronic versions are available from DVA State Offices. State Branches, who have the capability, are to contact their state DVA offices and therefore these will no longer be supplied in hard copy by the National Secretary.

CPS RESEARCH LIBRARY - This is available from DVA (Canberra) in either disc form or on CD Rom. National TIP conferences will now be nine months apart. 20 TIP modules are now in use, but these are only available from the State TIP committee.

Proposed: QLD

Seconded: SA

That John Printz be appointed the Association National Senior Advocate. **CARRIED**

SUNDAY Commenced 9-00 A.M.

4.8. HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE:

A long discussion on the format of the Health Study questionnaire was held on Saturday night.

Proposed: NSW

Seconded: TAS

That the Health study format be a full questionnaire be sent to 2,500 Vietnam veterans and that a one page questionnaire be sent to all Vietnam veterans and that the fall back position be a single page questionnaire to be as simplistic as per National Congress of May 1996. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4.9. SPINA BIFIDA:

The President advised that the Association had put out a press release after the rejection by the RMA. It was felt that the statistics did not include sufficient children as the cut off dates of 1979 to 1986. Guidance as to direction was requested from the Council.

It was suggested that the media be approached for exposure on this issue and other health issues as well as the Mortality. The RMA is to be approached for further study into chemical related health issues. Veteran's families are to be included as well as future generations in all health aspects.

4.10. CHEMICAL ISSUES:

Mick Scrase reported to the Council on his activities as chemical co-ordinator. Copies of issues were given to all delegates present.

The President thanked Mick Scrase and John Printz for their efforts on behalf of the Association in the last few weeks.

4.11. VIETNAM EX SERVICE ORGANISATIONS:

The Minister, Bruce Scott, has asked that ESO's become involved with ex service organisations in Vietnam. It is anticipated that we would be asked for our thoughts on this matter. It was resolved that there was no objection to talking with Vietnamese Ex Service Organisations, but that assistance of any kind is against the National Constitution.

4.12. NATIONAL REUNIONS:

Brian McKenzie briefed the delegates on the Tasmanian reunion. Brian McKenzie is to write to organisations using the logo or the name of the Association. This letter is to be written on behalf of the National President. Investigation is to be undertaken on the issue of missing items from orders.

South Australia are planning a reunion in 1999 for the 1st weekend in October. Endorsement of this was requested from the National Council. Tasmania advised that national reunions take too much time away from the purposes of the Association.

Queensland requested that a letter be sent to the Townsville Sub Branch laying out any problems which will be encountered in running a reunion. South Australia is to be advised of the same problems.

Proposed: NSW

Seconded: QLD

That the National Council will not state its support for reunions without full planning and feasibility studies, and that persons planning such reunions be explicitly warned about the previous history of financial failure of reunions. **CARRIED**

4.13. MARKETING, PROFILE and PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Presented by Doc Russell (SA). Dealt with the idea of a National badge day/week. The "badge" is to be in the form of a teardrop.

Doc is to prepare a paper on the issue and send to all the National Executive and all States for comments.

It was generally agreed that the concept is very good.

4.14. OPTICAL PROCESS FOR VETERANS:

The Budget proposed changes to the method of supplying spectacles. Referrals are required from the veterans LMO for eye testing.

4.15. VVAA LIFE MEMBERS:

The matter of Life membership for persons who have moved away from the Association and includes those who have become members of the Federation. It was resolved that no action be taken at this stage.

4.16. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION:

Proposed: WA

Seconded: VIC

That a Certificate of appreciation be sent to Hollywood Private Hospital for their efforts at National Congress in May 1996. **CARRIED**

4.17. DEBRIEF:

Queensland expressed the concerns of its members of the non issue of Debrief. The distribution of a financial report being put in Debrief, it was suggested that State Branches are receiving a financial report and this should be sent to Sub Branch level and thus members are informed. The Council is very concerned about the non issue of Debrief but, at the moment is limited by funds.

4.18. 1997 CONGRESS:

The current status of arrangements for the 1997 Congress were presented to the Council by John Smith (QLD).

The President declared the meeting closed at 12-20 P.M. Sunday

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at the Freeway Hotel, South Perth, WA
on 24th May 1996

MINUTES

The President declared the meeting open at 7-35 P.M.

PRESENT:

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:

NATIONAL PRESIDENT:	John Methven
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:	Rob Cox
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:	Garry Casey
NATIONAL SECRETARY:	Geoff Trevor-Hunt
NATIONAL TREASURER:	Clive Mitchell-Taylor
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:	John Printz OAM
NATIONAL SOLICITOR:	Peter Liefman

DELEGATES:

QUEENSLAND:	John Smith
WESTERN AUSTRALIA:	Rob Cox
NORTHERN TERRITORY:	Garry Casey
TASMANIA:	Brian McKenzie
SOUTH AUSTRALIA:	"Doc" Russell
VICTORIA:	Alan Hughes
NEW SOUTH WALES:	Jim Talbert
AUST CAPITAL TERRITORY:	Clive Mitchell-Taylor

1.0. CONGRESS AGENDA

Additions were made to the Agenda and it was resolved that the Agenda, as amended, be accepted.

2. 0. VVAA LOGO - REGISTRATION

Proposed: ACT

Seconded: WA

That this matter be discussed at this meeting instead of at Congress. **CARRIED**

Progress reported on by Peter Liefman. (NOTE THIS DISCUSSION IS CONFIDENTIAL AND **NOT TO BE PASSED ON TO ANY OTHER PERSON**). This matter is to be discussed further at the National Council meeting in October.

3.0. FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP.

John Methven stated that States do not play honest and that National cops a lot of "flack" as to where the money goes. In a lot of cases, National does not get the money. Recently, 5,500 Debriefs were printed and it was then found that the amount of copies were not enough, this was approximately 3,500 more than Captiations received.

If States wished Debrief to be sent to non financial members then States must be responsible for the cost of the magazine.

A nominal roll of financial members is to be held by the Public Officer (Jim Talbert) and this is to be sent to the Public Officer, by States, within one month of this meeting with copies to the National Secretary. (FOR ACTION BY STATE BRANCHES).

States are required, under the new constitution, to pay captiations within one month of receiving the monies and this applies down to Sub Branches as well.

International members are to be sent Debrief, but only to the State Branch to which they belong and State Branches will then be responsible for onforwarding of the magazine. (FOR ACTION BY STATE BRANCHES).

4.0. NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS.

It was resolved that there be no Senior or Junior Vice President but, instead, there be two Vice Presidents without differentiation and that the Constitution reflect this. Therefore all nominees for the voting on Sunday, will stand for the positions with voting being the two with the highest vote being elected. This would be done by ballot. This was agreed to by the members standing for the positions. The nominees were given the option of addressing the Congress before the election and this was declined by all nominees.

5.0. PUBLIC OFFICER

Jim Talbert stated that he had trouble over the past year in getting membership lists and he was also required to submit a financial return, this is a legal requirement. Membership lists are to be printed and not on computer disc. This is a one year requirement, one month after Congress.

6.0. AUST REMEMBERS VIETNAM BADGE

The Dept of Veterans Affairs are producing a lapel badge for the event. There will only be 5,000 made. \$100 for the Department, RSL 1,000, VVAA 2,500 and the Federation 500. The recommended retail price will be \$3-00 and this is a fixed price for all organisations.. These badges will be distributed by the National Secretary and National will sell to States for \$2-00 thus allowing States a \$1 margin. It was acknowledged that many veterans will miss out but these badges will become collectors items. Distribution will be on a ratio of financial members of States.

The President declared the meeting closed at 9-15 P.M.


.....
(SECRETARY)

.....
(PRESIDENT)

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
CASH BOOK - JULY 1995

INCOME

Date	Receipt No	Received From	Amount Received	Amount Banked	Date Banked
04-Jul-95	2917619	VVAA QLD - Capitation	1020.00		
04-Jul-95	2917620	VVAA SA - Air Fares, Accn	1395.80		
04-Jul-95	2917621	C. Mitchell-Taylor - Meal Nat Congress	26.00	2441.80	05-Jul-95
		Total	2441.80	2441.80	

EXPENDITURE

Date	Cheque No	Paid To	Amount Paid	Date Present
04-Jul-95	127	VVAA ACT - Cards	75.00	14-Jul-95
19-Jul-95	128	Consumer Affairs - Document Lodgement	25.00	04-Aug-95
	129	Cancelled		
03-Jul-95		State Govt Duty FID	2.13	
03-Jul-95		State Govt Tax GDT	9.30	
		Total	111.43	

Unpresented Cheques	
182310	110.00
115	308.50
128	25.00
Total	443.50

Bank Balance State	1780.53
Bank Balance Comwel	5444.56
Total Bank Balance	7225.09
Plus Cash on Hand	0.00
Sub-Total	7225.09
Less Unpresented Cheques	443.50
Total	6781.59

Balance Brought Fwd	4451.22
Plus Receipts this Month	2441.80
Sub-Total	6893.02
Less Expenditure This Month	111.43
Total	6781.59

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
CASH BOOK - AUGUST 1995

INCOME

Date	Receipt No	Received From	Amount Received	Amount Banked	Date Banked
04-Aug-95	2917622	VVAA QLD - Air Fares, Acct	795.00		
04-Aug-95	2917623	See Entry 27 June 95			
04-Aug-95	2917624	VVAA State Bank Acc No 1	1701.35		
04-Aug-95	2917625	VVAA State Bank Acc No 2	27.60	2523.95	04-Aug-95
21-Aug-95	2917626	Manning District Vietnam Vets Donation	100.00		
21-Aug-95	2917627	VVAA VIC - Air Fares	585.80		
21-Aug-95	2917628	VVAA VIC - Accom Nat Congress	220.00	905.80	22-Aug-95
25-Aug-95	2917629	VVAA NT - Additional Capitations	150.00		
25-Aug-95	2917630	Aust Vietnam Veterans War Trust - 1/2 Fares Nat	293.00	443.00	25-Aug-95
31-Aug-95	29176131	VVAA TAS - Airfares National Congress	585.80		
31-Aug-95	29176132	VVAA TAS - Accom National Congress	220.00		
31-Aug-95	29176133	VVAA QLD - Additional Capitations	140.00	945.80	
		Total	4818.55	4818.55	

EXPENDITURE

Date	Cheque No	Paid To	Amount Paid	Date Present
02-Aug-95	130	Unitech Computers - Repairs J. Talbert	455.00	08-Aug-95
02-Aug-95	131	John Meithven - Phone etc	241.05	11-Aug-95
02-Aug-95	132	Jim Talbert - Misc Expenses	243.37	17-Aug-95
05-Aug-95	133	Optus - Phone Geoff Itevor-Hunt	64.20	25-Aug-95
05-Aug-95	134	Davies Collinson Cave - Watching Service	157.50	24-Aug-95
05-Aug-95	135	Telstra - Phone John Printz/Nev Varley	2373.10	22-Aug-95
16-Aug-95	136	John Meithven - Misc Expenses, Debit etc	2741.84	30-Aug-95
21-Aug-95	137	VVAA QLD - Overpayment of Invoices	9.20	15-Sep-95
21-Aug-95	138	Clive Mitchell-Taylor - Misc Expenses	71.60	22-Aug-95
30-Aug-95	139	Clive Mitchell-Taylor - Misc	161.40	
01-Aug-95		State Govt Duty FID	1.47	
01-Aug-95		State Govt Tax GDI	2.10	
04-Aug-95		State Bank Account	1701.35	
04-Aug-95		State Bank Acc No 2	27.60	
04-Aug-95		Costs levied against State Bank Acc on closure	51.58	
		Total	8302.36	

Unpresented Cheques	
182310	110.00
137	9.20
139	161.40
Total	280.60

Bank Balance state	0.00
Bank Balance Cornwel	3578.38
Total Bank Balance	3578.38
Plus Cash on Hand	0.00
Sub-Total	3578.38
Less Unpresented Cheques	280.60
Total	3297.78

Balance Brought Fwd	6781.59
Plus Receipts this Month	4818.55
Sub-Total	11600.14
Less Expenditure This Month	8302.36
Total	3297.78