



SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

Minutes of the Annual National Committee Meeting

Saturday 05 June 2009

Naval Association Clubrooms

Fremantle, WA

In Attendance:

President	D Sandquest	Vice President	M Hardy	Secretary	N Williams
Treasurer	J Rana	NSW	G Anderson	Victoria	M Bennett
South Australia	D Bryant	Tasmania	K Pitt	Queensland	B McKeown
West Australia	F Lawrence	ACT	A Galley	Nth Queensland	M Bridge

The meeting opened at 0930.

1. Welcome:

The President welcomed members and noted that the full Committee was in attendance.

2. Previous Minutes:

Minutes of the National Committee held in Canberra in June 2008 were made available by the Secretary. The Minutes were accepted subject to the correction of spelling mistakes and the following items that required amendment or clarification being made;

- a) **Meeting Date.** The date of the 2008 Minutes - incorrectly reads 2009

Action: To amend the 2008 Minutes. **Action on:** Secretary

- b) **Postal and On-line Voting.** Barry McKeown proposed the following change to:

From: "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."

To: "That a Constitution By-Law be introduced to accept 'on line' and postal voting as a legitimate means of voting on governance issues, within the Association."

The President stated that this matter should be formally raised as a Proposal in Other Business at the AGM. After discussion it was agreed that there was an expectation amongst the Members that this was already agreed to, the 2008 AGM Minutes stated that it would be in place by August 2008, and that the Committees decision to proceed with the introduction would be announced at the AGM.

It was agreed that the model for online voting developed by the Web Manager and used as a trial by the Queensland Branch last year would be used after further development.

The proposal was seconded by David Bryant and carried unanimously.



SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

Action: That a By-Law and process be written and submitted to the Committee for approval and promulgation by September 2009. **Action on:** Secretary

- c) **Correction** Barry McKeown requested that the statement that he attended the Canadian National Submarine Reunion be amended to reflect that he 'did not' attend the Conference.

Action: To amend the 2008 Minutes. **Action on:** Secretary

3. Business Arising

- a) **Minute Secretary** Fred Lawrence advised the Meeting that the matter of hiring a minute secretary had been investigated but the cost was considered too high. The Secretary stated that he intended producing the minutes as a summary of discussions and outcome. It was agreed that no further action was required.
- b) **Incorporation** No further action to be taken as a result of investigation identified that it was not possible at the National level. This is now the subject of an alternate proposal submitted as a Motion for the 2009 AGM.
- c) **Rules of Procedure** A proposal was made that the Constitution be changed to reflect the use of Robert's Rules.

The issue of Robert's versus Joske (currently in the Constitution) was discussed at length and it was agreed by a majority that either would be suitable, but to change the Constitution to reflect the future use of Robert's Rules was not required at this time, but should be considered in any future review of the Constitution.

Proposed by: Barry McKeown Seconded by: David Bryant. Motion defeated.

- d) **SAA Identification cards** The Secretary reported that SAA ID cards, an item from the 2008 AGM, were now produced directly from the membership database. No formal process has been identified for issue and it was proposed that the cards would be issued on renewal of Membership or on request.

Proposed by: Mike Bennett Seconded by: Geoff Burns Motion carried.

Action: To produce a process and incorporate it as a By-Law of the Constitution. Issue to be implemented in the 2010 renewal period. **Action on:** Secretary

- e) **Voting Procedures** A proposal was made to advise the AGM of the decision made at this Meeting (Item 2b) to have the Constitution changed by incorporating a By-Law to reflect the future use of on-line and postal voting.



SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

Proposed by: John Rana Seconded by: Barry McKeown. Motion carried.

Action: AGM to be advised of the Committee decision to introduce on-line and postal voting. **Action on:** President

4. **Reports**

Copies of all Reports were tabled and accepted by the Committee Members. These reports are attached as Attachment 1 to these Minutes.

5. **General Business:**

- a) ***HMAS Platypus*** The President informed the meeting that he had been advised that a sum of \$78m was allocated in the Budget for the restoration of the Platypus site. Chris Skinner has been very active on this matter and it was agreed that Members be canvassed to form a Committee to ensure the association's involvement/interests are considered.

Action: To promote the Project and advise Members of the Association's intention to become actively involved. Seek Member's wishing to be involved in the Platypus Project.

Action: Geoff Anderson to coordinate and oversee the establishment of the SAA's Committee and it's operating brief and discuss involvement with Chris Skinner.

AE1 Project Involvement Discussions on the Association's future involvement demonstrated that there was a desire for tangible support to be given to future phases of the search for AE1. The meeting agreed unanimously that "The Association will actively support the relevant authorities in their quest to find the final resting place of AE1."

It was agreed that our current involvement would be to promote the aims of the AE1 and the search team as much as possible with a view to gaining wider support in the submarine community.

Consideration for the Association to seek a formal alliance of some kind was raised and Kim Pitt agreed to raise the matter with John Foster.

Action: Secretary to promote the AE1 on the Associations website

Action: Kim Pitt to investigate future SAA involvement in the AE1 Project.



SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

- b) ***SUBCON Website*** Fred Lawrence identified that the website that they had developed for SUBCON had some problems and suggested that a standard template be developed on the Associations web site for future SUBCONS.

Proposed by: Fred Lawrence Seconded by: Mike Bennett. Motion carried.

Action: Web Manager to liaise with the NSW Branch for the development of the SUBCON 2010 website.

- c) ***Password Protection on SAA website*** The introduction of password protection to some sections of the website was discussed and it was agreed that this would be introduced as soon as possible. It will be implemented during the integration of the two websites which will be completed later this year.

It was identified that there would be a cost to implement this as it has not been budgeted for in the request for 2010 sponsorship.

Action: Web Manager to investigate the options available and implement as soon as practical.

- d) ***Upgrade of the ASM to AASM*** Barry McKeown Tabled a paper "Private Members Business, ADF personnel and 'Undeclared Operations'" which seeks recognition of the upgrade to the ASM for Special Operations (Attachment 2 to these Minutes). Barry explained the effort put in by the President of the NAA to maintain pressure on the politicians and requested that a letter be sent thanking him and the NAA for his efforts on behalf of the submarine community.

Action: A letter to be sent by the President thanking the NAA for their efforts.

- e) ***BEST Funding*** The matter of Branches taking advantage of funding available to Ex Service Organisations (ESOs) was discussed. This funding is available to Incorporated ESOs and is available for a range of purposes from assisting with expenses for functions, the cost of banners, memorials and office equipment and support, to name a few. It is thought that the Queensland Branch is the only one to take advantage of these grants in recent years.

As the Association (National) is not incorporated it cannot apply for funds but the Secretary will be raising the possibility of Branches applying for the grants to purchase office equipment and administrative costs.



SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

- f) ***Motion to Change the Management Structure of the SAA*** Norm Williams spoke to his Proposal and expressed some concern over the readiness of some Branches to adopt such change at this time and agreed that many of his perceived failings of the current management of the Association could be addressed by;
- a. Correcting the current Constitution to address errors and omissions
 - b. Identify and write By-Laws to address the perceived shortfalls in the Constitution.
 - c. Develop arguments on the options available for the national management structure of the Association. These options include becoming a legal entity in its own right or with the current structure unchanged but with all Branches becoming incorporated in their state.

The Committee reported back on the feelings of their Members on the Proposal, although not all Branches discussed the Motion at formal meetings, but by canvassing by email and phone. The feeling was that the Members wanted to see change.

The Committee believed that change could be achieved through the means suggested and it was agreed that the Secretary would, with the full support of the Committee, address the perceived problems and provide possible solutions that would meet Members expectations. All Member will be invited to participate through a web blog.

After lengthy discussion it was proposed by Norm Williams that the wording of the Motion would change to “Investigate a possible change to the structure of the Submarines Association Australia to an established schedule.” Seconded by Fred Lawrence. The motion was carried unanimously.

Actions:

5f) a. Correct the current Constitution to address errors and omissions by 1 October 2009. Branches to agree on proposed changes by 1 November 2009.

Action on: Secretary and Branch Presidents.

5f) b. By-Laws to address the perceived shortfalls in the Constitution. to be completed by 1 November 2009. Committee to approve changes by 30 November 2009. **Action on:** Secretary and Committee.

5f) c. Options for management structure to be completed by 14 January 2010 for Committee approval. Agreed options put to Members for postal and online voting by 28 January 2010. Voting to take place 01-14 March 2010 with results given at 2010 AGM **Action on:** Secretary and Committee.

6. Meeting Closed

There being no further business the President declared the meeting shut at 11:30 and members retired for lunch.



SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

David Sandquest
President

Norman Williams OAM
Secretary