



**AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS &
PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION
VICTORIAN BRANCH**

PO BOX 552,
TORQUAY, VIC, 3228

ABN 13 607 864 588

Patron
Major General John Pearn AM, KStJ,
RFD

Telephone: (03) 5261 7332 Facsimile (03) 5226 1889
Email: vicsec@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

APPA VICTORIAN BRANCH
CONFERENCE WITH EX-SERVICE ORGANISATIONS
& GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS
MINUTES

10th November 2001

Held at:

**Greensborough RSL Sub-Branch,
111 Main Street, GREENSBOROUGH.**

Present:

Mr Mike O'Meara – Deputy Commissioner, DVA, Victoria,
Mr Malcolm Uhe – DVA Chairman VYVCC & Assistant Director, Health Victoria,
Mr Lee Webb – President Greensborough RSL Sub-Branch,
Brigadier K. Rossi – Senior Vice President RSL Victorian Branch,
Ms D. French – Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service,
Mr Peter Bruce, CSC, APPA VYVCC Rep;
Mr Robert Turner, President APPA Victorian Branch & KO&UAC Rep;
Mr Paul Copeland, State Secretary;
Mr Gavin Lee, AVADSC Representative;
Mr Mark James, APPA Member;
Mr Robert Kennard, APPA Member;
Mr Chris Albers, APPA Member; and
Mr Gary Mansfield, APPA ADF Representative.

Apologies:

ESO & Invited Guests:

Brigadier J. Deighton, AM, MC (Ret'd) – CEO Victorian RSL HQ,
Brigadier K. Rossi, AM (RL) – President KO&UAC
Colonel M. Trafford – Commanding Officer Soldier Career Management Agency,
Lieutenant Colonel J.R. Baker – Commanding Officer Army School of Signals,
Lieutenant N. Bennett – The National Centre for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder,
Mr John Printz, OAM – Victorian Training Consultative Group & VVAA,
Mr Ron Cargill – The Vietnam Veterans' Federation – Victorian Branch,
Mr Brendan Lynch – President, VVAA, Victoria Branch.

APPA Members:

Matt Burke, OAM – Vice President APPA Victorian Branch,
Kevin Egan,
Andrew Mottram,
Cameron Sherwood,
David Buckland,
James Parker,
Alan Warhurst,
Ken McKenzie, OAM,
Neville Walley,
Peta Dawe,
Steve Dudley – National Webmaster APPA,
Greg Mitchell,
Blayne Bayliss,
Tony Brown,
Darren Burke,
David Cameron,
Giovana Campana,
Mick Castle,
James Copeland,
Frank Duggan,
Geoff Griffin,
Linda Steward,
Deema Johnston,
Shane Lavell,
Peter Lock,
COL McGahey, CSC,
Ian Mintern,
Jeffrey Mulhall,
Martin Setter,
Billy Sheen,
Robert Steele,
Robert Sumpton,
Graem Thompson, and
Mick Walker.

The Conference Commenced at 1345 h.

1. Mr Lee Webb, President of the Greensborough RSL, opened the Conference and welcomed all members of the APPA Victorian Branch and Invited Guests.
2. Introduction by the State President (Robert Turner), APPA Victorian Branch. Mr Turner briefed the conference of the activities that the APPA Victorian Branch have been involved with in the past 12 months. This includes, School displays, UN Day commemoration at the Shrine of Remembrance, APPA Plaque and Peacekeepers Day at the ARMC and continual networking within the Victorian Veteran Community.
3. APPA Presentation and feedback to ESOs – Younger Veterans' issues. Paul Copeland briefed the Conference of the areas that require ratification with DVA and the ESO community. 10 Key points for ratification of Younger Veterans' Issues were presented.

4. Gavin Lee presented the working relationship with AVADSC and the current anomalies with the Post 1975 Honours & Awards System. Gavin is currently in liaison with Mr Bruce Scott's office IRT the Meritorious Unit Citation for the Force Communications Unit of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.
5. Update Brief of VVAA - Matt Burke, OAM (via Correspondence) and VVAA rep. There was no report forwarded by Mr Burke, nor an appointed VVAA Representative present at the Conference. Mr Lee, who is also the Vice President of the Diamond Valley Branch of the VVAA made a quick brief of the Branch's' activities. Mr Lee also mentioned that a Veteran Expo is to be held at Greensborough RSL Sub-Branch in November 2002. Mr Lee also mentioned that joint efforts from both APPA and VVAA would prove beneficial.
6. Update Brief of VYVCC – Peter Bruce, CSC and Mr Malcolm Uhe. Mr Uhe highlighted the importance of APPA involvement in VYVCC forums and commented that it was the APPA (Mr Peter Bruce), that had brought to the attention of DVA of the F-111 Fuel Deseal/reseal hazard. The F-111 issue is now an allowable VEA item. Mr Bruce also highlighted that the working relationship with the VYVCC was excellent and that many issues can be raised in the forum of the VYVCC that can attract Upper Executive attention.
7. Update Brief of VVCS – Ms Dominique French and Paul Copeland. Ms French presented to the Conference, the services of the VVCS. Of a concern by Mr Mark James was the lack of DVA funded Anger Management Treatment Programs, in which he is attending a program at his own cost. This issue was explained that it was a "required basis", as previous programs had failed with the lack of interest by veterans over a long period of time.

Questions were asked of the following:

- a. Is the VVCS Heart Health Program only restricted to Vietnam Veterans? *Provision for PK/PM is available, however this is dependant upon the number of Vietnam Veterans waiting to attend the course. Remembering that this program is the result of a Vietnam Veterans Morbidity Study, so therefore the focus is on Vietnam Veterans. PK/PM are advised to contact their VVCS office.*
 - b. Are the Sons & Daughters of Vietnam Veterans Program only restricted to Vietnam Veterans? *Question (a) above, pertains to this answer, however, it should also be noted that this program is the result of a morbidity study of Vietnam Veteran Children in 1998. Again, please contact the VVCS for further advice for Peacekeepers & Peacemakers.*
 - c. The changing of the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service to just the Veterans Counselling Service. *Advised that this is a legislative name. Mr Webb stated that this was in the pipeline. Mr O'Meara suggested that APPA continue to pursue this issue.*
8. Update Brief – Department of Veterans' Affairs – focussing on Younger Veteran issues. Mr Mike O'Meara & Peter Bruce. Mr O'Meara discussed the many issues that were raised earlier in the conference and supported the APPA proposal for improving Younger Veterans' Issues. Mr O'Meara advised the APPA to continue with the

lobbying of ratification of these issues and suggested that DVA will look at these issues over a period of time. Mr O'Meara also expressed surprise at the figures of peacekeepers & peacemakers and will take into consideration at future forums of APPA's involvement.

Mr O'Meara has invited Peter Bruce, Paul Copeland and other committee members to attend a DVA meeting at 1000 h on 27 Nov 01. Mr O'Meara asked Paul if he wished to present the Younger Veterans' Issues, of which Paul agreed.

9. Round up of Presentations and finalisation of discussions. Robert Turner thanked all Invited guests and stated that the Conference will benefit the Younger Veteran and the APPA's future networking and resolution to future issues.

10. **The Conference was closed at 1615 h.**

P.A. Copeland
Secretary

November 2001

I concur/do not concur with comments:

P.J. Bruce, CSC
President

November 2001