

MINUTES

National AGM held in the Ballroom at the Rydges Lakeside Hotel, Canberra on Sunday, 8 June 2008

The President opened the meeting at 0943 and made welcome the 63 members in attendance and then asked the members to stand for minute's silence for those members who have "crossed the bar".

The President then requested that the National Committee introduce them-selves starting from his extreme left. Vice President Max Hardy, SA President David Bryant, VIC President Mike Bennett, WA President Fred Lawrence, from the President's near right Secretary Peter Smith, QLD President Barry McKeown, ACT President Andy Galley, Treasurer John Rana, NQLD President Mal Bridge and NSW President Col Ware.

Apologies for absence were called, they being: Kim Pitt, David Williams, Norm Williams, Ken Williams, Ted Curr, Roger Faramus, Boot Hatfield, John Currie, Peter Hall, Peter Watt, Col Lewis, Reg Bicknell, Graham Collins, Ken Warden, Werner Pelka, Bill Hollis, Tim Duchesne, Tim Everard, Barry Nobes, Col Deller, Garth Schmidt, Col Klease and Jim Seaton.

The President requested the suspension of standing orders and called for a proposer to the request, proposed Peter O'Donohue, seconded Kevin Hayton, carried. The President then informed the members of the extraordinary circumstances regarding the Life Membership of Queensland member Robert (Tug) Wilson who had since passed away prior to the official ratification of his award. The President then called on QLD President Barry McKeown to inform the members of the background on the rationale of the award and the reasons why the presentation of the badge and certificate had been fast tracked. His report accepted with acclamation. The President then stated that as this was an unusual circumstance and called for a member to endorse the membership. Proposed Kevin Hayton, seconded Geoff Burns and carried unanimously. The President then called Carol Wilson to step forward for the official presentation of Robert's Life Membership Badge, the award greeted with acclamation. The members were informed that the walk for Kids with Cancer had raised over \$60,000, the statement greeted with acclamation.

The President then stated that we had resumed Standing Orders.

The President then requested that the minutes of the last meeting be taken as read, proposed Graeme Caesar, second Pat Heffernan, carried unanimously.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Kevin Hayton raised the question of what has happened with the registration of the Association and that it had been an ongoing issue since the C&Rs had been accepted. The President stated that this is still an outstanding issue and that it will be resolved by the end of August 2008.

As a point of order Kevin Hayton brought to the President's notice that there were other matters on the agenda to be raised, the first being absentee voting. The President stated that it had been raised at the committee meeting and it was recommended that it will be activated by electronic means through the Branches as soon as possible. Kevin asked why wasn't it put to the members? Also, not all members have access to the internet. On advisement from the Committee the President stated that the Branch secretaries will also send out postal forms as well as emails and that this will be collated and passed back to the Committee.

On the upgrade of the ASM to the Active ASM the QLD President stated that it was still with the Federal Minister and could not add anymore to the discussion.

The President informed the members that the former Platypus site was still in the hands of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Trust and we continue to press them for rooms on the site and there will be a continuation of the anniversary of the Commissioning of the Base. It is hoped that the Association will eventually have a permanent home on the site. The NSW President informed the members of the upcoming event in August and the political input from people in NSW that seem to be helping our cause when a decision is finally made, he also stated the National Secretary was also involved. The Secretary added that what we were pushing for is ownership to the site, which hopefully will be noted by the Trust in its final decision.

Submarine Squadron liaison was raised, it was noted that there appears to be no liaison with the Branches with Collins class being sailed in and out of Sydney with no knowledge passed on to the NSW Branch committee.

It was raised from the floor that there were members who did not have a copy of the minutes and agenda. The Secretary apologised and stated that only 40 copies were printed with the understanding that that was the approximate number attending. Further copies were copied and distributed.

On answering a question from the floor on how absentee voting was to be utilised by the Branches, the President replied, the Branch will collate the result and the Presidents will come back to the committee meeting with the result, which will be one vote and only the Presidents will vote on that discussion/question with the National President having the deciding vote. The result based on the majority of Branches and that the committee decision will be brought back to this meeting (AGM) for ratification.

The President called for the suspension of standing orders so as to discuss the results of yesterday's meetings to give a précis of that meeting, he then called for a proposer, proposed Paul Meakin, second Geoff Burns, carried.

The President informed the members of the confirmation and changes to the hosting of future SUBCONs and stated that WA Branch will be hosting 2009, 2010 will be in Coffs Harbour, NSW, 2011 in Melbourne in conjunction with the Centenary of the RAN, 2012 in Tasmania, 2013 in North Queensland in Townsville, 2014 in Western Australia with the Centenary of the Australian Submarine Squadron, 2015 in ACT with the Centenary of Gallipoli ANZAC and 2016 in Queensland. On answering a question from the floor, the President confirmed it was still the Queen's Birthday Weekend as celebrated by the East Coast States.

The Secretary read to the members the rough précis of the minutes from the committee meeting on the decision re postal and online voting. Kevin Hayton debated the outcome and was amazed at the figures based on the membership. He used the outcome of his medical survey as an example and thought that the process was untenable due to the low numbers of members, who will respond, and we needed to get the message out in writing, on paper and in his opinion he thought that voting online would not work. After further debate from the floor the President reiterated that it was a combination of on line and postal voting.

Col Ware stated that the problem with electronic and postal voting was apathy and we have probably got more people on the internet than our figures show and quoted an example of this. He then called that we gather all the member's internet addresses to help change this problem.

The President raised the subject of the newsletter 'In Depth' and its cost and that the fact that we have lost our sponsor and that we will be ceasing the posting of the newsletter in given time and that a form will be sent out with the next 'In Depth' requesting email addresses. Kevin Hayton raised the point that by not distributing the newsletter by mail we would continue to loose members from the Association and by not distributing, how are we going to let members know who are not on the internet? In reply, Dave Bryant stated the Branches! The debate on the perceived loss of membership without the hard copy of the newsletter continued with the Treasurer adding that we have lost the funding and that the membership was improving compared to the past year. David Bryant informed the members that if they did not have access to their own computer or internet, that the local libraries had computers and were connected, the same with internet-café's. He then called for a show of hands of those members who did not have access to a computer; only one hand was shown that of Ross Cameron. The President then asked the members to show a hand of those members who still received In Depth by mail, over a third of the room responded, the President stated he rested his case.

Barry McKeown stated that it was of his understanding from the meeting that the Branch Secretaries where charged with the distribution of In Depth both electronic and by snail mail and with the Branches knowing their membership no-one should be deprived of this information.

Noel Lowrie asked how was the newsletter collated and posted out, to which the Secretary responded that it was his job and it was done under Australian "Printpost" procedures. Noel then informed the committee there was a new and cheaper version of printing and posting the newsletter now available from Australia Post that would cost around 30 cents a copy.

Frank Owen queried the cost of stationary in treasurer's statement in last year's report and the figures banded around re costs. The Treasurer responded and pointed out how those figures were attained, he also apologised that there were several pages missing from the report and he believed that the pages were lost in email transmission to the Secretary and Committee.

The President also stated that one decision from the meeting was the proposal to change the Crest to have dolphins added; it was the recommendation of the National Committee that no change be made to the badge. Kevin Hayton asked what control do we (the Association) have over the badge and the production of other badges and pointed out the various badges and emblems in the room, when the C&Rs state what the badge is. The debate ranged around who owned which badge and the copy right of others, and why it wasn't possible to buy items with the SAA logo on it. The President stated that the Webmaster Norm Williams had to return to

Sydney and stated that he would be in contact to have new items available to members off the web, when he returns to Queensland. It was also noted who owned what on the Website. The President replied anything that is in "Upperiscope" was Norm's and the SAA had its own separate section on that site.

Fred Lawrence, spoke in Norm's defence and stated that Norm could supply to any request. He then told the members the decisions from the committee meeting and that the Website was the place for information and that most members visited the internet several times a day to update. That we have State branch email lists and we send out information with subsafe emails to all email addresses. The President also stated that messages could be sent out with the message 'Flash'.

The President stated that as we have covered all from yesterday's meeting we return to Standing Orders, and move onto the President's Report.

President's Report: The President stated that as copies of the report had been distributed that if the members wish it to be read he would do it, he was also happy for some one to move that it be taken as read. Proposed Geoff Burns, seconded Pat Heffernan, carried with two members against. The report appended to the minutes. The President asked if there were any questions arising from his report.

Proposed Paul Meakin that in future all the reports for the National AGM be emailed or made available to the members well before the meetings so as the members are prepared for the meeting and the fiasco of not enough minutes or reports on the day can be alleviated. Seconded Frank Owen, carried.

The President then called for any more questions; as none were forthcoming, proposed Geoff Burns, second Pat Heffernan and carried that the report be receive.

Welfare Foundation Report: (The report appended to the minutes) was given by Trustee David Bryant who described the report contents and change to one of the Trustees, Tim Everard and the appointment of Sid Czabotar in his place. Sid was requested to stand to make members aware of who he is, this was greeted with acclamation. David wished that it be recorded in the minutes the thanks to Tim Everard for his 20 odd years on the Foundation as Trustee, along with fellow Trustee Tim Duchesne. On completion of the report David called for questions. Kevin Hayton enquired of the National Executive how was the nomination undertaken as he had attend the NSW Branch meeting and the President and Secretary were unaware of the nomination or result. Fred Lawrence answered the query by stating that he was aware and had nominated Sid to the position. David stated that all the Branch Presidents and Secretaries had been emailed for their response. It was assumed that as there was none from NSW that they go ahead with the nomination. It was pointed out that the QLD President was overseas at the time of the nomination. A voice from the floor asked was there any problem with the nomination, in reply, no, just the way it was conducted.

Andy Galley spoke on behalf of ACT Branch a donation was made for the sum of \$1500. David thanked the ACT Branch for their generous donation he then proposed that his report be accepted, seconded Graeme Caesar, carried.

Welfare Report: A power point presentation was given by the Pension and Welfare Coordinator Max Hardy. Report appended to the minutes. The report received with mirth and acclamation. On completion Max called for any questions. Mick Carew asked about exposure to asbestos at Platypus and were there any moves for the members to be tested. Max responded that as the building contained asbestos we were all exposed and it was up to all individuals to have an asbestos test at any time and be recorded on the asbestos register. He went on to describe the benefits of being registered and the difference of asbestos to asbestos dust and how we could be infected. Col Ware made it known that the asbestos was covered in paint and the chances of getting the dust may be minimal, however he questioned, was the paint lead based?

On a question from the floor re DVA information update, Max informed the inquirer that the information could be retrieved from any RSL Sub Branch Welfare Office or contact him by email and a copy will be sent out.

There being no further questions Max Hardy proposed that his report be accepted, seconded Frank Owen, carried. Max Hardy then proposed that his title of National Welfare Coordinator be changed to the National Pension and Welfare Coordinator, seconded Kevin Hayton, carried unanimously.

Webmaster's Report: Due to the unfortunate absence of the Webmaster Norm Williams no report was given.

Auditor's Report: Appended to the minutes. On request, the Treasurer read the opinion from auditor's report and then gave the members an update of the **Financial Report** (appended to the minutes). He stated that a copy had been given to each of the Executives and then gave a breakdown on what was in that report, including current membership. He also outlined that there were several outstanding cheques that had been sent, but the senders had not included their names to them. On request from Frank Owen, the Treasurer read out the items on the Balance sheet. After asking for questions of which none were forthcoming the Treasurer asked that the report be accepted, proposed Max Hardy, seconded Noel Lowrie, carried.

National Historian: The President informed the members that the Committee had discussed and approved to adopt the position of a National Historian who will be responsible to the committee but without a vote. The historian will gain and retain the history of the Association, the members, their anecdotes, their stories, their lives. So we propose this position without vote to maintain our records.

Election of National Officers for 2008/2009: The President called on Kevin Hayton to take the Chair as returning officer to conduct the election of officer bearers, He declared all positions vacant. As there was only one nomination for President, Kevin declared David Sandquest re-elected. As there was only one nomination for Vice President, Kevin declared Max Hardy re-elected. As there were two nominations for the position of Secretary, the Returning Officer called for two scrutineers to count the show of hands, they being Geoff Burns and Graeme Caesar. He then read the names of the two nominations, the first Peter Smith, the second Norm Williams, on a show of hands those who vote for Peter Smith, and on the completion of the count he called for a show of hands for Norm Williams. At the end of the count of the vote, Kevin Hayton declared on a return of 48 votes for, 25 against, Peter Smith was re-elected Secretary for the ensuing year. As there was only one nomination for Treasurer, John Rana was re-elected.

As the position for Historian was a non executive position, no vote was conducted for the position and the Returning Officer believed it was up to the committee to elect a person to the position. He then vacated the chair for the returning President.

Election of Auditor 2008/2009: The Treasurer nominated Malcolm Hughes, seconded Fred Lawrence as there were no other nominees the President declared the motion carried.

Venue for the 2009 SUBCON: Fred Lawrence as President of the Western Australian Branch introduced his committee man Sid Czabotar who then gave a power point presentation of the activities planned by the Branch in Fremantle for the period of 5 – 9 June. With the Meet and Greet to be held at the Western Australia Maritime Museum on Friday night. With both meetings at the Navy Club, he stated at this time it is proposed that a river cruise will be conducted after the Sunday meeting. The dinner dance will be held in the Esplanade Hotel on Saturday night. On Monday a bus tour of the Submarine School at HMAS Stirling with the tour ending at the Navy Club at Rockingham. The presentation accepted with acclamation

General Business: The President called for business from the floor.

Kevin Hayton, stated it may be a trivial item, but asked Max did the Welfare Fund pay for computer courses for Sexy? (Ross Cameron). Statement greeted with mirth. Max's responded, no it doesn't. The President suggested it was a lost cause.

Michael Washington informed the members to check their hotel bill when checking out to make sure they were getting the correct SUBCON discount with breakfast included and not as an extra.

A voice stated that the Holbrook book was still on sale after the meeting.

Frank Owen spoke of the Submarine Institute of Australia which is holding its annual conference here in Canberra in November 2008 stating the main focus and the challenges of the way ahead of Australia's future submarines. He also mentioned that membership to the Institute were available and costs of joining and invited members to join. He also stated that the Institute was not in odds with the SAA and saw themselves in parallel with Association. He noted that the SAA was seen to deal with the welfare of submariners and the Institute looking at the issues and politics of submarines, he named their work with AE2 and helping in coordinating the Centenary of Submarines in 2014 and other projects. On completion of his speech the President informed the members that the Committee also endorse that recommendation. That the SIA look after the future and we look after the past and present.

Bob James, WA spoke of the Branch looking at the possibility of a river cruise and asked the members for a show of hands of how many would attend and asked for a show of hands, approximately 50 members showed a hand and that was doubled to represent partners, it was decided there and then that there will be a boat cruise on the Swan River.

Graeme Caesar asked as it was the 40th anniversary of Ovens' commissioning, was there anything to tie it in with SUBCON 2009. Fred Lawrence replied that as the boat was on the hard stand in Western Australia that the Branch were including it in their plans, albeit that the celebration would be several months after the original time. He stated that the original CO Captain Barry Nobes who is currently recuperating from illness hopes to be able to attend next year. On a separate note Fred informed the members that the dinner/dance next year will be held in conjunction with the Squadron so as to allow members of the Collins class get to know the workings of the Association. He then called for a show of hands for Collins class trained submarines, only one hand was raised. He then stated that we need to encourage these people to join us and this was the catalyst to do so. He then raised the health and welfare of the Oberon class and that we need to include the Collins class guys in to get them concerned with their own problems that might come up. He then encouraged the members who knew any of the Collins class submariners to get them to join and get involved.

Roy Cross congratulated the ACT Branch as he believes that this is the first time a grandchild of a submariner who is also a submariner has attended. And that having the third generation attending we know where we are going.

Fred Butcher requested an update on the future of Otama. Mike Bennett informed the members that there have been changes in Hastings and that politician Peter Spiker has taken an interest in the boat's future, he mentioned some of the changes with the hope of getting the boat out of the water on blocks. He also stated that it was hoped that the Branch could include the boat to their advantage during SUBCON 2011; he also mentioned that the boat had been used in a recent TV advertisement for "Subway". On answering questions he stated that the boat looked pretty bad on the outside and he could not state who actually owned or controlled the boat.

As there were no further business arising the President called on Andy Galley to hand over the SUBCON flag to Fred Lawrence, Andy stated, "It gives me great relief and a great honour to present you with the ensign in a means of handing the responsibility of SUBCON to you, the ACT Branch wish you all the luck in the world. I believe that everyone enjoyed themselves and I hope they will continue to do so, in handing over congratulations".

Fred replied, "Thankyou very much we will try to do justice it deserves next year. It's a big state well worth the visit." Both statements accepted with acclamation.

The President informed members that they will be calling on members to fill the position of Historian and if anyone was interested to contact either himself or the Secretary and the committee will make a decision from those interested parties.

The President then stated that as there was no further business he declared the meeting shut at 1140. This was greeted with acclamation.



Presidents Report - 2007-2008

This year has seen a “changing of the guard” in many of the Branches and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been, or are about to be involved in the affairs of the Branch

Without your efforts, the Branches and therefore the SAA would not exist.

Special mention to Fred Butcher (who after eight years at the “helm” of the South Australian Branch has handed the “command” over to Dave Bryant) to Fred Lawrence (who after a brief stint “inboard” has again taken over as President of the West Australian Branch) and last but by no means least Norm Williams (who after

being Secretary of the WA Branch for many years, as well as webmaster of both “Up Periscope and the SAA website has retired to the relative seclusion of Bauple).

“Walk for Kids with Cancer”

To the Wilson Family, the “Crusty Submariners” and their supporters who have, organized, donated, contributed and walked for “kids with cancer” your efforts to date have been outstanding.

At last count the donations (and pledges) had exceeded \$50,000 with several days left to increase that amount.

Special thoughts to “Tug” whose passion and planning went into this project. “Tug” so much wanted to make the walk; he would be immensely proud of the way the “family” have taken on his project and the success they have achieved.

For those who attended “Tugs” funeral and witnessed the passion and commitment shown by Carol and family would have had no doubts the “walks” success.

My only concern is that, Carol, buoyed by this success will try and walk from Coolangatta to Perth for next year’s SUBCON (any volunteers).

HMAS Platypus:

August saw the 40th Anniversary of the Commissioning of HMAS Platypus and the arrival of HMAS/m Oxley. Vice Admiral Ian Mac DOUGALL AC AFSD RAN (Rtd) provided an interesting insight into the arrival of Oxley and had all in attendance in “stiches”. We had several other distinguished guests as well as one or two apologies. (A full report on the event is available).

It is hoped that this “celebration” will continue each year (at least until a decision is made as to the future of “Plats”).

ANZAC Day March - Sydney

For those who attended the March in Sydney, to say it was disappointing would have to be an understatement. A detailed analysis of the Sydney March has been completed by the Federation of Naval Ship Associations (FNSA) and a full report provided. In a nutshell, it appears the WWII Army (ALL veterans in excess of 80 years old) took 1.35 hours to complete, yet ALL of WWII Navy and Air Force plus Post WWII Navy, Army and Air Force took 1.20 hours. This review has apparently been passed onto the RSL for comment

Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)

The Association has made itself known to the new Repatriation Commissioner, Brigadier Bill Roffe and through the offices of Max Hardy have re-raised the subject of the Oberon Submarine Review as well as several other issues. To Max Hardy and his merry band of “Advocates” keep up the great work in assisting your “mates”

AE2

I had the opportunity to attend the pre release of the AE2 story and would recommend to those who haven’t seen it, obtain a copy from the ABC Shop and watch it; it is a very well presented documentary. I would also recommend that you consider providing a copy to your children’s/ grandchildren’s school for inclusion in their Library.

Fleet Base West:

In the past twelve months I have managed to mix business with pleasure and visited the “Wes” to attend the HMAS Waller rededication and the “Squadron Ball”. On both occasions I was well looked after and would like to personally thank Ric Shalders and his Staff for the efforts.

While there, it was interesting to see the effort taken in rewarding those who had passed their “Part 3” and qualified as submariners. One US submariner had apparently qualified as a “Submariner” in three Navies.

Finally, to the JR, Peter Smith, Max, Norm and the National Committee, thank you for your support and advice throughout the year.

BZ to all.

Dave (Sandy) Sandquest

SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA
TRUSTEE REPORT – WELFARE FUND
SUBCON 2008 AGM

"Mr President, State Presidents/Representatives, Patron, Members, It is my pleasure and honour at the 2008 AGM to present the Annual Report of the 'Submarines Association Australia, Welfare Foundation' on behalf of my fellow Trustees, Captain Tim Duchesne RAN (Rtd), who is unable to be here today, whom I wish to have recorded in the AGM minutes as an attendance apology, and Commander Sid Czabotar RAN (Rtd).

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Commander Tim Everard RAN (Rtd), one of the three original Trustees, who has recently handed over his baton to Sid after almost twenty years of administering the fund. Tim is overseas more often these days, and he felt that it was prudent to hand his Trusteeship to someone who would be more accessible throughout the year.

We have received donations of \$963.19.00 from individuals and branches over the year, which are acknowledged as follows:

Peter Smith	\$30.00.
CL and L Lewis	\$100.00.
UK SM Coxswain's Association	\$61.19.
Peter Smith	\$10.00.
SAA (WA)	\$107.00.
SAA (SA)	\$500.00.
Peter Smith	\$155.00.

Such donations are always very welcome, and the Foundation is worth remembering after such a function as the Annual SUBCON get-together.

A reminder that our majority membership is getting older, and I would contemplate an increased call on the fund to help those in dire need or in an emergency in the future.

For example, in April this year we had a member who suffered a sudden debilitating illness which left him financially bereft, and the fund contributed \$1,500.00 to the payment of outstanding immediate debts at the request of the state branch.

Also, please remember the Welfare Fund when considering your will beneficiaries.

The Foundation is, we believe, healthy with total assets of Forty Eight Thousand, Five Hundred and Nine Dollars, 54 cents (\$48,509.54), of which some Five Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Six Dollars, 91 cents (\$5,936.91) is in the current account, and so immediately available if required to support our members.

The sum of Forty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy-Two Dollars, 63 cents (\$42,572.63) is held in a Term Deposit Account in order to maximize interest payable.

We received interest from our Term Deposit of \$2,262.63, and from the Cheque Account \$22.16.

Again in 2008, The Trustees wish to thank our Auditor, Lieutenant-Commander Hew Gethin-Jones RN (Rtd), for auditing the enclosed 'Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2008'.

I trust that Huw was able this year to join both Tim's for their traditional end-of-year audit curry!

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, Mr President, I therefore table this Annual Report of the SAA Welfare Foundation and enclosed 'Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2008'.

Signed.....*David Bryant*.
Trustee, Submarines Australia Welfare Fund.

Sunday 8th June 2008.

SAA Welfare Foundation

Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2008

INCOME

Donations Received	
- Peter Smith	\$ 30.00
- CL & L Lewis	\$ 100.00
- UK SM Coxn's Ass	\$ 61.19
- Peter Smith	\$ 10.00
- SAA WA	\$ 107.00
- SAA SA	\$ 500.00
- Peter Smith	\$155.00

Interest	
- Cheque A/C	\$ 22.16
- Term Deposit	\$2262.63

Total \$3247.68

EXPENDITURE

FID/GDT Charges Nil

Excess of Income over
Expenditure

Total \$3247.68

LIABILITIES

Credit Bal. B/F from 31st March 2007	\$45261.86
Plus Excess of Income/Expenditure	\$ 3247.68

Total \$48509.54

ASSETS

Term Deposit 3974	\$42572.63
CBA Cheque A/C	\$ 5936.91

Total \$48509.54

Audited & Certified Correct

HG Gethin-Jones

T. Everard

Lieutenant Commander RN(Rtd)
Auditor

Trustee