



AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION

VICTORIAN BRANCH

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19 October 2001

The Executive Committee

The Returned & Services League Geelong Sub-Branch,
50 Barwon Heads Road,
BELMONT, VIC, 3216

Subject: Younger Veteran Issues

To the Secretary:

I firstly wish to introduce myself to yourself and the Geelong RSL Sub-Branch. I am a Medically Discharged soldier (Warrant Officer), who proudly served in the Australian Regular Army from 18 March 1981 through to 01 July 2001. I was medically discharged after 20 years service, as a result of my war caused injuries and illness (PTSD) whilst on Operational Service in Cambodia. I have also served as a Peacekeeper in the Middle East (1995 – 1996), The Republic of Vanuatu in Cyclone Relief Operations (Jan 1992), and finally in the Kingdom of Tonga with a Special Forces Training Team in July – August 1991.

I joined the Geelong RSL Sub-Branch mid this year as I have resettled in the region in May, and wished to be involved with the Veteran community. My RSL No is 324. Unfortunately I was unaware of the QGM held in mid September last month, this was possibly due to my hospitalisation during that time.

As a Young Veteran, I would like to propose some areas that I believe requires changes to DVA entitlements and Honours and Awards Post 1975, and have these proposals presented to the Victorian RSL Branch HQ, then on to RSL National HQ for lobbying to the Federal Government. I have seen many motions in Mufti over the past years that appear to only relate to WWII veterans and War Widows with Gold Card issues. Believe me, I do not wish to take away these deserved motions away from them, however I would like to see a positive action on Younger Veteran issues, which may pave the way for further recruitment of us into the RSL for the future.

Please find attached to this letter, a copy of proposals that have been drafted by me in the capacity of the State Secretary, Australian Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association (APPA), Victorian Branch. I look forward to a positive result from these issues and hope that the Geelong RSL Sub-Branch will support my proposals for National HQ lobbying.

Respectfully,

P.A. Copeland