

VVAG - VIETNAM VETERANS ACTION GROUP



From the Desk of the Secretary

Newsletter and update on Tribute 08
6th June 2008

- 1/ Jesse Gunn has resigned from all her portfolios effective 17th June 2008
This appears as a response to the apology from the Government and the admittance of failure of duty of care. As there is to be a restructure of VANZ and WINZ from 1st July 2008 I guess that most Vietnam Veterans and their families will be relieved and the outstanding cases will be assessed in due course much quicker under the new system.
- 2/ For those that attended Tribute 08 I believe that all were satisfied with the apology and I know from the many persons I have spoken to feel better for having being there. It was great to catch up with so many of our mates.
- 3/ Amazingly the weather for the weekend was great and it did not rain until Monday morning. This presented a good opportunity to visit the new Cultural Museum where we also had a concert put on by the NZ Army band. This was the icing on the cake as far as I was concerned and capped off a great weekend. I thoroughly recommend a visit anytime you are in Wellington.
- 4/ On the VVAG front our Lawyers have almost completed the first brief for presentation to the Barrister. This expected to be completed within 2 weeks. I spoke with the Solicitor this morning for an update. I am expecting a written report on the recommendations.
- 5/ The general feeling from the people I spoke to about VVAG was positive and hence we gained more members. It was felt that there was a need to resolve once and for all the legal aspects of the failure of duty of care. This should have been done 30 years ago and also should have been done by the NZRSA and the EVSA as a part of the MOU As the Government has admitted to this it will be interesting to see what eventuates from the disclosure.
- 6/ As you can now register online for those that have already registered and were a part of the original registration could you please fill in the part that covers miscarriages and birth defects for all the family. This is very important.

On behalf of the Executive and members of VVAG I thank you all for your support.

Bruce Weir Secretary/ Founder VVAG