

**Australian World War One Descendants  
Minutes of AGM July 8<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Meeting opened 19.45pm (7.45pm)**

**Apologies:** John Rich, Christine Horrock, John Moore, Robin Clark, Greta Clark, Margaret Northam, Lyndall May Eeg, Sidone Garland, Rhea Bonsey, Ian Dawes, Nicole Forest-Green, Robin Stirling, Jessica Smith, Helen Wake, Linda Brown, Anthony Cole, Warren Squires, Mel Chiddy, Cleo Lynch, Peter Horam, Steve Weingarth, Julie Searant, Kel Sykes, Karen Hurley, Damon Ronsisvalle, Richie Newnham, Frances Bulhdorn. **Acceptances:** Anne and Terry Oliver, Julie De Launay, Geoffrey Benn.

**Accepted by Royce, seconded by Greg.**

**Minutes of the last AGM 30/7/14** was received. **Matters arising from previous Minutes:** Banner poles are now done and look great. Donations were made to Pozieres Remembrance Association and the Boer War Association. **Correspondence In/Out:** Receipts have been received with letters of thanks from the beneficiaries of our donations. Royce Lockhart moved that the minutes be accepted and adopted, seconded by Sarah Dawson.

**President's Report:** President Greg Cowle welcomed members, and advised that since last years' AGM we have entered the period of the "ANZAC Centenary" sponsored by the Australian Government which encompasses many events covering the years 2014-2018. AWWOD members attend ceremonies in July each year for Fromelles and Pozieres, and several members attended the Ashfield RSL march where our new "old style" banner poles were tested, proving to be much easier to erect than the previous poles and looking far more traditional. Greg and Royce attended pre-ANZAC Day meetings where it was mentioned that AWWOD's appearance should be the benchmark for other Descendant groups. It was also stipulated that jeeps must travel at the rear of each group. Greg also spoke to Bob Batty who was "silent" when Greg advised him that we would have over 200 members this year. He suggested that callers to the RSL be referred to our website for details. A huge increase in membership and enquiries was not surprising leading to the 2015 Centenary. ANZAC Day dawned clear and bright and the Committee found business "brisk" with several people turning up with photos, no medals and more than one family member wishing to march. It soon became apparent that the RSL HQ had not made callers aware of the March Rules and those that AWWOD abide by, and the Committee found several people extremely rude and abusive. Marshals again seemed to lack information as to delays that occurred or conflicting views on policy of vehicles. We had 260 march which looked very impressive on the ABC iView coverage, and most were dressed appropriately. The after-march get-together at Hotel Harry was another success with their renovations now completed. Greg and Royce attended the RSL March De-brief where it was noted that out of 150 SES requested to help on the day, only 30 were available due to the storms the previous week. It was also noted that there were several "rogue" Marshals on the day, but the main topic of discussion at the meeting was the re-routing of the 2016 March due to the light rail work in George Street. Up-coming events: Fromelles Day 19<sup>th</sup> July Hyde Park, Pozieres Day at St. Columba Woolhara 26<sup>th</sup> July, and also a service at St John's Gordon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Several members took part in the RFD march on 5<sup>th</sup> July and were presented with Descendants medallions by the Hon. David Elliot MP, followed by a morning tea at Parliament House. In closing, Greg thanked the Committee for their efforts, hard work and friendship over the past year.

**Vice President's Report:** Due to other commitments as Delegate to RSL District Council and Hon. Secretary to an RSL District Council, Royce advised that he hasn't been able to attend all the services that AWWOD have been invited to over the past 12 months, but he is honoured to attend those he can. He mentioned some of the ANZAC Day March Guidelines that are important to AWWOD as set out by the NSW Branch of the RSL ANZAC Day March Committee:

- **ALL** participants are to wear medals unless they are an approved marshal, a carer or a flag bearer;
- Only **one** descendant may honour a deceased veteran by wearing their ancestor's medals;
- Descendants of a veteran are to wear their ancestor's medals on the right breast;
- Participants should wear appropriate attire and they are **not** permitted to wear period costume **or** carry photos of their ancestor. This is a March and not a parade.

In his role as RSL Hon. District Council Secretary, Royce receives circulars from the NSW RSL State Branch with ANZAC Day March Updates and passes these to the AWWOD Executive. He will continue to do so, to keep us informed of any changes and updates for the 2016 ANZAC Day March. Royce concluded by thanking his fellow members of the Executive and the Committee for the assistance and help throughout the year.

**Secretary's Report:** Arline reports that we have 266 members on our Data Base. Now that Anzac Day '15 is over, members that have not paid since and including 2013 will be removed, a total of 15 people. There are 32 members that are part of Family group memberships, so each membership is a \$10 group. We had many enquiries prior to Anzac Day, with many new members as a result. Have only received four lots of paperwork returned from over twenty people that joined on Anzac Day. Have finally balanced money that was collected on Anzac Day and we must stress to members to rejoin prior to Anzac Day, so that we are limiting the amount of money we collect on Anzac Day. Thirty four people entered names etc. on sign up sheets on Anzac Day, four were already new members and did not need to enter their names, five ticked to say that they had paid – and they hadn't - no receipts issued and money balanced, two- no ticks – no

money, 1- no suburb-no email ( have phoned her but had no reply) and one entry was completely illegible. There were a number of people that lined up and did not register at all. A lot of people did not collect their name badges, so shall have to make mention (in large print) in the next newsletter to go out prior to Anzac Day 2016.

**Treasurer's Report:** Inventory of Ties and Scarves:

Ties: we have 83 in stock after our re-order of 100 @ \$25 (sell) = \$2075 / @ cost of \$16.68 each = \$1384.44 (sold 117 incl 25 this year)

Scarves: 4 in stock @ \$20 (sell) = \$80 / @ cost = \$74.00 (sold 96 incl 32 this year).

Total Stock Value @ Sell = \$2155.00 / Total Stock Value @ Cost = \$1458.44

**Publicity Report:** Publicity Officer Karen Dawson advised she approached 23 RSL clubs requesting plasma screen/newsletter advertising, and she provided them with updated advertisements she designed to better reflect the 2015 Centenary year. Clubs contacted were: Kirribilli, North Ryde, Harbord Diggers, Penshurst, Mortdale, Burwood, Miranda, Engadine, Epping Club, Parramatta, Castle Hill, Ashfield, Pittwater, Rooty Hill, Liverpool, Dooleys, Mosman, City of Sydney, Dee Why, Roseville, Mounties Club, Camden and Penrith. Several members mentioned to her on ANZAC Day that they had found out about AWWOD via their club, so it is proving to be very beneficial (and very cost effective). Again the overall dress code this year was excellent with sales of 25 ties and 32 scarves, a record as was anticipated. Scarves will be re-ordered soon in readiness for 2016. The tie order was originally quoted as \$17.05 each, but due to dramas with the artwork they reduced the price to \$16.68 including GST (total \$1668 with no artwork fees as the original artwork was used). Kings' Boys were exceptional as always and we had 10 marching with us. Their leader also marched at the back of our group. Karen will meet with them soon to present Certificates and tins of Anzac biscuits as a gesture of our thanks. Hotel Harry was a great success again this year and their renovations proved to be very comfortable. We had around 70 people with us, and the hotel continues to provide our memrs a welcoming and affordable venue for lunch after the march. Karen has emailed the Events Manager a letter of thanks for their assistance and hospitality. Timing of the television coverage was unfortunate this year as the ABC had to cross over to the Gallipoli dawn service just as we were coming through, but the commentary seen through the iView coverage (available for 10 days afterwards) was very positive. We looked amazing with our 260+ members marching beautifully and very professionally, and it was wonderful to see them "still turning" out of Martin Place in great numbers as we made our way up George Street. Karen thanked our "Paparazzi" Bruce Connell for his beautiful photos of Anzac Day and also the Ashfield march, and advised that these will be placed on our website upon the return of our Webmaster from holiday soon. Donations of \$3000 to the Pozieres Remembrance Association, and \$250 to the Boer War Association were presented and we have received letters of thanks from them both. Our donation to the Pozieres Remembrance Association will be used for a Rose Garden in Pozieres which will include a plaque bearing our name, and they also gave us a brick bearing our name which will be used in a wall nearby as a gesture of thanks.

Royce Lockhart moved that all reports be received and adopted. Seconded by Karen Dawson.

**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 Arline, Seconded by Sue
Vice President:	Royce Lockhart, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Sue
Treasurer:	Sue McFadden, Nominated by Arline, Seconded by Karen
Secretary & Public Officer:	Arline Ronsisvalle, Nominated by Royce, Seconded by Karen
Publicity Officer & Asst Sec:	Karen Dawson, Nominated by Arline, Seconded by Royce

**General Committee:**

Richie Newnham, Nominated by Royce, Seconded by Karen
Kel Sykes, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Greg
Sarah Dawson, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Sue
Denise Hendy, Nominated by Arline, Seconded by Sarah
Nigel Hendy, Nominated by Sarah, Seconded by Greg

Bruce Connell will continue as our "Paparazzi" and Mark Griffiths will continue as our Webmaster, so both may continue to attend Committee Meetings in these official capacities.

**General Business:**

The Committee was given notice of motion prior to this meeting.

**Motion Chair: Vice President Royce Lockhart**

**Motion:** Moved Richie Newnham *"That Arline Ronsisvalle and Karen Dawson be made Honorary Life Members of Australian World War One Descendants"*. Seconded by Julie De Lavney. The citation for Karen and Arline was circulated to all in attendance and the citation read as follows: *"In support of his motion, both ladies are imperative to our*

*organization in keeping us running smoothly. They work very closely together to ensure the success of Anzac Day each year for our members. Both put in a tremendous amount of time voluntarily and have continued to do so for many years.*

*Arline Ronsisvalle joined AWWOD in 2002, was elected to the General Committee in 2010 and Secretary in 2012, as well as Public Officer. Her attention to detail has allowed us to streamline our database, ensure that all reporting to the Department of Fair Trading in her role of Public Officer is timely and accurate, and money is banked and advised to the Treasurer. Arline's role as Secretary includes balancing our receipt books in line with our membership, sending receipts, mailouts to members advising details of Anzac Day and also the AGM each year, minutes of meetings and agendas, and general day to day tasks that ensure the smooth running of AWWOD. She also provides great assistance to members in their search for details on their relatives by directing them to the appropriate body, e.g. Australian War Memorial and National Archives, and often completes these searches herself on a member's behalf.*

*Karen Dawson joined AWWOD in 2002, was elected Publicity Officer in 2004, and then elected as Assistant Secretary and Publicity Officer in 2008. During her time in office, she has been instrumental in the design of our banner, logo, stationery, business cards, ties and scarves. Karen has also worked tirelessly with the Kings' School to enable us to have the services of our wonderful banner bearers each year. She also liaises with RSL clubs in arranging our advertising, event management of our luncheon venue, and radio/television interviews on behalf of AWWOD as requested. She also oversees the newsletter, minutes of meetings, and all Committee meetings are held in her home. She also researches and arranges all donations to worthy recipients in line with our non-profit organization status.*

*The Committee thanks both Arline and Karen for their continued dedication to AWWOD, and it is for this reason that the Motion be carried to grant them Honorary Life Membership to the Australian World War One Descendants."*

The Motion was put by secret ballot. Motion carried. Arline and Karen both thanked the members and expressed their heartfelt honour at receiving Honorary Life Membership to AWWOD.

New member Steve Weinhart presented us with a DVD of the march which he had kindly recorded during proceedings. Karen will send this to Mark for inclusion on our website.

**Meeting closed at 20.30 (8.30)**