

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at TPI House ADELAIDE S.A.

18/19 October 1997

MINUTES

PRESENT:

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

NATIONAL PRESIDENT:	Clive Mitchell-Taylor JP
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:	Rob Cox
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:	Brian McKenzie
NATIONAL SECRETARY:	Geoff Trevor-Hunt OAM JP
NATIONAL TREASURER:	Apology

DELEGATES

QUEENSLAND:	John Smith
WESTERN AUSTRALIA:	Rob Cox
NORTHERN TERRITORY:	John Sheppard
TASMANIA:	David Moles DFM
SOUTH AUSTRALIA:	Eric Ciracovitch
VICTORIA:	John Printz OAM
NEW SOUTH WALES:	Ken Foster
AUST CAPITAL TERRITORY:	Stuart Weller

The President declared the Council meeting open at 8-45 AM Saturday 19th October.

Thanks were offered to the SA Committee for their efforts in organising the meeting venue and accommodation.

The President advised the meeting that this Association was the second most important Association at the moment.

1.0. PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES:

Proposed: WA

Seconded: TAS

That the minutes of the November 1996 National Council meeting as distributed be received.

CARRIED

2.0. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CONGRESS MINUTES:

2.1. MACOVI:

It was explained that the Minister's Adviser had contacted the National President in regards to MACOVI.

The contents of this conversation were given (in confidence), verbally, to the Delegates.

It was resolved that the resurrection of MACOVI not be pursued but that some of the funds be directed towards holding discussions with ESO's on subjects of particular concern.

2.2. NEURO TOXIC STRESS:

Papers were given to all Delegates from Dr Brian Goble and from the Study being run by the University of Sydney.

It was requested that the Chemical Co-Ordinate summarise all material issued, in dot point format, so that members can see what the documents contain at a glance.

Delegates were asked if they now understood Neuro toxic stress and the meeting was advised that as the information was now flowing, they were beginning to understand. It was resolved that negotiations be conducted with Brian Goble for attendance at the upcoming National Congress.

ACTION: National Secretary to organise.

2.3. NATIONAL POLICY HANDBOOK:

John Printz stated that this should be ready by National Congress subject to time permitting.

ACTION: John Printz to complete.

2.4. VITA – NOTIFICATION to PRACTITIONERS:

This was a State issue and State Branches are to keep the National Advocate advised of current practitioners within their State. Any States with problems of verification of TIP course attendance are to contact John Printz.

Victoria TIP had designed a survey to go to all TIP course attendees to verify if members are actually practicing.

It was resolved that this survey be taken to the National TIP Committee for use by all States.

ACTION: John Printz to take survey to National TIP Meeting.

2.5. NATIONAL PATRON:

The President stated that because of his health, nothing had happened. Victoria requested that Admiral Neil Ralph be placed on the list. SA requested that Sir Donald Dunstan also be added.

2.6. VVCS STAFFING:

This matter to be discussed further at a National level by the Executive.

2.7. LIFESTYLE COURSES:

State DVA Offices were not passing advice of Lifestyle Courses to VVAA State Branches. It was resolved that VVAA State Branches not be involved unless suitable members were available.

It appeared that a presenter at the Lifestyle Courses in Tasmania was soliciting clients from the course.

Proposed: TAS

Seconded: WA

That the National Body does not support any presenter at a Lifestyle Course using the list of attendees for money making purposes.

CARRIED

2.8. NATIONAL CONGRESS DATES:

It was resolved that the new date for the Congress in 1998 be 22/23/24 May.

2.9. SMOKING CONCERNS:

A forum is being put together by the Minister to discuss the smoking question in relation to service. This is to be attended by ESO's and it was resolved that John Printz represent this Association.

2.10. RESPITE CARE:

There appeared to be a lack of understanding within National DVA as to respite care requirements of younger veterans.

Venues appropriate to any particular veteran's needs were a necessity with medical care being available.

Some States had found venues, others are still looking.

ACTION: States to submit suitable venues to the National Secretary.

2.11. GOLD CARDS:

A letter had been sent to the Minister in regards to Health care of partners of TPI's and full Service Pensioners, particularly in regards to the difference between DVA and Social Security. No further action at this stage.

2.12. AWARDS:

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: SA

That an Association award be introduced which can be awarded at State or National Level. This award to rate between Life Membership and Government awards and be awarded annually if suitable candidates are eligible. This is to be finalised at the National Congress.

CARRIED

ACTION: State Branches to compile their thoughts, in writing, on what form this award is to take and who comprises the awards committee.

2.13. SUCCESSION PLANNING:

The issue of succession planning for the National Executive was a matter of importance.

The President advised of his current health status.

The President asked the meeting if they required him to stand down due to his health problems.

Victoria advised that this decision would have to be put to the State Branches, but stated that communication should be improved to ensure that all the National Executive are kept informed.

This was generally agreed to by Delegates.

Proposed: TAS

Seconded: QLD

That whilst the National President is hospitalised, Brian McKenzie assume the position of the National President. **CARRIED.**

2.14. REPUBLIC COMMITTEE:

The President advised the meeting that he is not being considered for the Republic Committee.

NOTICE of MOTION for NATIONAL CONGRESS:

Proposed: VIC

That the National Constitution and By Laws represent fully, that any member of a State Executive or the National Executive shall not be publicly involved in issues or political organisations that impinge on, or have the name of, the VVAA connected to, or speak or write in arenas where that member's position in the VVAA can be connected to any issues, unless it is a welfare issue.

3.0. CORRESPONDENCE:

Proposed: QLD

Seconded: NT

That the correspondence as read, tabled or distributed be received.

CARRIED

4.0. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

4.1. New NSW Sub Branch:

The Council approved the formation of a Sub Branch to be named Northern Districts Sub Branch. This Sub Branch will be based within the northern suburbs of Sydney.

4.2. Vietnam Veterans Day Flag Protocol:

A flag protocol handbook is available from the local Federal Parliamentary member's office.

4.3. Vietnam Bike Ride:

The request for support for this ride was not considered within the parameters of the Association's Constitution.

4.4. Free Transport for TPI's:

John Smith stated that this matter has not been addressed at the QLD State Council meeting, therefore could not be addressed.

5.0. TREASURER's REPORT:

Proposed: TAS

Seconded: WA

That the Treasurer's report as presented be received. **CARRIED**

6.0. NOTICES of MOTION:

6.1. QLD: Payment of Insurance:

Proposed: QLD

Seconded: TAS

That the payment of Public Liability Insurance for State Branches be calculated on the paid capitations as at December 31 of the previous year.

DRAWN VOTE therefore LOST

6.2. QLD: Tendering for Badges:

Proposed: QLD

Seconded: WA

When new items are required for National Sales, State Branches are to be canvassed for suitable suppliers.

CARRIED

6.3. QLD: Date of National Congress:

WITHDRAWN

6.4. QLD: DSH Interest Rates:

It was requested that advice be received in regards to account keeping fees for Defence Service Home Loans.

6.5. QLD: Equal Entitlements for Veterans:

WITHDRAWN

6.6. Amendment to Constitution:

The amendment to the "Wind up" Clause of the Constitution is to be submitted to National Congress

7.0. GENERAL BUSINESS as PROPOSED by STATE BRANCHES:

7.1. NSW: Concern on Statement by National President:

The matter of statements by the National President and John Printz in the July Debrief, regarding "rorting" of the system was discussed at length by the Delegates. All agreed that this does happen but the articles in Debrief may have been misinterpreted by some veterans. It was resolved that this matter requires a correct interpretation being printed in Debrief.

ACTION: National President, in conjunction with John Printz, to write the new article for Debrief.

7.2. NSW: Submission of Annual Returns:

Statements are to be submitted with a covering letter explaining how deficiencies occurred and request that the Dept of Fair Trading allow this lapse this one time only.

ACTION to be taken by National President.

7.3. NSW: Income Tax Status:

The form was completed verbally, with the concurrence of all present. The National Secretary is to complete this form and sign and date such form.

ACTION: National Secretary to complete the form and date it.

7.4. NSW: Sales Tax Exemption:

It was resolved that a letter to be sent to Tax Office in relation to use of Victorian Certificates.

The National Council may receive sales tax exemption when the Constitution is amended.

ACTION: National Secretary to contact the Taxation Office.

7.5. NSW: National Property Insurance:

Lowndes Lambert to be contacted for costs and information.

A letter is to be sent to all State Branches in regards to site Insurance. States will be required to reply to this letter in regards to the number of sites and Insurance amount.

7.6. NSW: Terms of Loan/Grant to NSW Office:

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: TAS

That the amount of \$2000 loaned to the NSW office be a non-repayable grant.

CARRIED

7.7. NSW: Status of the NSW Office in Relation to National Council:

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: QLD

The National Executive is authorised to approve the formation of Sub Branches within NSW as recommended by the NSW office.

CARRIED

A fundraising authority is to be organised from the NSW Government for the NSW office and their Sub Branches.

ACTION: NSW Secretary to obtain forms and liase with National Secretary.

8.0. GENERAL BUSINESS as PROPOSED by DELEGATES:

8.1. Duties of National Solicitor:

Proposed: ACT

Seconded: QLD

That all matters handled by the National Solicitor are to be referred by the National executive or National Council.

CARRIED

8.2. VTEAS Certificate Presentations:

The Council was reminded that the presentation of Certificates to Scholarship recipients should be carried out as soon as possible or the Trust will pass the presentation of certificates to another organisation. It was noted that Tasmania had made arrangements with the Trust to present 1997 and 1998 certificates at the same time.

8.3. Trademark Applications:

Letters were read from the solicitors acting for the Association. In regards to the logo, this was to be advertised by the Trademarks Office on 25th September followed by a three month wait. The name Trademark had been submitted by the solicitors.

8.4. Logo:

The large and small stickers now produced were shown to delegates and Computer disc copies distributed to Delegates.

8.5. Debrief:

Debrief cut off date is 14th November 1997. Labels and copy are to be submitted by that date.

Competition on photos to be decided at National Congress.

ACTION: State Branches to consider what prize, if any, and who would be on the selection committee and to submit articles for Debrief.

8.6. Mortality Study:

Latest National Service Study was shown to Delegates, this report cannot be issued to members. This full report should be released in December.

8.7. Health Study:

The survey has been cut off. The overall response is 85% with 76% useable material. This is above the figure expected by DVA. A survey is to be conducted on non-respondents to the questionnaire.

8.8. Hearing Services:

The meeting was advised that the changes coming into effect on 1st November would entail an entitled veteran selecting an approved provider and be locked into that provider for a period of four years. If a veteran selected a local private provider and then travelled, repair

and replacement of hearing aids would be difficult. It was advisable for a veteran to select a provider who serviced Australia wide.

8.9. TAS: GST:

Proposed: TAS

Seconded: QLD

That letters be written to the appropriate members of Parliament in regards to the effect of the GST on fixed incomes.

CARRIED

8.10. War Widows:

Brian McKenzie had placed this item in Debrief.

Some replies had been received in response to the Debrief article. The article appears to have been well received.

8.11. WA: Landmines:

This matter was discussed as to whether this issue came within our Constitution.

It was decided that this Association can express concerns about landmines but cannot express any views on the issue.

8.12. NSW: Housing and Medical needs of Veterans:

NSW raised the matter of the Government directing money towards the housing and medical needs of veterans instead of sending aid money to Vietnam.

The meeting was advised that the monies referred to were directed towards specifics within the budget and that such monies were not transferable between Government Departments.

8.13. NSW: VVAA Savage Family Appeal:

Proposed: WA

Seconded: QLD

That the National Council will not accept any liability for trust funds but that this does not deter Sub Branches from being involved in trusts. In view of the complex nature of arrangements for NSW Sub Branches, the National Council is not prepared to accept the responsibility for trust funds in NSW at this time.

CARRIED

NOTE: Mick Scrase to be advised that he is not to use NSW National Council Office letterheads in his capacity of National Chemical co-ordinator.

8.14. VIC: VVCS Name Change:

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: TAS

That the National Council set the minimum criteria for any agreement to a name change to the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service when and if such a step is required.

CARRIED

ACTION: Criteria to be discussed at State level with ideas to be presented at the National Congress.

8.15. VIC: National President/National Secretary:

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: TAS

That the National Constitution represents fully that the incumbents of the positions of National President and National Secretary should not hold the positions of State President or State Secretary or the reverse.

CARRIED

ACTION: National Secretary prepare Constitution amendment(s).

8.16. VIC: Major Reunions:

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: SA

That the National Council reaffirms the policy, previously put in place, that States do not support the conduct of national reunions and Corps (not unit) reunions which are planned to fall on or around the 18th August in a calendar year and, that if any organisation decides to do so, the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia does nothing to advertise or assist such a reunion or occasion. The National Executive is to expand on this policy for presentation to the 1997 National Congress.

CARRIED

8.17. VIC: National Elections:

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: TAS

That the National Constitution represent fully, that, at any National election the voting method be by a show of hands, with those voting being present and not excluded from the meeting.

MOTION LOST (1 For 7 Against)

Note: The voting method for National Elections, at this stage, is to be decided by the National Council meeting just prior to the National Congress.

8.18. Threat to Veterans' Rights:

A long discussion ensued on this matter.

Proposed: WA

Seconded: TAS

That a letter in regards to the threat to veterans' rights, drafted at this Council meeting, be sent to Bill Maxwell (DVA), Minister for Veterans Affairs and Repatriation Commission.

CARRIED

8.19. Diagnostic Panels:

Proposed: TAS

Seconded: WA

That John Printz, Brian McKenzie, Geoff Trevor-Hunt with Clive Mitchell-Taylor as a reserve, be the delegates to attend the conference on Diagnostic Panels.

CARRIED

8.20. NAC Report:

John Printz reported to the National Council on the activities of the National Advisory Council. Applicable items issued to Delegates.

8.21. National YVP Report:

Reported on by John Printz. Papers handed to delegates.

8.22.VIC: Membership:

Proposed: VIC

Seconded: WA

That Paragraph 13 a (1) (b) be amended to include all persons listed on the Vietnam Veterans Nominal Roll.

CARRIED

ACTION: National Secretary to prepare Constitution amendment.

8.23. SA: Standardised Membership Cards:

The Secretary advised that this is in progress but will take a fair bit of time.

8.24. SA: Abolition of VRB:

It was agreed, in principle, that this Association does not agree to the abolition of the VRB.

ACTION. SA to prepare notice of motion for National Congress.

8.25. NT: Lowndes Lambert:

It appeared that there were communication problems with the company. The Secretary is to investigate with Lowndes Lambert.

8.26. NT: Abbreviations:

A list, almost completed is to be distributed when ready.

8.27. QLD: Document availability:

Qld spoke about the presentation of documents for consideration at this Council meeting on the Friday night was unacceptable. Victoria apologised for the late presentation.

8.28. QLD: Aged Care:

QLD raised concerns about the current Government policy on aged care and that Vietnam veterans would, eventually, be affected.

It was resolved that a discussion paper on options be draw up for the 1997 National Congress.

ACTION: Rob Cox to prepare a paper on this subject for distribution prior to National Congress.

8.29. QLD: War Graves:

Applications for entry are required for entrance to Terendak War Cemetery. Applications are to be made to the Vice Consul at the High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. A time delay should be anticipated. Article to be placed in Debrief.

8.30. Use of Logo:

Proposed: TAS

Seconded: WA

That the Executives of State and Sub Branches be authorised to use the logo on Association business cards.

CARRIED

The President thanked all who attended for their input and thanked SA for their assistance for the weekend.

The President declared the meeting closed at 12-15 PM.

.....
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

.....
NATIONAL SECRETARY

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NATIONAL COUNCIL

INCOME SUMMARY 1 JANUARY 1997 TO 10 OCTOBER 1997

Receipt No	Total Amount	Capi- tations	Airfares & Accn	Govt Grant	Donat- ions	P L e	Insure	Interest	Other	Remarks
2917669	173.00								173.00	congr 96 accom
2917670	1685.00	1685.00								Vic
2917671	255.00	255.00								Qld
2917672	344.70		344.70							NT Nat Council 96
2917678	3900.00			3900.00						Nat Grant
2917673	100.00				100.00					P&M Bond
2917674	5.00	5.00								Rob Cox
2917675	1860.00	1860.00								Qld
2917676	1775.00	1775.00								WA 96
2917677	2141.00	725.00	966.00				350.00			Tas
2917693	214.00		214.00							GT-H
2917692	762.00		762.00							ACT
2917691	2550.00	2550.00								Vic
2917679	1290.00		1290.00							Vic
2917680	1141.00	515.00	626.00							Qld
2917681	350.00						350.00			WA
2917682	1125.00	1125.00								WA
2917683	782.00		782.00							WA
2917685	1898.00	1000.00	898.00							SA
2917686	202.95		202.95							SA (Nat Council 96)
2917684	650.00	650.00								ACT
2917687	898.00		898.00							NT
2917688	350.00						350.00			NT
2917689	150.00	150.00								NT
2917692	248.00		248.00							Methven congress
2917694	700.00						700.00			Qld
2917695	220.00	220.00								Tas
2917696	700.00						700.00			Vic
2917697	350.00						350.00			ACT

Sheet1

2917698	116.00				116.00	Koolamara refund
2917699	930.00	930.00				Qld
2917700	149.85		149.85			WA (Nat Council 96)
2917701	229.50					Vic
2917702	350.00					
2917703	3900.00					
2917704	932.90					
TOTAL	33427.90	13445.00	7381.50	3900.00	100.00	
PLUS	932.90					
PLUS	16000.00			16000.00		
TOTAL	50360.80					
				2800.00	90.95	289.00

SEP 97

**VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COUNCIL INC
CASH BOOK BALANCE SEPTEMBER 1997**

INCOME

Date	Particulars	Rec No	Amount	Bank Date	Bank Amt
1997					
Total					0.00

EXPENDITURE

Date	Particulars	Amount	Cheque No	Prsted Date
Total				0.00

Balance brought forward from previous month 19124.22
 Plus: Receipts for current month 0.00
 SubTotal 19124.22
 Less: Expenditure for current month 0.00
 Total 19124.22

Balance as per Bank Statement (Commonwealth) 19124.22
 Plus: Cash on hand; deposits not credited 0.00
 SubTotal 19124.22
 Less: Cheques not presented 0.00
 Total 19124.22

Unpresented cheques

Total unpresented cheques 0.00

OCT 97

**VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL COUNCIL INC
CASH BOOK BALANCE OCTOBER 1997**

INCOME

Date 1997	Particulars	Rec No	Amount	Bank Date	Bank Amt
	VVAA Vic	2917704	932.90		932.90
Total					932.90

EXPENDITURE

Date	Particulars	Amount	Cheque No	Prsted Date
10 Oct	G Trevor-Hunt Sec expenses	816.05	000222	
10 Oct	Jetset airfares Council SA 97	4501.00	000223	
10 Oct	Nat Council expenses	?	000224	
Total			5317.05	

Balance brought forward from previous month	19124.22
Plus: Receipts for current month	<u>932.90</u>
SubTotal	20057.12
Less: Expenditure for current month	<u>5317.05</u>
Total	<u>14740.07</u>

Balance as per Bank Statement (Commonwealth)	0.00
Plus: Cash on hand; deposits not credited	<u>0.00</u>
SubTotal	0.00
Less: Cheques not presented	<u>0.00</u>
Total	<u>0.00</u>

Unpresented cheques

Total unpresented cheques 0.00

Commonwealth Bank
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
ACN 123 123 124



WANGARATTA VIC.
Telephone CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE 13-222-1

THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA NATIONAL COUNCIL INC
ARBN 068 734 50

0036784
THE TREASURER
PETER J LIEFMAN
339 FERRARS ST
ALBERT PARK VIC 3206

Branch Account
Number Number
3531 1013 2921

Type of Account
CHEQUE ACCOUNT
BEARING INT

Date	Transaction Detail	Debit	Credit	Balance
30AUG1997	STATEMENT BEGINS - OPENING BALANCE			19124.22 CR
30 SEP 1997	CLOSING BALANCE			19124.22 CR

FOR CONVENIENT INTERNET SHARE
TRANSACTIONS - PLACE ORDERS ON-LINE
AT WWW.COMSEC.COM.AU AND PAY VIA
OUR INTERNET BANKING SERVICE, NETBANK.

Statement Ends	Page Number	Total Debits	Total Credits
30 SEP 1997	30: 1/ 1	0.00	0.00

- 1 Please verify the correctness of all entries immediately and notify the bank of any errors.
- 2 Cheques etc., although passed to credit, are accepted for collection only and will not be made available until cleared.
- 3 All entries are subject to verification and authorisation. Any items appearing above which are subsequently not paid or are withdrawn will be adjusted by a reversing entry on your next statement.
- 4 Please retain this statement for taxation purposes if required.