



Secretaries Report 2010-2011

I did not expect to be writing a report this year, having resigned at the 2010 AGM, but here I am and I believe an explanation is necessary.

Last year I decided that I would not nominate for office as I had health issues that needed to be addressed and thought that to continue as secretary was not in the interest of either the association's or my best interests. However, as there were no nominations for Secretary I agreed to continue until a replacement could be found. After the AGM the National Executive found a solution, David Sandquest would stand down as Vice President and take on the role of Secretary. A National Committee Meeting was convened with the State Presidents that were still available (a quorum) and the change was agreed to.

Unfortunately, one Branch that was not represented at the meeting as their President had already returned to Brisbane challenged the validity of the Committee Meeting and it subsequently reported to its members that *"Mr Williams (Qld) was removed from office and was replaced by Mr Sandquest (NSW) as Secretary"*. As a result of the challenge David resigned from the position and I reluctantly offered to become 'Acting Secretary' until the Branches could find a replacement, but the Branches were unsuccessful in their search.

Needless to say, my heart has not been in the job, and as a 'caretaker' my main focus has been the ongoing task of trying to get the Associations membership records up to date. I wish my successor well and hope that all Branches support him in his new role.

Membership

Membership this year has increased by 35 (See Annex) and included several serving submariners and current or recent Collins submariners. Unfortunately the number of Members that were due in 2011 and did not renew by 01 June 2011 was high, 62. The final number that did not renew in 2010 was 25. We are just keeping our head above water.

This trend is similar to the results for 2009/10 despite the efforts that the Treasurer and I have made to encourage Members to renew. Initial notices were sent out in February, by email to those registered as having email and in hard copy to those that do not. Several reminders have been sent since and responses are still trickling in.

It is important that all Branches make a concerted effort to both recruit new members and assist in chasing up those that have not paid their subscriptions. It is noted that ANZAC Day this year (normally the best time to press gang new members) resulted in only one new member.

Eternal Patrol

Again age and illness has had an impact on our Members, we lost some good friends and shipmates this year, our thoughts are with them as we that survived renew acquaintances at this SUBCON.

Henwood, Norman	Muir, Lyall	Cooper, Brian
Nicholls, Sean	Warden, Kenneth	Meakins, Leonard
Currie, John	Stokes, Peter	Budd, Harold
Adams, Peter		

Communications

Many seem to have forgotten that this is a National body and that we should all be working towards common goals and not acting in isolation. The key to this is communications and this year is no different to last, we failed to do this well.

I hope that Communications, at all levels, becomes a high priority of the National Committee and Branch Executives this year. It is important that we communicate at all levels and that members are kept informed of Association activities.

Administration.

The membership database continued to be updated and Members continue to be urged to provide their information. The response from members has been good, but there are still many out there for whom we have little information on file including invalid addresses and contact details.

Priorities for 2010/11

Although I will not be standing for Office this year I believe that the priorities for my relief should include improving communications at all levels – obviously the state secretaries are critical to the success of any initiatives and are urged to assist in this area.

I wish to thank the National Executive and those Members and Branch Committees that have given me so much support during my term as Secretary.



Norm Williams OAM
Acting National Secretary

2 June 2011

Annex A

List of New Members May 2010 – April 20110

Affleck, Barry, QLD
Andrews, Maxwell, WA
Baldock, Michael, NSW
Bird, Peter, NSW
Casserly, Joe, WA
Clegg, Steve, WA
Deeley, Christopher, VIC
Dixon, Luke, ACT
Earle, Brian, QLD
Gilbert, David, NSW
Goodall, Gerry, VIC
Harper, John, NSW
Harris, Allan, ACT
Hickey, Don, SA
Hoff, Ian, NSW
Hoskin, Phillip, WA
Irwin, Lindsay, NSW
Jackson, Dennis, TAS
King, Geoffrey, NSW
Law, Glenn, WA
Lawton, Anita, WA
Lewis, Malcolm, SA
Milne, Robert, NSW
Minns, Jason, WA
Mitchell, Geoffrey, NSW
Newey, Graham, WA
Nicholls, Sean, QLD
O'Neill, Mark, NSW
Petty, Desmond, SA
Richards, Peter, SA
Stuart, Graeme, QLD
Taaffe, James, NSW
Van Buuren, Johannes, QLD
Walsh, Peter, WA
Winter, Graham, WA
Affleck, Barry, QLD