

MINUTES

National Committee Meeting held at Rydges Lakeside Hotel, Canberra on Saturday, 7 June 2009

The President David Sandquest opened the meeting at 0932, the other Executives in attendance being; Vice President Max Hardy, Treasurer John Rana, Secretary Peter Smith. The Presidents of the State Branches in attendance were asked to introduce themselves, they being; Andy Galley ACT, Barry McKeown QLD, Fred Lawrence WA, Col Ware NSW, Mal Bridge QLD, Mike Bennett VIC, David Bryant SA.

The President read the apology for non-representation from the Tasmanian Branch, the President Kim Pitt appointed the National President his proxy vote, letter appended to the minutes.

Proposed John Rana, second David Bryant that the minutes be taken as read, carried unanimously.

Proposed Peter Smith, seconded Mal Bridge that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings, carried.

As the Webmaster Norm Williams was not in attendance, no web report was given.

The Welfare Officer Max Hardy stated that as his report had been distributed by email he had nothing to add to it, he moved that the report be accepted seconded Barry McKeown, carried unanimously, report appended to the minutes.

Matters arising from the minutes, the Treasurer raised a point that no person had been nominated as an actuator to various actions proposed by the committee, which was duly noted.

On debating the minutes on the way they should be presented i.e. in its entirety or truncated as a précis. Barry McKeown proposed that a Minutes Secretary be employed to take the Committee and AG Meetings minutes. On debate on whether both meetings should be recorded this way the proposal was changed to Committee meeting only, seconded David Bryant that the proposal be taken to the AGM for ratification. **No discussion on who would supply the minutes' secretary and who would pay was debated. Suggest, host Branch supply, National pay.**

It was suggested that electronic means be used as a form of ongoing communications between the branches and the executives, in addition to the meeting.

Incorporation: The President stated that he had investigated incorporation and that there were two parts to it, one for state and one complicated version for nation wide. He then noted that some Branches were incorporated and do we need the National to be incorporated? On vigorous debate on the merits for or against from the state Presidents, it was suggested that incorporation be registered in Western Australia as that was the state with future growth of membership and a nominated person in that state be sought as the Public Officer. It was then suggested that the Vice Patron, SMFEG commander be approached to fill this position, the President then stated that he would approach Commodore Shalders RAN with this proposal. It was then proposed Max Hardy that the Association seek incorporation and the Constitution and Rules be amended accordingly, seconded Peter Smith. The President called for a show of hands, eight were for the motion, three against and Tasmania being recorded as an abstainer, carried. The President to action the motion.

Absentee Voting was raised; Barry McKeown read to the committee the results of an online poll conducted by the webmaster. Although the figures were low, it was believed that it was a good representation of the member's response to the proposal. After debate, where it was noted that not all members have access to the web, that postal voting within the Branches also be included. It was resolved that each Branch President based on the majority electronic/postal vote within their Branch would cast one vote at SUBCONS, and to avoid any form of 'branch staking' only Branch Presidents would vote with the National President having a casting vote. Suggested by Barry McKeown that a standard form be made available on our website, he then proposed that a 'By law' of the National Committee meeting a voting system be available for online Internet and Postal Voting, seconded David Bryant, carried unanimously.

Submariner of the Year Trophy: The Treasurer informed the meeting that he had purchased and presented a trophy to the Submariner of the Year, LSMTSM Shaun Creighton on behalf of the Association at divisions held at HMAS Stirling on 14 December 2007.

Membership Cards: The President spoke to the benefits of the plastic card and the type of information it would contain, it being a name tag and the date when the card is valid to. On debate it was noted it was now very cheap to produce and would be the Treasurer's job to send them to the Branch Secretaries for

distribution. Proposed Mike Bennett, seconded Barry McKeown, and carried unanimously that a membership card with name, crest, etc be produced.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary gave his report on current membership with a breakdown on the various members; he then gave each of the Presidents a copy of the members listed in their Branch. Report appended to the minutes. After debate on the figures, proposed Fred Lawrence, seconded David Bryant and carried that the report be accepted.

Unfinancial Members: Proposed David Bryant, seconded Andy Galley that the Agenda in future be changed from Unfinancial Members to Treasurer's Report, carried unanimously.

The Treasurer produced his latest accounts and list of unfinancial members and apologised for the missing pages on the web from the previous year's accounts. He stated that after previous comments that he had found that there are no rules on who can or cannot audit the accounts and then pointed out that he had found a certified practising accountant to audit our books. He then described how the report was made up, the report appended to the minutes. The Treasurer moved that his report be accepted, seconded David Bryant, carried.

Barry McKeown requested that a "vote of thanks" be recorded in the minutes for his report, carried with acclamation.

The Treasurer brought to the Committee's attention the cost of printing the newsletter "In Depth" and stated that the then head of Raytheon Australian in WA, Dick Drain was adverse to the continuation of sponsoring the newsletter and wanted a newsletter similar to the glossy magazine "The Trade" produced by the Squadron. He stated that after begging for a donation, a sum of \$4,400 was given and that the company would not continue the donation after this year. The Treasurer then proposed that the Association discontinue the printing and posting of "In Depth" due to the costs involved, and instead post the newsletter on the internet. It was noted by the President that Pusser's Rum are willing to sponsor the newsletter. It was noted that there were members who did not own a computer or could not access the internet. Fred Lawrence suggested that the Secretary send "In Depth" by email to the Branch secretaries for onward distribution. He then proposed that all SAA business be done by electronic means, separate to the web, seconded David Bryant, carried.

The Secretary proposed that the July, September, November hard copies of the newsletter be sent, with November being the last, seconded David Bryant, carried.

Annual Accounts: Proposed David Bryant that item 9, Annual Accounts be deleted from the agenda, seconded Mike Bennett, carried.

General Business:

- (a) Barry McKeown proposed that Article 3.2 of the Constitution and Rules (Crest) be changed, see motion appended to the minutes, seconded Andy Galley that the proposal be discussed. After vigorous debate on the pros and cons of the change, it was noted that there were four or five different submarine emblems/badges produced and that the current one as displayed on the Association badge was the most important one. Barry continued to speak for the change from his Branch point of view. The President called for a show of hands for the motion, there being one for the motion and 11 against, the President declared the motion lost.
- (b) Life Membership: There being only one nomination for Life Membership for the Queensland Branch, Robert Wilson. As the nominated member was gravely ill, the President called on the Branch Presidents to fast track the nomination so as the badge and certificate could be presented to Bob at his hospice room in Queensland, which was duly done on 28 March 2008. The Vice President then requested that the President suspend standing orders of the AGM after apologies were taken so as the membership could endorse the nomination in front of Robert's widow and family, seconded Barry McKeown, carried. Barry then requested that a "vote of thanks" from the Queensland Branch be recorded in the minutes.
- (c) Historian: Max Hardy proposed that the SAA discuss the creation of the position of a National Historian to record and save the Association's history. On debated detailing the contradictions of dates etc in M. White's book and other media it was seen that this position was needed. David Bryant asked would the historian report to this meeting, on debate the answer was yes, but no voting rights. Seconded Fred Lawrence and carried that the proposal be raised at AGM and that nominations be called to fill the position.
- (d) SUBCON: The proposal by Lloyd Blake to change to the format of hosting future SUBCONs was raised: After debate it was confirmed that the **2009** will to be hosted by WA Branch.

2010 by the NSW Branch with Coffs Harbour the venue.

2011 by the Victorian Branch, which will include the Centenary of the RAN.

2012 by the Tasmanian Branch.

2013 Proposed Barry McKeown, seconded Mike Bennett that North Queensland Branch would host SUBCON at Townsville, carried.

2014 WA Branch, which will include the Centenary of RAN Submarines.

2015 ACT Branch, which will include the Centenary of Gallipoli ANZAC.

2016 proposed Mike Bennett, seconded David Bryant that the Queensland Branch host SUBCON in Brisbane, carried.

The proposal seconded David Bryant and carried that it will be taken to the AGM for ratification.

A break was taken at 1145, the meeting resumed at 1155

- (d) Barry McKeown raised the Constitution and Rules (C&Rs) noting there is nothing in the rules to govern the Rules of Procedure and proposed that "Robert's Rules" be used, second Mike Bennett. The Treasurer brought to the committee's attention and read item "Annex 1.3" of the C&Rs and stated that we have "P Joske" there already. Mike Bennett then stated that as it is already in the C&Rs that we should take it on advisement and check with Kim Pitt for verification. At which Barry McKeown withdrew his proposal. The debate continued on whether we could change it and add it to the By Laws. It was reiterated by the President that we take it to Kim Pitt for verification. The President then suggested a change to the original wording of the proposal. Proposed Barry McKeown that Committee seek advice on change to the C&Rs from Annex 1.3 to the By Laws and on result of verification do we use 'Robert's Rules' or 'P. Joske'? Seconded Mike Bennett, carried.
- (e) Barry McKeown brought to the Committee's attention that the Association should look for a long term association with the Naval Association and proposed an affiliation similar to that of the WRANs, etc. On debate were it was noted the costs were \$75, both the Treasurer and David Bryant spoke in favour of an affiliation, on further debate seconded David Bryant, carried.
- (f) Barry McKeown spoke of the Submarine Institute Australia and suggested that the SAA merge with the Institute. It was noted that the aims of both groups were different, the SIA being a political body on submarine needs and the Squadron future and the SAA dealt more on the welfare of the submariner, but it would be beneficial to foster a better relationship between the two groups. It was also noted the problems of recruiting members from the Collins class as it was perceived that the SAA was an Oberon Club and also serving submariners see the SAA as an ex-submariner club. However, it was noted that on past experience new members joined around 10 years after leaving the service.
- (g) Raised by Fred Lawrence that the SAA needed a pro-forma to get the house in order and get a 'Plan ahead' on the website that can be downloaded, it was noted that more use of electronic means be utilised. It was agreed that the National Secretary, as directed, email important items and reports to the Branch Secretaries as soon as possible to be dispersed to the membership, also terms Flash and Subsafe be used in the subject line along with the title.
- (h) David Bryant as a Welfare Trustee informed the committee of the change of one of the trustees with the resignation of Tim Everard and the appointment of Sid Czabotar in his place. Both Col Ware and Barry McKeown were not aware of the emails seeking the appointment, apologies were made to Col that he was missed from loop and it was realised that Barry was overseas and not contactable.
- (i) Requested by Col Ware that all future correspondence to the National Committee members be sent to Branch Secretaries and not to the Presidents.
- (j) The function at the Platypus site in August 2007 was raised by Col Ware and the attitude of how to raise funds to host the function from the SAA got up his and his committee nose as being unacceptable. He then requested what was in place for funding and how do we access that funding? The Treasurer stated that if it is done on the National's behalf then a costing report be sent by the Branch and approach the National Executive for money's
- (k) Mike Bennett reported their Patron Dacre Smyth was not well as he was battling prostate cancer. He then gave a report on the Otama Project and that the State Government is now taking an interest in the submarine, with Hastings still in the picture, although there are possible other sites in contention. At present there is a push to get the boat out of the water or have the hull sealed the same way Onslow has been. Depending on the future of the boat, it is envisaged that at SUBCON 2011 bus tours to Otama will

be arrange with a possible function and ‘sin bosun’ in attendance. As an aside, he also mentioned a recent “Subway” advertisement was filmed inside the boat.

- (l) The Treasurer raised that changes need to be made to the C&Rs the first to Annex B (1) the joining fee be changed from \$30 to the current fee \$20.

3.9 Winding up needed to be change, however after debate it was decided that the Winding Up stay as is. Application form for joining, the Treasurer noted that the Branches used different application forms, and the form that is in the C&Rs is unsuitable for use. Proposed John Rana that all Branches used the form that is on our website as it had all information the Association needs and that it be adopted in the C&Rs, seconded David Bryant, carried.

- (j) The Treasurer proposed that the following wording in the C&Rs be amended, in 4.2.2 “Associate Members” have the first line i.e. “Service in submarines as a qualified submariner of any other nation.” be deleted.

On Page 27, Annex E. E (iv) re Social Members, delete this line as it is incorrect, that “Social members must pay membership fees when due in accordance with Article 4.3.1.” both proposals seconded Peter Smith, carried.

The Treasurer asked the question re rules in Web Site 5.7.2.3 and 5.7.2.4 pertaining to Communication Officer, we need to identify him, is the communication officer and the webmaster one and the same? No action was forthcoming on the description.

Barry McKeown informed the meeting that he had recently toured Canada, and attended the Canadian National Submarine Reunion and extended on behalf of the SAA greetings and congratulations.

Proposed by David Bryan that a the Association make a donation to the Kids With Cancer organisation, on debate a sum of \$1000 was agreed to, seconded the Treasurer, carried unanimously.

Fred Lawrence read a response from Mike Shepherd who sent his sincere thanks for the response from the Association and the Welfare Foundation for assisting him with his medical and financial problems.

Fred Lawrence informed the Committee the plans that his Branch have undertaken to host SUBCON 09 in Fremantle, with the following in place, Meet and Greet at the Western Australian Maritime Museum, meetings on Saturday and Sunday at the Navy Club, the Dinner/dance at the Esplanade Hotel on Saturday evening and a tour of the Submarine Squadron facilities on Monday.

There being no further business brought forward the President declared the meeting shut at 1258.

61 Burwood Drive
Blackmans Bay TAS 7052

05 June 2008

Mr Peter Smith
Honorary National Secretary
Submarines Association Australia

I very much regret that I will not be able to join you at this years meeting in Canberra. This is a real disappointment for me and I request that you offer my apologies to all of my colleagues on the National Committee, especially to Blue and his team who I wish the very best for what I know will be an outstanding conference.

The Tasmanian chapter is in good spirit. We have had a very good experience this past year in terms of social activities and meetings, and boast that we have been sufficiently active to ensure a healthy level of engagement across the board; at the same time caring for the health and welfare of the membership in some very practical ways. We enjoyed a particularly good ANZAC Day and most recently shared a fantastic weekend in the North including a spot of sea time on the Tamar.

I am disappointed not to be with you and offer as my excuse the simple reason that I am on duty down here in Hobart while my boss attends an International Conference in Kiev ... and at the same time I am shutting up shop in my present role as head of Antarctic Ops in preparation for a quiet time ahead - I must remain on anchor watch while he is ashore making calls. It is disappointing that Tassie will not be represented at all this year –apologies from us all.

I also request that you accept this letter as formal notification that I will not attend and of my advice that I have asked the national President David Sandquest to act on my behalf; in this regard during SUBCON 2008 he has authority to use the proxy vote of the President Submarines Association Australia TASMANIA.

In the meantime, my best wishes to everyone and I hope all goes brilliantly for the 2005 National AGM weekend.

Kim F. Pitt
President - Submarines Association Australia
TASMANIA

SECRETARY'S REPORT

O/SEAS	25
NSW	346
QLD	159
ACT	52
VIC	102
TAS	27
SA	87
WA	114
TOTAL	912

The membership is made up of the following

Life Members	20
Ordinary Members	868
Associate Members	24
Newsletter	30
TOTAL	942

However, if we take the newsletter recipients out, we have a membership of **912**

At this time we have **349** members receive the newsletter off the website

There are approximately 60 + members who are still unfinancial.

A third reminder will be sent out with the July newsletter, at the start of August a letter will be sent to those that are still unfinancial reminding them that they are still unfinancial and the benefits of being a member, that being, the Welfare Foundation.