

**Australian World War One Descendants
Minutes of AGM June 29th 2016**

Meeting opened 19.45pm (7.45pm)

Apologies: John Rich, Margaret Northam, Anthony O'Connell, Nicole Forest-Green, Steve Weingarh, Terry Keevil, Jenni Buckham, Helen Wake, Jessica Smith, Ann Asciale, Daphne & Sharron McKeever, Lyndall Eeg, Peter Honan, Damon Ronsisvalle, Bill Newnham, Mark Griffiths. **Accepted by Royce, seconded by Kel.**

Minutes of the last AGM 8/7/15 was received. **Matters arising from previous Minutes:** None. Royce Lockhart moved that the minutes be accepted and adopted, seconded by Sarah Dawson.

President's Report: Thank you to Dooley's for their hospitality in allowing us free use of the meeting room each year. We had approx 120 marching with us this year. Prior to Anzac Day we were all concerned how the re-routing of the march would go. The new form up position wasn't a problem but once again we found a lack of communication between marshals. Route to the start point up King Street and left into Castlereagh which was used as a return for bands, would have been better to halt us in King Street instead. Lengthy delays due to Hunter Street being used to funnel in vast amounts of other groups ahead of us. Notification of the act of remembrance at the Shrine: SES person with a small paper sign not sufficient. Greg and Royce attended the march de-brief on 3rd June. Most of the points we intended to raise were already noted by members of the RSL March Committee; one being the lack of clarity of the act of remembrance. The barricades up Elizabeth Street impeded dispersal at the end of the march. A survey was carried out and approx 70% of people questioned said that the new route was okay. The public located in Hyde Park said it was a better vantage point than George Street due to its raised position. There were 64 bands, 20 of them went around twice. Bands too close together, making it hard to keep in step. 15 land rovers were supplied at the very last minute. The army has already notified the March Committee that there will be none at all next year. The term "Descendants" was raised by a couple of Veterans, in discussing descendants marching with veteran's units outnumbering the veterans themselves and making them difficult to see. They, along with many of the Allied Forces, were inappropriately dressed, looking scruffy and wearing their relatives' medals on the incorrect side. Greg discussed the term "descendants" with the head of the marshals, Brian Boughton, and suggested they come up with a term of "Unit Descendants" or similar to differentiate between them and those at the back of the march. It reflects badly on AWWOD, WW2/Post & Boer War and the media do not discern between the two. This will be discussed at the next RSL March HQ meeting. The question was raised of the march ever returning to George Street: the reply was that no indication has been given as to when the light rail will be completed or what George Street will look like. At the close of the meeting the Committee said they would be working to rectify problems that had arisen prior to next year's march. Greg also advised that many of our Committee Members will be travelling to the Western Front this 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. 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 2017 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: AWWOD has 260 members on the Data Base. There are 17 family group memberships – totalling 42 people. 19 people have not paid since 2014 and will be removed from the Data Base before the next Anzac Day mail out. 65 have not paid since 2015, the majority of those being new members that joined last year and have not returned their paperwork. One long time member has resigned due to ill health but wishes to stay on the data base to receive the news letter etc. and another has resigned due to moving interstate. Badges are now costing almost \$30 for a packet of 10 to supply to new members and are proving more difficult to find each year. This was discussed at the last Committee Meeting and it has been decided that when the current supply has been exhausted, that we will switch to a much cheaper, very presentable plastic name holder that is available at any newsagency in packets of 30. There are still a lot of name badges in stock that members have not collected but many of these are people that joined last year and have not renewed. These name holders can be recycled next year if the person does not renew. An email was received from a gentleman after last Anzac Day, apologising for "gate crashing" AWWOD on Anzac Day. He has sent a \$20 donation to the Association. Three sympathy cards have been sent to families of deceased members and two emails to the families of two other members that we have unfortunately lost this year. Arline replied, accepting an invitation from Ashfield RSL to march in their pre Anzac Day March, on Sunday 24th April and a small contingent of members took part. A booking was made and confirmed with Dooley's, many thanks to them. AWWOD also received an invitation to take part in the 100th year Anniversary Service for the Battle of Fromelles on the 19th July 2016, at the War Memorial in Hyde Park. Six of the Committee will be in Fromelles at that time but our Vice President, Royce, will lay a wreath on behalf of AWWOD. A request was made to Margaret Snodgrass from FFFAIF to keep us on the invitation list for next year. Our Association has been laying a wreath for the last five years at this very important Ceremony. A few enquiries have been answered about joining AWWOD since Anzac Day but no new members have joined, they may be waiting to get closer to Anzac Day 2017.

Treasurer's Report: Another successful year has passed for our AWWOD members. Our gross receipts were \$1407.01 compared to \$3413.00 in the 2014-15 financial year. This was expected considering the significance of Anzac Day last year, however it was still a small increase over the 2013-14 period of \$1344. Our actual operational outgoing reduced to \$950.31 from the previous year of \$1263.67, a reduction of almost 25% over the same period. In addition we have outlaid \$109.15 for the purchase of scarves to restock our supply. In summary, this small association is maintaining an excellent financial position and is continuing to improve its performance every year. Our current position sees us with a balance of \$2925.12 in the bank.

Publicity Report: Karen advised that she did not contact RSL's to request advertising this year as she felt the general media attention was enough and we had around 120 marching with us. We had 10 **Kings' Boys** carrying our banner this year, and their leader David Vassallo also joined as usual. Karen and Greg presented certificates and tins of Anzac biscuits to the Kings' boys on Monday 16th May during their weekly house meeting, and Karen spoke to the boys briefly about the Western Front. Hotel Harry was good again this year, and we had around 30 join us. It is still a very suitable venue after the march. Karen has emailed their events manager to thank them for their continued hospitality. No media or advertising was necessary this year as Karen felt that last year's turn out and the centenary in general was publicity enough. **Television coverage** was unfortunately taken from above which made us look disorganized and didn't show us at our best. Apparently Channel 7's coverage was much better and we looked fantastic. Sarah Dawson suggested that we have a look at the Yahoo 7 footage, or Youtube/Facebook. The ABC commentary was also disappointing. For some reason a Unit Commentary was not requested from us this year, although Karen sent one through to the RSL March Committee anyway. Overall, we looked fantastic in our photos (thanks to Paparazzi Bruce) and our unified scarves and ties certainly add to our professionalism. We sold 3 ties and 10 scarves, and our books balanced beautifully.

Ties & scarves inventory:

94 SCARVES @ \$18.70 Cost = \$1757.80 / @ \$20.00 Sell = \$1880.00 (Re-ordered 100, Sold 10 this year)

80 TIES @ \$16.68 Cost = \$1334.40 / @ \$25.00 Sell = \$2000.00 (Sold 3 this year)

TOTAL @ COST = \$3091.40 / TOTAL @ SELL = \$3880.00

Webmaster's Report: Mark has received the photos from Bruce and has put them up on our website. We changed our Domain provider to Go-Daddy this year, and Mark has very kindly been paying the fees on our behalf. Mark added a map of the March to our website, and also set up a "Notifications" page (before our site) which is a condensed version of our march guidelines, to make it quicker for members to access this information.

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 Kel, Seconded by Sarah
Vice President:	Royce Lockhart, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Nigel
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 Greg, Seconded by Royce

General Committee:

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

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: There was no General Business to discuss.

Meeting closed at 20.35 (8.35)