

Special report and invitation

Dear Members

I am writing to all eligible members of RMPA Western Australia Branch, who reside outside of Western Australia, to advise of an important decision made by your branch at the 2009 Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 15th November 2009. I am sure this will be of interest of those RMPA life members who would prefer the option of holding full membership of this branch instead of the Honorary Branch Membership arrangements.

At your AGM, the membership discussed the prevailing situation where RMPA Western Australia Branch is now the only branch throughout Australia and New Zealand; and whilst there was every hope that further branches would be established in eastern parts of this vast continent and over the Tasman, the reality of the matter is there appears little likelihood of this happening in the foreseeable future. Therefore, as the past courtesies and protocols to be observed when two or more branches are within the one geographical region are no longer relevant, a compelling argument can be mounted against the principle of restricting all non-WA resident members to that of Honorary Branch Membership only. It has now been resolved to offer full membership of our branch to all eligible members living outside of Western Australia. Eligibility is determined by holding RMPA life membership.

In view of the uncertainty of future development of RMPA in the southern hemisphere outside of Western Australia, the hand of friendship should continue to be extended to former RMP / RMPA personnel residing in Australia and New Zealand who are currently unattached to a branch. Our branch is very happy to provide a conduit of RMP/RMPA information and camaraderie in this part of the world. If you know of other former RMP/RMPA members in your area, please pass on our offer.

In making this important decision on eligibility for full membership of our branch; our members also hold the view that this branch should not risk what has been so hard to achieve in making this branch a success, which is to keep its management committee and administration locally based in WA. Therefore, full membership of this branch by members residing outside of WA will be invited; but full membership is conditional that holding office or voting to change the branch constitution would not be permitted, whilst that member resides outside of WA. Naturally, any other issue to be deliberated and voted on would be allowed. Votes by full members domiciled

outside of Western Australia can be made either in person, if able to travel to a meeting in Perth; or can be tendered to the Chairman by way of a proxy vote.

I therefore have great pleasure in cordially inviting all eligible Honorary Branch Members of this branch, living outside of Western Australia, to consider applying to convert their membership of this branch to that of full membership. This can be simply done by return of email briefly confirming acceptance of this invitation and by quoting their RMPA life membership number for our branch records. The annual fees payable for the 2010 year will be \$25 per full member. Fees can be paid anytime from now.

Should any Honorary Branch Member of this branch, living outside of Western Australia, who is a RMPA life member and wish to retain their present Honorary Branch Membership of this branch; then of course nothing needs to change and you may simply disregard this invitation. The annual fees payable for the 2010 year will remain at \$20 per Honorary Branch Member. Fees can be paid anytime from now.

Please send all branch membership fees for the 2010 year to the treasurer of RMPA Western Australia Branch, Steve O'Connor at 16 Hartleap Lane, Beldon, Western Australia 6027.

I will circulate the minutes of the 2009 AGM of RMPA Western Australia Branch to all members in due course together with a copy of the amended branch constitution.

Upcoming events

If you are considering a visit sometime to Perth, Western Australia - these are the next events for your calendar:

* RMPA WA Branch lunch meetings:

The next regular RMPA lunchtime meeting for members, together with wives or partners, will be in the Sun Room at the RAAFA Club, Bullcreek on Friday 18th December 2009 at midday. Lunch is off the blackboard menu.

Please note that we have especially set aside this date on a Friday as our branch will be visited by Paul Jones and his wife Elaine from RMPA Northern Ireland Branch during their very brief sojourn in Perth. They have especially asked to meet our members after hearing news of our branch that had travelled far and wide. Please note this date is the only date we can fit in to allow for their very tight schedule, as well as the restricted availability of December bookings at the RAAFA Club.

As the December lunch is also set aside for our official branch photographs, which will appear in the RMP Journal in April 2010; I ask for all members to please attend dressed accordingly ie: jacket & tie with red berets & medals.

Whilst I do appreciate members with work or other pressing commitments may have difficulty in attending; I also ask for our members to please make every effort to attend as the official photograph will be truly representative of a vibrant RMPA branch and membership interest.

The first regular RMPA meeting of the 2010 year will be held on a Thursday in February on a date to be determined. All branch members will be advised of the arrangements in due course.

* RMPA WA Branch - 2010 charity fundraiser

Our members have decided to hold another 'family fun day fundraiser', preferably for the same "Help for Heroes" fund, which earlier this year raised some \$2 000 for the cause championed by Major Phil Packer. This will be held towards the end of March 2010 and we would love to see some of our interstate and overseas members attend and combine it with a visit to our lovely city.

We hope to also host another cricket match with our friends from the Military Police Association of Australia (MPAA) and secure the services of an 'impartial umpire'!

The committee formed to progress the arrangements is Kerry Meacher, John Elson and Steve O'Connor. RMPA Western Australia Branch will donate \$500 from branch funds to cover the costs of the function and all monies raised on the day will be donated to the charity of our choice; once we have confirmed the necessary arrangements.

* ANZAC Day parade - 25th April 2010

Our members will again be marching as a group in next year's ANZAC Day parade. Any RMPA members visiting from interstate or overseas will be most welcome to join us in the parade. After the parade a lunch with the wives or partners will be held with our friends from the British Ex Service's Association (BESA) at a popular local restaurant. If you have yet to experience the pomp and splendour of a full ANZAC Day parade - here is your chance.

Thank you and kind regards

Brian Griffiths

Branch Chairman

RMPA Western Australia Branch

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