



**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: (03) 5256 3373

Mobile: 0407 532928

Email: [vicepresident@peacekeepers.asn.au](mailto:vicepresident@peacekeepers.asn.au)

Website: [www.peacekeepers.asn.au](http://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*

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

**Mr Tim McCoombe, OAM**

President

VVAA (NSW BRANCH INC)

(Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia)

PO Box 170

Granville

NSW 2142

12 April 2007

**NAME CHANGE OF VVAA (NSW BRANCH INC) TO VIETNAM VETERANS,  
PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF  
AUSTRALIA (NSW Branch)**

Dear Tim,

Further to our discussion in Canberra, at the National Younger Veterans Consultative Forum (NYVCF) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006, concerning the name change of VVAA (NSW BRANCH INC), I would like to offer the following information in support of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc (APPVA) vehement objection to the inclusion of the words "Peacekeeping and Peacemaking Veterans Association".

Intellectual Property (IP) Australia has a certificate of registration and Trade Mark for APPVA's name. The name includes Peacekeeper, Peacemaker in the context of Associations, Organisations, and Incorporated Bodies. APPVA Inc is registered for the following:

*"Association services being for current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force, State and federal Police veterans who have served on operations overseas including Defence Service being services in class 35."*

*"Looking After Our Own"*

The proposal of the name change by VVAA (NSW BRANCH INC) is therefore considered by the APPVA as not being legal. Legal advice sought has confirmed this belief. We will contest this naming if such is used by another entity, without the expressed permission of the APPVA.

In a hypothetical context, this is perhaps like having a World War II association 30 years ago, wanting to gain extra members from the Vietnam Veterans by taking the name WW2 and Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia and/or Federation.

The APPVA has been the only ESO that represents the Younger Veteran issues in the many DVA and ADF National forums. It also holds an excellent working and consultative relationship with the ADF.

There is enough division within the Veteran Community with the various ESOs. This renaming appears to be history in the remaking with the split of the VVAA and the VVFA many years ago. The Government will be rubbing its hands with glee to see that the Younger Veteran community will be now split and contesting each other. We as ESOs must resist this temptation.

The logic behind the VVFA proposed name change does not appear to be in the best interests in the Younger Veteran community – but is viewed as divisive. We are very thankful that the VVFA in both Sydney and Canberra have been able to assist our veterans with their entitlements. However, this should not be a reason to raise yet another ESO. It is suggested that we work unilaterally and cohesively, rather than fragmenting the Younger Veteran community, who has already the APPVA to represent their interests at the National level.

There is a fragile balance at the moment, by convincing Younger Veterans to be members of the APPVA, or see themselves as carrying on the legacy of veteran entitlements. The proposed re-naming will only provide a detrimental impact, particularly as Younger Vets don't see themselves as veterans and it is very difficult to get them to march on ANZAC Day because of this reason.

We, with the assistance from other ESO, want to encourage these Younger Vets to join the one Association that provides for their specific needs, or the future of the Veteran community in the future will look bleak. We as the ESO community need to be cognisant of this fragile balance and work together, not against each other.

There are veterans in the cyber community saying that “Veterans of Post 75” must organise themselves and take responsibility for the younger veteran. The youngest veteran of Vietnam would be around 57 years young and the WW2 and Korean veterans are well and truly retired. The young veterans of today face the confusing and complicated reality of coming under all three legislations of the VEA, SRCA & MRCA. Not only does APPVA understand the three legislations, but also the intricate details of MSBS, DFRDB, Transition Management Services and the complicated ADF medical discharge procedure. Hence there are distinct generational, legislative and dynamic differences in comparison to the Vietnam Veterans. We have TIP/BEST qualified members around Australia, members of VITA and we are building this capability, by working alongside other ESO.

The President of APPVA, Paul Copeland and I would like to take you up on your kind offer to visit you at your Granville office and discuss this matter with you and your National

Executive. I am aware that we have been kindly requested by yourself and the VVFA to share the premises in Granville. This has been a difficult position that we are in, due to a suitable person not yet been appointed, nor identified. We reject any inference by some, that the APPVA has “knocked the offer back”, as this is completely untrue. I am of the understanding Paul has stated to you on a number of occasions the reason why we have been unable to take you up on your kind offer.

Tim you have been advised and information sent to your centre in Granville of the APPVA, including flyers, magazines and membership applications for the VVFA to notify their younger clientele. The VVFA have also been asked over the years to also encourage younger veterans to join the APPVA, as it focuses on their needs. We have no problem with double badging of them to VVFA and APPVA; however the opportunity should exist to build this relationship and understanding further.

The APPVA will be discussing this as an agenda item at our AGM in December. We are working with the Government to overcome this identified area of concern, by acceptance of a special program to cover these shortfalls.

The APPVA, National President of the APPVA, and I look forward to resolving this issue as soon as possible in a dignified manner. The APPVA looks forward to working in the future with VVAA (NSW BRANCH INC), and VVFA.

Regards

**Gordon Traill**  
Dip T (T&FE)  
National Vice President