

**Australian World War One Descendants  
Minutes of AGM July 31<sup>st</sup> 2013**

**Meeting opened 19.40pm (7.40pm)**

**Apologies:** Jessica Smith, Warren Squires, Peter Skinner, Helen Mueller, Barbara Gentilcore, Daphne & Sharron McKeever, Lyndall Eeg, Peter Horam, Robert McKenzie, Merylin Chiddy, Karen Hur, Julie Searant, Bruce Clarke, Bill Newnham, Kel Sykes.

**Minutes of the last AGM:** Read by Greg Cowle, Seconded by Mark Griffiths.

**President's Report:** President Greg welcomed members, and thanked them for attending our replacement venue. He discussed the nomination form for Committee positions that was included in the Notification of the AGM and explained that changes have been proposed to simplify the voting process. Greg thanked Ed Ronsisvalle for his help with our newsletter, and also thanked the FFFAIF for the placement of a free advertisement in their "Digger" magazine. He mentioned that our friend and colleague Kel Sykes, had been ill and expressed our best wishes to him for a speedy recovery.

Anzac Day 13: great weather with around 90 members marching. We looked very professional and this was noted by the March Committee. Although there were some worrying moments with regards to the Kings' banner boys previously, seven turned up at the last minute and were the best we've had. Greg mentioned that he introduced himself to the small contingent of Boer War Descendants who marched in front of us. We have been keeping in touch with them, and receive their fantastic newsletter. Nine AWWOD members also marched at the Ashfield RSL March the Sunday prior to Anzac Day. Greg mentioned that we have made a donation to Defence Care but more details will be discussed in Karen's PR report. More authentic timber banner poles are proving difficult to source, but will be done. With the WW1 Centenary next year and Gallipoli the following, we anticipate some exciting years ahead.

Greg thanked the Committee, and in particular Richie Newnham who is stepping down from Vice President's position to General Committee. Richie will continue to attend the RSL March Committee meetings if well enough.

President's Report accepted by Arline Ronsisvalle and seconded by Sue McFadden.

**Vice President's Report:** VP Richie Newnham spoke about the "Washup" 6/6/13, and mentioned attendance numbers are dwindling from previous years. It was agreed by the RSL March Committee that 2013 was a good march overall, plenty of bands, but they recognise that form ups are still a problem, as is timing. 20000 marched in 2012 taking 4 hours, and 15000 marched this year – still taking 4 hours. More two way communication is needed. Marshals are all volunteers and are sadly often abused. Format for 2014/15 is still unknown. General Peter Cosgrove had suggested a public walk across the Harbour Bridge but this is still under discussion. The March Committee commended AWWOD on our professional dress code.

Vice President's report accepted by Karen Dawson and seconded by Royce Lockhart.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Arline Ronsisvalle has been working on email addresses and has successfully sent the Notification to AGM & newsletters via email (thanks to Ed for his help!). She is only missing email addresses from 8 members. We have 135 registered members, but some are part of a family membership. All member details prior to 2009 have been deleted from the database. FFFAIF were very kind to give us a free advertisement in their "Digger" magazine. Arline attended a lecture at which the Editor of "Digger" was present, and he kindly offered us another free advertisement next year. She also represented AWWOD at the Fromelles Service on 9<sup>th</sup> July and presented a lovely box of native flowers (cost \$60). 90 or so members marched this year with 7 in the landrover. Many people are requesting multiple family members to march for the same ancestor lately, and Arline has politely said "no".

Secretary's Report accepted by Karen Dawson and seconded by Greg Cowle.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Sue McFadden advised we are in an excellent financial position and advised we have **\$7,177.33**. We spent \$2000 on a donation to Defence Care and will need to ear-mark around \$5000 for the re-ordering of ties and scarves. Receipts for 2013 of \$1398 have exceeded expenses of \$286 and will allow us to continue to grow.

Inventory of Ties and Scarves:

Ties: we have 20 in stock @ \$25 (sell) = \$500 / @ cost=\$270 (sold 80 incl 12 this year)

Scarves: 41 in stock @ \$20 (sell) = \$820 / @ cost=\$758.50 (sold 59 incl 11 this year).

Total Stock Value @ Sell = \$1320.00 / Total Stock Value @ Cost = \$1028.50

Treasurer's Report accepted by Greg Cowle and seconded by Sarah Dawson.

**Publicity Report:** Publicity Officer Karen Dawson advised she approached around 25 RSL clubs requesting plasma screen or newsletter advertising. Penshurst RSL, Harbord Diggers, North Ryde RSL, Epping Club and Rooty Hill RSL all responded favourably. No formal advertising is done, not viable. Overall dress code excellent and a record number of ties and scarves were sold before, during and after Anzac Day. Kings' Boys were exceptional as always, very lucky to have them as Karen had been advised by their cadet leader that due to the school holidays they would not be available. She had arranged four scouts with the march committee as replacements, but they did not show up. Seven Kings' boys arrived at the last minute to carry our banner and their cadet leader Stacey marched in our ranks wearing a marshal armband. Karen will present them with a certificate of appreciation and a tin of Anzac biscuits, with a scarf for their leader, on Remembrance Day. Macquarie Hotel a great location again, we had around 25-30 members join us for lunch. Great television coverage on the ABC: we looked very professional and marched beautifully within our ranks. Karen also thanked our resident "Paparazzi" Bruce Connell for his photography; photos have been added to the website.

Karen advised that, as we are a non-profit organisation, we cannot hold a lot of money. As mentioned in the Treasurer's Report, we are ear-marking \$5000 for the re-ordering of ties and scarves (possibly 2014) as this order will be imperative for 2015. Karen investigated a number of possible charities and it was decided (at Committee level) that a \$2000 donation be made to Defence Care for the production of 3 DVDs that will be loaded to Youtube providing assistance to veterans suffering from post traumatic stress and ongoing medical conditions. These DVDs provide information to veterans and their families with entitlements, claims, bereavement services etc. Many worthy projects were put forward but it was agreed that this would provide the greatest assistance to the greatest number of people.

PR Report accepted by Sue McFadden and seconded by Mark Griffiths.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Nomination forms for Committee positions had been received by the Secretary, and were read by Ed Ronsisvalle. It was unanimously agreed that the following members form our new Committee.

President:	Greg Cowle
Vice President:	Royce Lockhart
Treasurer:	Sue McFadden
Secretary & Public Officer:	Arline Ronsisvalle
Publicity Officer & Asst Sec:	Karen Dawson

General Committee:	Sarah Dawson
	Richie Newnham
	Bruce Connell
	Mark Griffiths
	Kel Sykes

#### **General Business:**

Greg welcomed new Committee Member Sarah Dawson and congratulated Royce Lockhart on his move to position of Vice President. He also thanked Ed Ronsisvalle for acting as Returning Officer. Ed advised that Qantas had made mention of us, so we may expect new members next year as a result.

**Special Resolution:** Vice President Royce Lockhart explained that due to the distance and difficulty in having nomination forms signed by two members we change to take nominations from the floor at the 2014 AGM. The result of this change will mean that we will no longer need proxies for the election of officers. A secret ballot will occur if there are two or more members nominated for the same position. Royce requested a show of hands from the floor: 100% of members were in favour of this special resolution, none against. The special resolution to amend our Constitution was moved and accepted.

Brian Jolly asked about special tours at Gallipoli at the 2015 centenary. Karen advised that the "ballot" for direct descendants to attend is arranged via the DVA.

Mark Griffiths advised our website has been archived by the Australian War Memorial and he has informed them of our website history. He also asked members if they would like to add to our Honour Page.

Arline Ronsisvalle thanked the members for attending our AGM. Many members were missing due to the change in venue and the lack of public transport.

**Meeting closed at 21.00 (9pm)**