

**2/3rd Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Association
Executive Committee Meeting At 1/5 Cloris Avenue, Beaumauris
On Sunday 8 March 2009 At 2.00 PM**

Present Lynton Rose (President), Colin Bragg (Secretary), Matthew Heddle, Anne Rae.

Apologies Ann Bragg, Graeme Heddle, John Hepworth (Treasurer), David McDonald (Historian)

Lynton welcomed those present and apologised for the short notice for the meeting, but explained it was a reflection of the dates on which Committee members were able to attend.

AGM & Reunion

Colin advised the 2009 AGM and reunion had been booked for Friday 24 April at the RACV City Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne, commencing at 11.45 AM.

After some direct negotiation with the RACV Events Manager, the RACV had agreed to charge the same costs per person as had previously been negotiated with the Naval & Military Club (which had gone into Receivership).

Prices for the 2009 AGM / Reunion are:

Remembrance Group: \$45.00, including annual subscription of \$15.00

Regiment Members: \$35.00, including annual subscription of \$5.00

The Association is subsidising the function by \$15.00 per head. (the refreshments component).

Members of the Remembrance Group (39) and Regiment members and/or their widows and families (108) were notified by mail during the week ended 6 March 2009.

The AGM and reunion will be held on Saturday 24 April in 2010 and Saturday 23 April in 2011.

Lynton suggested the Committee should consider adopting a policy fixing the date of the AGM and reunion to the Saturday preceding ANZAC Day, and that this item be placed on the Agenda for the AGM on 24 April.

ANZAC Day March

Colin reported he had been in touch with ANZAC House regarding the assembly point, timing and order of the march on ANZAC Day.

Unfortunately, because ANZAC House had not updated their mailing list, the 2/3 did not receive the documentation in time for this information to be included in MUFTI.

Specific information regarding the march was included in the mail out to Remembrance Group and Regiment members.

ANZAC House has been provided with background information about the new President for the benefit of TV and Radio broadcasters.

Matthew Heddle advised that Dave Thompson has the Banner.

Matthew volunteered to be one of the two persons to carry the Banner on ANZAC Day.

“Take Post”

Colin reported he had received a very positive response to his direct approach for articles for inclusion in “Take Post”, and had already received articles from:

- Bill Rudd about p.o.w.’s in concentration camps,
- Anne Rae about the scarcity of water,
- John Fryer regarding his father Keith,
- Malcolm Webster relating to his sister’s recollections of the war years, and
- David McDonald regarding the Australian War Memorial Film Archives.

Other articles have been promised.

A Vale list had been completed, and a “Secretary’s Column” had been drafted.

A paragraph relating to the Remembrance Group was suggested for inclusion in “Take Post”.

A President’s Report was requested from Lynton.

Cameron Bragg has been retained to produce the 2009 issue of “Take Post” for a fee of \$750.

Options for printing “Take Post” are being investigated, and include providing a copy on a CD to Office Works and utilising their printing services.

Emailing “Take Post” to members with email addresses is also being investigated, and as a way to reduce mailing costs.

Every endeavour is being made to produce, print and distribute “Take Post” prior to ANZAC Day.

Colin informed the meeting that “Take Post” was first produced in 1988 at the initiative of former President Ron Bryant – prior to 1988, the Association only produced an annual summary of activities and people .

Colin also advised he has a complete collection of all 21 issues of “Take Post”, and that many of the early editions contained articles which could be reproduced in future editions of “Take Post”.

Correspondence

Inward

- Various notifications of the deaths of former Regiment members
- RACV Contract (For AGM and Reunion function)
- MUFTI (RSL Magazine from ANZAC House)

- ANZAC Day pro-formas from ANZAC House relating to requests for transportation
- Alf Sutherland donation of \$100

Outward

- DVA Applications (2) – for Web Site Creation and Digitisation Project
- Signed RACV Contract and 25% Deposit)
- Letters to Remembrance Group regarding the AGM and Annual Reunion.
- Letters to Regiment List regarding the AGM and Annual Reunion.

DVA Applications

Following encouraging discussions with a senior Melbourne based DVA Officer regarding our proposal to submit funding applications under the DVA “Saluting Their Service” Grants Program, David McDonald and Colin Bragg prepared and lodged two funding applications in October 2008, each seeking a grant of \$3,000..

Due to an unexplained bureaucratic “mix up”, the applications were not received for consideration by the Review Panel until Christmas Eve, too late for consideration by the January meeting of the Panel.

On 5 March, a Canberra based DVA representative rang and advised:

- The Association should contact Patrain (Patricia) Sabine of the Australian War Memorial with regard to the Digitization Project Application.
- The Web Site Project Application could not be funded because of the DVA policy excluding funding for web site creation

In a subsequent discussion with DVA’s Melbourne Office, Colin was advised to “take up the policy issue with your local member” and also to ask the RSL for support in having the policy amended.

Colin advised he had met with his local member Dr. Sharman Stone, explained the background to the application and provided a copy of the application to Dr. Stone, who indicated she would take up the issue with Minister Alan Griffin.

Colin also advised he had spoken to Brigadier Keith Rossi (retired) of the Victorian RSL who undertook to take up the issue through a number of Committees on which he sits.

Keith Rossi advised that the RSL web site had only cost \$1,000 to set up (and that it had been set up by his grandson). Keith also queried the value of the web site, and in particular the number of hits it was likely to attract.

Both Lynton and Anne queried the unknown level of future hits being used as a criteria, particularly when such an argument is aligned with the unknown number of book sales of a book funded under the same program.

Colin further advised that he had subsequently spoken to his son Cameron (retained by the Association to produce “Take Post”) and asked him to provide costs associated with a “low cost” web site.

Failure to obtain funding for this project will impact on the level of contribution required from the Association, either from the Investment Account or by way of an appeal to members for contributions.

Finance Report

In the absence of Treasurer John Hepworth, the Secretary presented a financial report up to 6 March 2009.

Current Operating Account Balance	\$2,093.04
Investment Account Balance	\$8,000.00

The Operating Account balance includes the 25% deposit of \$337.50 already paid to the RACV and an initial \$180 received from members for their attendance at the reunion and/or their "Take Post" subscription.

The Secretary sought and was granted permission for a Petty Cash Float of \$200 to offset out of pocket expenses already incurred in postage and stationary costs

John Hepworth has previously indicated he wishes to resign from the Treasurer's role after 63 years, and as a consequence, a new cheque signatory form will be required to be completed and lodged with the Commonwealth Bank. It was agreed this can be deferred to the AGM.

The Investment Account is due to be rolled over in May 2009. It was suggested a decision regarding whether a portion of the Investment Account balance be transferred to the Operating Account prior to re-investing the funds, also be deferred to the AGM, by which time a revised cost associated with the web site creation project will be available.

(Note: As of 15 March, \$945 has been received and banked)

Other Business

Matthew Heddle advised the Werribee RSL had invited the 2/3rd to nominate two representatives to attend their ANZAC Day function on Sunday 19 April 2009. Matthew volunteered to represent the 2/3rd.

Matthew also advised the meeting that a Mr. Daryl Wells has a Bofors gun, and is seeking some advice and/or information from former Bofors gunners, particularly with respect to the positioning and functions of the seven man Bofors gun crews.

It was suggested that former 2/3rd members be approached with a view to travelling to Werribee as a group. An item in "Take Post" was probably the simplest way of establishing the level of interest.

(Note: Cec Rae and John Campbell have indicated their interest in attending)

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Sunday 23 August 2009.