

Australian World War One Descendants
Minutes of AGM July 30st 2014

Meeting opened 19.40pm (7.40pm)

Apologies: Margaret Northam, Daphne & Sharron McKeever, Ann Bartlett, Jennifer Buckham, Robert McKenzie, Ann Asciak, Warren Squires, Peter Horam, Karen Hurley, Julie Searant, Damon Ronsisvalle, Sue McFadden, Bruce Connell, Bill Newham. Apologies accepted: Royce Lockhart, Seconded: Kel Sykes.

Minutes of the last AGM: Royce Lockhart moved that the minutes be received and adopted, seconded by Sarah Dawson.

President's Report: President Greg welcomed members, and spoke of the Reserve Forces Day Launch and dinner that was attended by some of the AWWOD Committee. This years' theme was the AIF involvement in New Guinea. During the morning meeting, Greg had met Les Dudman who was involved with banner poles. Les had indicated that he would arrange the banner poles for our banner free of charge, but as nothing eventuated from this offer, Greg ended up having them made for \$542.00. He had requested a quote in writing, but instead the manufacturer went ahead and made them, advising Greg they were already completed and ready for pick up. We have managed to do everything ourselves without external financial assistance. Anzac Day rained this year, but we still had over 100 members marching. WW2/Post WW2 Descendants encountered many problems due to the mix up with the RSL. During the Debrief held at March Committee Headquarters attended by Greg and Royce, it was mentioned that the March Committee want to model all future groups on us and they are impressed. Jeeps should have been behind us, but again they ended up in front at the last minute. Royce added the confusion may also have been due to the close proximity the WW2 group were to our rear, and the jeeps may have been placed in front of us due to lack of room, a marshal problem. FFFAIF invited us to the Fromelles Day service in Hyde Park. Many Committee members attended, and Arline laid a wreath on our behalf. 2015 should be a much bigger march for us, so all Committee members will also need to assist with pre-march memberships.

Vice President's Report: VP Royce Lockhart attended the pre-Anzac Day service at Ashfield with many Committee members, for the first time. He also attended the march Debrief with President Greg, and advised that it was noted that many WW2 descendants did not wear medals. He also attended the Fromelles service on 19/7/14. He received a circular regarding Anzac Day from the RSL March Committee, and forwarded it to Karen/Arline. He will forward all future correspondence to keep us up to date.

Secretary's Report:

Arline advised we had 13 new members join on Anzac Day, 5 were part of family memberships. She has posted out paperwork and AGM notices to all these new members but only two have replied. She does not make name badges for members until they have returned both their Membership application and Stat. Dec. Since Anzac Day we have had 5 new members join, mostly due to seeing us on the ABC coverage and referral from the RSL. There have been a lot of enquiries about joining for next Anzac Day, and Arline has advised them to join as soon as possible to avoid the anticipated rush prior to next Anzac Day and ensure that they will have a name badge made for them.

173 members are on the Data Base, which includes 27 family memberships. Most are for two or three people per membership but one family has seven. Four members haven't paid since 2011, shall remove them before next Anzac Day. The sending of the newsletter by email has proved a big money saver as it cost .88cents to have an A4 double sided sheet colour printed. Still had to have approx. 25 printed as some members do not have email or have changed their email and not notified Arline. The RSL were very kind and supplied us with 2 land rovers last Anzac Day, so Arline shall ask for 2 next Anzac Day and hopefully they will supply them again.

Mr John Haines from RSL Headquarter made a point of seeking us out at the Fromelles Day Service and commended us for our discipline and appearance during the March. He said that it had been noted at Head office and that they were using us as an example to all other Descendant Organisations that participated in the March. Quite a compliment from the RSL.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sue McFadden and Bruce Connell sent their apologies due to car trouble, so Karen Dawson read the Treasurer's Report. Our opening balance for the financial year was \$7,177.33, and our closing balance **\$7799.90**. Our total memberships this year was \$894.00, and sales of ties and scarves \$425. Our expenses totalled \$721.53 which was mainly made up of print/postage/stationery & DFT lodgement costs (\$448.63), with the addition of flowers for the Mortdale Remembrance Day wreath (\$40), Committee badges (\$103), and Anzac biscuits for the Kings' boys (\$99.90). An order for AWWOD ties has already been placed and will cost \$1705. In addition, we are considering a donation to the Pozierres Remembrance Association of \$3000 for a garden in the memorial of Pozierres, which is in the process of being constructed.

Inventory of Ties and Scarves:

Ties: we have 8 in stock @ \$25 (sell) = \$500 / @ cost=\$108 (sold 92 incl 12 this year)

Scarves: 36 in stock @ \$20 (sell) = \$720 / @ cost=\$666.00 (sold 64 incl 9 this year).

Total Stock Value @ Sell = \$920.00 / Total Stock Value @ Cost = \$774.00

Publicity Report: Publicity Officer Karen Dawson advised she approached around 16 RSL clubs requesting plasma screen or newsletter advertising. Penshurst RSL, Mortdale RSL, Burwood RSL and Harbord Diggers agreed to help, and North Ryde RSL not only placed our ad on their plasma screens, they also placed our ad in the local newspaper "The Weekly Times". Stock of scarves will be sufficient for another year or two, so we have only placed an order for 100 ties. These have been quoted at \$17.05 each including GST, with no artwork fees as original artwork is being used. They are being manufactured now. The Kings' Boys were exceptional as always and we had 8 marching with us, also their leader David Vassallo. Karen presented David with an AWWOD tie on Anzac Day as a gesture of thanks, and certificates and Anzac biscuits will be presented to them all on Remembrance Day this year (if not earlier). The Macquarie Hotel was a great success again, although the room we usually have was unavailable due to their renovations. Despite their best efforts in reserving us tables for 40 members, other patrons just sat there regardless of the reserved signs but were moved on as soon as they'd finished their meal. We had over 30 people join us for lunch and the hotel staff were very welcoming and helpful, despite the hotel being taken over by another company, again. ABC coverage was again very positive this year, and they made mention that we looked very proud and were the largest contingent of the march. Overall, we looked fantastic, and marched beautifully within our ranks. We were lucky to have our very own "paparazzi" again and the photos have been placed on our website. Our sincere thanks to Bruce Connell. We have been looking at various charities worthy of our help, and have discovered a project in Pozierres France to erect a memorial park and also rebuild the original Windmill for the 2016 centenary. The site chosen for the memorial park has been described by Charles Bean as "a site more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth". The windmill was destroyed during the battle in 1916 and will be rebuilt by the French government, but they have given Australia land around it on which the memorial park will be built. It will also be protected from any further development in the future. The Pozierres Remembrance Association Inc is selling bricks for \$50 each to raise money for the memorial park, as the Australian government at this stage are not providing very much assistance, if any. Information has been placed on our website for members to purchase a brick privately if they wish. AWWOD Committee are considering donating \$3000 to the memorial to be used as a garden with a plaque bearing our name.

Royce Lockhart moved that all reports be received and adopted. Seconded by Mark Griffiths.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Royce Lockhart invited Ed Ronsisvalle to be our Returning Officer. It was unanimously agreed that the following members form our new Committee.

President: Greg Cowle, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Arline
Vice President: Royce Lockhart, Nominated by Greg, Seconded by Richie
Treasurer: Sue McFadden, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Kel
Secretary & Public Officer: Arline Ronsisvalle, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Sarah
Publicity Officer & Asst Sec: Karen Dawson, Nominated by Arline, Seconded by Sarah

Mark Griffiths advised that he would stand down, but is still happy to maintain our website and attend the occasional Committee meeting. Thank you Mark for your efforts over so many years.

General Committee: Denise Hendry, Nominated by Richie, Seconded by Mark
Sarah Dawson, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Arline
Kel Sykes, Nominated by Arline, Seconded by Sarah
Richie Newnham, Nominated by Sarah, Seconded by Kel
Bruce Connell, Nominated by Greg, Seconded by Sarah

General Business:

Kel asked if the general members should be notified and offered to vote on the Pozieres' memorial donation and it was agreed that we would discuss this at our next Committee Meeting to determine whether we should send a mail-out to members. Greg advised dates for our calendar: St John's Anglican Church Pozieres Commemoration Service 3/8/14; Sinking of the Emden 9/9/14; Static Display 13/9/14; Commemoration of the first convoy leaving Australia from Albany in October; Remembrance Day 11/11/14 (Royce advised this year's service will be held at Miranda RSL Club). Richie advised he is attending a commemoration service at Rookwood cemetery on 17/9/14 run by John Hines at which a soldier will be re-interred (***Arline, do you have more info on this?***).

Meeting closed at 20.54