

F-111 Deseal/Reseal Support Group

Annual General Meeting 22 May 2004

Held at Ipswich RSL Services Club

President Ian Fraser opened the meeting at 9.40am and welcomed all present. Ian explained that the minutes of the previous AGM, held at Kedron-Wavell Services Club, had gone astray. He then read the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Sunday 28 March 2004.

Members present. Ian Fraser, Karen Fraser, Peter Felton, Susan Cross, Ray Webster, Coral Webster, Danny Treleaven, Geof Kleinig, Diane Kleinig, Rudy Agerbeek, Cliff Miller, Bernice Miller, Kevin McLean, Stephan Jurga, Bruce Davis, Bronte Hagstrom, Cheryl Hagstrom, Barry Willis, Ted Barnard and Kathleen Henry

Apologies: Liz Agerbeek, Tracy Price, Ron Seymour, Lois Seymour, Tony Ramsden and Raeleen Ramsden.

President Ian Fraser gave his report for the past year, highlighting the achievements of the Support Group. He stated that more people are aware of the Deseal/Reseal problem and that he has been in contact with Mr. Cameron Thompson MHR the Member for Blair, who will endeavor to help the Group. Ian thanked the members of the committee for their hard work and dedication during the past twelve months.

Treasurer Susan Coss presented the financial report for the past twelve months and stated that our current bank balance is \$1193-95. Susan also stated that we will have to look at some avenues of obtaining funds. This will be discussed in general business.

President Ian then declared all positions on the committee vacant and called for nominations for the committee

President	Ian Fraser	Moved Cliff Miller. Seconded Barry Willis Carried
Vice President	Kathleen Henry	Moved Ian Fraser. Seconded Susan Coss Carried
Secretary	Raeleen Ramsden	Moved Kathleen Henry. Seconded Bruce Davis Carried
Treasurer	Susan Coss	Moved Rudy Agerbeek. Seconded Kevin McLean Carried
Media	Tracey Price	Moved Barry Willis. Seconded Ian Fraser Carried
Committee	Stephan Jurga	Moved Kathleen Henry. Seconded Ian Fraser Carried
Committee	Peter Felton	Moved Bruce Davis. Seconded Barry Willis Carried
Committee	Barry Willis	Moved Ray Webster. Seconded Peter Felton Carried.

President Ian thanked the members present for their vote of confidence in him and said the he looked forward to working with the new members of the committee

GENERAL BUSINESS.

President Ian started the discussions, asking for ways for the Support Group to be funded. Various scenarios were discussed.

- a. Writing to the manufacturers of the various chemicals asking for their assistance.
- b. Writing to the State Branch of the RSL, seeking either a donation of \$10,000-00 or for the RSL to Fund the Support Group.
- c. Contacting every RSL in Queensland and some of the bigger ones in other states seeking support.
- d. Approach the major contractors at Amberley i.e., Boeing or Tasman Aviation.

It was stated that Frank Cooper had a DVD of all of the TV interviews and that a copy could be obtained for \$15. It was suggested that we obtain a copy and forward it along with a story of the Deseal/Reseal to John Laws for nationwide publicity. Possibly one member of the Committee going to Sydney for discussions with Mr. John Laws

Stories should also be placed in RAAF News, Wings (RAAF Association Magazine), RSL News Qld (this paper goes out to every member of the RSL in Queensland) and any publication that will take up our cause.

Letters to be written to every Member of Federal Parliament, stating our case and asking that Desealers be made a "Special Case". That all Desealers be treated the same no matter when they joined. Under the present system members are treated under different entitlements and some are sorely disadvantaged.

Various methods of bring our plight to the notice of the authorities were discussed. These included picketing RAAF Bases, Recruiting and the offices of our members of Parliament. To picket the RAAF Bases and Recruiting would be counter-productive as we have the support of the Chief of Air Force. After lengthy discussion it was decided to have a petition formally drawn up and distributed and at the appropriate time have it presented to Parliament.

Ian spoke of a gentleman in the United States of America who took on the manufacturers of the chemicals and won his battle after a long and bitter fight. This man has made a donation to our cause.

Various cases before DVA and MCRS were discussed and in most cases the members are very happy with the treatment they have received. It was explained to the meeting that the staff at DVA and MCRS were bound by the legislation and until the Health Study was complete and Statement of Principals were introduced their hands were tied. Members were asked not to harass the staff in Brisbane, as this served no useful purpose and could get us all offside with them.

The civilian members of the support group are not sure where they stand with Workcover, with different stories circulating. An endeavor will be made at the next

SHOAMP Meeting to have things clarified for them. Some members have received letters offering settlement and others have had interviews with investigators from Workcover.

Peter Felton stated that there were still Desealers seeking help and some had not even registered with the Health Study (it is to late now) or with the Health Care Scheme. Some had submitted their own claims, but had not put them through the Deseal/Reseal Cell. The result of this was that some claims were rejected, instead of being held until the Health Study was completed.

Ian said that he had heard that Phil Moon of Bundaberg had done interviews with TV stations; he believed it to be Channels 7 and 10. He will try and find out from the stations when the interviews are going to air, and will try and inform members, either by Email or on the Goop Troop Forum. Ian stated that nobody was to make statements on behalf of the Support Group without the permission of the committee. You may talk about your own case but not talk on behalf of the Support Group.

Members were reminded of the visit of the Chief of Air Force on Sunday 27th June 2004. Members attending are requested to be at the main gate at Amberley by 1130 on that day. Members are reminded to ring the Advocates office to register. Remember no registration, no pass, NO GO. You can also register by sending an Email to Peter Felton at peter.felton1@defence.gov.au

As there was no further business, President Ian declared the meeting closed at 12.10 and thanked the members for their attendance and asked them to join him and the committee in some light refreshments.

Next committee meeting at a date to be advised.