

TPI Association WA
General Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 13th August 2019

1. **Meeting Opened:** 1032hrs
2. **Departed Comrades:** Robert Snedden
ODE
3. **Attendance:** As per register
4. **Apologies:** Paul Livermore, Paul Falzun & Damien Casey
5. **Welcome to New Members:** Robert Martin
6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**
Motion: That the Minutes of the meeting held at the General Meeting dated the 9th July 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record.
Moved: Bill Sturgess **Seconded:** Neil Patrucco **CARRIED**
7. **Business Arising from Minutes:** Nil
8. **Presidents Report:**
John Kelly – The Hyde Park Inn has just announced a defence family loyalty club that gives you discounts at a few places throughout NSW. There are a few handouts on the table from DFWA, ADSO and the Allied Dental upgrade. Colin and I are heading to Canberra next month. We will be bringing up about having a liaison officer through DVA into Centrelink. PVA has put a submission into DVA in regards to the War Widows possibly not getting new Gold Cards in 2025. If there is anything you'd like brought up in Canberra, please let us know. There are people wanting a Royal Commission into DVA, they will find nothing different to the Productivity Commission, however we could lose everything if there is a Royal Commission and we would all be sitting under the NDIS. Be wary of what you wish for.
Les Leverage – In the past when there has been a Royal Commission, not all recommendations have been acted upon. If enough parliamentarians and public servants decide that they want us under NDIS, then we'll need protection later on. Nobody sets up an investigatory committee without someone setting guidelines, which tell the committee what they want. Now is the time to stop it because we don't want to make it any worse.
9. **Correspondence:**
IN:
Paul (Reg) Livermore Leave of Absence
Little Aussie Directories Re: Advert
PVA Letter Re: Productivity Commission
VVAA Invitation to Vietnam Veterans Day
OUT:
RAR Association Apologies for non-attendance to Korean Armistice Ceremony
Little Aussie Directories Reply Re: Advertising
Motion: That the Correspondence be accepted.
Moved: Charlie Carter **Seconded:** Bob Poole **CARRIED**
10. **Business Arising from Correspondence:**
Nil
11. **Financial Statement and Treasurers Report:**
Motion: That the Financial Statement and Treasurers Report be accepted.
Moved: Bill Sturgess **Seconded:** Bob Saunders **CARRIED**
12. **Federal Business:**
John Kelly – I really would like you all to think about giving us something to take to Congress.
Les Leverage – Have you heard any more about medications being refused?

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John Kelly – Pat McCabe has gone straight to DVA's doctor. It's currently being looked at because they are finding that people who are refused their medication cannot go to another medication, so people will end up sicker than they were before.

13. General Business:

- **DVA Tenders – Graeme Winter** – DVA has put tenders out regarding medical evidence.
John Kelly – Under MRCA you have to go to one of their doctors. Under SRCA and VEA, you can refuse and say you have your own treating specialist. This is to determine if you're putting it on or not.
- **University Fees – Neil Patrucco** – I recently got an admission to Joondalup Campus. I emailed DVA to ask if the studies would have an effect on my service pension. I was told that it was a decision for me to go independently. What I'm asking is, is there a facility within DVA that covers part of the HECS fees or do I have to through a scholarship. Independently I have to pay for my full HECS fees. Those fees can be tax deductible but I don't pay tax.
John Kelly – I will look into this for you.
- **Purchase of Building – Paul Ryan** – I put a suggestion into the committee to look into purchasing this building for the association so we could use it as we had in Como years ago.
John Kelly – This has been looked at and it was decided it wouldn't be feasible. Everything that is there now will all be going into the new building. It would probably be unlikely that we could get a liquor licence because they already have one on this estate. We would have to get a bar manager to manage the bar, then we would need people to run the bar. We would not get volunteers to do that because we can't even get volunteers to come on the committee for one day per week. Taking all of this into consideration, it wouldn't work.
Dennis Gilmore – Every member of our Association is entitled to use the RAAFA Club at any time. Why would we have a separate club?
- **Dental Implants – Charlie Matheson** – Does anyone know the story about dental implants?
John Kelly – There is a handout here that has all the links etc. DVA will still do the dental implants but for the front teeth only unless there is a medical reason caused by the defence force that has wiped all your teeth out.
- **Protection – Les Leverage** – I have heard that certain members of the community, yes I'm talking about Aboriginals, being promoted to a special mention in our Constitution. I believe that if one section of the community is elevated above any other section of the community then that is wrong in a democracy because we are all equal. If there is going to be anyone specifically mentioned in the Constitution, I believe it should be the people who keep this Country safe. The Constitution is for ALL of us. I firmly believe that the people, who in the past have kept this country safe and those in the future who are going to continue that tradition be named specifically in our Constitution. If a Royal Commission is allowed to go ahead then we will be administered by NDIS. Many of the things that we enjoy today, we're not going to get and they want to take things away from our wives and partners. Where's the justice in that?
John Kelly – I grew up in the Aboriginal community up North and I never saw one full blood Aboriginal complain about anything. I then joined the defence force and found out there was no such thing as Aborigines, Australians, Poms etc., we all wore green. I agree with Les that the constitution should read 'for defence force personnel'. We have been fighting for seven years to have one line changed in the constitution to help us be better off.
Les Leverage – We have been promised so many times for our own department. DVA is now about the 10th of the size it was 20/30 years ago. If we could get something that says, 'Veterans are a special breed and are to be given their own department and administered separately from all other departments'.
- **Bill Sturgess** – Is there something that we can do by leaking information to the press?
John Kelly – At this stage they're not running with it. I'm hoping that with Les going to A Current Affairs with one snippet of what's happening to the Veterans' community in regards to health, then we can keep throwing them more.

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14. Motions on Notice:

15. Raffles:

Door Prize	Mal Kinnaird
Meat Hamper	Joe Kuzmanich
Cash Raffle	
1) \$50.00	Mike Nettleton
2) \$30.00	Wayne Sprylan
3) \$20.00	Graeme Purkiss

16. Next Meeting: General Meeting Tuesday 10th September 2019 @ 1030hrs

17. Meeting Closed: 1127hrs

Dated this 10th day of September 2019

Raymond Pearce
Chairperson