

The "Clipped Wings"

Issue 18 July 2010

The Journal of the Air Dispatch Association of Australia (Inc)
Patron ADAA - Major General D.B.Ferguson AM, CSC (Retired)



Par Oneri de Caelo

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The past 3 months has seen all the old committee and the newly re-elected committee engaged in a very intricate house cleaning operation getting the Association back on its feet reputation-wise.

Circumstances saw the past president Tony Dowd resigning, this was unfortunate as he was really putting his all into the Association.

Over the last months I have attended Traveller's Funeral in Maroochydore, the ANZAC day re-union in Melbourne; plus the ADAA election held at RAAF Richmond hosted by 176 AD Sqn. This included the presentation of the "Soldier of the Year" award to "LCpl Matthew Williams" who had recently returned from Afghanistan, and was followed by lunch with the OC, Acting SSM and troops. The morale and turnout of all ranks was spot on, they are surely keeping up the reputation of the Sqn.

The OC and SSM are right behind our Association and we will expect to form an even closer relationship over the coming years. There will shortly be a "Heads Up" coming our way on a special "Back to 176 A.D." function for early in the new year. We as an Association would look forward to you supporting this event.

Finally, it was good to see some change in some of the appointments at the AGM, Nev Varley and Denis McCann back in the saddle, plus Chris Gill, who took over from Paul Mulvey as Merchandise Officer, and Doug Carpenter replacing Curly Nelson as the Association Rep in W.A.

All contact details for the current committee are on the last page of this newsletter.

Clear skies and gentle breezes.

Gary Cole

ADAA MEMBERSHIP 2010 - 2011

Memberships for the new financial year are now due. Thank you to all those who have already forwarded their updates and payments. If you have access to our website, please visit www.adaa.net.au - the membership page has forms, online payment facilities, (credit card and direct debit available), plus a list of who has already paid and what year you are paid up to. A membership form is also enclosed separately with this Clipped Wings edition for those wishing to post payments to us.

This edition of Clipped Wings will be the last one you receive by post if your membership remains unpaid. We look forward to receiving ongoing memberships to support our activities and would love to see our members referring new Air Dispatchers to our Association.



ANZAC DAY 2010

July 2010

The following email was sent to members and associated parties on 12 May 10. As some members do not have email addresses it is republished in the interests of all concerned

APOLOGY

An article titled "Vietnam Revisited" written by John Liston, was published in Clipped Wings issue 16 dated Jan 2010. Subsequent to the distribution of this issue the Committee of the ADAA received a letter from our Patron, Maj. Gen. D. B. Ferguson AM, CSC (Retd) who stated that the article was "defamatory of officers that served with dedication and pride in Vietnam in 1966 – 67 and also questioned the facts as printed in that article.

The committee contacted Veterans involved in the Battle of Long Tan at both ends of the supply chain and came to the conclusion that statements made by John Liston were incorrect and fabricated. The history of the Battle of Long Tan is well documented and we agree with Maj. Gen. Ferguson's assertions as follows;

The mortar and rocket attack on the Task Force base at Nui Dat was in the early hours of 17 August 1966. The perimeter was not probed during the mortar RCL attack. There was no firefight.

All personnel to whom John Liston refers and defames were asleep at the time of the attack and immediately "stood- to". They were not in the Mess. The claimed statements and responses did not take place.

The first mortar rounds that landed in the Task Force area landed in the Engineer area, not the Supply area or on the Postal Sgt's tent. Later rounds did land in the supply / postal area.

John Liston was not on either of the Iroquois that flew the mission to resupply D Coy 6 RAR.

Ted Maxwell was not on either aircraft.

The ammunition was wrapped in blankets and dropped directly to the troops on the ground.

The Association President Tony Dowd contacted John Liston by registered mail seeking a response from John, unfortunately while the letter was signed for as received, Australia Post was unable to confirm that the signature was John Liston's. John denies receiving the letter.

As Bob Buick was mentioned in John Liston's article, the Secretary contacted him in order to verify the statements made by Liston. Bob's response was that whilst he and John Liston were neighbours in married quarters in Australia, he thought John Liston was based at Vung Tau. He could not recall any conversation with John Liston about Long Tan. Sgt Bob Buick was Pl Sgt of 11 Platoon D Coy 6 RAR who took command of 11 Pl after 2Lt Gordon Sharp was killed. Bob was awarded the MM for his actions. Maj. Harry Smith, OC D Coy and the OC Admin Coy were both contacted and they agreed with Bob Buick's statements.

At the ANZAC Day meeting of members in Melbourne last month President Tony Dowd spoke with John Liston about the matter and agreed to wait until John was able to respond. A further copy of the letter was given to John.

The Secretary and members of the Committee had been pressing the President for a resolution as quickly as possible. However the matter was not raised as a matter of concern at that meeting by the President.

The President later offered his resignation to the Association. The committee after discussing the issue at length, resolved to accept the President's resignation.

On behalf of the ADAA the committee unreservedly apologizes to all members and the Australian Veteran Community at large for any offence this article may have caused.

The article written by John Liston is hereby retracted in its entirety as both vexatious and a total fabrication. It was the intent of the Association to take appropriate action in relation to John Liston in accord with the Rules of the Association; however the Secretary has just received his written resignation from the ADAA.

Vice president Gary Cole has stepped in as Acting President.

At the recent AGM a motion was put forward to change the name of the Association to "The Army Air Dispatch Association of Australia". One member had been queried as to whether he was a courier. It was reasoned that the addition of the word "Army" would distinguish us from an air courier company which is in the public domain. It would also clearly identify us as an Ex Service Organisation as well as being prestigious within the wider Armed Services community.

After much discussion it was decided to solicit the views of all members of the Association via Clipped Wings. Would members let me know if they agree or not and also any comments they wish to make. Those with email please send to treasurer@adaa.net.au. Those without may write to us at ADAA Po Box 371 Beenleigh QLD 4207 or contact any Committee Member.

The results will be published in the Oct issue of CW

ANZAC DAY REUNION MELBOURNE 2010

The Association Re-union in Melbourne was well attended and judging by the comments I received it was well received by all and a good time was had by all. The get together on Saturday 24th was attended by all members and wives. A good discussion was had during the evening and the the main point to come from the discussion was that there is not enough information put out by the Association re upcoming events. The Members want to be more informed. I agreed that this needs looking at by the Association Committee.

The March was a great success, the weather excellent . We had 18 marchers plus 2 banner bearers from 176 Ad Coy. We all then adjourned to St Kilda RSL for lunch and a "good old Anzac Day get-together". Many old friendships renewed.

There are some people that I wish to publicly thank for their work in making the week-end the success it was. Firstly a most heartfelt thanks to Graham "Pappy" Papworth. With-out your wonderful assistance Pappy the week-end wouldn't have been. You spent a great deal of your time checking venues and organising the functions we had etc. Most of all the after march get-together at St Kilda RSL (including bus to the RSL, lunch, raffle tickets etc for the princely sum of \$15 per head) was very well received. A most sincere "Thank you Pappy" from myself and from all who attended.

I would also like to make special thanks to the Banner Bearers, Cpl Gareth Ballintine and Pte Josh Howe. Gentlemen, you did yourselves and 176 AD Sqn proud. Your dress and bearing was exemplary at all times. Thank you both. Thank you also to SSM Dennis Bills for organising the banner and for the attendance of the bearers. Lastly but but most certainly not the least to all of the members and partners "Thank You" for your attendance, for without you we didn't have a re-union.

On a sad note on the 14th of May I had the Honour of attending the funeral of Louis John "Traveller" Munt. I had known "Trav" for nearly 50 years. We were in the same Tpt Sec at 1 Coy Ingleburn for a time participating in quite a few exercises (Skyhigh, Grand slam etc). Then in 1960's "Trav" was in my section on detachment to 55 Coy RASC Malaya /Singapore. "Trav" was a good soldier and friend. He will be missed by all who knew him R.I.P. Louis John "Traveller" Munt. In closing I feel I must make mention that by now most Members will be aware that I have reluctantly resigned as President of the Association. I have enjoyed my short "stint" as President, & hope in some small way I have been able to contribute to the functioning of the Association. I wish the Association well in the future and urge ALL MEMBERS to make an effort to attend the next AGM, when advised and have your say in the development of this great Association.

May all your skies be clear and have gentle breezes

Tony Dowd

Alan Howes (First OC, 40 Air Supply Platoon RAASC, 1962-1964)

Hello Barry, and warm and personal greetings to all those good soldiers I happily commanded, in 40 ASP, in 1962-1964 at Randwick, Richmond and Williamtown and at Butterworth in 1963!

I sat next to Allan Bewley at lunch in Sydney last Friday; we talked about the AGM and I said that I was in Sydney for an annual Ethics Conference, at the University of Sydney, 0800 hrs Tue 15 June through to Thursday afternoon 17 June. So please accept my apologies for not being able to be in two places at once!

Plus I'm giving a paper on the Australian-born British Army General Sir John Hackett - some 450 people are expected to attend. Details are on Google at 'AAPAE Conference 2010' should you or anyone else be interested in what I am up to!

Most of you know that the second of Arlene and my four sons graduated from RMC Duntroon into RACT, 30 years after his Dad (Damon in 1987). Some of the younger soldiers will place Damon in his AD days at Penrith, and then in 26 Sqn and Timor.

I'd be pleased and glad to hear from any of my former comrades - I made good contact with Harry Foxley (now he's in UK) and Dave Armstrong and others in WA.

Keep well, as I try to do too! There's 8 grandchildren, so 18 in our family when we get together (Sydney, Canberra, and Melbourne). Arlene and I may be moving to Mornington (south of Melbourne) in the first quarter of 2011, so please keep in touch.

*Alan has given permission for his contact details to be passed on to others:
Phone: 02 6247 7496 / Email: abowes@tpg.com.au*

A smart-arse F-16 fighter jock formates beside a USAF C-130H, and calls up on the radio “Hey you guys watch this.”

He fires up the afterburner, climbs vertically while rolling, completes the loop and passes the Herc just as he goes through the sound barrier with the usual supersonic bang.

He slows down and again formates beside the Herc, “What did you think of that?”



The C-130 skipper says, “Very impressive, but you watch this”.

Eight minutes goes by, then the skipper says to the F-16 pilot, “What did you think of THAT?”

“I didn’t see anything – what did you do?”

“I got up, went down the back, had a leak, come back and had a cup of coffee and a hot donut!!”

MORE FROM ANZAC DAY 2010.....

For me, it all started as a nice day with a Dawn Service at Bargara watching the sun rise over the ocean into the mist then a gunfire breakfast at the pub. (I reckon about 3.7 hours in line to get a dead egg, a piece of string that purported to be bacon, somebody else’s baked beans, and a piece of nice brittle toast.. all served by a lady with the personality of a chipped house brick) I ate that in about 1 minute and whilst eating noticed that the café across the road was open and if I had not waited in the line I could have eaten like a King, well, maybe not a King, but the chamber pot emptier at least!

Had a few beers with some drop shorts and a few Nasho guys.. went to the top pocket and found the list of 101 good ANZAC Day lies and found a few these guys had not heard before (they don’t get out much). Heard a couple of good jokes.... heard a couple of good lies. Condition = Normal.

Headed west back to Bundaberg.. called in to see the RSM and had a coffee with her (she says G’day Colleen - to you and all the Gang!) She gave me the usual speech about not talking to strange women and telling me that I am only allowed out without the leash on these special daze and not to ruin it as I did last year (and the year before, and the year before.. and----)

She also reminded me that I will be needing my special ANZAC Day dictionary in about 4-5 hours time as I start showing off my bi-lingual prowess and breaking into the international language “fluent drivell” followed by a demonstration of the little known northern dialect, “fuloncrap”. (she’s such an encouragement to me.. ^o^..)

Went up the main street and met up with mates from the local Vietnam Vets Centre, went for a walk with them up to the Rotunda in the park (they moved it from the cenotaph in the main street which was too small).

Organisation was fabulous.

The walkees (not marchers, as absolutely NOBODY could keep in step) were bisected by a goods train that decided it had right of way as nobody had checked the timetable with the local railway or turned the signals to red to stopped the train.

So the red lights flashed, the boom gate came down and the pace of the old farts in front picked up to a heart shattering level as the sound of a bell clanging took over from the drums of the pipe band (it nearly bloody killed ‘em.. poor buggers.)

When the walkees arrived at the park there were a number of people with orange coveralls with SES on the back (seeming more like the other famed mob from WW2 who had black uniforms and a love of the letter “S”) who badgered and cajoled the walkees, even those in wheelchairs, to all “stand back behind this line”.

So those compliant did, others said “up yer arse” and went over and sat on some park benches. I escaped, and joined them.

We all realised why the 60, 70 and 80 year old veterans were crammed together under the shade of 2 trees looking like a mob of emaciated bush cattle when the first of the 4,987 platoons of schoolchildren, local organisations, dignitaries, scouts, guides, girl guides, YMCA gym instructors, Orthopaedic Surgeons, CWA Knitting instructors and that famed platoon, (first

sighted on an island somewhere near Auckland) the “Destitute Prostitutes” all passed by ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LINE!!

Yep.. they all took pride of place at the service, the Diggers remained a mob up the back with orange covered, cattle prodding roustabouts keeping the bastards in check.

The service was nice.... I am told it always is.

Met a couple of British ex Paras, good blokes, one of whom said he was fairly sure he knew of Bill Campbell but I think he was just being nice. Then back to the Vietnam Vets Centre. The lads arrived gradually over the rest of the morning usually arriving in carefully crafted drinking squadrons of 3-4 troops from various watering holes scattered throughout the town.

At lunchtime the forward scouts arrived home, these poor buggers were trapped in the local Reserves Unit Mess since the Dawn Service in Bundaberg. Valiant efforts were made to escape I'm told, but they were unable to find a door and their treatment there was inhumane; obviously. I mean, one arrived back jabbering weird sounds, spilling drinks on the table (not necessarily his) and proceeded to lie on the BBQ table out the back of the centre and nodded off.

Obviously subjected to cruel treatment and sleep deprivation. We were all proud of him!

Well, the day progressed slowly, much food from the lovely ladies.. much grog from the unfortunate looking bloke behind the bar much rubbish spoken many very serious about the rubbish spoken, no fights, no arguments..

A good day had by all and about 6pm most had been rescued by various females, by various means, and taken back to their digs.

As I live not far away, I was detailed to stay at the bar as the Treasurer wanted to have a drink with his 5 Navy mates (why he admitted to this I'll never know). I could have gone and left it to the Treasurer, but he had lost his glasses and could not read the till, and I honestly doubt he would have found the front door of the safe to lock it all away.

About 2 hours later.. the Navy had all gone, I packed up everything, rang the RSM to come and get me and Harry dropped him home. Had a couple of beers with the RSM (aka Darling) at home then slowly drifted off to ZZZZland while sitting on the chair out the back. SITUATION = NORMAL.

Seeya mates, wish I was able to meet you all in Arnhem, can't get there regrettably!

Pat Slee

VALE

Louis John Munt - (24th December 1936 – 8 May 2010)

On the 14th December a large contingent of ADAA and ATA members attended the funeral of Traveller at Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast to join Rosetta and family to farewell him in a typical RSL funeral service. Traveller first joined the Army as a National Serviceman in the late 1950's after which he joined the Regular Army. After a brief stint at Kapooka, he moved to Puckapunyal for Corps training and was posted to 1 Tpt Coy RAASC as a driver.

In 1961 he was posted to No 2 Section 39 Air Sup Pl. Upon completion of basic AD and Parachute Packing course, the section was detached to Kemar Pl 55 Company RASC (AD) in North Malaya , to carry out Operational sorties on the Malay / Thai border. During this period he qualified for the British AD Brevet. The section then moved to RAF Seletar to join No 1 Section for Heavy Drop Training, upon completion both sections were employed on Exercise “Trumpeter” a SEATO action in Malaya.

Upon arriving back in Australia he was posted to 40 AD Pl (1962 – 66). Traveller qualified as a Parachutist and later on as a Pathfinder, Crew Commander, and upon completing his promotion exams was promoted to Corporal.

The upgrading of Australia's commitment to South Vietnam required the raising of 176 AD Coy, which saw Traveller completing a tour as a Cpl Crew Comd. Upon completion of his tour he joined 186 AD Coy, and upon completing the Supervisor Aerial Delivery course he was promoted to Sgt SAD.

In the 1970's Traveller moved into the Clerical Stream where he served in a variety of Units.

Traveller has been a member of the ADAA since 1996, always a regular at AD functions.

This colourful character will be missed.

Rest In Peace



In the last edition of Clipped Wings, (Issue 17, April 2010), we printed an article on Operation Market Garden which gave us some background to the WWII Arnhem campaign. In this issue we follow up with the Air Dispatch Units involved and re-supply details. The article was written by our very good friend Arie-Jon van Hees, who will meet us at Arnhem in September.

RE-SUPPLY BY AIR. A SHORT STORY OF AIR DESPATCH UP TO SEPTEMBER 1944. THE EARLY DAYS

With the formation of Airborne Forces in 1940, the need arose to provide replenishment by air. This task fell upon 250 Company RASC. 250 Company became the first RASC Airborne formation, when their Brigade, 31st Independent Infantry Brigade, converted to become 1 Air Landing Brigade in 1941. The Commanding Officer of 250 Company RASC was Major Michael St. J. Packe.

The early days were spent in loading gliders with supplies and packing containers, which they subsequently bombed up into the bomb bays of Whitleys, a most primitive method, when compared with modern day techniques. Initially, it was mainly a case of trial and error.

The expansion of 1 Airborne Division in the latter part of 1942 and early 1943 saw the formation of a Divisional Column RASC consisting of 250 Airborne Light Composite Company RASC and two, 93 and 253, Airborne Composite Companies, RASC. The Divisional Column moved to North Africa in April / May 1943 and the expertise acquired by 250 Company, was passed on to the other two companies. Continuation training continued in North Africa and when 1st Airborne Division returned to the UK in the latter part of 1943, a detachment of 250 Company some 119 strong was detached in Italy and there ran re-supply by air courses for RASC personnel other than Airborne Forces. The 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade Composite Company RASC had a limited re-supply by air capability and remained in Italy with its Brigade.

The formation of 6th Airborne Division commenced in earnest in mid 1943, and 749 Airborne Light Composite Company was the first 6th Airborne Division unit to undertake re-supply by air training. The supply of aircraft had improved by this time, and Stirlings and Dakotas were seen as the main re-supply work horses.

D-Day

The first operational re-supply in North West Europe conducted by the RASC, took place on the night of June 6th when 63 Company assisted by 398 Company manned 50 Dakotas on a re-supply mission for 6 Airborne Division. 5 Dakotas failed to return from this mission. 253 Company had been boosted by air crews from 250 Company and had 80 x 4 man crews standing by. 253 flew their first operational mission on the night of June 7th and by the end of June had flown 89 operational sorties on Stirlings from Fair-

ford, Harwell and Keevil. 63 Company flew a further 31 operational sorties during June on Stirlings from Fairford, Harwell and Keevil. During July, 253 Company flew a further 84 operational sorties on Stirlings from Fairford, Harwell and Keevil. The Airborne Divisional Companies of 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions had now acquired operational experience.

ARNHEM. Operation 'Market-Garden'

In September 1944, the largest airborne operation ever, took place over and on Dutch territory:

Operation 'Market Garden'.

The scope of my publication "Green On...!" concentrates on the involvement of the Royal Air Force and the Royal Army Service Corps 'Air Despatchers' and their parachute re-supply sorties, flown during Operation 'Market'.

The RAF provided the flying expertise to bring the RASC air despatchers to their ordered re-supply drop points and the air despatchers were tasked to swiftly drop their panniers over the DZ in the shortest possible time.

Both depended on the other; none could do his job without the other. In order to get the supplies where they were needed most, both trades did their utmost to supply the airborne troops which had jumped or landed by glider behind the enemy lines.

Between 18 and 25 September 1944, Stirlings and Dakotas of Nos. 38 and 46 Group flew 628 re-supply sorties to the 'Arnhem/Oosterbeek area'. Of these, 89 aircraft did not return to base, most of these crashed or belly-landed in enemy-occupied territory and many of their aircrew, flying personnel and air despatchers alike, paid the ultimate price. With the help of Dutch people and their resistance movement, many RAF and RASC air crew (and sometimes a 'passenger') were able to escape and evade capture. Others had to endure captivity in a German prisoner of war camp.

Extensive research has brought to light that many authors have reproduced 'statistics' without properly checking the data behind these statistics. The author's findings on the 'retrieval percentage' show that the ground troops were able to collect more re-supply tonnage than previously indicated. Nevertheless, the saddest fact remains that most of the re-supply goods still fell into enemy hands. The reasons for this have been elaborately described in this book.

In addition to this the author has tried to shed light on the aspect of 'Air Support'.

An often read remark in books on Operation 'Market Garden' is that "Air Support was poor"..

This was certainly not the case. Given the circumstances the 'little friends' of the US 8th Army Air Force, Air Defence of Great Britain, and 2nd Tactical Air Force did their utmost to bomb and strafe the German troops in the path of the air armadas and to provide the lumbering transport aircraft with sufficient escort and area cover. As "Green On!..." will show, the German Air Force was able to penetrate the protective fighter screen on one single day only. However, when able to hit back, the German Luftwaffe hit back hard...

Lieutenant-Colonel Michael St.J. Packe, the Commanding Officer RASC of the 1 Airborne Division, who had landed by glider west of Arnhem, witnessed the re-supply drops from below and he described his feelings as follows:

"My most poignant memory will always be the time I spent watching the supply aircraft coming over and dropping their containers on an area not under our control....

They were met by a screen of flak, and it was awe-inspiring to see them fly straight into it, straight into a flaming hell.

We thought that some would not face it and would jettison their cargoes, in which case we should get them, for they would fall short and therefore in our lines; but they all stuck to their course and went on, nor did they hesitate".

"Green On!" is dedicated to the brave men of the Allied Air Forces and to the Air Despatchers from the Royal Army Service Corps. During Operation 'Market', 151 RAF crew, 80 Air Despatchers and 2 passengers, paid the ultimate price.

"We Will Remember Them".



"The King" is inspecting a roller conveyer system which was normally placed inside a Dakota. On the roller track supply panniers are rigged in a 'daisy-chain' method, one on top of the other. During 'Arnhem' two such rows, 16 panniers in total, would be pushed out of the Dakota by a crew of four air despatchers. Note standing behind the roller track apparatus: Lieutenant-General 'Boy' Browning, the deputy commander of First Allied Airborne Army.



"Two 'panniers in pairs, daisy chain method' (RAF)

"Air despatchers give the 'farewell kick' to their load". (IWM)



ARE YOUNGER VETERANS ABOUT TO BE DUDDERED ON THEIR MILITARY COMPENSATION?

We Fear They Are

A committee is currently reviewing the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA), the act that covers disability compensation for younger veterans. The committee is top heavy with representatives from the departments of Treasury, Finance & Deregulation and Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Chairing the committee is the Head of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The committee composition gives us strong grounds for pessimism. Take, for instance, the Department of Veterans Affairs. For the last thirty years the Department of Veterans Affairs has tried many times to make it more difficult for veterans' to link their illnesses and injuries to their war service. Some of its attempts have been sneaky, trying, for instance, to slide new legislation in under cover of the Budget. Other attempts have involved hiding its intentions by leaving words unchanged but changing their definitions. Other attempts have involved downright lying.

Some of the Department's attempts have been thwarted by the courts and others by last minute intervention by thankfully vigilant exservice organizations. (Some details of this Departmental behaviour is detailed in another article in this edition titled 'So You Think The Department of Veterans Affairs Is On Your Side. -- Think Again!')

In general, the Department has not achieved its goal to make the Veterans Entitlement Act (that covers we older veterans) less generous, but we are concerned it may see the MRCA review as an opportunity to make that Act less generous than the Veterans Entitlement Act (VEA). And it has like-minded allies in the Departments of Treasury, Finance & Deregulation and Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Their special slant has always been to strip the military scheme of benefits over and above those in civilian schemes, holding up the rather mean SRCA as a model. This attitude stems partly from these departments having no idea at all of the unique nature of military service in general let alone the dangers and trauma of war service. They see no reason why war veterans deserve more generous disability compensation than public servants. So what does history tell us these bean counters would like to see stripped away from the MRCA? They would like to strip away benefits we older veterans enjoy that public servants do not. They are benefits hard won by going to war that sadly have to be defended in peacetime against malevolence and ignorance. They resent, for instance, that the TPI and other disability pensions, under VEA, are paid for life. These government departments have

always wanted to claw that back so pension payments cut out at age 65, like civilian workers compensation payments. Similarly with the War Widows pension. It is paid for life under VEA. Those government departments, if past attitudes are any indication, would love cut that off at 65.

Those of us under the VEA have for many years been able to appeal against DVA decisions to the much valued Veterans Review Board (VRB). So, too, can those under MRCA. But for years, elements of DVA have advocated the VRBs abolition. Perhaps this review presents the cost cutting bean counters their opportunity. The bean counters have already been successful in excluding from the MRCA some benefits enjoyed by older veterans under the VEA. War veterans under the VEA have the unconditional right to Legal Aid when taking their case to the second level of appeal, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Those under MRCA have this right only if they do not first seek an internal review. Why there should be such discrimination has never been convincingly explained.

Under the VEA, veterans with war (warlike or qualifying) service are entitled to extra income support should their war caused disabilities cause them to be unemployable. These bean counters have already been successful in clawing back this right. Under MRCA a war caused disability does not entitle you to one cent more income support than if you had fallen badly at the end of a heavy night at the boozier.

It is unlikely these lost benefits will ever be replaced, though ex-service organizations are advocating hard for their reinstatement.

For thirty years the Department of Veterans Affairs has been trying to make it more difficult for war veterans to have their disabilities accepted as war caused. They have, over the years, tried to water down the 'benefit of the doubt' concession the war veterans enjoy. They have tried in so many ways to make war veterans jump much higher hurdles. They have put special effort into trying to make it harder for traumatic psychological conditions to be accepted. Indeed, at one stage the Department snuck a change in with Federal Budget legislation that set up a panel of DVA selected psychiatrists who alone could diagnose psychological illness and from whose decision there was no appeal. Only the combined outrage of the ex-service community prevented its implementation.

This much is clear. This review committee is bent towards 'clawing back' rather than recommending a generous system. They want a civilian model, not one with extra benefits for those who have risked their lives

and health on the battlefield or subjected themselves to the unique nature of service life.

And why would they think they could get away with it? Because they might sense less opposition in the veteran community because very few younger veterans have taken an interest in these matters.

It is hoped that our own interest and that of other ex-service organizations and the focus of the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table will influence the MRCA Review Committee to recognize Australia's debt to our war traumatized veterans.

**BRUCE ROCK VIETNAM VETERANS GROUP
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO ATTEND
THE TENTH
'BACK TO THE BUSH VETERAN'S REUNION'
1st to the 8th NOVEMBER 2010 BRUCE ROCK WA**



All Veterans, Families and Friends are welcome to come along to BRUCE ROCK

For the 10th Back to The Bush Veteran's Reunion For a great week of relaxation, comradeship, fun and Laughter.

The activities will be **Golf, Bowls, Bingo, Beetles, Rifle Shoot, Town Tours, Card Making.** This year Lucy Stone is having a Flower Power Morning tea in Bruce Rock, a fabulous local fundraiser. The Medical evening will be held on Wednesday 3rd Nov, a very informative evening on veteran's issues.

RAEME 102 Field Workshops
Are having a Reunion and get together here in Bruce Rock so Veterans, Family & Friends of the above corp are welcome to join in.

A School Concert at the **Amphitheatre Thursday Saturday 6th November** is our **Special day**, with **Street Markets**, in the main street. The **Shire Hall** full of info booths covering a **wide range of health issues.** **Flag Association, PVA, TPI etc.** **10th Light Horse Museum, Historical Military vehicles and more.**

At 2.45pm all Veterans and interested persons are asked to form up outside the Shire Hall, for a March through the town to St Peter's Church for a Relighting of the memorial candle at the VIETNAM VETERANS PEACE WINDOW. Followed by a **Free b/cue and entertainment** at the Recreation Centre. A **Free Sunday Morning breakfast** will follow next day, for those people who have to leave us. We hope you will stay and attend the **Unveiling & Memorial Service** dedicated to the **Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels.** Also enjoy the **Brass Bands** playing to entertain you at the **Shire Hall.**

Take a leisurely drive to the **Ardath Hotel for Lunch,** Phone 90651046 for bookings (Accommodation also available). Then rest a while for an evening around **Merv's Bards Pit,** where you entertain us!

Camping around the Oval will be available from Sunday 31st Oct. Moving to the grassed oval on Tuesday 2nd November 2010

It's Our 10th Anniversary

Melbourne Cup Day Tuesday 2nd November

There will be activities at different venues in town so come early and enjoy the Melbourne Cup in **BRUCE ROCK.**

Chris Pickering
PH: 08 90611604
Email: crpick@highwayone.org
Merv Gould
PH: 08 90611143
Email: mjgould@westnet.com.au
www.bruce-rock.wa.gov.au

For further information or to leave your contact details for a more informative flyer please contact the above.

So, come prepared to enjoy real Country Hospitality, have a great time, catch up with old mates and make New ones!!

The Army Museum Bandiana is currently looking for old unit signs to add to their memorabilia collection for RACT. If you have any old signage or any other RACT Memorabilia that you wish to donate to the Army Museum Bandiana, please contact:

OC Army Museum Bandiana

CAPT Phil Craig

Ph: 02 6055 2833

Email: phil.craig@defence.gov.au

Website: http://www.defence.gov.au/army/awma_mus/



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ADAA 15 JUNE 2010 RAAF RICHMOND

The meeting was opened at 11:17 am by Gary Cole, Vice President, who welcomed all present. He indicated that a quorum of members was present with about ten percent of the financial members attending.

Present were: Barry Gannon, Peter Edwards, Vince Head, Tony Dowd, Ron Blakely, Peter de Jeney, Denis McCann, Bren Helson, Chris Gill, Nev Varley, Henry Fabisiak and Kemm Baber. Allan Bewley arrived shortly after the meeting opened. Brian Irving arrived late in the meeting and apologised for his late arrival due to heavy traffic.

The minutes of the previous AGM were discussed and Denis McCann requested the number of financial members of the Association. Kemm Baber responded it was approximately 140 give or take a few.

After some discussion on general matters it was MOVED Tony Dowd seconded B Gannon "That the minutes be adopted as a true account of the previous AGM?". CARRIED

The President then called on the Treasurer Kemm Baber for a financial report.

The Treasurer then provided a financial statement (Copy attached to minutes) and spoke at length on the details. The audit is required to be carried out after the close of the financial year on 30 June and will be done and published in the following edition of the Clipped Wings. A number of questions were raised about the report and Kemm answered all to the satisfaction of the meeting. One particular matter was a sum of \$40-00 which had been written off, another was the cost of Insurance to provide indemnity for Officers and the Association. There was also the cost of sending Vice President Cole to Townsville to represent the Association. After some further discussion it was MOVED Nev Varley seconded Chris Gill "That the Treasurer's report be adopted" CARRIED

The Secretary then provided a copy of Paul Mulvay's report on stock held by the Association which showed there had been very little movement in a number of items for the last year. The Secretary suggested that the Association might consider discounting those items to reduce stale stock and the inventory overall. Some discussion took place and it was moved Denis McCann seconded Chris Gill "That the COM be authorised to make a decision on discounting items, advertising same in the Clipped Wings and reducing the inventory as they deem reasonable". CARRIED

The Secretary then gave a short report on activities planned by the ADAA which centred on the coming International Reunion in Europe this September, there are about twenty four members and wives attending with tours through France, Belgium and Holland ending up at Arnhem for the Market-Garden commemorations on the anniversary date of the assault, 17th Sept. Also attending will be members of the UKADA , NZADA and the Red Hat Chapter from the USA.

The Secretary then raised the matter which had been of considerable concern to the Association due to an article in the January 2010 edition of the Clipped Wings by John Liston. The Secretary indicated that most if not all members would be well aware of the circumstances and the resolution of the matter and he then suggested that unless someone wished to reopen it, that the matter was best left as settled business. After a short discussion it was moved Denis McCann seconded Ron Blakely "That the matter had been properly resolved by the Committee and no further action was required or desired". CARRIED

The President then invited Allan Bewley to act as Returning Officer for an election for all positions on the Committee. To general applause Allan accepted the request. Vice President Gary Cole vacated the Chair and Allan Bewley took the Chair and declared all positions vacant.

He then called for nominations for President : Barry Gannon nominated Gary Cole who accepted the nomination. Allan called for further nominations but none were forthcoming. He then declared **Gary Cole President.**

He then called nominations for Vice President : Peter Edwards nominated Nev Varley who accepted the nomination. Allan then called for further nominations, there were no further nominations and Allan declared **Nev Varley Vice President.**

He then called nominations for Secretary : Nev Varley nominated Barry Gannon who accepted the nomination. Allan then called for further nominations, there were no further nominations and Allan declared **Barry Gannon Secretary**

He then called for nominations for Treasurer : Denis McCann nominated Kemm Baber who accepted the nomination. Allan then called for further nominations, there were no further nominations and Allan declared **Kemm Baber Treasurer.**

He then called nominations for Assistant Secretary : Barry Gannon nominated Denis McCann who accepted the nomination. Allan then called for further nominations, there were no further nominations and Allan declared **Denis McCann Assistant Secretary.**

He then called for nominations for Merchandising Officer : Nev Varley nominated Chris Gill who accepted the nomination. Allan then called for further nominations, there were no further nominations and Allan declared **Chris Gill Merchandise Officer**

He then requested nominations for the positions of State Representatives for the Association and Barry Gannon indicated that he understood that the following persons were prepared to accept the positions.

Doug Carpenter in WA, Denis McCann in NSW, Frank Zuppar in SA, Graham Papworth for Victoria and Tasmania, Nic Nicolai for the NT and Barry Gannon for QLD.

Peter Edwards moved "That the nominations as presented be accepted" this was seconded Nev Varley and CARRIED

Allan then requested any further nominations for the positions, there being none he declared the positions filled as reported.

Allan Bewley then congratulated the incoming officers of the Association and spoke about how pleasant it was to be associated with the ADAA. He then invited Gary Cole to take the chair as the new President and vacated the Chair.

The President then opened the meeting for General Business

Kemm Baber raised the matter of the name of the Association and suggested that it should more rightfully include the word ARMY as part of the name. A good general discussion then took place around the suggestion with all being receptive to the proposed change. The Secretary raised the point that such a matter should be canvassed amongst the broad membership prior to any decision, this was discussed at length and it was MOVED Kemm Baber seconded Peter de Jeney "That the Committee determine the name change proposal as to where the word "ARMY" should be placed in the name and such proposal then be disseminated to the full membership of the Association for their feedback. Then after considering same the Committee make the decision as to the proposal". CARRIED

The matter of Insurance costs was then discussed but no determination was made.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 11:56 AM and invited all to a bar-b-que lunch with the members of 176 AD Squadron and the presentation of the Association award for Soldier of the Year 2009 . He wished all a safe journey home.

TREASURER'S REPORT TO JUNE 30, 2010

The following unaudited report was submitted to the AGM in June.
Financial records are audited after the end of the financial year each year (i.e. after June 30)



INCOME AND EXPENSES (July 09 - June 2010)

Income	
Subscriptions	\$2,640.00
Sponsorships/Donations	\$50.00
Merchandise Sales	\$470.80
Miscellaneous	\$0.06
Postage	\$22.00
Total Income	\$3,182.86
Cost Of Sales	
Total Cost Of Sales	\$514.25
Gross Profit	\$2,668.61
Expenses	
Bank Fees & Charges	\$213.89
Newsletter (incl post)	\$718.60
Merchandise postage	\$40.75
Stationery Supplies	\$75.75
Insurance	\$2,289.65
Soldier of the Year	\$52.70
Floral Wreaths	\$250.75
Meeting Representation	\$420.00
Total Expenses	\$4,062.09
Net Profit / Loss	(\$1,393.48)

BALANCE SHEET (June 30, 2010)

Assets	
Bank of QLD	\$9,622.31
Paypal Holding	\$184.80
Undeposited Funds	\$129.90
Stock on Hand	\$4,180.60
Merchandise Officer on Hand	\$74.60
Total Assets	\$14,192.21
Liabilities:	\$0.00
Net Assets	\$14,192.21
Accumulated Funds	
Retained Earnings	(\$1,669.21)
Current Earnings	(\$1,393.48)
Historical Balancing Account	\$17,254.90
Total Accumulated Funds	\$14,192.21

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