



Chairman’s Welcome, by Brian Boon, MCS

A heartfelt welcome to all our MiVAC members and their families to our MiVAC Christmas Newsletter.

Your Board has been very busy this year, with some of our highlights being:

- Seconding a Membership Coordinator and a Volunteer Coordinator to our Executive Committee. Their articles are included below.
- Seconding a “Webmaster” who has been making considerable improvements to our webpage
- Updating several of our policies that apply to our volunteers working overseas
- Obtaining various approvals for our project from a number of departments in Vietnam, and
- Preparing for our project start in Vietnam.

I extend my congratulations to three Members who were granted Honorary Life Membership at the AGM in September: John Salter MC, Lyn Clark and Peter Perry. Their contributions to MiVAC have been significant over many years and have been recognised with Honorary Life Membership. We have confirmed with our main sponsor that our promised project funding in Vietnam is still available. And with a much reduced daily incidence of COVID there, we are now ready to start our project.



Vietnam Project Coordinator’s Report by Peter Perry

In early 2017 I visited Quang Tri Province in Vietnam to carry out an initial feasibility study into the provision of running water to needy villages and schools. This visit was a culmination of some hard work and sound advice from a local, Ms Phuong, who provided a sound basis for our subsequent project development. After Brian completed the designs and budgets, we progressed to a funded proposal and were ready to start work in the Ba Tang Commune near Khe Sanh when COVID hit!

Now, with very few COVID cases in Vietnam, the time is nigh to commence our projects. The setup team is primed to arrive in Vietnam on 31 January 2023. Whilst there is much administrative work to complete in Dong Ha (the Quang Tri provincial capital) a key task revolves around identifying and setting up a MiVAC office/home in Khe Sanh. Our deployment is expected to last for at least 3 years.

My main task, however, is to secure the full-time services of a Vietnamese Administrative Manager (VAM), a key position to be located at our office in Khe Sanh. I have received 4 applications for this position to date with more anticipated. A very interesting adventure awaits us with many clean little faces as the ultimate reward.

A Merry Xmas to all MiVACians and Friends of MiVAC.

Best regards, from Peter



Membership Coordinator's Report by Lee Uebergang

The major membership related tasks completed since the last newsletter in April 2022 have been to refresh the Membership database, process the 2022/23 annual membership subscription renewals and finalising the "MiVAC Membership Policy & Processes" document. With support of the Webmaster, we have also refreshed the websites "Join, Donate & Volunteer" webpages and implemented a pay by credit/debit card facility.

As you can imagine, MiVAC is always looking for new Members and referrals from existing Members to their family, friends and professional colleagues is always the best way to spread the word to potential new Members. Just think, one targeted referral from all existing Members could double our Membership very quickly. Please spread the word!!

MiVAC has recently refreshed its Executive Committee and is looking for candidates to fill the following positions:

- Company Secretary
- Marketing & Communications Coordinator
- Grants & Fund Raising Coordinator
- Governance Coordinator

Anyone interested should contact Brian Boon, the Chairman, on chairman@mivac.org.au for details of the roles and responsibilities.

Everyone is asked to ensure any changes to their contact details are passed to me on membership@mivac.org.au

Cheers Lee

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**Volunteer Coordinator's Report**, by Wayne Walker

Believe it or not 2022 has been a busy year and whilst COVID has slowed down on the operational front, it has provided an opportunity for us to get our house in order and to kick some administrative and process goals.

During 2022 we have achieved much in relation to the management of the Volunteering process with the Committee recently undertaking the following:

- Review of Volunteer Policy & Procedure Manual
- Establish Volunteer Expression of Interest (EOI) Application form
- Implement an On-line EOI Volunteer Application process
- Review of Volunteer Pre-Departure Checklist
- Establish a volunteer Pre-Deployment Medical Assessment process
- Establish a volunteer database
- Establish a volunteer Gant chart to assist in the management of in-country volunteers

In coming months, we intend to undertake the following:

- Call for EOIs from existing members to fill identified in-country (and other) positions (scheduled to start in Jan 2023)
- Assist in the coordination of volunteers into and out of VN
- Assist the MiVAC Board to broaden the awareness of MiVAC across ex-service and other likeminded associations

Cheers, Wayne

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Chairman's Close

Our next newsletter will (hopefully) be an actual update from Vietnam!

Thank you to our Board members and members of our Executive Committee for your great work through the year. We have certainly achieved a lot!

On behalf of the MiVAC Board and our Executive Committee, I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable Festive Season, and all the very best for 2023.

With kind regards,

Brian Boon, MCS
24th December 2022

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### Some useful links:

Webpage: [MiVAC – Mines Victims and Clearance](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/minesvictimsandclearance/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@mivacinc1642>

Global Development: [GDG Australia - J1014N Ba Tang WASH \(globaldevelopmentgroup.org\)](#)