

**MINUTES
RAAMC CORPS COMMITTEE MEETING
14 NOV 03**

Present:

COL G. Wells
COL R. Beal
COL J. Overton
LTCOL D. Wright
MAJ G. Georgiadis
MAJ R. Holmes
MAJ G. Jones
MAJ N. Read
WO1 J. Murphy
WO1 M. Jesenkovic

Apologies:

LTCOL S. Fletcher
LTCOL G. Whelan

1. COL Wells declared the meeting open at 1052 h and welcomed all visitors to the Albury Wodonga Military Area. He stressed the importance of getting to know ALTC and the Museum. He said the meeting would be aimed at wrapping up the Corps Centenary activities and then refocus on next year. COL Wells said he would remain HOC in 2004 but that he had flagged to DGPP-A, the point that the HOC needed to be within the Army Group.

Minutes of previous meeting

2. COL Wells tabled the minutes from the meeting on 22 Aug and asked that they be accepted.

PROPOSED: MAJ Georgiadis
SECONDED: LTCOL Wright
PASSED

Business arising from minutes

3. **Paras 13-15.** MAJ Jones noted that 1 800 copies of PAULATIM were provided by the publisher at no cost – the \$1 500 mentioned in the minutes had not been necessary.

4. COL Wells said that he would not discuss any items in the minutes, which were tabled for discussion as agenda items on 14 Nov. He noted that the RAAMC web site was up and running and that word needed to be spread of its existence and links to other sites. MAJ Read suggested links should be inserted to other sites such as RAAMC/RAADC/RAANC association sites and email addresses. MAJ Georgiadis said that he would provide links to trade issue sites. The operation and expansion of the site was discussed and when expansion to the internet was canvassed, COL Wells said that RAAMC would remain with the intranet at present. MAJ Holmes said he had some contact details for RAAMC associations, which he would pass on to MAJ Read.

ACTION: WO1 Murphy
MAJ Holmes

5. **Para 41 - Colonel in Chief.** COL Wells noted that the RAMC now had the Duke of Gloucester appointed as its Colonel in Chief and despite the indication in the RAMC application that affiliation with the RAAMC should occur, this had not happened. If the RAAMC wished to apply to have the Duke of Gloucester as its Colonel in Chief, the process would have to be started from the beginning, in Australia. MAJ Jones suggested that while the Corps title included the word 'Royal', he believed it appropriate that royal patronage should be maintained. Discussion followed and MAJ Georgiadis suggested that the Governor General should be considered as an alternative. LTCOL

Wright suggested that HOC contact SO1 Ceremonial / Secretary to the Governor General to ascertain whether GG was available to be Colonel in Chief of RAAMC or if not, what the process was to achieve royal patronage. COL Wells said he would report on the matter at the next meeting.

6. **Para 43 – RMC-A memorial.** COL Wells said that the site for the proposed memorial at RMC-A had been viewed and that while no firm conclusion had been reached on what form the memorial would take, it was obvious that there was need for a plinth on which to mount a plaque. MAJ Jones suggested that the project could be handed over to the ACT RAAMC Association. COL Wells said that RMC-A was looking for a combined Health Services memorial and that he would pass the request on to Ian Pennell with a view to having the ACT Association coordinate the task. He said that RAAMC Corps Fund commitment would not be decided on until there was a firm proposal.

AGENDA ITEMS

Corps Fund

7. **Audit and balances.** MAJ Read advised that an audit of the Corps Fund books had been conducted for the first time in a few years. The auditors had been satisfied with the books. He stated that the balances of the investment and access accounts were \$12 799.12 and \$1 807.00 respectively.

8. **Donations.** The matter of donations by way of an identified annual amount from individuals to the Corps Fund was discussed. It was decided that as this type of donation was very rarely given and targeted fund-raising for specific activities was a more practical method of supplementing the Corps Fund. The chapter referring to donations in Corps Standing Orders was to be deleted.

ACTION: MAJ Read

Coin sets/Book – Little by Little

9. MAJ Read asked for direction on dispersal of remaining coin sets (576) and copies of the RAAMC Corps History Little by Little (270). It was agreed that 400 coin sets were to be returned to the Mint or sold to the Army Museum Bandiana at cost price. In regard to Little by Little, the Corps RSM stated that the War Bookshop was going to send an invoice and that some of the books belonged to the WBS, with the remainder having been provided to the RAAMC as payment in kind for royalties. All were available for RAAMC to sell. MAJ Read said that he would contact the WBS to ascertain the present state of ownership and what payment was due to WBS. Depending on how many were owned by RAAMC, all but 50 were to be returned to the WBS.

PAULATIM

10. COL Wells said that he wished to record a vote of thanks to MAJ Geoff Jones for what he referred to as the best ever edition of PAULATIM. MAJ Jones advised that he was happy to remain as editor for the 2004 edition.

11. MAJ Read asked for copies of back issues of PAULATIM to be sent to him so that he could have them copied to CD. RSM said that he could provide a complete set for copying.

ACTION: RSM

Centenary wrap-up

12. **Property.** MAJ Holmes advised that he had brought the sword, plaque, statuette and other Corps Property items with him to the AWMA and would pass them to the Property Member after the meeting.

13. **Commemorative envelopes.** MAJ Holmes suggested that one each of the four mounted commemorative envelopes be distributed to COL Alexander, 2 HSB, HSW and DHSB. He also suggested distribution of two unmounted envelopes each to AWM and the Army Museum Bandiana. This was agreed.

14. **Accommodation vouchers, seed money and accounts.** The accommodation vouchers for the Carlton Crest had been raffled and raised about \$200 for the Corps Fund, MAJ Holmes said. He would repay the seed money (\$3 000) and remit money for medallions, books and coin sets, all before the end of 2003. COL Wells thanked MAJ Holmes for his efforts, the success of which was reflected by the success of centenary activities. **(Subsequent to the meeting MAJ Read requested MAJ Holmes to remit the seed money straight away and other funds as soon as possible so that overdue accounts could be paid.)**

1 HSB Unit Flag

15. WO1 Jesenkovic submitted a colour representation of the 1 HSB Unit Flag, which had been approved for adoption by HOC and AHQ. An official launch was planned for early Apr 2004, the unit birthday.

Land Command Health Continuum

16. COL Wells advised that trade issues were a key focus area now that the Corps Centenary was over. He spoke on the review of the health services and advised that some STPP positions had been established within DGPP-A in AHQ to review processes for management of health support (DCA Dir 08/03). LTCOL Reg Crawford was to occupy the LTCOL position and COL Wells said that he would invite him to the next Corps Committee Meeting. HOC said that many RAAMC elements would be required to provide input to the study, which would be broad ranging.

Corps Property

17. **Property.** CAPT McCuaig said that since appointment as Corps Property Member, he had undertaken a stocktake of property, which he had split into three phases. The first, about 75% of items, at ALTC, had been completed. Specific items of property were being displayed in the ALOM on a rotational basis. He detailed the distribution of items within ALTC and explained that he had raised a register of property. Phases two and three involved visits to Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane to view and account for property. This would include identifying what property was in GRes units. He expected to have the stocktake completed by early 2004.

18. **Memorabilia.** Corps memorabilia was discussed and it was decided to maintain the present 'virtual' shop on the RAAMC intranet site.

19. **Insurance.** On the subject of insurance of property, it was agreed that CAPT McCuaig should identify what was held and how items are covered. Units which hold items, are required to provide evidence of appropriate insurance on an annual basis. Units which were not prepared to pay for insurance were to present a case to the Corps Committee for the Corps Fund to pay the premium. The Committee was to decide whether the unit could retain the item. CAPT McCuaig would report on progress at the next meeting. COL Wells thanked CAPT McCuaig for his efforts.

Corps Standing Orders

20. **Rewrite.** MAJ Read said that he had done a lot of work on updating what is currently referred to as Corps Standing Orders. The title was discussed in light of the fact that the publication did not have any command status and as such, could not justifiably be referred to as 'orders'. Another title was to be canvassed for Committee comment out of session.

21. **Feedback.** MAJ Read said he would forward an electronic copy of the publication to attendees who had not as yet received one. He asked for feedback on additions or deletions.

Action: MAJ Read/All

22. **Award recipients.** In regard to the Sir Neville Howse, VC Award, HSW was seeking direction on whether non-Army students on courses could be given the award. It was agreed that only Army personnel could be recipients of this award.

Honorary appointments

23. **Honorary Colonel CR.** COL Wells advised that COL B.L. Perks had been appointed as HON COL CR from 19 Feb 04 to 19 Feb 06.

24. **Representative Honorary Colonel.** COL Wells stated that COL Overton had been nominated to AHQ to replace COL Beal as REP HON COL when COL Beal's appointment expired on 19 Feb 04.

Recognition of service

25. LTCOL Wright raised his concern that while the Corps recognises the service of its members upon leaving the Army, it does not recognise the service of a member or former member of the RAAMC who dies. He stated that through HOC, the Corps should recognise and acknowledge the deceased member and in particular the member's family for their contribution and support. . . . After further discussion the committee agreed to accept this responsibility with letters to be forwarded under signature of HOC. LTCOL Wright and MAJ Jones are the action officers. It was also decided to include this item in the Corps Standing Orders and to ask RAAMC Associations to advise HOC, DHOC, Corps RSM or SO2 CORPS if they became aware of the passing of a member or former member.

**Action: DHOC (RES)
SO TO DHOC
SO2 CORPS**

C.F. Marks and Harkness Medals

26. Corps RSM stated that five nominations had been received for the C.F. Marks Award and two for the Harkness Medal. RSM would distribute copies to the award committee for consideration out of session.

Action: RSM

27. Corps RSM stated that funds were running short in the C.F. Marks Award account and that it was necessary to either have the account topped up or reduce the amount of money awarded. RSM said he would attempt to locate the family of C.F. Marks and draft an appropriate letter for HOC. He also advised that CPL Gurr had yet to receive his medal and that he, the RSM, had CPL Gurr's address.

Action: RSM

Capability issues

28. COL Wells suggested that in the absence of COL HLTH LHQ, the Corps Committee was not the appropriate medium for discussing capability issues. He stated that in 2004, with involvement of LHQ and LTCOL Crawford (AHQ), capability issues could be addressed. Discussion drafts would need to be circulated before any meetings.

Recruiting and training

29. MAJ Georgiadis played a recruiting video which was aimed at aspiring ASST MED. He advised that the first CMA course for some time was to begin shortly at 8 CSSB.

Honorary Colonels matters

30. The subject of the \$5 000 held by the HON COL Committee was discussed. COL Beal undertook to write to COL Wilkinson asking him to forward the money to the Corps Fund, while the purpose to which it was to be put was considered. This matter was to be included as an agenda item for the next Corps Committee meeting.

Action: COL Beal

Next meeting

31. Depending on the availability of a meeting venue at Victoria Barracks in Sydney, the next Corps Committee meeting would be held there on either 18 or 19 Mar 04.

Conclusion

32. COL Wells closed the meeting at about 1645 h.

Original signed
N. READ
MAJ
Secretary

Nov 03

Original signed
G. WELLS
COL
Chair

Nov 03