



1ST COMMANDO REGIMENT ASSOCIATION - VICTORIA INC.

Incorporated in Victoria Number A0014983Z, ABN 87 282 474 621

Patron: Gen Sir Phillip Bennett AC KBE DSO
Life Patron: Brig W.H. "Mac" Grant OAM RFD
Life Patron: Col Peter Seddon

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held at Fort Gellibrand Williamstown Saturday 24th May 2008 at 1615 Hours

Present:

Peter Lynch
Peter Beasley
Terry Beckwith
Bruce O'Connor
Glenn MacDonald
Sheryl English
Peter Tierney
Keith Smith
Dick Pelling
Keith Dalley
Jock Giblin
Barbara Palmer
Peter Bowden
Major Brett Miller

Frank Wheatland
Jack Ripa
Roy Walden
Major Steve Pilmore
David Rice
Keith Hughes
Barry Higgins
David Sheppard
David King
John Woodruff
Peter Cronk
John Haywood
Andrew Leong

Lindsay Lorrain
Liz Maclaine
Bob McDowell
Bruce Parker
Geoff Woodman
Barry Creighton
Adam McClure
Peter Campion
Mike McLoughlin
Bob Trumper
Trevor Bailey
Maurie Priestly
William Speed

1. Apologies:

Richard Godden, Drew Gordon, Tony Mills, Rodney Fraser, John Davidson, Frank Read, RS Billett, Adrian Cookson, Neill Tranter, Armin Durr, Bob Jones, Brian Hinneberg, Nigel Moth, Dudley Scott, Bill Robb, KJ Hulsbergen, Dick Cara, Pam Payne, Richard Rutkowski, Doug Scott, Michael Wells, Doug Knight, General Bennett, Brig Phillip McNamara, PD Finnigan, Chris James, Col Graham Ferguson, Ian Teague, Tony Jones, Ian Storey, Norm Govett, Ed Nicholas, Paul Copeland, Ray Moye, David Schulz, MajGen Mike Clifford, Steve Healy, Rob Prior, Kevin Bott, David Waterston, Dennis Jenkins, David Woodman, Max Hill, Roman Stuczynski, Leigh Power, Rob Osborne, Marc Preston, LtCol Gavan Duncan

2. Welcome

Guests – Bob Trumper (ex British Paratrooper) – guest of Roy Walden

Past Association Presidents – Bruce Parker, Geoff Woodman & Bruce O'Connor

3. Minutes of 2007 Annual General Meeting:

The Minutes of the 2007 Annual General meeting were distributed prior to the meeting commencing.

Motion: "That the minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting be accepted."

Proposed: Keith Hughes

Seconded: Roy Walden

Carried

4. Presidents Report.

The President, Robert McDowell presented his 2008 Annual Report, which will be published in the next magazine.

Highlights from the report:

- the continued heavy workload carried by the Unit (2 Company, 1st Commando Regiment);
- changes in leadership at the Company & Regiment level – welcome to Maj. Brett Miller and Family;
- thanks due to some non-committee members. In particular I note my appreciation to a previous president, Bruce Parker; our Public Officer, Peter Lynch; Auditor, Mrs Mavis O'Connor and our piper, David Sheppard. Thanks too to Jack Ripa and others for the dedicated service they provided in what turned out to be by far our greatest self help project, the Memorial Rock at Fort Gellibrand;
- an update on the National Body of our Association – our NSW colleagues have now joined the fold as the NSW Branch;
- membership status within the Association; and
- the Committee had to make some hard financial decisions

5. Financial Reports

Treasurer John Haywood presented the Treasurer's report (which will be reproduced in the next mailout)

a. General Fund

Highlights included:

- A net loss of \$1,665.51 for the year ended 31/3/2008 (due to subsidising the 2007 AGM Reunion Dinner, the final significant cost of relocating the Memorial Rock and a decline in memorabilia income)
- \$1450.00 held in Trust for the OR's Club deck project (to be refunded/distributed according to Donor's decision).
- Transfer of funds (\$8,500) to the Welfare Fund to offset printing costs & expenses incurred with relocating the Memorial Rock.
- Planned change to our Accounting Year (from April-March to January-December) – to be voted on later in the meeting
- Planned increase in membership fees - &40 to \$45 for ordinary Members and \$20 to \$25 for serving members and those over 70 as they see fit.

b. Welfare Patriotic Fund

The Welfare Patriotic Fund showed a net deficiency of \$5,067.87 as at 31/12/2007. The Fund is used as a working account and is periodically refreshed with funds from the General Account to ensure timely payment of fees and charges associated with our magazine/newsletter mail outs

Motion: “ That the Financial Reports be accepted as presented and discussed”.

Proposed: Roy Walden

Seconded: David Sheppard

Carried

6. Appointment of Auditor

John Haywood thanked our Auditor, Mavis O'Connor CPA of M.E. O'CONNOR ACCOUNTING & TAXATION SERVICES, and recommended that the Association continue to have this Company conduct audit activity for the Association.

Motion: “ That Mavis O'Connor CPA of M.E. O'CONNOR ACCOUNTING & TAXATION SERVICES, be engaged as the Association's Auditor for Financial Year 2008”.

Proposed: Bruce Parker

Seconded: Geoff Woodman

Carried

7. Property Sales.

The Secretary Glenn MacDonald read out the Annual Property & Memorabilia Sales report in the absence of retiring Committee member Drew Gordon.

The new items on offer this year are a tee shirt (grey with areas of service involving Special Forces over the past year) and multi purpose lanyards

Members are reminded that regular updates to the Memorabilia list are posted on the Association web site.

8. Activities.

Dick Pelling presented the Activities report.

Highlights were:

- 16 Activities arranged
- The Tidal River pilgrimage in Nov 07 – rededication of the cairn by the Premier
- The Archery Day in Dec 07
- The Wilson's Prom walk in Jan 08 (where the older members started investigating the use a boat to get to the camping sites in future years)
- Rifle Shoots at Moe & Violet Town, and
- All the Anzac Day activity

The “standard” array of activities will be arranged again this year.

There was some discussion on the impact that significant increases in Personal/Public liability insurance has had on Companies providing higher risk/adventure style activities – the end result is smaller numbers of Companies with much higher fees

9. Magazine.

Barry Higgins presented his report thanking all those whom had contributed articles and photographs for inclusion in the Magazines over 2007/2008.

He encouraged Members to keep up the flow of archival/historical articles in preparation for a 2 Company Unit history publication in 2010.

He advised of the Committee's decision to meet increasing cost pressures by changing one of the magazines into two broadsheet style newsletters to be distributed after the AGM (to contain AGM outcomes and Anzac Day celebrations) and prior to Xmas (to contain final wrap up for the year and membership renewal information)

There was a vote of thanks to Barry from the Floor

10. Membership.

As at 31 March 08 membership categories were:

158 Financial

23 over 70s

26 Serving Members

207

33 Honorary

5 Welfare

245

The Committee continues to review the Honorary & Welfare lists to remove redundant names and addresses.

President Bob advised that, as presented in the Financial Reports, increasing cost pressures have required the Committee to make a number of changes to Revenue generation and Cost containment. The Committee is recommending that Membership fees increase by \$5 per annum from 1 January 2009.

Motion: " That the Members accept the recommendation to increase the membership fees as presented".

Proposed: Peter Lynch

Seconded: Robert McDowell

Carried

President Bob also reiterated his encouragement of Members reaching 70+ years young to consider not applying the "aged" discount if they can afford to continue paying the "regular" rate.

Frank Wheatland asked if there was anything we could do to bring unfinancial/ex members back into the fold (perhaps "Associate Member" status may help). Lindsay Lorrain advised how the Committee is using current email, telephone calls and newsletter flyer campaigns to address this issue.

President Bob encouraged all present to catch up with one unfinancial mate and lure him/her back into the fold

12. Constitutional Change

As advised in the AGM notification mailout two changes to our Constitution (Rules 2.1 & 9.2) were proposed

Public Officer Peter Lynch gave a summary of the changes – aligning our financial year to an Industry Standard Calendar Year, and providing 5 months after the end of the Financial Year within which to hold our AGM

Motion: “ That the Members vote to accept the revised Rules 2.1 and 9.2 as presented”.

Proposed: Peter Lynch

Seconded: Keith Hughes

Voting Outcome (75% majority required to carry the motion)

The “FOR” vote was unanimous from the floor with 21 “FOR” proxy votes received prior to the meeting There was no “AGAINST” vote from the floor, and only 2 proxy votes “AGAINST” the change to Rule 2.1

The Motion was carried

12. Unit Developments

The OC 2 Company, 1st CDO Regt, Major Brett Miller provided a concise update of activities, changes, operational status and plans for the future for 2 Company.

Key references were made to the Memorial Rock relocation, the operational tempo of the Unit, Fort Gellibrand infrastructure and recruitment focus

Brett thanked the Association for its continued support of the Unit.

Brett asked if the “Best Soldiers” board could be updated for 2008 and expanded size-wise to incorporate future years.

Bruce Parker to arrange on the return of his sign writer from overseas (climbing mountains in Nepal)

13. Election of Office Bearers.

Robert McDowell proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Committee members. *Carried*

As advised in the President's report the new Committee is already known without need of election as there were no nominations from outside the existing Committee, apart from Lindsay Lorrain and Keith Larner, both of whom were drafted onto the Committee with the absorption of 126 Sig Sqn Association for a period of two years which has now expired, and none of the existing Committee has stood down. Committee numbers now revert to the constitutional limit of designated office bearers and five Committee Members.

The new Committee is.

President	Peter Beasley
Vice President	Lindsay Lorrain
Treasurer	John Haywood
Secretary	Glenn MacDonald
Magazine Editor /Historian	Barry Higgins
Property Officer	Andrew Leong
Activities Co-ordinator	Richard Pelling
Committee Members	Bruce O'Connor Keith Larner Richard Godden Keith Hughes Adam McClure
Exofficio (Unit)	Liz Maclaine
Immediate Past President	Bob McDowell

Meeting Closed at 1740 Hours

Next Committee Meeting: HM Engines
1830 Thursday 26th June 2008