

**BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS AND ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.  
2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 1100 hrs at  
The Blue Mountains & Community Hub, Macquarie Road Springwood**

The Secretary declared the meeting open at 1110 hours.

**Attendees:**

Jack Lake (JL)	President	
Chris McKay (CMcK)		Secretary
Roger Lawlor (RL)		Vice President
Craig Terrey (CT)		Treasurer
Norm Fraser (NF)		Committee
Les Hogan (LH)		Committee
Greg Meek (GM)		Committee
Stafford Lowe (SL)		Public Officer
Alan Burnicle (AB)		Member
Malcolm Campbell (MC)		Member
Glenn Daly (GD)		Member
Peter Jones (PJ)		Member
Wendy Humphrys (WH)		Member
Bob Walker (BW)		Member

**1. Welcome by President**

The President JL welcomed members in attendance.

**2. Silent reflection remembering those members who have departed this life since the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on 11 April 2023.**

Fred Gosbee, Ross Burns, Neville Batcheldor, Graham Glasson, Stephen Sounness, Geoffrey Norley, Clive Connor.

JL requested all be upstanding for one minute's silence for departed comrades.

*Lest We Forget*

**3. Apologies**

Bob Billiards, Jim Fitzpatrick, Stewart McAlister, Mike Matters, Stewart Mitchell, Terry Ryan & Ian Scott.

Motion that the members' apologies be accepted

Moved: JL

Seconded: RL

**4. Confirmation of previous minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on 11 April 2023.**

Motion: that the minutes of the 11 April 2023 Annual General Meeting as presented are a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: CMcK

Seconded: GM

Accepted Unanimously

**5. Business arising from those minutes.**

GD corrected an error at 8a. the Wellbeing Sub-Committee Report which stated “that veterans do not need be TPI to be members” to be members of the TPI Association . He advised that veterans **do** need to be members of the TPI Association. There had been discussions on the matter but no changes had eventuated.

#### **6. President’s Report in accordance with Part 4.24 of the Constitution.**

JL apologised that he did not have a written report available. He reported that it all seemed to be going well under the Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **7. Treasurer’s Report, receive and consider the financial statement of the Association.**

Refer to Attachment 1

Craig Terrey advised that he did not have a written report, as he had just returned from interstate late last night. He provided a copy of the Income and Expenditure to all attendees.

He highlighted that this year we made a loss and that we were not running raffles any longer.

There is a approx. \$5000.00 liability to members who have paid in advance. We are not accepting membership payments in advance due to this future liability when the association is closed down.

Treasurer’s Report is accepted.

Moved: LH

Seconded: SL

Accepted Unanimously

#### **8. Receive other Sub-Committee Reports.**

##### **a. Wellbeing Sub-Committee Report**

Our Wellbeing Co-ordinator, John Fenton sent in his Annual Wellbeing Report as follows:

##### **DVA Claims**

Throughout the year 2023/24 your Wellbeing Team has continued to support veterans with their Disability Claims under the three Acts. BEST Grants have been forthcoming year on year to support these activities, whilst the grant amount is never enough in supporting Wellbeing activities “every little bit helps.”

##### **Wellbeing**

The activities & support of the small team of WSO is essential to ensuring our members are looked after. This in no small part is coordinated by our industrious Office Manager, Wendy, without her ongoing endeavours we would flounder.

##### **Veterans’ Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation)**

###### **Bill 2024**

**This Bill will *simplify and harmonise the existing tri-Act framework of legislation governing veterans’ entitlements, rehabilitation and compensation arrangements that has long been in place.***

The legislation governing veterans’ entitlements, rehabilitation and compensation is widely acknowledged as being complex and difficult to navigate and calls to simplify these arrangements are longstanding.

The Veterans’ Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Bill 2024 (Simplification Bill) **will provide for all claims for compensation and rehabilitation received from 1 July 2026 to be determined under the MRCA.** To support this ‘single ongoing Act’ model, the VEA and the DRCA will continue in a limited form and be closed to new claims for compensation and rehabilitation.

The MRCA will operate as the single ongoing Act going forward and provide coverage for all future claims for compensation, irrespective of when and where the veteran served.

**Veterans’ and Families’ Hubs expanding to Hawkesbury and south-western Sydney.**

**A \$5 million grant has been awarded to RSL LifeCare to establish a unique Veterans' and Families' Hub network connecting the Hawkesbury region to south-western Sydney. The Hub network will connect with ESOs providing tailored services to communities across the Hawkesbury region.**

**This is great news for more than 7,700 current and ex-serving personnel and their families in the Hawkesbury region, and over 11,500 in south-western Sydney, with the Hub network providing improved access to programs, services and support closer to home.**

**This support includes mental and physical health services, wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, and opportunities for social connection.**

**Members should note, whilst RSL Lifecare have been awarded the grant to establish the facility, the Hub when established, will provide support to all Serving, ex-Serving members & their families be they members of an ESO or not. It is not exclusive to RSL Sub-Branch members.**

**A good initiative by Government & DVA**

CMcK advised that John Fenton has Chris Bryett, who is a lawyer, assisting with wellbeing work. There was a general discussion about how complex wellbeing work and training is now and about TPI Pension and Age Pension amounts.

Wellbeing Sub-Committee Report is accepted.

Moved: CMcK

Seconded: GD

Accepted Unanimously

#### **b. Fund Raising & Publicity Sub-Committee Report**

Chris McKay provided the following report:

**Although in 2023 we only had one (1) Raffle Mid-Year that raised \$8482.00 we didn't have an End of Year Raffle due to the difficulty getting Volunteers to man the Raffle stands we still raised over \$9000 due to the holding of the Musical fundraiser Good Morning Vietnam Volume 1, which was extremely successful.**

**Future Fundraising will be more along the lines of holding an annual big splash fundraising event rather than Raffles.**

**The Profits will be donated to worthy Charities for Veterans and War Widows hopefully in the Blue Mountains area and entities like SoldierOn.**

**This type of fundraiser also gives the Association great Publicity in the local community showing that the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc. is still strong in the local and larger Community.**

**The Association looks forward to continuing our presence within the Local Community in 2024.**

CMcK said that sadly the drummer, Jim, from the Good Morning Vietnam Show Vol. 2 died that night, after the Show. He was 55 years old, and the coroner is investigating.

CMcK advised that he would welcome any ideas for future fundraisers.

Fund Raising & Publicity Sub-Committee Report is accepted.

Moved: GD

Seconded: NF

Accepted Unanimously

#### **c. Membership Sub-Committee Report**

Financial Members: 190

Unfinancial Members: 71

Total of Financial & Unfinancial Members: 261

New Members since 2022 AGM on 11 April 2023: 1, Peter Grieves

Deaths since 2022 AGM on 11 April 2023: 7

Membership Current changed to No since 2022 AGM on 11 April 2023 (fees overdue from 2019 to 2021) - 25

Resigned since 2022 AGM on 11 April 2023: 1, Brian Leary

CMcK asked about evidence need for new members joining from more recent conflicts.

JL advised that it is up to the prospective member to provide evidence e.g. discharge certificate.

Membership Sub-Committee Report is accepted.

Moved: BW

Seconded: CT

Accepted Unanimously

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

Standing Orders were suspended by JL and Glenn Daly was appointed as Returning Officer.

CMcK advised that there were no written nominations received, so nominations for Committee positions would be taken from the floor. GD confirmed all the positions were vacant.

## **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 SL

Vice President – Roger Lawlor

Nominated by JL

Seconded CMcK

Secretary - Chris McKay

Nominated by CT

Seconded by JL

Treasurer - Craig Terrey

Nominated by CMcK

Seconded by JL

Committee – Les Hogan

Nominated by SL

Seconded by CMcK

Committee – Norm Fraser

Nominated by RL

Seconded by JL

Committee – Greg Meek

Nominated by NF

Seconded by SL

Wellbeing Coordinator - John Fenton.

Nominated by CMcK

Seconded by JL

Vietnamese Liaison Officer – Malcolm Campbell.

Nominated by JL

Seconded by NF

Colin Aiken has agreed to continue as Chaplain.

Patron - Brigadier Nerolie McDonald has agreed to continue as Association Patron

## **11. Re-appointment of Honorary Auditor**

Mrs Jillian Williams, CPA, FFIN, FASFA, AACI, MRMIA, MIPA, agreed to continue with this appointment, as advised by RL.

RL mentioned that Jillian will be selling her home and moving in the future and suggested that we find a replacement, for when that happens.

## **12. Re-appointment of Public Officer**

Mr Stafford Lowe agrees to continue with this appointment.

He advised that he will only stand until the next AGM and will not continue after that date.

Nominated CMcK

Seconded by RL

## **13. Re-Appointment of Honorary Solicitor**

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

JL thanked GD for being the Returning Officer.

## **14. Future of the association and welfare activities**

CMcK informed that Wendy is moving away from the area and he is negotiating with her about working remotely for one day and having another person in the office, for the other day.

The future of the association will depend on the number of active members. If the association closes down, unspent grant money would have to be returned, so we are not applying for any more grants.

CMcK advised that there are no specific details in our Constitution about closing the association.

We have to look at the legal steps involved, e.g. what to do with our funds.

We will look at charities and worthwhile organisations to donate some of our account funds.

He highlighted that we would need to have a Special General Meeting when we plan to close the association.

GD highlighted that our Memorial Day event is getting smaller and more difficult to run, with fewer volunteers available to do jobs e.g. setting up & packing away.

## **15. General Business.**

JL asked for volunteers to attend numerous ANZAC Day events and St John of God event.

PJ agreed to go to the the St John of God event, with NF driving there.

JL will phone members to see who can attend the various ANZAC Day events.

JL asked for a volunteer to organise, a bus trip to Albion Park, maybe in July this year.  
RL agreed to look at organising the trip.

CMcK confirmed that Memorial Day will be Sunday 18 August 2024, on the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

JL advised that there will be a Piper, from the Lithgow Highland Pipe Band, to play at the Memorial Day Service and there will not be a March.

## **16. Close of Meeting**

The President, Jack Lake, thanked those in attendance and declared the meeting over at 1206 hours.

Jack Lake  
President

Chris McKay  
Secretary

Dated: 2 April 2024

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