

**THE RAR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
NCM CANBERRA AUG 23
DOT POINT SUMMARY**

The following is a dot point summary of the meeting, as a memory jogger before the Minutes are produced

- **RARC**
 - Previous Minutes accepted No business arising
 - Election of Directors:
 - Stephen Dunn Reelected
 - Wayne Giddings elected
 - Dane Christon was not considered as the nomination form was not completed
 - Financial Report accepted
 - Annual Report to ASIC – ACNC _ Director Summary were presented in draft however will be confirmed by public officer on his return from leave
 - Auditor reappointed
 - Public Officer needs to reviewed
 - The date/time of the next meeting will be in Nov 2024 in Canberra exact dates TBC

- **RARA NCM**
 - Previous Minutes accepted
 - Business Arising (Business arising covered some of the items that were listed separately on the agenda)
 - **Road Map Report** from Director Stephen Dunn was adopted;
 - The Current Road Map will be used by the Board as a Strategic document and the Simpler Revised Version will be used by the Associations as a guide
 - **Duty First Magazine** had very positive feedback with a suggestion to explore options to reenforce the name Duty First on the front cover. **ACTION GJD** Sec with action with MVB – Editor Kylie
 - **Transition Support** from the Army overwhelming supported at all levels, however there is a need to raise the awareness of the Transition pro-cons, by communication of what-when – how with the process. There is an understanding that not all individuals’ circumstances are the same which impacts on the management of their transition contract (discharge/resignation)
 - **Bibliography** there needs to be more communications across the board to raise the awareness and who the manager is, how he captures information and how its catalogued
 - **The Associations position on the RCB** has not changed, still supportive going forward
 - **MIA North Korea Working Group**, the report from Director Stephen Dunn was accepted. The President reinforced that progress is very slow however there has been some mutual support from both North Korea and South Korea with assistants in resolving this matter. There are many topography and artificial objects, that need to be addressed before moving forward IE minefields
 - **The report on the RAR NMW** The Annual Report was forward to all Associations. The NMW is in a sound position and continue to be supported from 6 & 8/9 RAR as required. The 7 BDE COMD is also supportive of the NMW

- **Item 4 - Reports**

- **The President** reminded everyone to make sure they have read the report and he was very happy with the progress achieved with the interaction of the Board and the Associations. There is a need to develop a succession plan for the Directors, with recruitment from the talent pool not only of veterans but the serving cohort
- **National Secretary** acknowledge everyone is busy however please respond to request ASAP and also distr all information received – it's about communication
- **State/Territory and Battalion Associations** – All Reports received and distr prior to the meeting. Common trends were:
 - Higher Mortality increases in 22/23
 - Membership steady
 - Some more financial than others
 - 5/7 RARA are sorting a merger with 5 RARA
 - Most of the Asscn focus in on camaraderie, reunions however will ref members to known local advocaats or other clinical services as required
 - There is a spike in the cyber space online. There needs to be more effort put into securing websites and payment portals, use of encrypted bank accounts, due to the increasing attention of domestic and offshore hackers, including the use of Gmail
 - IT Consideration needs to be given to bring the whole of the “RAR Association” under one domain along with the unit associations. Andrew Shea and David French will do the research and make a report to the Board. It is believed this will have mutual benefits for all Association; cost, security and perhaps sponsoring

ACTION Matthew & David

- **National Memorial Walk** is in a sound position, support continues to be provided from 6 & 8/9 RAR. There is a separate report that has been prepared by the incoming treasurer and RARC Rep QLD in relation to the financial responsibilities of the NMW Management Committee and the RARC. Annual invoicing to be discussed in General Business
- **RAR Foundation** Update MAJGEN S Caughey COLCOMDT, the Foundation continues to firm up, is maintaining the responsibilities of sponsoring the Hasset award, assistance to the Battle Field Tours and winner of the Duke of Gloucester Cup to participate in Cambrian Competition in the UK. There is a Project called Duty First Podcast currently underway which will cover the Regiments History from Japan to now, by way of interviews with selective participants from the Regiment, this should not be confused with the RARF Podcast Soldiers 5
- **RAR Council Update** MAJGEN S Caughey COLCOMDT the meeting for 2023 will be held at Infantry Centre, prior to the DOG Cup and the President has been invited. 75th Anniversary activities will involve all the Battalions with an event at the Federal Parliament Forecourt followed by the dinner at the Rex Hotel Canberra, to be organised by RARA ACT and RARF

- **Item 5 – Advocacy**

- ESO Round Table (ESORT) The President advised the Committee is making headway on matters effecting Veterans and Soldiers

- Royal Commission into Defence Suicide continues, interim report issued, **submission close on 13 Oct 2023**
- ADSO is now moving towards a constitution and limited company structure
- DVA National Consultative Forum
- Operational Working Party Clem Russell submitted a Report on the progress of the OWP
- Younger Veterans Contemporary Needs Forum – Chris Tilley advised the progress of the at DVA level and will send his notes for distr to the members. There is a need to try and encourage the younger veterans to step up and become more involved, this is a WIP
- DVA Government Wellbeing Centers
 - <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/work-and-social-life-programs/work-and-social-support/veterans-and>
 - Veterans Advocacy and Support Services Study Update: There are over 3200 ESO within the community, there is a need to try to educate Veterans and Soldiers on the pitfalls of some organisation in how they are offering their services. This can be achieved by articles in the Duty First Magazine, visit DVA website and email traffic
 - The RARA National website has been updated to highlight these important organisations and make it easier for the RAR Family to access their resources:
 - <https://www.rarnational.org.au/>
 - <https://rslqld.org/find-help/eso-directory>

ITEM 6 - RARA SERVICES DEVELOPMENT ROAD MAP - DISCUSSION

- See Business arising

ITEM 7 – DUTY FIRST MAGAZINE FUTURE – DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION

- See business arising
- Not all Associations can provide articles for each edition however they will explore all options in providing articles

RAR NATIONAL DUTY FIRST MAGAZINE		
Issue	Material Deadline	Publication Date
Autumn	1 February 2024	1 March 2024
Winter	01 May 2024	03 June 2024
Spring	01 August 2024	02 September 2024
Summer	01 November 2024	02 December 2024

- The Associations were asked to provide images from any sites covering the recent Vigil for the fallen from Vietnam
- If Association members require a hardcopy or e copy, please advise details to Sec GJD

ITEM 8 – TRANSITION SUPPORT FROM RARA – DISCUSSION

- There needs to be more communication raising awareness of services available to those in transitioning whether Medical or own accord
- Download the Transition Booklet from the ADF web site
- The Association also need to understand where information can be sourced from various organisation website on support services both ADF and DVA
- The role out of the Wellbeing Centers continues to be a work in progress however there needs to be more emphasis on have the, " One Stop Shop" approach in providing advice to diggers and families, maybe the DVA VAN offices are collocated
- Raise awareness of using the DVA site to find advocates and the use of VAN Offices
- DVA is aware of the reducing no of qualified advocates

ITEM 9 – RAR BIBLIOGRAPHY

- RAR Bibliography is here <https://www.rarnational.org.au/bibliography/>
- See previous business however can associations please forward any articles, information about the Regiment to Russell. No matter how trivial it may seem or complex, books, newspapers, images, IE Any books made on the MTF tours etc, please forward to LTCOL Russell Linwood, ASM (Retd) 040358866 rlinwood@bigpond.net.au he will assess their significance for inclusion to the RAR Bibliography

ITEM 10 Deleted See Official Minutes

ITEM 11 - GUEST SPEAKERS:

- The Minister for DVA the Honorable MP M Keogh provide the meeting with a recorded presentation
- MS Alison Frame the DVA Secretary along with her colleague Kate Pope, gave the meeting a verbal presentation on where DVA is at as of today and what the future holds followed by a Q/A session. This was a very informative two-way discussion which aided everyone in understanding what is happening at DVA. More in-depth info to come in the official Minutes. DVA staff are working on providing us with a confirmation and action plan, as a result of the major questions asked

ITEM 12 - GENERAL BUSINESS

- DOG Cup Sponsorship and future support The RAR Council will discuss a separate standalone trophy to be sponsored by the Association. This year the Association paid for 2 x prizes and will be acknowledged in the Program on the day. The Association has provided a couple of banners

of the event, after the event the banners will be displayed in the OR's Mess Infantry Centre, till next years event

- RAR 75th Anniversary Activities RARA ACT is co-sponsoring with the RARF the Annual Regimental Dinner in Canberra 2024. It will be held at the Rex Hotel on 23 Nov 23 at a cost of approximately \$125 per head, this may vary if the RARF is able to subsidise towards the cost. Booking will be via an event management site and will be confirmed after the next RARF Meeting
- Fees RARC & National Memorial Walk Sec
 - Subs/fees from Battalions and the State, Unit Association was present by Sec GJD with recommendations. After much discussion it was agreed that the following new structure
 - Subs/Fee for NMW will be reduce to \$100 for Battalions & State & RARA for 2023 only. The subs/fee will cease from 2024
 - Subs/Fee for RARC from State & RAR Association \$200
 - The Secretary will be responsible for invoicing
 - There will be no backing of invoices **ACTION BY the Secretary**
- Date -Time – Place of the AGM & NCM After discussion it was agreed to continue to hold the meeting Canberra but move it to November, next year it will coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Regiment and Dinner
- Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm unit Citation (VCGPU) + streamers members were directed to the website, where eligible members can apply
- Malaya & Malaysia Streams on Colours. RSM Ceremonial has been asked to provide more information. COLCOMDT is also following up with DINF
- Theatre Operations now recognised Timor, Iraq. Afghanistan to follow later
- Kokoda Youth Foundation update on SVN Memorial LWC see official minutes
- Vigil send articles- images for Duty First
- Treasurers Position, a temp treasurer has been found however Tony Sillcok from 8 RARA will approach someone he knows to see if they can find a more permanent person
- Acknowledgement to Alan Price donation to RAR NMW this was been done, more info in the official Minutes
- Acknowledgement to John James this was been done more info in the official Minutes
- Dedication of the Keith Payne VC Rest Area and the Re Dedication of the Edward Kenna VC Rest Area 13 Nov 23, RARA NSW James Thorpe and Doug McGarth will attend this Service on behalf of the RARA
- Reminder 60 years since the arrival of the Australian Army Training Team (AATTV)
- Reminder 50 years Combat Troops withdrawn from South Vietnam (SVN)

The following matters have now finally been addressed and are taken of the Agenda Items for action and will only appear under FYI WIP Report:

- RARA Service Development Road Map 2019 – 2025 Report Emailed. Finalised
- Duty First Magazine Finalised
- RAR Bibliography Finalised
- Rifle Company Butterworth Finalised
- MIA Korea Working Group see Report Finalised
- National Memorial Walk and RARC Invoicing Finalised

Associations are encouraged to submit Agenda items for 2024 that they see as appropriate for the RARA to act on their behalf or may need discussion with the other Associations

Meeting closed at 1300

Next meeting in Canberra 20 – 22 Nov 2024 Mercure Hotel TBC Mercure events manager has been asked to check dates. This will allow members to attend the Regimental Dinner