



RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 21 MAR 2013 AT THE COWES RSL VIC

Present: 27 members present including:

Geoff and Leonie Christopherson, Tony Galea, Bob Denner, Ron Anderson, Anne and Graeme Beulah, Don Noy, Barry Carroll, Barry Anderson, Russ Morison, David Evans, Bruce Manning, Denis Cowling, Peter Kennedy, Paul Griffiths, Ron Anderson, Marty Ansen, John Barrett, Glen Breden, Nick Brightman, Denny Van Maanenber, Stewart McKay, Barry Mining, John Quilford, Graeme Sherriff, Ken Taylor, Col Weaver

Apologies: David McLachlan, Bob Tyler, , Bob Matthewman, Christina Luff, Les and Rosemary Francis,

CONDUCT AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

The meeting opened at 1400, and President Bruce spoke briefly. Details are in his report attached.

The business of the AGM is to:

1. Confirm the business of previous meeting at Dorrigo in 2011,
2. To elect a committee and other sub committees as reqd to maintain and strengthen the association.
3. Update the members on any general business being undertaken in the name of the association

The Minutes from the Dorrigo meeting in Aug 2011 were confirmed.

Business arising from the previous meeting

There is no business arising from the previous meeting. However, as we have not yet laid an Association Plaque at Dorrigo, we agreed to return there over the Vietnam Veterans Day in Aug 2013 and have commenced action to have a plaque produced for that purpose.

Election of Office Bearers

The President explained the role of the Executive and the need for others to run the reunions. That said, the Chair was handed to Bob Denner, all positions declared vacant and nominations sought for the positions below.

Canberra-based Executive:

President	Bruce Manning
Vice President	Ray Brown (in absentia)
Secretary	Russ Morison
Treasurer	David Evans
Membership/Welfare Manager	Christina Luff
Public Officer	Tony Galea

Regional Executive members

North Queensland	Tony Simon (in absentia)
Brisbane and Environs	Don Noy
Gold Coast	(no one available but covered by Don as required)
NSW Country	Bob Denner
Sydney Metro	Barry Carroll
South Australia	Noel Schluter
Victoria	Tony Galea
Tasmania	Glen Breaden (in absentia)
Western Australia	Mal Saxby (in absentia)

Each member was voted in unanimously by those members present.

REPORTS

Presidents Report

I wish to thank all of you who have been able to make it to this reunion. I find it great to see you here and pleasing that now, after the fledgling beginnings of our small organisation, there is still such interest in renewing old acquaintances. I think we have some 59 attendees at this reunion. These gatherings continue to grow.

There are many veteran organisations and they each go through ups and downs. For my part I seek to keep our organisation simple, principally in providing an organisation that enables us to get regularly get together. There are often concerns in veteran organisations that are personality based. I find these less than helpful. Each of us has our own personality and we need to accept each other and get on with life. Life is too short for any other strategy.

David McLachlan, our patron called me on Thursday 14 March to pass on his apologies as he has to attend an RSL National Executive meeting. David is a great friend of our organisation and I know he places great store in us veterans keeping in contact with other. David asked me to visit the recently opened Vietnam Veteran Memorial Walk in Seymour on my way to this gathering. He urges you all to visit it as he sees it as a considerable contribution to carrying on the legacy of our service. Apparently we are all named on the walk.

In his stead Geoff Christopherson has done us proud by attending this reunion and helping with our formalities. I wish to thank Geoff on your behalf. It disappoints me that too few of our former leaders engage with us. I live in hope. It always is a source of great support to see Bob Denner attend as he does and bring with him a confidence to our formal proceedings.

I wish to thank the members of our executive. They work hard to keep things going. Christina Luff has a difficult job and she does it willingly. David Evans keeps our accounts in order, a task that not many would relish. Russ Morrison keeps us on the straight and narrow and Ray Brown asks great questions that ensure attention to your concerns. Thank you to you all.

My thanks go to Tony "Perc" Galea and his helpers for their work in getting this reunion together.

Membership

Our Secretary has prepared a membership proposal for us to adopt at our AGM. In general it is sound and warrants your support. I never get to hung up on the membership question as it consumes time and energy which in small body such as ours diverts us from our real goal of keeping in touch. It also tends to divide as there are those of us who pay our dues yet there are others of our

friends who are not so interested. I recognise that membership is necessary to meet our constitution.

What I urge upon you is to be a member and pay the small membership fee recognising that some of our number will not. We need some fees to keep going. We need our “non” members because we also served with them. Please recognise that keeping our organisation financially afloat is a sound objective and contribute where you can. Additionally let us not argue over something that go on fruitlessly for hours when we all have other things to do.

Notifications

Christina does good work for us in recognising illnesses and the loss of our number. She needs your advice of any illnesses or deaths so that we can pass on feelings to family members. In light of this I urge you to please notify Christina of any matter that we should and would want to recognise.

On such event occurred in the last year. Unbeknown to the Executive Gordon Meares passed away last year. For me this was particularly sad and difficult as I remember giving Gordon such a hard time in Vung Tau. I would have felt particularly happy to meet Gordon at least once more and chat with him.

Executive

I understand that all members of the Executive are happy to stand for office again in the forthcoming year. We do not wish to be an exclusive club and would willingly let anyone that wants to stand take our places. As I see things our Executive has kept things rolling along, hopefully with minimal concern to the members and here we are again meeting in considerable numbers.

Next Reunion

I propose to prevail upon our NSW fellows to organise the next reunion. We have had some respite through Bob Denner’s great work in Dorrigo and Perc’s work here.

My proposal is that we meet again on 4/5/6 November 2014 in Wollongong, centring on the Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort and taking in the sights of the Illawarra.

I am happy to take on board other suggestions for date and venue. I have chosen the November 2014 as it is about 18 months out from this reunion.

Conclusion

I trust that you have all enjoyed yourself here at Philip Island and I look forward to seeing you again in 18 months, if not earlier.

Treasurers Report

Our Account is healthy, and we only now have to submit our accounts to the Auditor, and the ACT Office of Regulatory Services (ORS).

SECRETARYS PROPOSAL FOR THREE YEAR GOLD MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS ASSOCIATION (VSPA)

Our members have previously agreed to send out the newsletter to paid up members, our membership is reducing in numbers for reasons unknown.

The survey we included in the last newsletter was poorly responded to. In an endeavor to let our NON MEMBER veteran mates know what we are up to, we have been chasing up ex RAASC Vietnam veterans by phone where possible. In the process of doing so, most of those have provided an email address to us which we have used to inform them of our activities.

Our proposal has come about as we have reviewed our expenses for the last couple of years.

Factors affecting us include us now having to pay for our newsletters to be printed; and a lack of members not renewing their membership. (All-up costs with postage are approx \$1 per person for each newsletter (based on 50 members), ie. \$4 for 4 editions per person per year). So we have had to find another approx. \$200 for the year. Note: if we had more contributing members the edition cost would be less.

We would like to strengthen our membership base, and have looked hard at our operations and offer the following ideas to save money:

1. We propose to only publish three newsletters per year (not four), primarily in support of our reunions – this means finding approx. \$150 extra per year,
2. We will offer an email version of the newsletter for downloading to those who have the availability of a computer and printer in the home or wish to just view it online. If those members were willing to forego having a newsletter posted this would save us some expense – we weren't looking at reducing membership fees for this though.

Please complete the tear off survey at the end of the newsletter to indicate your preferences. Christina is the contact whichever way you decide to contact her.

3. Our proposal will change the fee structures to make it easier for the members to remember when their fees are due and for what period, and easier and cheaper for the Association to collect. There will be several new membership fee options, being:
 - a. Single annual \$20 (to continue),
 - b. Single three year membership \$50, and
 - c. Family three year membership \$60 - to encourage wives-partners to join.
 If endorsed at our AGM, each of these will commence from 1 July 2013.

Membership-Welfare Officer Report (IN ABSENTIA)

I am sorry I cannot attend the reunion as my daughter is very sick and I need to be in Canberra to help her. I hope you all enjoy the reunion.

From the survey in the last newsletter, there were 15 responses – 10 from snail mail and 5 from email.

As at the end of February, membership for 2012/13 stands at 53. There are three widows to whom we send newsletters, as well as three honorary memberships.

I would like to say a big thank you to all who are attending the Reunion at Phillip Island. Thank you for returning your forms early. This made my job much easier.

I would like to remind members that when paying through the National Bank (NAB), you need to send me your completed membership form, as well as notification of the date the payment was made. This is because our Defence Bank isn't able to record any name details with any payment from the NAB.

Christina Luff
Membership-Welfare Officer
RAASC Vietnam Veterans Supply Platoons Assoc

March 2013

PS: Apologies have been received from Bob Matthewman

Reunion Offer Our reunions are traditionally arranged by the executive and we are keen that in future each is run by the membership. Bob and Gwenneth have done a marvelous job for VSPA and Dorrigo, and now Philip Island. We agreed to run a reunion in Oct14 at Wollongong, and in 2015 at Perth.

Barry Carroll has kindly offered to run the Wollongong reunion in Oct14, and Graeme Sherriff has agreed to run the Perth reunion Nov15.

Approved for release:

Chairman: Bruce Manning

Secretary: Russ Morison

Date.....