

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the SPECIAL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th November 1993.

The National President, John Printz, stated that as he was personally involved he would not chair the meeting but requested that the Vice President, Rob Cox do so. This was agreed to.

The Vice President declared the meeting open at 8-02 P.M.

PRESENT:-

COUNCIL MEMBERS

NATIONAL PRESIDENT	JOHN PRINTZ
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT	ROB COX
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	JOHN METHVEN
NATIONAL SECRETARY	GEOFF TREVOR-HUNT
NATIONAL TREASURER	NEV VARLEY
PRESIDENT QLD	PADDY BOXALL
PRESIDENT WA	ROB COX
PRESIDENT ACT	JIM TALBERT
PRESIDENT NT	STEVE POULTER
PRESIDENT TAS	DOUG RICHARDSON
VICE PRESIDENT VIC	ALAN HUGHES
PRESIDENT SA	NORM COLEMAN
SECRETARY NSW	RAY FULTON

OBSERVERS:-

VICE PRESIDENT WA	PERCY WHITE
LISMORE SUB BRANCH	SHELDON MAHER
SECRETARY SA	GRAHAM NYBO
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	ADRIAN WALFORD

APOLOGIES:-

PRESIDENT NSW	TIM McCOMBE
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The Vice President declared that this meeting was for Special Business as advised to members and that this was the letter from NSW regarding John Printz and John Methven and no other business would be discussed.

The Vice President asked if all Council members had had the time to read the document. All replied in the affirmative.

Ray Fulton was asked if he wished to expand on the letter under discussion. He replied with answers that were already included in the letter. He further stated that it appeared there had been many phone calls made over the letter.

Norm Coleman stated that he, as a State President, did not appreciate letters being sent direct to his Sub Branches and that this was supported by his Sub Branches. This was generally agreed to by other State Presidents.

John Printz asked Nev Varley if he had anything to add and he replied that he only became aware of the letter about the same time as John Printz and that he was not a member of the NSW State Committee.

John Printz then requested that each item raised in the letter be discussed individually. This request was granted.

The first item raised began at paragraph 4 and this was answered by John Printz.

The second item raised was also answered.

Motions of acceptance of John Printz's responses to the allegations were made on the two items.

Ray Fulton then produced a letter from the NSW President and signed by him (Tim McCombe) that Ray Fulton did not have any authority to withdraw or retract any statement in the letter under discussion.

It was stated by Alan Hughes (Victoria) that the letter should not have been sent out to any Branch, Sub Branch or member as there was in place a method for dealing with grievances, that is a Grievance Committee chaired by Rob Cox and that should have been the method used in this case.

Production of this letter made any further discussion on the letter impossible.

Proposed:- Victoria

Seconded:- Tasmania

That New South Wales delegate go back to New South Wales members and explain to them that all other States have confidence in and believe in the integrity of the current National President and the Immediate Past National President and that the National Council has a duty to bind the Association and not to tear it apart and that if a grievance is held then that should be put to the grievance committee.

Discussion on this motion was then held.

Proposed:- New South Wales

Seconded:- John Printz

That the above motion be amended to include:-

That the National President and the Immediate Past President be requested to speak face to face to the New South Wales State Committee on matters relating to Vietnam Veteran members concern.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUSLY

The original motion was then voted upon.

CARRIED BY ALL STATES - WITH NEW SOUTH WALES ABSTAINING.

Proposed:- John Printz

Seconded:- Queensland

That if John Methven is not available then the National Secretary or a member of the National Council accompany the National President to the New South Wales meeting.

It was pointed out by the Public Officer that John Methven's resignation had no effect at this stage as it had not been handed to the National Secretary as required by the Constitution.

Proposed:- Victoria

Seconded:- Queensland

That the cost of travel and accommodation be borne by all State Branches in the same manner as for National Congress.

CARRIED WITH NEW SOUTH WALES AGAINST.

It was pointed out to New South Wales that the letter constituted a vote of no confidence in both the Current and Past National Presidents and as such had to be dealt with immediately which is why the meeting was called at such short notice.

Proposed:- John Printz

Seconded:- Queensland

That the National Secretary write to all State Branches and Sub Branches in reply to the letter and attachment sent out under the signature of the NSW State Secretary, Mr Ray Fulton, stating that the National Council passed a vote of confidence in the current national President (John Printz) and the Immediate Past President (John Methven) and that the voting status of the Council be noted.

The Vice President declared the meeting closed at 10-55 P.M.



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(G. F. TREVOR-HUNT J.P.)
NATIONAL SECRETARY

SECRETARY'S NOTE:-

It should be made clear to all that Mr Sheldon Maher made many statement during the meeting, but these are not recorded as minutes due to the fact that he was an Observer ONLY.