

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the United Nations Police Association of Australia (UNPAA) National Body held at Crowne Plaza Pelican Waters Golf and Spa Resort, 38 Mahogany Drive, Pelican Waters, Caloundra, Queensland 9am Wednesday 30th September, 2009.

Present: Denis Percy (Chair), Tony Wright, Peter Vaughan, Norm Webber, Julie Walker, John Walker, Alan Mitchell, Danny Dahlitz, Russ Connor, Tony Olsen, Denis McGuinness, Peter Marshman, Terry Wright, Wayne Yelland, Lee Haddon, Les Ranson, Geoff Parker, Max Everett, Bob Vanderwolf, Peter Wise, Roger Sharp, John Marre, Ian Hill, Graem Lawton, Neil Behm, Gerhard Mechura, Geoff Hodgson, Ken Hamilton, Dudley Orchard, Chester Schmerl, Geoff Chester, Robbie Dunn, Ian Hardy, John Brauman, Alan Woolcock, Doc Gillespie, Les Miller, Hewan O'Neill, Ken French, John Crowley, Graham Williams, Graeme Gill, Darcy Buckley, Mike Reid, Tony Grey, Mick Travers, Mal Lynch, Peter Lock, Tom McGrath, Barry Barker, Allan Arthur, Rod Walker, Perter Toy.

Apologies: None recorded or tended.

Item 1: Welcome:

Chairman Denis Percy welcomed members and thanked them for their attendance. He gave praise to the Crowne Plaza and staff and to John and Julie Walker and the Queensland Organising Committee of the 2009 Conference/Reunion which was greeted with applause.

Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting:

Copies of the minutes were circulated and taken as read.

Item 3: Correspondence – Chairman:

Denis Percy advised that he had received a letter from Dr Nikos Christodoulides, Post Doctoral Fellow, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus who proposed to 'put together' a book on Australian policing in Cyprus based on the Australian Archives and would cover the period 1964 – 1974. He proposed that the book should contain small chapters written by Australians who served in contingents during this period, describing important incidents during their service. The study could also contain pictures taken at this time.

The study would be published in English with funding being sought from the Cyprus Government, the Australian Government, the UN and the Cypriot Community in Australia. There would be no cost to the UNPAA and any possible revenue from the sale of the book would be donated to the UNPAA. The book could be dedicated to the memory of UNPAA colleagues who died in Cyprus.

Denis encouraged members to submit their stories regarding any conflict/welfare memories – members tended to be 'too humble' regarding the great work they had done when this should become an important recording in the history of the association. He had been assured that this was not to become 'propaganda' for either the Greeks or the Turks but rather a factual account.

Stories being submitted for inclusion should contain between 1,000 and 500 minimum words. Members should contact Denis by e-mail, details of the address are listed in "True Blue".

Norm Webber spoke regarding impartiality and any detrimental effect on those still serving in Cyprus and it was agreed that IDG management should be asked to edit and review the content and if necessary, be able to veto anything which may affect our country and fellow officers.

Item 4: Financial report – Treasurer

Tony Wright handed out copies of the financial report as at the end of the 2009 financial year and advised the original report was present for inspection by members if required. This report did not include a sum of \$10,000.00 which Denis would speak on later in the meeting. The official Financial Report had been audited by Pierson & Associates.

**The United Nations Police Association
of Australia Incorporated
Income Statement
For the Year ended 30 June 2009**

INCOME	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Membership Fees	3,800	2,770
DVA Grant – Peacekeeping Memorial	4,000	0
Donations	2,568	3,125
Interest Received	57	6
Sale of pockets, stickers etc	65	140
Sundry Income	0	0
	<hr/> 10,490	<hr/> 6,090
 EXPENDITURE:		
Audit Fees	688	660
Bank Charges	5	14
Donations	3,468	1,000
Filing Fees	45	44
Floral Tributes	248	155
General administration	1,220	581
Peacekeeping Memorial – expenses & Grant Refund	4,000	0
Pockets, Stickers etc	484	807
Travel of executive members to meetings	444	949
Website	330	60
	<hr/> 10,932	<hr/> 4,270
 Profit (Loss) before Income Tax	 (442)	 1,771
Income Tax expense	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Profit (Loss) after Income Tax	(442)	1,771
Retained profits at the beginning of financial year	3,775	2,004
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Norm Webber suggested the Review Committee could look into and investigate the various suggestions and report back so that this may be addressed. At this stage, it is very important to look to build up membership and younger people who have served or are currently serving in overseas postings should be encouraged. It was pointed out that many of the younger officers felt that the organisation was very much “Cyprus orientated” – which it is – and this would also need to be addressed.

Generic banner: The need for a banner to be used by all States and Territories at Conferences and/or Reunions/Parades was discussed. The logistical expense of \$3,300.00 for such a banner was noted. Peter Vaughan advised that the Victorian Police Commissioner had approved half payment of a banner his branch was presently having made. The banner may be able to be adapted by removing the Victoria Police Badge and could be used by everyone. Denis asked that a ‘TPeg’ of it be sent to him. Doc Gillespie suggested that his Probus group also had contacts for a good price and Denis asked that this information be forwarded to him.

Life membership: Denis Percy:

At the Sydney Conference and Annual General Meeting, it was agreed to extend Life Membership to President Denis Percy. However, to do this it was necessary to make an amendment to the Constitution. As the 2008 Annual General Meeting was held by electronic ‘hook-up’ with the State and Territory Presidents it was not felt that this was sufficient numbers for the motion to be put and discussed.

The following motion was circulated and following some adjustments was put to the vote:

Add 2(C) **“Election of Life Members”**: Life Members may be elected at each annual general meeting of the Association on the following basis:

- (a) Life membership for outstanding service to the Association may be granted to a financial member of this Association, on the recommendation of a financial member, the National Executive Committee and by resolution of an Annual General Meeting. Life membership is restricted to those who have given meritorious service to the Association over a period of many years and contributed to the development, promotion and encouragement of the ideals as set out in the Association’s Constitution, and who promotes the care and on-going welfare of its members. They may be nominated by a member for election at an Annual general Meeting of the Association;
- (b) Names of the nominees for Life Membership shall be submitted to the secretary at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the annual meeting at which such nominees are to be proposed as life members
- (c) Nominees for election as life members to be elected must obtain the votes of at least three-fourths of those members attending the annual meeting and eligible to vote;
- (d) Not more than two life members shall be elected at any one annual general meeting;
- (e) A history of the service of each nominee for election as a life member shall accompany the application/s;
- (f) Life members will be awarded a UNPAA plaque suitably inscribed and not be required to pay annual subscriptions.
- (g) Life members will be entitled to attend and to vote at all general meetings of the Association.

Moved, Bob Vanderwolf, seconded, Terry Wright Carried

Item 3 (A) National Research Officer's Report

National Research Officer, Norm Webber, reported as follows:

“In its 2007 Election Campaign, the current Government gave an undertaking to review benefits to Police serving overseas under the Military Rehabilitation Act 2004. It has been the long standing Policy of this organisation to remove ourselves from under the Veteran's Entitlements Act to a stand alone Act, mirroring the MRCA and its benefits

Earlier this year, the Government ordered a review of MRCA and Deputy Prime Minister Gillard directed the Review Committee to also consider where benefits should lie for Police serving in high risk overseas missions, namely

1. As part of SRCA
2. As part of MRCA
3. As a stand alone Act.

Our submission to the review indicated that we desired option 3 in keeping with our Policy and option 2 as a secondary preference whilst option 1 was strongly opposed. (Our submission appears on the Review Committee website).

We further indicated that if the matter was one for consideration as to whether we would be entitled to such benefits, then Committee representation should be expanded to include AFP representation.

Mark Burgess CEO of the PFA and I attended a number of meetings and had conversations with AFP, DVA RSL National, and other parties/consultants re. the Committee's agenda and likely outcomes.

In summation, I am extremely pleased to report that likely outcomes will be in our favour.

It appears that DPM Gillard favours the 'stand alone' option along with AFP and DVA (with their Ministers). We have asked the Committee of Review to expedite and release an interim finding regarding our position, before embarking on the main enquiry, so that AFP, in consultation with UNPAA/PFA can develop legislation immediately. In fact, in anticipation of such an outcome, AFP have hired a consultant with deep DVA experience, to commence such a legislative draft.

We are led to believe that it will mirror the overseas benefits of the MRCA in relation to high risk overseas Police Missions and will include all members (sworn or unsworn) of the mission.

Some delay may be occasioned as, while we had developed definitions of “extraordinary overseas policing” and “overseas policing” to equate to MRCA's definitions of “warlike” and “non warlike”, ADF have now developed a new code of ratings for overseas service and are seeking as yet unspecified changes to overseas benefits that will delay the final legislation for our proposed Act.

In all of our submissions, we have received the active support of the R&SL, through its Past President, Major General Bill Crews (ret) along with valuable advices.

It is obvious that the ADF do not want a dilution of MRCA by inclusion of non military bodies and in fact, in the first draft of MRCA “Peacekeepers” as in the VEA, were removed.

The advantages of our own act are fully set out in the DVA Review Committee website.

Gary Brodie, RSL Peacekeepers sub branch President and AFP (ret) is overseeing the liaison with National R&SL and I believe will brief the National President.

However, we believe that to ensure absolute success, UNPAA through its State Branches, should lobby Federal MP's to ensure support in party rooms on both sides of the house, for our own Act.

Should this meeting approve the last, I will develop such response and timetable for distribution to the States and implementation.”

Norm continued on advising that following representations, the government had found that this Act was ‘Cost Neutral’ and both Treasury and Deputy Prime Minister Gillard had no objections and were in favour. Mark Johnson is the private consultant acting for AFP and is checking the support structure. Major General Mark Kelly, whose father was a Police Officer, and who is presently in charge of overseas missions and stationed in Dubai, along with Major General Bill Crews (ret.) are both fully supportive.

Members were encouraged to ‘lobby’ their Federal members for support.

The following motion was circulated and put to vote:

“That a committee consisting of the Executive of the United Nations Police Association of Australia and any other such persons they may decide to co-opt, be set up to review the following issues:

- (1) Initiate an ‘Aims and Objectives charter’ properly reflecting the current issues to be met by UNPAA.
- (2) Membership – to assess whether the organisation meets the requirements of persons entitled to membership
- (3) UNPAA Website – inquire as to how the facility can be properly utilised
- (4) Memorial Tablet for Graves – that an assessment as to viability to a tablet similar to ADF tablet be investigated
- (5) Annual General Meetings – In years other than the Conference/Reunion years, the location and style of the AGM be decided
- (6) True Blue Publication – That the Editor provide the committee with the publication’s management manifesto and the document be assessed in relation to the Associations Aims and Objectives, as reviewed
- (7) Executive Communication – that a system of executive communication and accountability be set up, especially in relation to Policy matters and operational issues
- (8) Any other issues arising from this review

Norm Webber spoke on the motion as follows:

There are 1200 people in IDG – can we get them on board? Not just on a social level but regarding welfare benefits, something similar to membership in the RSL. The website needs more items – in 2006 a “60 minutes” item was produced but was too rushed and didn’t fulfil the purpose; While “True Blue” is a very good publication, it needs ‘backup’ – perhaps the website could include a monthly item/report from State Executive; To keep unity, membership in all States and Territories should be invited to submit ideas to the Review being carried out.

Peter Vaughan said that he agreed with Norm’s report but had concerns about the Association name – the Victoria Branch has retained the name UNPOL Victoria Inc. Younger members have stated that the membership is very Cyprus centred – and Peter agreed that it is. If the association is to survive it needs to attract those with more recent service – ie other countries. He suggested that the National Body and other States consider a name change – maybe “Police Overseas Service.”

Rod Walker enquired if membership covered 'non-sworn' members. Norm confirmed that under the Act, non sworn members would also be included.
The meeting was asked to vote that the motion be considered and agreed upon
Moved, Max Everitt, seconded: Doc Gillespie, Carried

The following motion was suggested by Norm Webber but referred to the review committee:

Notice of Intention: That the 50 Year Anniversary Conference/Reunion of overseas Service – 2014 – be held in Canberra.

Amendment to Constitution: "That the Constitution of the United Nations Police Association of Australia be amended to include a new executive position of "Second Vice President" and that such a position become effective from the 2010 Annual General Meeting."

Moved John Walker, seconded Graeme Gill – such position to preferably be filled by an IDG/AFP representative.

Carried

Item 5: President's Report: Denis Percy, in acknowledging close liaison with the IDG and Senior Management and staff, asked that his report which had been circulated be accepted.

Moved Peter Vaughan, seconded John Walker. Carried

Item 6: Election of officers:

President Denis Percy vacated the chair. Norm Webber took up the chair as temporary Chairman, announced all positions vacant and called for nominations as follows:

National President: Rod Walker nominated Denis Percy, seconded Geoff Hodgson. As no further nominations, Denis Percy was declared National President.

National Vice President: Ken Hamilton nominated Peter Vaughan, seconded by Hewan O'Neill. As no further nominations, Peter Vaughan was declared National Vice President

Secretary/Treasurer: Tony Wright advised that he had 'resigned' from the position in 2004 – there is a great deal of work involved and hoped that someone else would nominate for the position. An assistant was suggested. Tony agreed to accept a 'care-taker' position for now.

John Walker nominated Tony Wright, seconded Terry Wright – elected unopposed.
Norm Webber vacated the chair in favour of National President Denis Percy

Election of State & Territory Presidents:

Northern Territory: Doc Gillespie nominated Alan Mitchell, seconded Graeme Gill – elected unopposed

West Australia: Leo Duckett nominated Terry Wright, seconded John Marre - elected unopposed

Queensland: Graham Williams nominated John Walker, seconded Terry Wright - elected unopposed

ACT: Tony Wright nominated Rod Walker, seconded Mick Travers - elected unopposed

Tasmania: Mike Reid nominated Robbie Dunn, seconded John Walker - elected unopposed

NSW: Norm Webber nominated Karl Hermanson, seconded Russ Connor - elected unopposed

South Australia: Graham Lawton nominated Graeme Gill, seconded Peter Marshman - elected unopposed

Victoria: Doc Gillespie nominated Peter Vaughan, seconded Terry Wright - elected unopposed

Item 7: Peacekeeping Memorial: Denis Percy advised that the Governor General of Australia Ms Quentin Bryce has graciously accepted the position of Patron.

Extract from President's Report:

“The UNPAA remains as a representative group on the organising committee in order to have built a National Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra. The Memorial project has now reached the stage of having a great site in Anzac Parade allocated; the building design has now been finalized and has tentative design approval from the Canberra National Authority; ground landscaping plans remain to be finalised. It is hoped that the memorial will be completed late 2010.

Construction funding remains a problem with deposits of around \$800,000 in the account, with another two and half million dollars required. It is hoped that all our members will support the construction by registering as donors at Peacekeepingmemorial.org.au. The UNPAA has contributed \$5,000.00 toward the Memorial construction cost. This amount arises from cash donations and from monies collected at the NSW Police Academy Graduation Parades.

This Memorial will be a fitting tribute to the 4 Australian Police killed overseas along with 11 Australian soldiers.”

Members were encouraged to contribute to the fund and forms were available. Thanks went to Dale Cooper and Mick Travers who arranged to deliver a model of the proposed model for display at the conference/reunion.

Item 8: Other business:

Following group discussion it was moved by Doc Gillespie, seconded by Max Everett that Life Members would not be required to pay subscription fees. Carried.

Interim Float for Executive Committee:

Moved Darcy Buckley, seconded Ken Hamilton, that the executive committee have an interim float of \$500 to cover expenditure arising between meetings, such expenditure to be supported by invoices to be presented at future meetings.

Carried.

JEEP: Denis Percy spoke on the request for consideration of the purchase of a jeep which would be remodelled to represent the jeeps used in Cyprus and to be used in ceremonial parades and marches. He advised that Russ Connor had purchased such a jeep and generously donated it to the UNPAA. The jeep needed to be remodelled, have the hard top removed and replaced with a canvas top, painted and decorated with the Australian kangaroos.

It was moved Peter Vaughan and seconded John Walker that \$1,000.00 be allocated and paid to Russ Connor who would carry out the work and take care of the jeep until it was needed. A Memorandum of Understanding was to be prepared and signed between Denis and Russ to cover the situation and ownership.

Thanks extended: John Walker publicly thanked the National Executive and the Victoria Branch for donations of \$1,000.00 each from their funds to assist in staging the 2009 Conference/Reunion expanding on the difficulties experienced by States who do not have the following or funds of more active branches and how much these donations were appreciated and put to good use.

Honorarium: Hewan O'Neill suggested an Honorarium for the National Secretary but the general feeling was that the \$500.00 interim float would be available to cover expenses.

Pat Hearn – Victorian Branch. Peter Vaughan spoke about one of their members, Pat Hearn, who had walked out of his home and not been seen since bringing much sadness and trauma to his family but that his wife Sally had approached the coroner who had waived the usual time limit and declared Pat deceased, bringing some 'closure' to the family.

Vote of thanks: Max Everett moved a vote of thanks to the Executive and to the Queensland Branch Organising Committee for their work over the past two years in handling the business of the association and for organising the present 2009 UNPAA conference/reunion.

Seconded Ian Hardy

Next conference/reunion:

It was announced that following discussions with other States, Alan Mitchell had been appointed to organise this to be held in Darwin in 2 years time – date to be advised.,

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 10.25am.

