



AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER
VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
P.O. BOX 552, TORQUAY, VIC, 3228

(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)

ABN 59 558 194 094

Patron
Major General John Pearn AM, KStJ,
RFD (Ret'd)

Telephone & Fax: (03) 5264 8244
Mobile: 0419 355 226
Email: president@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Member of:
The National Veteran Mental Health & Well-being Forum
The National Younger Veteran Consultative Forum
The New Military Compensation ESO Working Group
The Veterans' Medicines Advice and Therapeutic Education Services
The Stakeholder Advisory Group to the INTERFET Vet's Study
The National Treatment Monitoring Committee
Female Veterans' Reintegration Research Project

Listed Ex-Service Organisation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs ESO Directory

12 May 2007

Mr Tim McCoombe, OAM,
National President,
Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia,
New South Wales Branch Inc,
P.O. Box 170,
GRANVILLE, NSW, 2142.

Reference: A. Visit by APPVA Delegation to VVF HQ in Granville December 2006

B. VVFA Letter "Deferment of AGM" dated 9 Jan 2007.

Subject: APPVA Bilateral Working Relationships with VVFA.

Dear Tim:

I write this letter to you in order to provide you with a back-brief of our visit at Ref A. I am also writing to in relation to your letter to VVFA members at Ref B.

The visit by the APPVA Delegation to the VVFA HQ in Granville comprised of the National President APPVA, Paul Copeland; the National Vice President, Gordon Traill; and the President of the APPVA NSW Branch, Mr Peter Matthey.

APPVA Delegation visit to VVFA HQ Granville.

The APPVA Delegation met with Mr Tim McCoombe OAM, National President of the VVFA; and Bob Freshfield, National Secretary. The VVFA staff welcomed the APPVA delegation and we did a visit to the VVFA HQ and Welfare House in Granville, of which the APPVA Delegation was impressed with the services available.

"Looking After Our Own"

Discussion points were the following:

1. Younger Veteran assistance in the Sydney region. It was indicated that there is a growing demand for assistance in Sydney, particularly in Holsworthy Barracks and multiple eligibility of current and ex-serving ADF members.
2. The proposed re-naming of the VVFA to incorporate Peacekeepers & Peacemakers was discussed. The APPVA Delegation highlighted that the APPVA in fact owns the Intellectual Property (IP) of the name in any instance relating to an organisation and ex-service association. A copy of the IP document was provided to the VVFA National Board when they met in Adelaide in November 2006 by the S.A. President Wayne Alexander OAM. Discussion was made of this naming, stating that members of 4 RAR (Cdo), wanted to be known as Operational service or war service veterans.
3. The question of why VVFA wanted this name change was discussed and evident that the VVFA want to continue the legacy that they have established over a long period of time. That is the delivery of pension and welfare assistance to all veterans. This was noted by the APPVA Delegation. It was highlighted by the APPVA Delegation as to why the VVFA would want to re-invent the wheel, when there was already a well established Younger Veteran ESO that was representing issues of post 1975 veterans and service personnel. The APPVA is a participant in a large number of National Forums and consults well with Government. It was also indicated that the Minister VA was impressed with the quality of the APPVA Submissions.
4. It was noted by the APPVA Delegation that Mr Bob Freshfield offered Peter Matthey office space at Granville and was to get back to Peter when to start. Peter handles a range of assistance at RAAF Richmond at this point in time and also cannot physically be at the Granville office due to other commitments. It was highlighted that APPVA did not have the human resources to occupy office space at Granville and it will need some time to get to the point where we are confident to fulfil this offer by VVFA. It was noted that there were several paid full time and part time Pensions, Advocates and Welfare officers that operated out of Granville.
5. Issues discussed were COMSUPER (effect of Invalidity Pensions to Veteran Entitlements), Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) and the Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) COMSUPER offsetting under s204 of the MRCA (submission to be sent to VVFA for support). In addition the Tiered system of payment calculations within the MRCA was discussed and it was indicated by the APPVA Delegation that a single Tier system is required, as ADF members of today and post 1975 were career service personnel and there should not be any discrimination of service when an injury, wound or illness is clinically onset.
6. Paul Copeland recognised that the APPVA would be enthusiastic to embark on a Bilateral Partnership between APPVA and VVFA. Therefore, working together with the VVF on veteran matters and also in pensions and welfare assistance. This was well received and requires further discussion between the two ESOs.

Conclusion of Visit.

In conclusion of the visit to the VVFA in Granville, it would appear that the VVFA would be

interested in a bilateral working partnership with the APPVA and that both ESO may be able to work together in the future. This requires further development and discussion between both parties.

VVFA Notice of Deferment of AGM.

The APPVA has become aware of a letter dated 9 Jan 07 from Tim McCoombe of a deferment of the VVFA AGM for 2007. In particular it was noted that one factor for the deferment of the AGM from Ref B, was that *“Legal aspects relating to the use of the title Peacekeepers & Peacemakers in our new title. This will require further considerations with other ESOs to establish an acceptable compromise, thus more time is required.”*

The APPVA would like to highlight to the VVFA Executive that there are concerns within our membership as to the wording of this factor. Our members are proud of their title and do not wish to have this taken away from them by another ESO, attempting to emulate their issues and matters.

I understand that this may be interpreted differently, and that I believe that the intentions of the VVFA are genuine, of which they wish to work together with the APPVA. We seek further discussions with the Executive of the VVFA to confirm that we are working on a bilateral working relationship and that the APPVA name (Peacekeeper & Peacemaker) will be respectfully observed by the VVFA as the IP of the APPVA.

We would like to meet again prior to your stated deadline of 30 June 2007, to further discuss these issues.

Yours Sincerely,

P.A. Copeland,
National President