

**MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL RAAMC ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL MEETING held at VICTORIA BARRACKS,
PADDINGTON on SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER 2010**

Meeting opened at 1135hrs by the National President, John Straskye who welcomed all members and gave a special thanks to Major-General “Digger” James (National Patron) for his attendance at the meeting.

Present: John Taske (Queensland), Theo Dechaufepie (NSW) ,Suresh Badami (NSW),John O’Brien (NSW) ,Michael Jelley (South Australia),Kevin Andrews (Victoria) , John Overton (Trustee, NSW) , and “Digger” James(Patron).

Apologies: Tony Delaney, Major-General Paul Alexander, John Smith and Frank Lander.

John Overton welcomed all attending and spoke about the “RAAMC ASSOCIATION” and the need for this ‘Association’ and its role in embracing all Medics, Cooks, Drivers and all others who have served with Medical Units of the RAAMC.

He believed that this meeting today was ‘putting the stamp’ on the CONSTITUTION and the reasons as to why we need to continue to be looking after our own.

He stated that as a group we should thank John Straskye, Theo Dechaufepie and John O’Brien for working to get this ‘off the ground’.

John stated that we need to “look after our diggers”.

Standing Items:

The President explained that the 'Association' was registered with the Department of Fair Trading (NSW) and produced the appropriate documentation from that Department for the notice of all members present. He also advised that the 'Association' was registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

He also explained that each Zone (State) of the 'Association' was covered under these documents. He also advised that all fees had been paid by himself and considered these payments as a donation to the 'Association'

State Reports:

The President asked State Branch Presidents or Representatives give the meeting a background to their situation.

Queensland:

John Taske stated that there had been many enquiries regarding the process to joining the 'Association'.

He also advised of recruiting which he didn't think would be a problem once the 'Membership Application' form was agreed and made available.

He advised that they had \$3,000 in the 'kitty' and were happy to hand this over to 'National' if required. (John Straskye stated that the Constitution allowed each State (Zone) to have an amount of \$3,000 in their Account and that these should be known as an "Operating Account".)

John Taske's report sparked some discussion in which John Overton spoke of the section in the Constitution that no subscriptions are to be charged but that 'donations' may be accepted and sponsorship may be accepted.

John Straskye discussed the Queensland Association Website which contained much information and supported by John Taske who stated that with the website that they had endeavoured to include as much information as possible but keeping it easy to digest.

"Digger" advised that he was much impressed with the whole RAAMC Website and believed that it gives great insight for prospective members.

"Digger" also advised the meeting that once the 'Membership Application Form' was agreed each application would need to be 'vetted'. Kevin Andrews advised the meeting that he had raised his own 'Application Form' and it included a 'Proposer' section.

The meeting agreed that every applicant must have a Sponsor and that the 'Association' must have a National Application Form.

New South Wales:

Theo Dechaufepie stated that they now had 120 names on the books and that growth was happening.

He advised that numbers totalled 70+ that marched on ANZAC Day under the RAAMC ASSOCIATION Banner.

He advised that he was most disappointed with the lack of interest in the Corps Birthday function which he was forced to cancel. The meeting understood this disappointment but supported him in continuing to persist.

John Taske believed that the 'Membership Application' Form would help to solve the problem as at present prospective members feared that they might have to pay a further membership fee as well as their contribution to their involvement in a Unit Association.

The meeting agreed that the 'National RAAMC Association' must encourage and foster all those eligible to become members to actually lodge a Application for Membership Form.

There is a need to have this form agreed by this group as soon as possible and made available to members.

Victoria:

Kevin 'Bat' Andrews advised that his inaugural meeting held in February 2010 attracted 23 members. His membership now stands at 70+.

ANZAC Day was well attended and it was the first time the RAAMC Association Banner was paraded. (Donations had been made at the meeting in February and this helped in the purchase of the Banner).

The 'Corps Birthday' was attended by 50+ pers and at the time Kevin was disappointed in the numbers but in hindsight it was well attended considering this was the first year it was held.

Kevin felt that 3 or 4 functions a year are enough. All in attendance agreed.

Kevin felt that Unit Associations are currently a little 'offside' with the concept of 'The RAAMC Association' but he felt that 'time' and 'persistence' will fix this problem. They are slowly realising that the 'RAAMC Association' is "their" Association.

Kevin asked if Fair Trading NSW covers his group. This was answered in the affirmative.(John Straskye is to check with Legal regarding insurance. Suresh Badami gave advice regarding this matter and he was positive that we are 'covered')

South Australia:

Michael Jelley advised that Bill McLaughlin is the main mover in SA of getting RAAMC personnel together.

Mike saw a need to have a more formalised approach in the future and believed that RAAMC members in SA would be happy to become members once they realised that no further fees were payable.

He also advised that an 'Army Health ServicesGroup' Banner was attended each ANZAC Day at which 20+ marched.

A meeting was being held in Adelaide in November at which discussions on issues such as fund raising, subscriptions etc are to be discussed. Mike will let 'National' know the results.

John Overton suggested that monies already held as membership fees could be converted to 'donations' the meeting agreed. John also congratulated Mike for the way in which he is 'getting things going' for the RAAMC in SA.

John spoke regarding the loyalties of members of Unit Associations and that we need to spell out that that by being a member of that Association will only benefit by each member becoming a member of the 'RAAMC Association 'in their State. We must be sure that they are aware of not having their loyalties split."We are ONE"

Other Business:

John Straskye spoke to the matter of 'Suspension of relevant Articles 9 – 14 of the RAAMC Association Constitution ie 'Secretary/Treasurer' be inserted instead of just 'Secretary' and 'Treasurer'

"That Articles 9 – 14 be suspended until October 2013 (if required) in necessary circumstances".

Moved: John Straskye

Seconded: John Overton.

Carried.

National Committee Nominations:

1."That John Taske be appointed as Deputy President of the National RAAMC Association"

Moved: John Straskye.

Seconded: Suresh Badami.

Carried.

2."That Theo Dechaufepie be appointed as Vice President of the National RAAMC Association"

Moved: John Straskye.

Seconded: John Taske.

Carried

3."That John O'Brien be appointed as Secretary of the National RAAMC Association"

Moved: John Straskye.

Seconded: Michael Jelley.

Carried.

4. "That Frank Lander be appointed as Treasurer of the National RAAMC Association"

Moved: John Straskye.

Seconded: Theo Dechaufepie.

Carried.

Kevin spoke about State(Zone) Reps." As Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland have already appointed their Reps that these positions should remain as already noted unless otherwise advised of any changes to State(Zone) appointees."

Moved: John Overton.

Seconded: 'Digger' James

Carried.

NB The State President (or his nominated rep) are to be the State (Zone) rep at any National RAAMC Association Meetings.

Next Meeting.

The next meeting is to be held as a Teleconference at a date to be advised.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 1105hrs.

National President	National Secretary
Original Signed	Original Signed