

**2/3rd Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Association
Executive Committee Meeting At 2/81 Well Street, Brighton
On Sunday 3 March 2012 At 2.00 PM**

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

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

Minutes Of Previous Meeting

Moved Graeme Heddle, seconded Ann Bragg "That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 February 2011, and previously circulated to Committee members, be adopted as a true and accurate record."

Business Arising From Previous Minutes

- "On Target" Digitisation
- Launch of Web Site / digitised 'On Target'.
- Purchase of Officer War Histories
- Refurbishment of Berkshire Valley, WA, RHQ sign
- Cataloguing Our Documents (<http://victoriancollections.net.au>)
- Copies of 'Take Post' with NLA

The "On Target " digitisation, the Web Site launch and the purchase of Officer War Histories had all been undertaken since the previous meeting.

Research Officer David McDonald undertook to edit the Officer War Histories prior to them being placed on the web site.

The logistics, approvals, process, cost and timing involved in the refurbishment of the Berkshire Valley RHQ Sign was still to be clarified.

Cataloguing the Association documents and placing copies of "Take Post" with the National Library of Australia remain on the "back burner".

David proposed that the Association also seek to have the NLA web site include a link to the 2/3rd web site.

Correspondence

Secretary Colin Bragg explained that a high proportion of correspondence is dealt with via email, and that it was normal to receive two or three emails, either directly from members or indirectly through the web site, every week.

The Secretary circulated a list of some 75 items of correspondence that had been received or dispatched since the previous meeting of the Committee.

More technical requests were referred to David, such as “Can you advise which Regiment manned the anti-aircraft guns on Sydney Harbour Bridge during the war” and “Can you advise the location of unexploded ordinance fired by anti-aircraft gunners off the West Australian coast”.

Inward

- Notifications of deaths of former members
- Minutes of the Bi-monthly meetings of the RSL Kindred Organisations & Unit Associations Committee
- Quarterly MUFTI Magazine (Victorian RSL)
- CASCABEL (Royal Australian Artillery Association) Journals
- RACV Quotation for AGM / Reunion Lunch
- Request for Funding Acquittal from DVA
- RSL - Anzac Day Arrangements
- Multiple emails received from members advising changes to their contact details.
- Multiple emails received through the web site requesting information.

Outward

- DVA Funding Acquittal Form
- RACV Contract for AGM / Reunion Lunch
- Half Year Report to Remembrance Group members
- Half Year Report to Regiment members
- Multiple emails to enquirees requesting information

Financial Report

Colin Bragg explained that:

- (a) RACV had increased the per head charge to \$54, up from \$50 in 2011.
- (b) A 50% deposit of \$1,350 (based on an estimated cost of \$2,700 - 50 people at \$54 per head) had been paid – RACV have increased their deposit requirement from 25% to 50%.
- (c) Drinks will be charged at cost.
- (d) The current operating account balance of \$1,442.44 plus anticipated revenue of \$2,250 (50 people at an average of \$45) will be adequate to pay the balance of the RACV costs and the printing and distribution of “Take Post”.
- (e) The balance of the operating account is significantly lower than twelve months previously (\$1,442 compared to \$4,370) due primarily to the expenditure of

the DVA Grant funds on web site development in the previous twelve months, the digitisation of "On Target" and the early payment of the increased deposit.

Discussion took place relating to the need to increase subscription fees to off set the subsidy currently paid by the Association. It was agreed that:

- (a) Subscriptions are retained at \$10 for original members and widows and \$20 for descendants for the period April 2012 to March 2013.
- (b) For the 2012 Reunion Lunch a fee of \$30 per head for members and \$40 for non-members will apply.
- (c) Subscriptions and Reunion Lunch charges are to be reviewed prior to the 2013 AGM and Reunion Lunch.

Colin requested an advance of \$300 to replenish the Petty Cash Float in anticipation of postage costs associated with the invitations to the AGM, the distribution of "Take Post" and consumables such as envelopes and stationery.

Matthew Heddle requested a cheque for \$50 to cover the cost of a wreath to be laid at the ANZAC Day commemorations held at Werribee, where the 2/3rd undertook the basic training.

Moved Graeme Heddle, seconded Ann Bragg "That the Financial Report for the period 20 February 2011 to 26 February 2012, and previously circulated to Committee members, be adopted as a true and accurate record, and that a Petty Cash advance of \$300 be authorised."

Web Site

Suggestions relating to improving the web site included:

- (a) Replacing the existing Milne Bay photo on the Home Page with a series of rolling photos.
- (b) Inclusion of a donation option on the Home Page with a hyperlink to the "Contact Us" page, and including an explanatory clause setting out why and how the funds would be utilised (ongoing maintenance and expansion of content).

President Lynton Rose suggested that the web site should have its own report at the AGM, including such information as changes to the web site in the past twelve months, what projects are currently under development and statistics relating to the number of hits on the site.

David asked whether statistics were available regarding the number of hits on the web site and/or the source of the browsers. Colin advised that these statistics were available and undertook to provide the link to David.

AGM / Annual Reunion

After some discussion, it was agreed the Powerpoint presentation should be shown again but should updated by adding new material acquired during the past twelve

months. Colin undertook to provide Anne with a CD with the photos and documents obtained from John Marshall, Dianne Schubert, Gwen Tonkin and others.

Additionally, it was agreed that the Powerpoint presentation should be turned off during the formal proceedings of the AGM.

Anne Rae suggested that a "first-timers" welcome be introduced at the AGM acknowledging those members who had not previously attended an AGM and Reunion Lunch of the Association.

Colin advised that internet access is available in the RACV function room for a fee of \$24.95, should anyone wish to browse the web site.

As was the case in the previous two years, 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 again 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.

2012 ANZAC Day March

Colin advised the meeting that the 2012 Order of the ANZAC Day March will revert to that which was in place up to and including 2010. That is, all members of the Association (original veterans and their descendants) will march behind their individual Unit banners. Veterans choosing to ride in a vehicle (supplied by the RSL) will ride immediately behind the banner with the marchers marching behind the vehicle.

Colin further advised that because of tram works in Swanston Street, members intending to march should assemble on the eastern carriageway (not the service road) of St. Kilda Road, immediately south of Princes Bridge.

Assembly time is 9.15 AM.

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.

2012 Take Post

The Secretary advised the meeting that the 2012 "Take Post" will again contain 16 pages.

The front page will carry an article, with photos, by David McDonald relating to David's visit to Crete in May 2011. Other articles include extracts from the diary of Vern Maxwell, extracts from the audio interview with Ern Cope, the "Frank Hands Story" and a Vale for John Hepworth.

Matthew Heddle tabled the diary extracts of Sergeant Hugh Hill, 8 Battery covering the period from 29 December 1940 to 2 February 1943 with the view that excerpts be included in "Take Post".

Because the 2012 issue was all but ready to go to print, and it already included two articles based on diary extracts and the transcript of an audio interview, it proposed the Hill diary extracts be deferred to the 2013 issue of "Take Post".

Colin requested an electronic copy of Sergeant Hill's diary, which Matthew undertook to provide.

It was agreed to again initially distribute "Take Post" at the AGM / Reunion Lunch, but to distribute it between the main course and desert.

Colin indicated that he was intending to have the local Bizworks Printing Group produce the 2012 issue of "Take Post" – the same group who printed the 2011 issue.

Because the Secretary and Treasurer will be in Sydney from 14 to 18 April inclusive, all copy for "Take Post" is required to be provided to the editor by Friday 30 March.

Other Business

Colin reminded the meeting that he had inadvertently overlooked in the previous two years providing members with the opportunity to nominate for Committee positions.

As no members of the current Committee were vacating their position on the Committee, and because there were no vacancies on the Committee, it was agreed that should there be any additional nominations, those persons would initially be seconded to the Committee until such time as the Constitution could be amended to provide for an increase in the Committee.

Colin indicated that a paragraph inviting members to nominate for the Committee will be included on the invitation to the AGM / Annual Reunion.

Recognition Of Long Serving Committee Members

The Committee agreed that the recognition of long serving members should be limited to the current web site recognition detailed in the Association History section of the web site.

Retention of the term "Remembrance Group"

Colin argued that whilst it was necessary to differentiate the original Regiment members from the descendants (Remembrance Group) when the former Committee initiated the proposal that descendants be admitted as full members of the Association, it was more appropriate in 2012 to refer to all members as members.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the term "Remembrance Group" should be retained, but where and as appropriate, its use would gradually be phased out.

Memorabilia

Matthew Heddle indicated he had access to items of memorabilia which could be placed on display at the AGM / Annual Reunion. Given the interest in similar items in previous years, the Committee agreed that these items should be displayed.

Regiment History

Lynton tabled his father's hand written account of the day-to-day issues confronting the Regiment. As his father was a member of RHQ, Lynton indicated that his father's account provided a very perspective compared to the personal diaries of members of individual Batteries.

Lynton undertook to have his father's papers typed so that they could be electronically transmitted and included in a future edition of "Take Post".

Proposed Meeting Between Serving Officers And 2/3rd Veterans

Colin referred to an email received from Captain Michael Squire, the current Instructor in Gunnery for Ground Based Air Defence in the Royal Australian Artillery.

Captain Squire is seeking to arrange a meeting between himself, four recently graduated Duntroon Lieutenants and a number of the 2/3rd veterans to talk about their battle experiences.

Whilst initially it was suggested they attend the AGM on 21 April, it was felt that a smaller group meeting would be more appropriate.

Accordingly, it was suggested that arrangements be initiated to meet at the RACV on 5 May 2012 in a private dining room and that the meeting comprise Captain Squire, the four Lieutenants, six 2/3rd veterans and their carers/family members and one or two members of the Association's Committee.

Specific seating and logistics arrangements could be refined at a later date, but in the meantime, Colin undertook to:

- (a) Speak with the RACV about hiring a private dining room
- (b) Contact potential 2/3rd veterans
- (c) Liaise with Captain Squire about "on the day" arrangements

Captain Squire has indicated that the Army would pay for the function.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 1615 hours.

Next Meeting

To be determined