

**2/3rd Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Association
Executive Committee Meeting At 2/81 Well Street, Brighton
On Sunday 20 February 2011 At 2.00 PM**

Present: Lynton Rose (President), Colin Bragg (Secretary), Ann Bragg (Treasurer), Graeme Heddle, Matthew Heddle, David McDonald (Researcher), Anne Rae.

Lynton welcomed members of the Committee and thanked them for their attendance.

Minutes Of Previous Meeting

Moved Graeme Heddle, seconded Matthew Heddle "That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 February 2010, and previously circulated to Committee members, be adopted as a true and accurate record."

Correspondence

Inward

- Notifications of deaths of former members (Roy East, Malcolm Webster, Wally Webb, Frank Wallis, Arthur Spiller)
- RSL Kindred Organisations
- MUFTI (Victorian RSL) / CASCABEL (Royal Australian Artillery Association) Journals
- Shirley Brown (widow Lawrie Brown) joining her two sons up.
- Dianne Schubert (daughter Ern Cope) offering access to her father's albums.
- Mary Woodfield (daughter KW Elder) congratulations on Take Post.
- Alf Sutherland seeking information on a reo called 'Gates'
- Foster Crooke congratulating Committee on the 2010 Reunion but also requesting larger name tags.
- RACV Quotation for AGM / Reunion Lunch
- RSL Anzac Day Arrangements
- Multiple emails from members advising changes to contact details.
- Letter from former President Cec Rae requesting the Association Committee to lodge a formal objection to the proposed changes to the 2011 ANZAC Day March.

Outward

- Half Year Report to Remembrance Group members
- Half Year Report to Regiment members
- Emails to all (56) members on email requesting a spare copy of 'On Target'
- Letters / emails to Dr Karl James (AWM), Edie Russell, Ian Brown, Phillip Brown, Betty Spiller, Graeme Guy, Trevor Smith, Christopher Rance, Helen Rossiter, Dan McGlinchey (AWM), Russell Luckcock.

Annual Reunion

a. Membership Fees / Annual Reunion Charges

The Secretary informed the meeting that the date of the 2011 AGM and Reunion coincided with Easter Saturday. The RACV had advised that because of the public holiday on Easter Saturday, the cost of the Reunion lunch would attract a 10% surcharge, increasing the cost per head from \$49.00 to \$53.90.

The Secretary proposed that an across the board increase of \$5.00 per head in the membership fees would not only offset the surcharge applicable to the 2011 reunion, but also offset the increasing cost of postage and production costs associated with the production and distribution of 'Take Post'.

The annual membership fees for former Regiment members and widows would be increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00, and the annual membership fee for other members would be increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00.

Summary

Category of Member	Current Membership Fee	Proposed Membership Fee	Annual Reunion	Annual Cost
Former Regiment members and widows NOT attending the reunion	\$5.00	\$10.00		\$10.00
Other members NOT attending the annual reunion	\$15.00	\$20.00		\$20.00
Former Regiment members and widows attending the annual reunion		\$10.00	\$30.00	\$40.00
Other members attending the annual reunion		\$20.00	\$30.00	\$50.00

After discussion, it was moved *Graeme Heddle, seconded Anne Rae* "That the annual membership fees be increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00 for former Regiment members and widows, and from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for other members."

b. Signage

Matthew Heddle requested that more specific signage be located at the ground floor level of the RACV. The Secretary undertook to follow up with the RACV.

c. Official Launch of Web Site

David McDonald raised the issue of the web site being officially launched by the Minister for Veterans Affairs or his representative.

Graeme Heddle suggested that the Prime Minister should also be invited to launch the web site as she is the local member with respect to the Werribee Race Course where the regiment undertook its training prior to its departure.

(Note: Although the Regiment underwent basic training at Werribee, the members were recruited from reception centres at Geelong, Caulfield and Royal Park.)

Following discussion, it was agreed to adhere to protocol and invite the Minister for Veterans Affairs or his representative to launch the web site on the basis that:

1. The Department is the funding body of our web site.
2. It is a positive way of overcoming the Department's stated reluctance to fund "web site developments"

The Secretary was requested to prepare a formal letter inviting the Minister to launch the web site.

David McDonald commented that brief "launch notes" would need to be provided for the Minister or his representative.

The Secretary advised the meeting that internet access is available in the RACV function room for a fee of \$24.95.

Because of the "risk" associated with a live web site launch, David McDonald had suggested that the web site be down loaded to a DVD to be used as the platform for the launch demonstration. However, technical advice indicated that this was not possible, but that a series of screen dumps embodied in a Power Point presentation would achieve the same outcome.

David McDonald and Anne Rae agreed to liaise with regard to producing a Power Point screen dump presentation.

d. Annual Reunion

The Secretary advised that the RACV Club at 501 Bourke Street would be the venue for the 2011 Reunion, which will be held on Saturday 23 April 2011.

A plated meal with a choice of two main courses and two deserts has been negotiated with the RACV, who have also agreed to include a large salad bowl for each table.

The RACV has agreed to waive the per head beverage charge of \$16.00 per head and replace it with a cash bar account, which has a minimum spend of \$400 attached to it. This equates to a minimum of approximately \$6.00 per head if 60 people attend the reunion.

On Target Digitisation

The Secretary advised the meeting that in response to his email request, he had received five spare copies of 'On Target', one of which had been provided to David McDonald to give to DatacomIT for the digitisation process. David indicated that the digitised version of 'On Target' was expected to be available before the AGM.

Following discussion, it was *moved David McDonald, seconded Ann Bragg* "That a searchable and down loadable digitised version of 'On Target' be placed on the web site for free public access"

It was further agreed that:

- A CD version be produced for distribution to libraries
- The four hard copies of "on Target' received by the Secretary be retained by the Committee and be made available to members on a loan basis via a notice placed in 'Take Post'

Recognition Of Long Serving Committee Members

Suggestions had previously been made that presentations be made to some of the long serving Committee members at the AGM.

There was discussion as to who should be recognised and the form of recognition. It was resolved that no special presentations should be made and that the recognition of long serving members should be restricted to the current web site recognition detailed in the Association History section of the web site.

70th Anniversary of North Africa and Mediterranean Campaigns

2011 represents the 70th anniversary of the Crete, Tobruk and Western Desert battles involving Batteries of the 2nd / 3rd Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

It was suggested that the President's Report in the 2011 "Take Post" and the President's Report at the AGM would be ideal vehicles to recognise these anniversaries.

David McDonald undertook to provide the President with appropriate background material for inclusion in his reports.

Details of commemorative ceremonies in Australia for the Battle for Greece and Crete organised by the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand or the Joint Committee for the Commemoration of the Battle for Greece and Crete will be placed in the 'News & Events' section of the web site when they are available.

2011 ANZAC Day March

The announcement by the Victorian Branch of the RSL to change the conduct of the 2011 ANZAC Day March was discussed at some length.

The RSL have decreed:

Changes (to the ANZAC Day Commemoration) relate to providing sufficient vehicles for all WW2 Veterans participating in the March to ride in comfort and safety, and to

preserve the dignity and military formation of the March by grouping individual Unit banners into their WW2 Divisional groups for Army, and equivalent aggregations for Navy and Air Force. Veterans will ride in vehicles immediately behind the Division's unit banners or Navy and Air Force equivalent, and descendants representing a Veteran no longer with us will march immediately behind them.

Protocol

- *WW2 veterans are encouraged to use transport provided and form up behind their respective division, or equivalent, grouped banners, and remain in the vehicle until the March is completed*
- *NOK should march as a group behind the veterans and be old enough to march the full distance (1.8km) without assistance.*
- *NOK representation should be restricted to 1 per veteran.*

The Committee and (by mail) former President Cec Rae expressed their disappointment at the changes, particularly given the short notice.

It was *moved Lynton Rose, seconded Ann Bragg* that:

The Association writes to the RSL, the Kindred Organisations & Unit Associations Committee and to the Minister, seeking reconsideration of the proposed changes on the basis of:

- Insufficient notice
- Inadequate consultation
- The loss of identity
- The limit on the number of descendants representing deceased veterans.

The Secretary was also requested to add an item to the News & Events section of the web site and to email all members of the Association.

2011 Take Post

The Secretary advised the meeting that the 2011 "Take Post" will contain 16 pages (after some heavy editing and prioritizing of potential articles already in hand).

The front page will carry an article, with photos, by David McDonald and Terry Gleeson relating to the history of the Moora / Berkshire Valley headquarters of sections of the Regiment on their return from active service in the Middle East.

One printing quote for \$292.60 had already been obtained and a second quote was being sought.

It was agreed to distribute "Take Post" at the AGM / Reunion Lunch as has been the case for the past two years.

Moora / Berkshire Valley Headquarters Sign

David McDonald reported on his recent trip to the Moora Shire and the poor state of existing HQ 2 / 3 A-A Regiment sign. Moora is some 200 kilometres north of Perth and about 100 kilometres from the coast. The sign is on private property.

Following discussion, it was *moved Graeme Heddle, seconded by Lynton Rose*, "That David McDonald be authorised to make enquiries regarding the existing sign and to authorise reasonable costs of its refurbishment"

Power Point Presentation

Following discussion, and the success of the presentation at the 2010 AGM, it was agreed to show the Power Point presentation at the 2011 AGM / Reunion.

Apart from some additions and corrections, it was suggested that the presentation be slowed down to provide more time for viewers to identify people in the photographs.

On the recommendation of the Association's web site developer, it was agreed the presentation be converted to a Youtube file to enable public viewing on the web site.

The Secretary was authorised to liaise with the web site developer to implement the recommendation to convert the file for Youtube viewing.

Cataloguing Our Documents and Memorabilia

David McDonald informed the meeting of a Victorian Government initiative, which will enable small organisations to create records (catalogues) of documents and items, and securely and permanently store them on an on-line data base. It was suggested that the paper records held by the Secretary and other items currently being stored by Graeme and Matthew Heddle would be suitable to include when the application is available.

The project is being developed by Museums Australia (Victoria), Museum Victoria and the Department of Business and Innovation.

Service Records

The inclusion of the Service Records is regarded as an important complement to the 'Officer Profiles' already on the web site. Whilst the Service Records are available from the AWM web site for four of the ten inaugural officers of the Regiment (Hipworth, Rhoden, Stokes and Young), the other six (Baglin, Jorgensen, Hayes, Hughes-Hallet, Margetts and Michaelis), can only be obtained on payment of a fee of \$16.50 each.

It was *moved David McDonald, seconded Anne Rae*, "That the Service Records for Baglin, Jorgensen, Hayes, Hughes-Hallet, Margetts and Michaelis be obtained from the AWM .

Campaign Medals

The Committee has received a number of queries as to why only the Australian issued medals are listed on the web site, when a number of former members were awarded overseas issued medals.

The Secretary and David McDonald explained that only Australian issued medals are currently listed as all members of the Regiment are entitled to wear them, dependant only on the theatre of war in which they served.

It is acknowledged that a few former Regiment members were awarded medals issued by other countries, which are worn on the right side of the chest. David McDonald undertook to further investigate the issue of foreign medals.

Greece / Crete Medal

Recently, the Commonwealth Government reversed its long-held policy of not making changes, retrospectively, to the medals and decorations awarded for service prior to 1975. This has opened the way for it to consider awarding a medal for the WW2 Greece/Crete campaign.

The book *Diggers and Greeks* by Dr Maria Hill was recently reviewed, and at the book's web site is a petition calling on the Commonwealth Government to create a WW2 medal for the Greece/Crete Campaign.

Refer to <http://www.mariahill.com.au/diggersandgreeks/petition.htm>.

Dr Hill urges support for the Australian soldiers who fought in Greece and Crete by signing the online petition to urge the Australian Government to issue a Greek campaign medal to veterans and/or their children for the 70th anniversary of these campaigns in 2011.

The Secretary was requested to include details in the 'News & Events' section of the web site, so that members and visitors can be directed to the petition.

Finance Report

A financial report for the period 21 February 2010 to 20 February 2011 was presented.

- Current Operating Account Balance \$4,370.23
- Investment Account Balance \$8,000.00 (Reinvested on 5/1/11 for seven months at an interest rate of 6.0%.

Petty Cash

A Petty Cash reconciliation relating to expenditure for the period 21 February 2010 to 20 February 2011, and detailing out-of-pocket expenses totaling \$653.88 (including the purchase of Microsoft Publisher for the production of 'Take Post') was tabled.

The Secretary sought a Petty Cash Float of \$800 to offset out of pocket expenses previously incurred and in anticipation of future postage costs.

It was *moved Ann Bragg, seconded Lynton Rose* :

"That the Financial Report for the period 21 February 2010 to 20 February 2011 be accepted and the Petty Cash reimbursement of \$800 be approved."

Mid Term Report

Anne Rae raised the question of producing a smaller 'Take Post' mid way through the year. After some discussion, it was agreed that the existing mid-term report could be augmented with photographs and small articles.

Werribee RSL

The Association has received an invitation from the Werribee RSL to attend commemoration ceremonies on Sunday 17 April. Graeme and Matthew Heddle indicated they would be pleased to represent the Association. A cheque for \$50.00 was approved for the purchase of a wreath to be laid at the ceremony.

Titles

David McDonald requested that he be referred to as the Association's Honorary Research Officer. On this basis, it was agreed that Graeme and Matthew Heddle would be referred to as the Association's Honorary Archivists.

Acknowledgement

It was *moved Graeme Heddle, seconded Anne Rae* "That the contributions of Secretary Colin Bragg and Researcher David McDonald with respect to the development of the web site be recognised and recorded in the minutes of the Association."

Both Colin and David indicated their appreciation of the gesture.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 1635 hours.

Next Meeting

To be determined - likely to be late in August 2011.