

President's report for NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association's 2023 AGM, 21 October 2023

Members, friends and guests, I have the honour and pleasure of presenting my eighteenth annual report to the NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association Inc.

There were several highlights for the past year:

The finding of the Montevideo Maru in April 2023 in the Philippines' Sea at 4200m. NGVR lost at least 36 of its members when the ship was sunk by friendly fire on 1 July 1942, 81 years ago. This was a project the Association has been closely involved since 2008 and the successful find has brought much comfort to the relatives and friends of those lost.

The grant of a lease by NSAAQ over the museum premises to the association.

Today's 50th Anniversary of PNGVR's disbandment luncheon.

These will be discussed further in the report.

The Association remains well managed and I believe members and friends were well served during the past year, because of our long serving, able office bearers and committee members. Our aging memberships remains reasonably stable, losing a few to death or debilitating illness and occasionally adding a new ex-PNGVR soldier as member.

Since our 2022 AGM, to my knowledge, six members and friends have died. Those are Joan Mundy (October 2022), Bernice Cosgrove and Donald James Hook (February 2023) Michael Raasch (June 2023), Bill Bickerton and Bruce Johnson (September 2023). On a brighter note, 2 members have received awards for their community service: Don Lowie OAM and Stan Carswell MBE, both living in north Queensland. Stan was nominated 'Volunteer of the Year' by Cairns RSL.

Our activities during the past year include:

- 1 Anzac Day March and Reunion
- 2 1st July Montevideo Maru 81st Anniversary Memorial Service
- 3 publication and distribution of 6 issues of Harim Tok Tok
- 4 maintenance of our web site www.pngvr.weebly.com and face book
- 5 maintaining and operating our Museum with openings to the public on the first Saturday of each month and with group tours
- 6 holding 6 management committee meetings
- 7 attendance at numerous kindred organisations' events and commemorative services, and
- 8 maintaining contact with our older and frailer members and friends.

Most if not all activities were reported in Harim Tok Tok, our face book and web site - please keep yourself informed by regularly viewing these media.

Our newsletter Harim Tok Tok is our main means of communicating with our wide-flung membership, and it continues to grow in its popularity. I would like to acknowledge Editor Bob Collins contribution by producing 84 issues over the past 14 years, thank you Bob for your passion and dedication.

I also acknowledge and thank our treasurer, Kieran Nelson, who also administers our face book with timely postings of information and notifications, and Canberra based member Trevor Connell who efficiently maintains our web site www.pngvr.weebly.com.

Our Museum curator's Paul Brown, Colin Gould and Kieran Nelson with assistance from Jessica Harrington and Sylvia McNeilly continue to maintain the Museum to a high standard. We are indebted to these few for their ongoing devoted work to the Museum, which has become a focus for many of our activities. The Association's legacy to the community will be our military museum which will ensure the history of our two unique units and the enduring relationship between Australia and PNG are not forgotten.

And I thank Colin Gould and Paul Brown for arranging today's AGM and luncheon.

I thank Alex Garlin and his NSAAQ team for their ongoing assistance to our Association. The maintenance of the Military Precinct is a credit to them.

Our Association has been granted a lease by NSAAQ. The most pressing issue for the Museum is to seek an appropriate organisation which is willing and capable of assuming the responsibility for and the running of it.

Today the Committee will be asking the Association members to pass a motion which will allow the committee to negotiate succession for the Museum on reasonable terms to all parties. I particularly thank our Honorary Solicitor Craig Ray for his assistance in negotiating the lease and his continuing assistance in helping us to negotiate a successful succession for the Museum.

Despite our limited funding opportunities, our present financial position is sound with thanks to Treasurer and Grants Officer Kieran Nelson. Presently we are awaiting the results of the recent round of Gaming Grants for a grant to fund solar panels for the Museum. Our financial position will come under increasing pressure due to the loss of Bunnings Sausage Sizzle revenue following the 2022 floods (nearly 2 years ago now), and increased costs associated with the running of the Museum.

Your 2023-24 management committee will need to continue addressing this issue, and support from members with donations and

bequests is appreciated.

A late news item is that two representatives of our NGVR soldiers lost on the Montevideo Maru will be present at a late November 2023 special dinner, in Canberra, to mark the finding of the wreck of the Montevideo Maru. These are Sue Vail whose father was NGVR Sgt Charles Ian Maclean NG 4013 and myself, President of NGVR & PNGVR Association.. Another similar type of dinner will be held on 2 November in Oslo, Norway with the King of Norway and relatives of 24 Norwegian merchant sailors from the Herstein who were lost on the Montevideo Maru present. Hopefully these functions will make the Montevideo Maru tragedy more widely known.

On behalf of our Members, I thank the outgoing committee members. We are always appreciative of our Honorary Chaplain Ron McDonald and Honorary Solicitor Craig Ray who are always available when needed. Our Patron Major General John Pearn graciously continues to provide engaged support and encouragement to us, thank you Sir.

As an Association, we continue to meet and exceed our stated objectives in our constitution and the expectations of our community.

I wish our incoming office bearers and committee members every success in 2023-24, and I thank members and friends of the association for their continuing support.

Phil.

Treasurer's Report 30 June 2023

Our association entered this financial year on 1 July 2022 as we seemed to be emerging from the Covid Pandemic with most of the restrictions now lifted and the prospects of life returning to normal.

We are still dealing the impacts of the severe flooding last year with Bunnings Oxley, which had become a major source of our funding, being closed indefinitely due to flood damage and no viable alternative becoming available. Despite this setback we ended the year in a strong position due to a generous donation of \$5000 from a deceased estate which was very much appreciated.

Our main source of income remains our Annual Membership Fees which need to be paid when due on 1 July each year to cover the cost of our insurance public liability and museum contents policies amounting to \$1,481.28 and post, printing and stationary amounting to \$2735.15 which includes the mailing of our Harim Tok Tok journal which is a very important communication tool for our association. A new lease from NSAAQ was negotiated and signed in December 2022 which increased our rental to \$1200 per year and we have an ongoing responsibility to have our financial records audited at the cost of \$450 this year. All of which place a significant burden on our finances. We appreciate the support of King and Co Property Consultants for printing in this regard.

Unfortunately, our financial membership has been in decline for several years now due to deceased and lapsed members resulting in the subsequent loss of membership income, so any assistance members can provide by receiving all communications by email to cut down on postage would be appreciated.

To offset the electricity expenses charged to us by NSAAQ, we have applied for a grant from Gambling Community Benefit Fund which closed on 30 June 2023 to install solar panels on our roof but to date we have not had a decision handed down to us.

Kieran Nelson

*Note. If it had not been for one off donations of \$10,000 in 2021/22 and \$5,000 in 2022/23 the Association would have been in negative cash flow of \$4689 for 2021/22 and \$2876 for 2022/23. **The budget for 2023/24 projects a net loss of \$4,958.** In a few words "We will soon be running on empty".*

NGVR PNGVR EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC		
Profit & Loss		
July 2022 through June 2023		
	Jul 22 - Jun 23	Jul 21 - Jun 22
Income		
Annual Fees	3,075.00	1,990.00
Book Sales	390.00	150.00
Donations		
General	5,998.21	11,430.03
Total Donations	5,998.21	11,430.03
Functions Profit	0.00	4,926.80
Grants	0.00	3,799.00
Museum Income	1,678.00	649.70
Q Store Sales	153.50	130.00
Sales	5.00	20.00
Total Income	11,299.71	23,095.53
Expense		
Audit Fee	450.00	400.00
Bank Charges	12.38	16.83
Book Purchases	0.00	37.74
Depreciation	0.00	4,496.99
Events	701.55	3,213.90
Fees	128.60	123.60
Goods Donated	852.09	0.00
Insurance	1,481.28	1,481.28
Internet	211.00	312.57
Light and Power	1,089.26	797.43
Museum Leasing	600.00	0.00
PO Box Rental	224.00	211.00
Post, Printing and Stationery	2,075.57	2,735.15
Q Store Purchases	0.00	50.00
Repairs and Maintenance	535.40	119.56
Security	483.36	787.86
Water & Sewerage	330.39	0.00
Total Expense	9,174.88	14,783.91
Net Income	2,124.83	8,311.62