

TPI Association WA
General Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 13th July 2021

1. **Meeting Opened:** 1035hrs
2. **Departed Comrades:** Henry Higgins
ODE
3. **Attendance:** As per register
4. **Apologies:** Ray Pearce, Charlie Carter, Damien Casey, Robin Lovegrove, Alan Hannah, Paul Falzun, Graeme Purkiss, Paul Hudson, Donald Hunter, Carlos Fragomeni & Neil Patrucco.
5. **Welcome to New Members:** Nil
6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**
Motion: That the Minutes of the meeting held at the General Meeting dated the 8th June 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record.
Moved: Les Anderson **Seconded:** Wayne Sprlyan **CARRIED**
7. **Business Arising from Minutes:**
 - **Motion:** That it be noted in the minutes to thank John Kelly for his years of service on the committee.
Moved: Kevin Fowler **Seconded:** Ian Bourne **CARRIED**
 - **Perth Parking – Terry Priest** – Has there been anything done in relation to free parking in the city?
Colin Benporath – Damien Casey is following this up.
8. **Presidents Report:**
Colin Benporath – The Committee is following up several items, Perth Parking, Medicare Issues, and DVA Transport under 80 years of age.
9. **Correspondence:**
IN:

16 th June	Shire of Bruce Rock	Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion 1 – 7 November
24 th June	RAR Association	Invitation to attend Korean Armistice Agreement Ceremony
25 th June	City of Perth	Reply Re: Free Parking

OUT:

21 st June	City of Perth	Re: Free Parking
1 st July	TPI Federation	Schedule 1 – Add Damien Casey as Director

Motion: That the Correspondence be accepted.
Moved: Bevin Trouchet **Seconded:** Les Anderson **CARRIED**
10. **Business Arising from Correspondence:**
Nil
11. **Financial Statement and Treasurers Report:**
Motion: That the Financial Statement and Treasurers Report be accepted.
Moved: George Van Beek **Seconded:** Kevin Fowler **CARRIED**
12. **Federal Business:**
Colin Benporath – Foreign Affairs Defence of Trade with the investigation into DFRDB and also the Committee investigating the TPI remuneration. The end result was that the committee recommended a moderate increase in the TPI remuneration. It was also mentioned that TPI partners be allocated the Gold Card on reaching pension age. Now we need to sit back for the Government’s reaction to the report. I don’t have the information on the DFRDB findings.
Rick Ryan – The TPIWA supported that the service pension be classed as compensation, this is also a recommendation for the Government to consider. In relation to the DFRDB, the Senators on that inquiry, I believe, weren’t fully ok with exactly what was being asked of what they were to do because in their final report they mentioned that one of their recommendations was that recruits and personnel within the

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military be made aware of the DFRDB. The DFRDB was in place 30 years ago, so that gives you an idea that the Senators know nothing. This is going to be an ongoing battle.

Colin Benporath – Since the May budget, the Government through a DVA press release, has conceded a DFISA payment is classed as a compensation payment. The Federal President to follow up the fact that if the DFISA payment has been classed as compensation then it should automatically follow that the service pension is classed as a compensation payment. I have put forward an e-motion to the Federal Directors to have the service pension recognised as compensation along the same line that the DFISA payment be recognised as compensation. That is currently being circulated amongst the Directors. I haven't heard the results of this e-motion, I will advise next month what is happening with this.

Rick Ryan – With the business about the policy that the service pension is welfare, I've been advised by previous Directors that there is no such motion that was put through the Federation in regards to this. I believe this is a policy of the TPI Federation President, not the Directors. I suggest that you, as a Director, where are the minutes stating that policy. They won't be able to produce it.

13. General Business:

- **Secretary Vacancy – Colin Benporath** – We still have a vacancy for Secretary. We have a member who has put his hand up to nominate for this position.

Motion: To accept Will Fox as Secretary until the 2023 AGM.

Moved: Rick Ryan

Seconded: Baden Jeffrey

CARRIED

Chair passed to Dennis Gilmore

- **Motion:** To authorise the Secretary to email all members that both qualifying and non-qualifying TPIWA members are to be declared equal as per the TPIWA constitution.

Moved: Colin Benporath

Seconded: Denis O'Brien

CARRIED

Colin Benporath – Unfortunately there has been a lot of emails going around making derogative comments to some people on the Committee and also to other members, that are non-qualifying TPI's. Our constitution states that we look after all TPI's equally.

Rick Ryan – Just make sure that the wording is in relation to membership and it's not in relation to the current rulings under the various acts where we get treated differently for payments between operational and non-operational veterans. I agree that when it comes to everyone within the Association we should all be treated equally but be very careful you're not overriding/overlapping into the payment/benefit area.

Colin Benporath – This has nothing to do with payments, Rick. This is to state that all TPIWA members are to be treated equal and that nobody should be sending out derogative emails to members because they are non-operational instead on operational. To me that is definitely a no no that members should have to suffer the indignity of being referred to as a lesser person because they are not a qualified TPI.

Chair passed back to Colin Benporath

- **Forwarding Emails – Colin Benporath** – In relation to the derogative emails being forwarded on to members and non-members, one of these people is a financial member of TPIWA. He was warned some 8 years ago about sending out and forwarding emails, particularly from non-members, and was asked to refrain again in 2013. The Committee has now requested that he be emailed to ask him to cease and desist sending emails to members of TPIWA and if he continues the Committee will look at a period of suspension.
- **Federal President – Barry Anyang-Burling** – What is happening with the motions in relation to the Federal President?
Colin Benporath – Those motions were deferred and then lapsed. Nominations close for Federal President on 23rd July 2021.
- **Federal President – Les Verco** – Just something I heard on the front desk this morning in relation to Pat McCabe. I believe that she has been making remarks that a lot of TPI's are mentally unstable. I don't think that we need a person in that position to be saying that. I'm only saying this as several people here made these comments to me this morning. I would like to know if that is correct.
Rick Ryan – To fill you in on us mentally unstable TPI's, one situation came up in the last Senate Inquiry that the service pension be compensation. I was one of the parties that was dealing with Senators on this inquiry. I put some comments on the TPI Federation FaceBook page, after the Senate Inquiry,

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where the TPI Federation submission was knocked back again asking the Government for a modest increase. I put comments up about this one day and the next day they were missing. That's when I noticed comments about TPI's being unstable.

Les Verco – Colin do you have any comment to make?

Colin Benporath – I've been in an email sequence with the Federal President regarding certain things. I don't wish to elaborate here, other than I have moved an e-motion for the Federation to accept the service pension as compensation in line with the DFISA payment. I don't like to white ant anybody so all I'm doing is informing our members that I am trying to act on your behalf with the Federation to get the Directors to vote on that despite some of the comments that have been made about me. You can rest assured that when it comes to the September congress the remaining Directors will have the benefit to seeing some of the derogative emails that have been sent to me. To my knowledge, at this stage, nobody has nominated to oppose Pat but it has been rumoured that there is suspicion that I may stand.

Les Anderson – Do all TPI's across Australia get the same amount of money or because of the cost of living in NSW, they get more money than us?

Colin Benporath – They vary depending on service pension or DFISA. Because the service pension is means tested there is a percentage of TPI's that are in receipt of full service pension, then there is a percentage of TPI's that due to the means test, only receives a portion of the service pension and there is a percentage that are eligible for the service pension that are in receipt of nothing due to the fact that they're asset tested. One comment made by the current Federation President is that she feels that some of the TPI's with the service pension are millionaires and don't need to get the service pension. That statement should never have been made.

- **Value of Canberra Properties – Dennis Gilmore** – A couple of months ago the question was asked what the value of the Canberra properties were. The properties are currently valued at \$1.62M. The purchase price was \$1.12M.
- **Medicare – Graeme Winter** – This is about the changes that are happening to the Medicare system where there the Government has removed over 1200 surgical listings, hearts, knees, hips etc. I want to know if this will affect TPI's.

Colin Benporath – As stated earlier in the meeting, the Committee is looking into this.

14. Motions on Notice:

15. Raffles:

Door Prize	Bevin Trouchet
Meat Tray	Ron Tait Clock (Donated by Les Anderson) Bill Sturgess
Cash Raffle	
1) \$50.00	Les Anderson
2) \$30.00	Joe Kuzmanich
3) \$20.00	John Carreras

16. Next Meeting: **General Meeting Tuesday 10th August 2021 @ 1030hrs**

17. Meeting Closed: 1127hrs

Dated this 10th day of August 2021

Colin Benporath
Chairperson