

RECORD OF BUSINESS
OF THE
BIENNIAL GENERAL
MEETING
CONDUCTED
IN CHRISTCHURCH RSA
20 OCTOBER 2007

RECORDED BY
NATIONAL SECRETARY
JIM PERRY

*He ora whakapiri, engari he mate te whakatakariri.
There is strength in unity, but defeat in anger.*

RECORD OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED AT THE BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING
MALAYAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION (INC)
20 OCTOBER 2007

WELCOME

The President, Len Knapp, welcomed everyone to the 2007 Biennial General Meeting and opened it at 0915 hours.

MEMBERS

At the beginning of the meeting, the President noted that 88 financial members were in attendance. The numbers grew to 103 members by the end of the meeting.

KARAKIA & BLESSINGS

The National Secretary deferred to Reverend Percy Tahau to ask for blessings and peace on the meeting.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

The Roll of Honour was delivered by Barry Allison for 88 printed and known comrades who had passed since the last Biennial General Meeting. The names of Very Reverend Whakahuihui Vercoe and Dr Jim Moodie were added. Members stood in solemn silence.

APOLOGIES.

Apologies were tendered for the following:

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Peter Pexton | Ted Te Hei | Trevor Dean | Bob Ewing |
| Gary Newton | Brian Sherbourne | Red Hooper | John RF Murray |
| Hako Jacobs | Bill Stanley | Blue Forrest | Fred Milligan |
| Dave Paine | Bruce Henderson | Colin Rooney | Luigi De Goldie |
| Tony Ditend | Bill Russell | John Couper | Billow Thompson |
| Rangi Burrows | Jim Albert | Kelly Haeta | Robin Mc Pike |

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Motion: | That the apologies received be adopted. | | |
| Moved: | Len Knapp | Seconded: | Muka Mayes. Agreed |

MINUTES OF 2005 BGM:

a. Summary Of Salient Points:

The National Secretary explained that although he had listened to what tapes he had been able to locate, and peruse what written material he was able to access, he was unable to uncover anything which resembled minutes of the meeting held at Tauranga in 2005. A computer technician had been contracted to examine the hard drive records on the Association Computer and assured the National Secretary that what had been transferred to the Secretary's personal - and new - computer was all that was found. A report on the state of the Association Computer revealed it is "old, small and sounding like a chaff cutter" and not far away from its use by date, The programmes were limited, and viruses had been located on the machine. The Executive had decided that the salient / main points from the Tauranga BGM would suffice, as long as the members agreed.

The President asked the meeting for their opinion, to which they agreed.

The recalled and salient points raised by the National Executive were:

- a. The inaccurate and non-audited Statements of Accounts - raised by Mr Stewart, Whangarei.
- b. The RSA 10 Point Plan and its application to all members - Raised by Graham Hall. Whakatane.
- c. The New Zealand Defence Policy - raise by Jim Perry and answered and explained by Barry Allison.
- d. Nomination Forms - Challenge to Secretary Sid Maguire - not recorded.
- e. The seclusion & isolation of non-financial members - not recorded

The National Secretary circulated a folder of work taken from the old Association computer which showed the effects of the virus and the age of the material available - the newest of which was dated at 2003.

There was not a lot of discussion on the issues raised. Nor was there much in the way of additional material offered for discussion.

MOTION: That the regrettable and unfortunate absence of written minutes or any electronic record of the 2005 BGM, the decision of the National Executive to list and discuss the salient / main points recalled from that meeting, be deemed sufficient to allow discussion and adoption of the business which transpired in keeping with the intent of passing the minutes of that meeting.

Moved: Jim Perry

Seconded: Brian Millar

Agreed.

Discussion Arising: Nil

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

a. The National President:

Len Knapp read his report. (Copy not available at time of printing)

Motion: That the President's report be received.

Moved: Len Knapp

Seconded: Muka Mayes.

Agreed.

Discussion Arising:

- 1.0 **Paddy McFarlane:** Members need to have open hearts and minds and not worry about problems. Those things should be left in the past.
- 2.0 **Barry Allison:** suggestion that the Minister of Veterans Affairs might be approached to support the Association.

Motion: That the President's Report be adopted.

Moved: Len Knapp

Seconded: Ray Morrissey **Agreed**

b. National Merchandising Report:

A written report from Red Hooper presented in absentia.

The report, as follows, was tabled by the National Secretary on behalf of Red Hooper.

- a. ***All orders as of 1 October 20-07, have been filled.***
- b. ***Sales have been steady over the past two years with most members ordering clothing, etc.***
- c. ***Russell sold fifty ties on their trip to Malaya - well done.***
- d. ***Jerseys, plaques, wind breakers ordered as a one off expected delay of about three weeks.***

STOCK AS OF 1 OCTOBER 2007

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Ties</i> | <i>123</i> |
| <i>Caps</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Blazer emblems</i> | <i>9</i> |
| <i>Beret Emblems.....</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Wind Breaker Emblem</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Lapel Pins</i> | <i>42</i> |
| <i>Name Plate Ms</i> | <i>24</i> |

Members, this is my last report, as I am not seeking re-election to National exec.

***Red Hooper QM
08.10.07***

John Drummond stated there is no such thing as a Merchandising Report. He was reminded that the

Quartermaster sells merchandise, and it is therefore a correct title.

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|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Motion: | That the Merchandising Report be received and adopted. | | |
| Moved: | Brian Millar | Seconded: | Len Knapp Agreed. |

e. National Recruitment Campaign:

National Secretary, Jim Perry, referred to several documents he had printed and distributed over two years. It had resulted in the return of many past members, and new branches had been established in Wairoa, Manurewa and Porirua. Rotorua and Marlborough were branches resurrected. Russell Cook had indicated he and a friend were in the throes of investigating the possibility of a new branch in Wainuiomata and the Hutt area. Jim said that the trip back to Malaysia had been responsible for some people joining, and the article by Harry Harrison had been successful in attracting members. Harry was now proud to wear his medals and to be a member of the Association.

Barry Allison said if each person enlisted one more and signed up one the membership would double.

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Motion: | That the National Recruitment report from the National Secretary be received and adopted.. | | |
| Moved: | Jim Perry | Seconded: | Barry Allison Agreed |

f. Composition Of The National Executive:

Russell Byrne gave a verbal report. He outlined how branch representation should apply. There would be no free rides. Everyone would have a portfolio.

Discussion Arising: Nil.

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Motion: | That the Report On The Composition Of The National Executive be received and adopted. | | |
| Moved: | Russell Byrne | Seconded: | Henry Knapp Agreed |

g. Treasury & Financial Report:

As the interim Treasurer, Russell Byrne explained how the National Executive had tried to reconcile the Financial Report as asked for at the Tauranga meeting. John Suttie had already begun to work on the treasury books, and as Jim Perry was not prepared to take on the position of Treasurer, it became John's responsibility. He found it difficult to keep up with, and was asked to return the books, as a matter of urgency had arisen, and little had been received from the Interim Treasurer. Russell had only recently - four months ago - volunteered to take over the books. He was only able to use the bank statements to be able to produce the Financial Report. As a result, Russell Byrne presented the following report as the state of the Association Finances.

| <u>YEARS 2005 - 2006</u> | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>INCOME</u> was derived from the following | | <u>EXPENSES</u> were incurred by the following | |
| Opening Balance | 4 035.46 | Q Store Purchases | 722.93 |
| Interest | 1 188.21 | Post Box Rental | 125.00 |
| Q Store Sales | 356.93 | RNZRSA Affiliation | 56.25 |
| Subscriptions | 797.00 | Executive Meeting Travel | 3 007.00 |
| George Murray | 145.00 | Newsletter | 2 811.86 |
| Miscellaneous | 4 645.00 | Stationery | 180.00 |
| Matured Investment | <u>10 000.00</u> | Postage | 152.40 |
| TOTAL INCOME | <u>21 167.60</u> | Delegate's Meeting | 691.25 |
| | | Reunion Accommodation | 765.00 |
| | | Web Site | 262.50 |
| | | Cash | <u>2 000.00</u> |
| <u>SUMMARY</u> | | TOTAL EXPENDITURE: | <u>10 774.19</u> |
| Total Income | 21 167.60 | | |
| less Total Expenditure | <u>10 774.19</u> | | |
| CLOSING BALANCE: | <u>10 393.41</u> | | |

YEARS 2006 - 2007

INCOME was derived from the following:

EXPENSES were incurred by the following:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance | 10 393.41 | Q Store Purchases | 3 016.44 |
| Interest | 1 352.26 | Post Box Rental | 125.00 |
| Q Store Sales | 3 270.78 | RNZRSA Affiliation | 56.25 |
| Subscriptions | 3 755.00 | Executive Meetings Travel | 2 468.61 |
| George Murray | 40.00 | Newsletter | 2 829.96 |
| Term Deposit Maturing | 22 513.54 | Stationery | 1 432.95 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>1 502.18</u> | Postage | 100.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | <u>42 827.17</u> | Delegates Meeting | 78.30 |
| | | Computer Repairs | 371.25 |
| | | Bank Charges | 21.00 |
| | | Printing | 1 914.72 |
| | | Filing Cabinet | 218.81 |
| | | Miscellaneous | 996.18 |
| | | Phone Calls | 78.59 |
| | | Term Deposit | <u>22 550.00</u> |

SUMMARY:

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: 36 171.87

Total Income 42 827.17
less Total Expenditure 36 171.87

CLOSING BALANCE: 6 655.30

The Financial year stretches from 1 July to 31 June of each year.

Motion: That the Financial Report presented by the Interim Treasurer, Russell Byrne, be received.

Moved: Russell Byrne Seconded: John Drummond

Agreed

Discussion Arising.

1.0 John Drummond: Q. What happened to the investment monies that were supposed to have been invested in the post office?

A. We never lost it, but we did not do as well as we were lead to believe we should have. We still have the original amount and it is invested, but at a lower rate than originally hoped.

2.0 Paddy McFarlane Q Who is responsible for travel of National Executive?
A The Association. Only those who have to travel a long way. There is nothing for those in the North Island. Nor is there any accommodation.

(National Secretary's note: We now have three people who travel on the Association. If branches do not assist, the Association will not be able to afford to meet many times. Nor will it be possible to continue to print Selamat, or post mail or print letterheads, cards, etc. An alternative system has to be introduced.)

Motion: That the Financial Report presented by the Interim Treasurer, Russell Byrne, be adopted.

Moved: Russell Byrne Seconded: Henry Knapp

Agreed

h. RNZRSA National Conference Report:

National Secretary, Jim Perry, acting as the Association Delegate to RNZRSA National Conference, presented a verbal report on Remits presented to RNZRSA National Conferences in 2006 and 2007, as follows:

1.0 In 2006, two Remits presented. Both were an attempt to seek medallic recognition for:
 a. the Army personnel stationed in Dieppe Barracks, Nee Soon Camp, Singapore.
 b. Air Force personnel stationed at Tengah after the end of the Emergency, even though they kept on delivering to the Battalion stationed in the northern Malaya Peninsula on active service. This was mainly in reference to 14 & 75 Squadrons.

Robin Klitscher, the National RSA officer in charge medallic recognition made the comment ref: Army - "that medals are awarded for what was done, and not for what might be done.". In terms of Air Force, the comment was that the Army would have had difficulty catching the ordnance dropped, as the squadrons were bomber squadrons.

2.0 In 2007, the Remit presented focused on those who had joined the Malayan Police Field Force, and their access to Pensions under Section 56 War Service Pensions Act.

The outcome is that the Remit has been referred to the Crown Law Office for definition and interpretation. This was not a success, but a hopeful situation, and a work in progress..

(Secretary Note: All Remits and the results are available from all RSAs)

Discussion Arising:

a. An unidentified member challenged the use of the term Malayan Police Field Force and maintained it was wrong.

The National Secretary invited Gerald O'Conner, a member involved in the Malayan Police Field Force, to stand and reply. Mr O'Connor, 74, gave a short history and a lesson on what the Police were involved in. The National Secretary passed a copy of an article which appeared in the TRUTH newspaper about the work undertaken by members of the MPFF. No other comments received.

b. Russell Byrne commented that Robin Klitscher had not been sympathetic to anything the Association submitted,. His was a personal opinion.

Barry Allison rose to challenge the statement. He maintained that the hiccup was with the government and not with the RNZRSA officer in charge medallic. This person was now the National President and would be sympathetic to all RSA members.

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Motion: | That the report presented by the National Secretary, be adopted. | | |
| Moved: | Jim Perry | Seconded: | Colin West Agreed |

i Diagram of Responsibilities & Business Plan:

The National Secretary explained how the Diagram had been arrived at. The following were noted:

- * in 2003 the speaker had made a presentation in which he had exhorted the National Executive to prepare a Strategic Plan to determine where we wanted the Association to be in 5 or 10 years time..
- * he was challenged to produce a Strategic Plan, which he held up to the audience.
- * the plan was left by the then National Executive to gather dust.
- * In 2006 the present National Secretary succeeded to the position.
- * at the 2006 Meeting, Delegates were invited to contribute to a SWOT exercise.(21 July)
- * the results were later collated and analysed. (September 2006)
- * a business plan was built up and portfolios developed. (January 2007)

Motion:

That the name of the Association be changed from the MALAYAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION (Inc) to
THE NEW ZEALAND MALAYSIAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION (Inc)

As the original mover, Bill Mayor was not present, Russell Byrne, the original seconder presented argument for the REMIT viz:

- * Only four battalions had served in Peninsula Malaya.
- * The country changed to Malaysia including Sabah and Sarawak.
- * Malaysia included in its name elements of Asia and should be considered.
- * New Zealand Identified the country from which we originated.

Discussion Arising:

- * John Drummond: Gave a history lesson of when the country changed its name.
- * Kit Carson: Borneo should be added to the name.
- * Victor Aubrey: Added his suggestions - Asia, Malaya, Sin (Singapore) included in the new name. Would better so it would attract those who are not members.
- * Barry Allison: Disagreed..
 - * Vietnam Veterans had not changed their name simply because the country was now known by another name.
 - * He proposed an amendment:

Amendment:

That the name of the Association be changed to
THE NZ MALAYA VETERANS ASSOCIATION (Inc)

Vote: A show of hands vote was conducted. Fred Watts and Paul Tau acted as Scrutineers.

Result: For the Amendment: 49 / 50
 Against the Amendment: 17 / 18

Vote: The Amendment became the Substantive Motion and was put to the vote:

Result: **For: 49 / 50**
Against: 17 / 18 **A clear majority.**

Motion: That Remit One - Association Name Change - as voted on, be adopted, and the relevant sections of the Constitution be altered accordingly, and such name change to apply from the time of approval by the Registrar Incorporated Societies.

Moved: Barry Allison Seconded: Allen Jones

CARRIED

Remit Two:**TWELVE YEAR DECADE**

Motion: That the Paid Life Member category of Membership be rescinded and replaced by "**A Twelve Year Decade Membership**"

Moved: Northland Branch Seconded: Manurewa Branch
Agreed

In the absence of either the Northland or Manurewa Branch spokesperson, the National Secretary, Jim Perry, presented the arguments. One of the main arguments was that for eight years, he had not contributed anything to the funding, as the ten years prior had been paid for, but not the eight years since, denying the Association of \$120 potentially.

Discussion Arising:

- * Aiden Donner: Glad that the explanation had been given that current persons who had paid their \$200 subscription would not be affected.
- * John Drummond: People who were already Paid Life Member should dig into their pockets if they want to help the Association..
- * Graham Hall: Where has the money from the \$200 collected gone to?
- * Brian Miller: There is no such thing as a Paid Life Membership. Life Membership is presented for work done within the Association, and a special badge is worn to denote it. It is a case of **Life Subscription** versus **Life Membership** - as clear as that!

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Amendment:</u> | That the Paid Life Membership category of membership stand as is and no new paid Life Membership may join . A new 12 year Decade Membership will be introduced.. | | |
| | Moved: | Derek Berry | Seconded: Colin West |
| | A discussion erupted against this Amendment and the above was not voted on. Nor was it withdrawn. Instead, a further Amendment was put. | | |
| <u>Amendment to the Amendment:</u> | That Paid Life Subscriptions be terminated and replaced with term subscriptions of \$200 for 12 years. | | |
| | Moved: | Barry Allison | Seconded: Peter Callahan |
| <u>Vote:</u> | For the Amendment to the Amendment | = | 61 |
| | Against the Amendment to the Amendment | = | 14 |
| | The Amendment to the Amendment became the substantive Motion and was put to | | |
| <u>Vote Result:</u> | For the Motion: | = | 63 |
| | Against the Motion: | = | 13 |
| <u>The Substantive Motion:</u> | That Paid Life Subscriptions be terminated and replaced with term subscriptions of \$200 for 12 years. | | |
| | Moved: | Barry Allison | Seconded: Peter Callahan |
| Carried | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Remit Three:</u> | <u>HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF MEMBERS</u> | | |
| <u>Motion:</u> | That the following section of the CONSTITUTION be added to by inserting a clause, viz: | | |
| | 2.1.8. <u>To care for the Health & Wellbeing of members of the Association</u> | | |
| | 2.1.8.1 To care for the health & welfare of members of the Association. | | |
| | Moved: | Jim Perry | seconded: Rotorua Branch |
| Agreed | | | |
| | The National Secretary began the presentation, and Hiro Hamilton continued. | | |
| <u>Points at issue:</u> | The health of members is important and so is the health of the Association. The welfare provided by RSAs is not to be confused with wellbeing of members. Adopting this clause will allow access to funding from Charitable Trusts, etc. | | |
| <u>Discussion Arising:</u> | Hiro Hamilton answered any questions, of which there were very few. | | |
| <u>Motion:</u> | That Remit 3 - Health & Wellbeing of Members - as printed be adopted and the relevant section(s) of the CONSTITUTION be altered accordingly, and such additional section to the CONSTITUTION shall apply immediately. | | |
| | Moved: | Jim Perry - National Secretary | Seconded: Hiro Hamilton |
| Agreed | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <u>Remit Four:</u> | COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE | | |
| <u>Motion:</u> | That the following section of the CONSTITUTION be rewritten, reformatted and replaced, i.e. | | |
| | 7 | NATIONAL EXECUTIVE | |
| | (A0 | The National Executive shall consist of a President, two vice Presidents, up to eight National Executive Officers - all of whom will have portfolios - a National Secretary and a National Treasurer, or a combination of the latter two. | |

(It was resolved that sub-paragraphs 6 & 7A would be re-written)

Moved: Rotorua Branch Seconded: Waikato Branch
Agreed

The National Secretary, Jim Perry, explained how the composition of the National Executive is essential to the operation of the new Responsibilities and Operational System of the Association Business Plan.

Vote: The gathering agreed with the intention without dissent.

Explanation: Russell Byrne explained that even with the passing of this Remit, it would not apply until the change was registered with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.. The new clause will then be applied from BGM 2009.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following are the results of the election of officers. In all except one case, all nominations were received in writing, and displayed for members to peruse for twenty four hours prior to the meeting.

Results:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| National Patrons: | Major Bill Pike Mark Stewart | | Walker / Mayes / Watts |
| National President: | Len Knapp | Unopposed | Sherbourne / Ruland |
| National Vice Presidents: | George Smith | | Wesley / Tait |
| | Raymond King - Turner | | Tau / Fraser |
| | Hiro Hamilton | | T.J. Sturmeay / Burrows |
| | Victor Aubrey | | R.J. Cook / S. Carroll |
| | Hemana Clifford Waaka | | Brunt / Hopa |
| | Russell Byrne | Nominated off the floor. | Drummond / H. Knapp |
| | Nominations closed. - Paul Tau | | |
| National Secretary: | Jim Perry | Unopposed | Hamilton / Burrows |
| National Treasurer: | Beverly Jones | Unopposed | L. Knapp / P. Jones |

MEMBERSHIP WRITTEN GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no written General Business, in spite of the meeting being instructed to write on the papers distributed for that purpose. A prominent note at the head of the page reminded members that written general business would be read but not debated. Instead, the general business will be referred to the National Executive to follow through on.

TENDER: 2009 NATIONAL REUNION

Victor Aubrey, Manurewa Branch, tendered for the 2009 National Reunion to be held in Manurewa RSA. Jim Perry, Manurewa Branch, added to the tender.

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Motion: | That the 2009 National Reunion be awarded to Manurewa Branch. | | |
| | Moved: Brian Miller | Seconded: Graham Hall | |
| Agreed | | | |

TENDER: 2011 NATIONAL REUNION

Ray Morrissey has tendered for the right to conduct the 2011 National Reunion in the Waikato region. Approved by acclamation.

PRESIDENTIAL THANKS:

President, Len Knapp, thanked

- * all for attending the meeting and for their good behaviour
- * the Christchurch RSA for the use of their facilities
- * the organising committee for the welcome and the work put in over the two years
- * Red Hooper for his many years of devotion and service to the Association
- * the National Executive for their custody over the last two years.
- * members who had paid their National subscription fee.

PRESIDENTIAL CONGRATULATIONS

President, Len Knapp, congratulated the new members of the National Executive who had offered themselves for positions over the next two years. He welcomed them on board, and assured them they would be given tasks to perform and take responsibility for.

CLOSURE

The President closed the meeting at 1310 hours. He wished all members a pleasant Reunion and safe returns to their homes at the end of the social event.

CERTIFICATE OF VERIFICATION

The above report is an accurate transaction of the business conducted at the Biennial General Meeting of the Association in the Christchurch RSA on Saturday 20 October 2007.

Signed: _____ Position: _____

Print: Name: _____

Date: _____ October 2009