

SECRETARYS REPORT FOR AGM AT DORRIGO

Hopefully everyone will have read the Minutes of the last AGM held in Canberra during the Plaque Dedication weekend. We made a number of decisions as an Association.

Following on from a rather busy previous four years of getting to the plaque laying weekend, the past 12 months has still been busy but in a different way.

The Exec took a decision to encourage those on our many lists to come forward and join our Association. The result has been disappointing as only 50 or so have renewed. Over the past few years, we have contacted over 200 out of our 350 or so Suppliers alone that went to Vietnam. Other members from the three Headquarters, Petroleum units and Air Despatch etc have joined us too so that is encouraging. This is interesting when you look at the discussion generated at the last AGM about who could join and the name of our organization for internet purposes.

There is no room in our association for a "them and us" view! We are not gaining members, despite all the work involved since our inception as a registered organization to contact all those who served in our platoons, and an attempt to bring in the wider RAASC community.

We keep asking the questions: what can we do for you to make our association more relevant? We'd love you to come forward and tell us.

In an endeavor to improve the promotion of our association, we have relaunched ourselves on the internet, and the end result is a small indication of the huge time, commitment and dedication of those involved in bringing it about. Whilst the Home page site is fairly static, we have uploaded hundreds of your photos to a website which can continue to grow. New messages affecting members will advise upcoming news between newsletters. There is no forum-we tried that and no one was interested. However you can email or phone us if you need to make contact. For our coffee table book, we are still interested in recording our specific history.

To date we have heard precious little. BUT-go to the various links if it helps to shift the brain cells around and generate some memory. You can bet that in 50 years those outside of our unique association will not care too much. We should! It is our history and should be placed on record while it can be honoured.

I am particularly keen to honour the work of Christina, our Membership Secretary and Welfare Officer. We would be struggling, I would be struggling without her efforts. You owe her a great debt of gratitude.

Lastly, how about hunting down someone who is not yet a member or has let their membership lapse to consider rejoining?

Russ Morison

Secretary Aug 2011