

BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS AND ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.
2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 9 December 2021 at 1000 hrs at
The Blue Mountains & Community Hub, Macquarie Road Springwood

The Mick Visinko declared the meeting open at 1005 hours.

Attendees:

Chris McKay (CMcK)	Secretary
Craig Terrey (CT)	Treasurer
Mick Visinko (MV)	Vice President
Roger Lawlor (RL)	Committee
Glenn Daly (GD)	Member
Les Hogan (LH)	Member
Jack Lake (JL)	Member (Vietnamese Liaison Officer)
John McKechnie (JMcK)	Member
Greg Meek (GM)	Member
Brian Seers (BS)	Member
Bob Walker (BW)	Member

1. Welcome by Vice President

The Vice President welcomed members in attendance.

2. Silent reflection remembering those members who have departed this life since the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Roger Dive, Ian Gordon, Lionel (Blue) Jackson BEM, Lorrae Desmond, Eric Glover, Brian Hammond, Russell Horgan, Peter Jones, Patrick Mills, John Pearson, Robert Polo, Edward Steele.

The Vice President requested all be upstanding for one minute's silence for departed comrades.

The Ode of Remembrance was recited by Mick Visinko.

Lest We Forget

3. Apologies

Kevin Blakelock, Darrell Carter, Brendon Fensling, John Fenton, Peter Jones, Stafford Lowe, John Woolley..

Motion that the members' apologies be accepted

Moved: CMcK

Seconded: JL

4. Confirmation of previous minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on 13 September 2020.

Motion: that the minutes of the 13 September 2020 Annual General Meeting as presented are a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: CMcK

Seconded: CT

5. Business arising from those minutes.

None

Moved: MV

Seconded: CT

6. President's Report in accordance with Part 4.24 of the Constitution.

MV advised that PJ would not be standing as President at the meeting and read out the President's Report from PJ as follows:

Morning Members, what a year we have had with Covid 19, but thankfully we are nearly out the other side. Our income has been sadly reduced due to Covid and thanks to Chris McKay's idea for a members' raffle, which has been so far quite successful and should put some monies in the coffers.

Due to ongoing ill health, I will not be standing for President this year, but will assist on the Committee if needed. My ill health is due to everybody being sick and tired of me.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the Committee for their dedicated assistance through the years.

Thank you
Peter

Moved: CMcK

Seconded: MV

7. Treasurer's Report, receive and consider the financial statement of the Association.

Refer to Attachment 1

CT advised that this year our usual fundraising could not be done but the expenses do not go down.

The association is ok with \$88000.00 in term deposit. From next year on things should improve. The raffle we are running at the moment for members only will result in a approximate \$4000:00 profit compared to about \$7000:00 from our usual raffles. The Committee will look at doing raffles online next year, rather than have members sitting in shopping centres selling tickets.

The Lawnmowing service stopped last year and the assets were sold to Dare Disability at a slight loss, so that income stream is not there anymore.

Treasurer's Report is accepted.

Moved: GD

Seconded: RL

8. Receive other Sub-Committee Reports.

a. Wellbeing Sub-Committee Report

MV read out the Wellbeing Report from JF as follows:

As we emerge from winter & the prolonged lockdown due to COVID 19 restrictions, it is very important to remember this virus is still in our community, regardless of where we are located.

It is a fact of life that the majority of our members are in the most vulnerable cohort within the greater community. Your Committee urge you to certainly enjoy life & the pursuits you followed before lockdown but be aware at all times, wear a face mask if it is a requirement, practice good hand washing hygiene & importantly follow your Health Department Guidelines.

On a personal note, it was pleasing to attend the office for the first time since the lockdown & discuss issues face to face with Vice President Mick, Secretary Chris, Treasurer Craig & our ever-hard-working Office Manager Wendy. The team has been working behind the scenes to ensure your Association provides the services your membership brings.

During lockdown, I conducted interview, submitted claims & obtained Determinations from DVA using the standard electronic mediums, mobile phone, email & of course faithful Zoom & Teams.

The first day back in the office also brought my first two face to face interviews in some months.

A final note as this report will be in the final Contact before Christmas.

Enjoy the Festive Season with family & friends stay safe on the road if travelling & importantly continue with your good COVID 19 practices, if you still have doubt about obtaining vaccinations, remember you did get various vaccines as children, the same may have happened during your Service career & we did survive.

JL advised that he had spoken to Angus McDonald, who has had a pacemaker put in recently.

For information: All members.

b. Lawn Maintenance Sub Committee Report

Refer to attached Treasurer's Report

CT advised that the lawn mowing service is no longer operating and the equipment had been sold to Dare Disability.

MV thanked the Lawn mowing Team for their dedication and hard work to keep the service operating.

For information: All members

c. Fund Raising Sub-Committee Report

CMcK advised that he is looking at the online raffle option for the future. No physical tickets will be sold as they are sold online via an ipad or tablet. Local schools run raffles online. A couple of organisations run online raffles for a fee.

CMcK has contacted Glen A Baker about putting on another fundraising concert with schools involved, with the music of the Vietnam War era. It would be around the 18th August.

The previous Odd Angry Shot movie event raised about \$7500:00 with \$1000:00 being donated to Soldier On.

For information: All members

d. Membership Report

MV advised that he had been contacting members with 2011 to 2017 membership to see if they still want to be members. As a result membership will go from 417 to 332 members on the Database.

He will continue contacting overdue members from 2018 year onwards, in the new year.

For information: All members

Items 8a – 8d be accepted

Moved: CMcK

Seconded: GM

9. Suspension of Standing Orders & Election of Returning Officer.

MV announced the suspension of Standing Orders and CMcK nominated GD as Returning Officer. GD advised that Brigadier Nerolie McDonald will be returning to Australia on 5 January 2022 after long overseas postings. She is happy to continue as our Patron if the association agrees. CMcK advised that the association would be honoured to have her as our Patron.

Nominations for Committee positions were taken from the floor.

Moved: LH

Seconded: CMcK

10. Election of Officer Bearers and Ordinary Members of Committee in accordance with Part 4.15 of the Constitution.

Elected Members are as follows:

President – Jack Lake

Nominated by CMcK

Seconded by RL

Secretary - Chris McKay

Nominated by MV

Seconded by CT

Vice President – Chris McKay

Nominated by CT

Seconded by MV

Treasurer - Craig Terrey

Nominated by CMcK

Seconded by MV

Committee – Roger Lawlor

Nominated by CMcK

Seconded by JL

Committee – Greg Meek

Nominated by CMcK

Seconded by JL

Committee – Mick Visinko
Nominated by CMcK Seconded by JL

Wellbeing Coordinator - John Fenton.
Nominated by CT Seconded by GM

Vietnamese Liaison Officer - Jack Lake.
Nominated by BW Seconded by RL

Chaplain - Colin Aiken.
Nominated by CMcK Seconded by JL

Patron - Brigadier Nerolie McDonald.

CMcK thanked GD for undertaking the role of Returning Officer.

11. Re-appointment of Honorary Auditor

Mrs Jillian Williams, CPA, FFIN, FASFA, AACI, MRMIA, MIPA, agrees to continue with this appointment.

Nominated by CT Seconded by MV

12. Re-appointment of Public Officer

Mr Stafford Lowe agrees to continue with this appointment.

Nominated by RL Seconded by GM

13. Re-Appointment of Honorary Solicitor

Mr Trevor Cork BA, LL.M, FTIA agrees to continue with this appointment

Nominated by JL Seconded by CT

14. General Business

CMcK thanked everyone, especially Craig for the work he does for the association.

GL spoke about the future of the organisation and the possibility of not holding a big Memorial Day event in the future, due to the cost and lack of volunteers.

CMcK agreed that we need to think about where we are heading as an association and Memorial Day next year and the form it will take.

BW suggested having a Memorial Day dinner, where members pay or contribute to the cost. GD thought the dinner idea was good but mentioned that it will mainly just be local members attending

JL suggested spending some of our funds on the wellbeing of members instead of having it sitting in the account.

CMcK suggested that Committee members have a responsibility for specific tasks eg. membership.

He thanked MV for the work he had done, chasing outstanding memberships.

There was a general discussion about the future of our association, eg. having just one big ex-service organisation in the mountains not all the little organisations with very small membership.

GL advised that there was a push from the RSL to limit the number of ex-service organisations and sub branches.

CMcK highlighted that there was an issue with recruiting more and younger veteran members in the association and that our membership would just keep decreasing each year.

GM mentioned that our association was set up for welfare assistance and we need to have a purpose. He highlighted that JF was the only person doing welfare at the moment.

CMcK praised JF for his excellent welfare work and assistance to members.

15. Close of Meeting

The Vice President thanked those in attendance and declared the meeting over at 1110 hours.

Jack Lake
President

Chris McKay
Secretary

Dated: 9 December 2021

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