

National Presidents Report

UNPAA National AGM Caloundra Queensland

30.9.09

Dear Members,

On the 8.12.08 the last Annual General Meeting of the UNPAA was held in Sydney at the Office of Pierce and Associates accountants to the UNPAA at Chatswood in Sydney. Interstate and Territory delegates were included in discussion by way of teleconferencing. This technology was in use for the first time by the executive in order to save costs. A motion was passed at that meeting to donate National Branch funds towards the cost of conducting the September 2009 UNPAA National Re-union and Conference at the "Crowne Plaza Waters Golf Resort and Spar Caloundra. John (Whiskey) Walker is the Chairman of the organizing committee for our re-union to be held over four days from the 27th to 30th of September 2009, promises to be a great success.

Delegates from all Australian States and Territories, New Zealand, Austria and Thailand have registered to attend. Additional the High Commissioner to Australia from Cyprus, the Queensland Commissioner of Police and the Governor of Queensland have all agreed to attend the Conference on various dates.

Construction of a National Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra.

The UNPAA remains as a representative group on the organizing 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 finalized. It is hoped the Memorial will be completed late 2010.

Construction funding remains a problem with deposits of around \$800.000 in the account and another two and a half million required. It is hoped that all of our members will support the construction program by registering as donors at PeacekeepingMemorial.org.au

The UNPAA has contributed \$5000.00 toward the Memorial construction cost. This amount arises from cash donations and from monies collocated at the NSW Police Academy Graduation Parades.

This Memorial will be a fitting tribute to the three of our members killed in Cyprus namely Lew Thomas, Ian Ward and Pat Hackett.

UNPAA Submission to the Minister for Veterans Affairs.

A review is currently being conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits currently available to Veterans under the Veterans Entitlements Act and other Legislation.

Norm Webber our Research Officer has prepared a joint submission to that inquiry on our behalf in Association with a submission made by the Police Federation of Australia.

Our submission recommends the creation of "sand alone" legislation for Australia serving overseas on IDG or UN operations; we do not support a joint Police/ Military piece of

legislation as we believe we need to be identified separately from the Military in our duties.

We are also seeking welfare benefits equal to that made available to the Australian Military when Police are on overseas service.

It is expected that a result of our will be known in the beginning of 2010 when the inquiry has completed its review.

UNPAA and the Police Federation of Australia:

The UNPAA has continued to develop its relationship with the Police Federation of Australia (PFA) and in particular Mr. Mark Burgess, executive officer of that Federation. He and Norm Webber have worked closely on submissions to Federal Parliamentary inquiries and in lobbying the Minister for Veterans Affairs and Federal Minister for Police on various UNPAA issues. I am also grateful for the sound advice offered to me by both of these men.

In addition the PFA has made available over the past year the boardroom of the PFA in Canberra for meeting of both the UNPAA and the Peacekeeping Memorial Committee.

Our organizational magazine "True Blue":

I am pleased to advise that our newly formatted organizational magazine "True Blue"

has been a great success. As editor I am happy that we have received requests for copies from Police Librarians, ex service organizations and from an increasing number of serving and retired Police. In addition the magazine is now posted to the Commanders of IDG locations in Cyprus, East Timor and the Solomon's. The magazine is also posted on the websites of the PFA and Federal Police Association websites as well as our own UNPAA website. Article contributions for the magazine is now increasing and we enjoy the co-operation of the executive of the International Deployment Group in allowing us access to their Media unit for photographic and storyline purposes.

In addition to these benefits that I have now negotiated with the magazine publishers for the UNPAA to be paid \$2000.00 and issue from the magazine advertising revenue. In August 2009 a cheque in the amount of \$10,000 was banked by Tony Wright our Treasurer after it was received from the publishers "Emergency Media Pty Ltd. "Melbourne Victoria for five issues of "True Blue".

Meeting with the Cyprus High Commissioner to Australia:

In the past year I have met with the Cyprus high Commissioner to Australia his Excellency Mr. Yannis Iacovou. These meetings were primarily courtesy calls and also to inform him of progress in the work of the Peacekeeping Memorial Committee. There are currently twelve Australian Federal Police stationed with UN Forces in Cyprus.

Membership of the UNPAA:

Queensland and Victoria have been the most successful in attracting younger members to UNPAA membership. It has been acknowledged in previous AGMs that Australian Police who have served in East Timor, The Solomon's, etc., are the future lifeblood of the UNPAA membership. Sadly as members from Cyprus age and pass on our number will diminish unless younger, eligible Police join as members. Our overall membership remains stable at

last years figures at this time.

The UNPAA and the International Deployment Group:

I am pleased to advise that the relationship between the executive and staff of the International Deployment Group now under the command of Assistant Commissioner Shane Hogan, is now at such a level where the UNPAA executive members and the IDG staff liaise closely on storylines for True Blue and in the supply of human resource overseas staffing data and the supply both ways of historical; and current photographic material. Additionally, both organizations are independently represented on the Peacekeeping Memorial Committee.

I also note with please that staff of the IDG under Superintendent Mick Travers have been very helpful with display material etc., to Whiskey Walker in assisting with the setting up of the Re-union and Conference in Calendar this year.

Financial Matters:

The UUNPAA is in a much stronger financial situation then usual due to the payment of in July 2009 of \$10.000 dollars by Emergency Media printers and publishers of our magazine True Blue Suggestions for the budgeting of that money will be put to the forthcoming AGM.

Tony Wright our very competent and knowledgeable Treasurer will put his financial report to members by way of a separate report at the AGM. All financial records have been audited this financial year by Andrew Pierce And Company, Auditors of Chatswood, Sydney and a certified copy of the audit report will be presented to the meeting by Mr. Wright.

The Wearing of Australian Military and other Australian Honors:

Recently a member of this association tendered his resignation after it was established by the Executive that he was wearing two Australian and one United Nations Medal to which he was not entitled. Additionally critical comment ahs been made by the RSL of a small number of our members wearing the Danish Road Race Medal from Cyprus on their left breast and others wearing the commercially issued and unrecognized by the UN of the Nobel Prize for Peacekeeping medal. This medal was privately minted and sold as a commercial product. It is not a government issued medal.

I request that members who have these medals in place now remove them from their left breast medal arrangement and wear them on their right breast in order that this organization can avoid any further critical comment in this regard.

Denis Percy

National President

28.9.09