

NATIONAL PRESIDENT NOTES -1 APRIL 2014

On 4 March 2014 I attending a meeting of Ex Service Organisation leaders in Canberra prior to the Ex Service Round Table meeting the following day, the main purpose of this meeting was to consolidate some agreement on policy directions we want to raise with the Minister and DVA departmental heads the next day. The meeting was positive and we were able to reach agreement on a joint approach to government on a number of subjects.

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The Ex-Service Round Table meeting in Canberra on 5 March 2014 was positive and the results of the meeting the day before was obvious, there was common agreement on a number of matters that in the past could have resulted in “ambushes”. A summary of the minutes of the round table will be distributed once they are available from DVA.

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I was invited during the month to comment on the proposed introduction of an independent web site and Facebook site for the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) as many would remember the VVAA was instrumental in the establishment of this service and it is encouraging to see we are still being consulted on proposed changes, from a first reading the proposal seems sound.

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Through the VVAA ACT Branch contacts with the Australian War Memorial I was able to accept a donation of a number of books that commemorated the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial in Canberra, copies will be made available to states at the National Council in May, if anyone wants copies earlier please contact me

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During the month I was invited to a meeting with two Timorese representatives of their freedom fighters veterans association, the meeting was exploratory on their part with a view to establishing links with veterans associations in Australia that could assist them in establishing compensation and health support services for their members, early days however the contact has been made.

National Council and National Congress are to be held in the Sydney area on 22/23 May 2014, now is the time to finalise those papers and get them distributed to all states for their consideration. The administration handbook outlines the process you need to follow.