

Australian World War One Descendants
Minutes of AGM July 26th 2017

Meeting opened 19.42pm (7.42pm)

Apologies: Cleo Lynch, Lyndall Eeg, Margaret Northam, Jenny Buckham, Karen Hurley, Ann Asciak, Daphne McKeever, Sharon Keevers, Peter Horam, John Rich, Jessica Smith, Kel Sykes, Damon Ronsisvalle, Julie Searant, Christine Horrocks, Bill Newnham. Accepted by Bruce Connell, seconded by Arline Ronsisvalle.

Minutes of the last AGM and Reconvened AGM was received.

Matters arising from previous Minutes: None. Royce Lockhart moved that the minutes of both meetings be accepted and adopted, seconded by Bruce Clark.

President's Report: Greg welcomed everyone to our AGM and also thanked Dooley's for the provision of our venue and the waiving of room hire fees. We had another successful march this year with good weather, although our numbers were down to 80+ which was possibly due to the threats of terrorism that had been in the media the days/weeks prior to Anzac Day. Many people did express their concerns but decided to march with us regardless and it was good to see the presence of police and riot squads. The new form up position wasn't a problem but once again we found a lack of communication between the marshals. Once we started marching we did not stop though as we had in previous years. The bands again were very difficult to march to. Photos at the end of the march are always a problem, this is something we will try to address again next year. The positions marked on the March Map were difficult to read if printed from the RSL website in black and white and this resulted in many queries from other groups, especially the Allied Forces, as to their form up point.

Vice President's Report: Royce advised that he attended the ANZAC Day March Participants meetings at the Hyde Park Inn, and was honoured to represent AWWOD and lay a wreath at the Centenary Service for the Battle of Fromelles at the ANZAC War Memorial in Hyde Park last year. Due to other commitments with the RSL he hasn't been able to attend all the services that AWWOD have been invited to over the last 12 months but he does try to attend all he can. In his role as RSL Hon Secretary he receives circulars from the NSW RSL State Branch with ANZAC Day March Updates and passes these circulars on to the AWWOD Committee. He concluded by thanking the Committee for their assistance and help throughout the year.

Secretary's Report: Arline reports that she has done a lot of work on the data base as a number of members were unfinancial and had not paid for more than two years. She removed 47 unfinancial members, unfortunately two members have emailed since the AGM Notice went out, resigning due to ill health. We now have 183 financial members. Which includes 16 Family memberships, totalling 39 people. Only one Renewal Form goes out to the 16 main family member. 35 members still have not paid this year. 2 members cannot participate in the March any more but still wish to receive the News Letter etc. by email. Our English guest in 2015 still receives our emails. We have had 2 new members since Anzac Day and she has sent out another 2 Membership Envelopes to people who have made the request but has not received an answer from either. There were 8 envelopes handed out on Anzac Day but none have been returned. She has sorted out the large amount of badges that had not been collected. There are still 20 for current members that have not been collected. She has removed 22 from the plastic covers, so these can be used next year and possibly the following year, saving the purchase of any new covers which are quite expensive. For future reference, an Organisations AGM is to be held within six months of the end of their Financial Year and notices must go out to members at least two weeks prior to the AGM. The report must go to the DFT within a month of the AGM. Arline asked if there been any news about the donation that AWWOD made to Mr Barry Gracey for the building of the Pozierres Memorial and garden in France that we made two years ago.

Treasurer's Report: Another successful year has passed for our AWWOD members. Our gross receipts were \$1366.78 and our actual operational outgoing reduced to \$733.59 due in part from the decision to email March and AGM notifications to members rather than post, although there are still a small number of members who do not have email so small postage and printing costs still apply. 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 \$3578.31 in the bank which represents a 22% increase over the year. All books have been reconciled.

Publicity Report: Karen advised she did not contact RSLs this year as she felt it would not be necessary, and we get very few new members as a result of advertising anyway. She may however look at advertising next year as our numbers were down, but this is partly due to the media during the previous week highlighting the possibility of terrorism activity. Again, the overall dress code this year was excellent, and 6 ties and 7 scarves were sold this year overall. The Kings Boys were exceptional as always – we had 10 marching with us and also their leader. Karen met with them and their leader David Vassallo and presented them with AWWOD Certificates of Appreciation and a box of Anzac Biscuits each, on 5th June during their morning House meeting and gave a short talk on Beersheba during her address expressing our gratitude for their ongoing involvement. Hotel Harry was a great success again this year. We had about 30 people join us for lunch and the hotel continues to provide our members a welcoming, comfortable and affordable venue for lunch after the march. Karen has emailed the events manager a letter of thanks on AWWOD's behalf for their assistance in our reservation and their hospitality. Television coverage was very good and we looked amazing and very professional. The ranks marched particularly well (especially compared to the group behind us!). The ABC commentary was much better this year and actually depicted

the narrative we had sent them, in part. As always we are lucky to have our very own “Paparazzi” each year and our thanks go to Bruce for another sterling job. The photos will be added to our AWWOD website. Karen also advised that she has been working with Webmaster Mark on malleable PDFs of our Membership forms which will save members postage and time. They also include provision for direct deposit receipt numbers (or method of payment).

Ties & scarves inventory:

87 SCARVES @ \$18.70 Cost = \$1626.90 / @ \$20.00 Sell = \$1740.00 (Sold 7 this year)

74 TIES @ \$16.68 Cost = \$1234.32 / @ \$25.00 Sell = \$1850.00 (Sold 6 this year)

TOTAL @ COST = \$2861.22 / TOTAL @ SELL = \$3590.00

Webmaster’s Report: Nothing to report.

Royce Lockhart moved that all reports be received and adopted. Seconded by Bruce Clark

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 Royce, Seconded by Arline
Vice President:	Royce Lockhart, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Bruce Connell
Treasurer:	Sue McFadden, Nominated by Arline, Seconded by Denise
Secretary & Public Officer:	Arline Ronsisvalle, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Sarah
Publicity Officer & Asst Sec:	Karen Dawson, Nominated by Arline, Seconded by Nigel

General Committee:

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

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: Richie asked Arline when the paperwork goes to the DFT and Arline advised she sends all relevant documentation within 2 weeks of our AGM.

Steve Weingarth addressed the AGM with news that he is attending events in England on ANZAC Day 2018 and requested endorsement via a letter from the Executive Committee that he also represent AWWOD. It was unanimously decided that such letter would be drafted, and this will be done by Karen and Greg. He will be at the main cemetery for the Australian Flying Corps pilots who died in England on War Service. His Uncle Lt. Jack Weingarth, a Western Front fighter pilot, is one of 24 AFC pilots buried at Leighterton Cemetery, training pilots here after service on the Western Front in 4th Squadron. The events here will include Australian and British officials and may include politicians and royalty as in previous years. He is likely to be the sole representative of family that served in the Australian Flying Corps in any capacity, let alone one of the 410 pilot officers. He also intends to attend ANZAC Day in London while wearing his AWWOD tie, and will forward photos and other materials through to the Executive upon his return. His very kind offer to promote AWWOD during his trip was greatly appreciated by the Committee. Karen also offered to send him a template of business cards so he can print them out and use them during his trip. Steve also invited AWWOD members to join him at an historical talk he is giving at the Lane Cove Library on 12th September, on the Western Front Associations of WW1. Steve provided flyers to Karen and she will request our Webmaster add them to our website.

Meeting closed at 20.25 (8.25)