

Secretaries Report 2010



First I wish to apologise for not achieving all of my objectives for 2009/10 in a timely manner, there were many reasons, but no excuses.

Membership

Membership has increased by 47 and included several serving submariners and recent Collins submariners. We cannot be complacent thinking this is a good result. Unfortunately the number of Members that did not renew by 01 June 2010 was high, 75. It is noted that dues are due by 01 April each year.

This is similar to the results for 2008/09 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.

A list of new Members is attached as Annex A to this Report.

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 renew acquaintances at the SUBCON.

The roll call for submariners that sailed on Eternal Patrol is contained in Annex A1

Communications

An effort to improve communication with our Members was one of my highest priorities this year, but unfortunately this concept has not been embraced by some Branches. My thanks to those Branches that have included me in their mailing lists and provided regular updates for inclusion in the Log and In Depth. If you are not getting regular updates from your Branch or online contributions, talk to your Committee.

The sending of Condolence cards and Letters of Congratulation are sent to Members or their family on behalf of the Association.

An email, including a copy of the Members Record Card is now sent advising Branch Secretaries of new members in their state.

As I mentioned earlier, communications at all levels needs to improve.. I hope that Communications, at all levels, becomes a high priority of the National Committee this year.

Posting of In Depth to Members that are not online and opted to receive In Depth in the mail is now in place. This is now the responsibility of the National executive. Any Member that does not receive a copy has not responded to at least two letters and notices in In Depth advising them of the change.

Administration.

The membership database has again been updated to meet the requirements of the Branches, and Members are being contacted to provide their information in small groups so that all information on Members is held. The response from members has been good, but there are still many out there for whom we have little information of file and invalid addresses and contact details.

I do not have the skills or applications required to develop an online Register for Branch Secretaries to access and believe that this is essential. I have included this as an item for the National Committee AGM.

AGM 2009 Actions

- a. Motion to "Investigate a possible change to the structure of the Submarines Association Australia to an established schedule." - *A Report and Draft Concept Constitution has been completed. These are both available online for Members to review and make comment.*
- b. Postal and Online Voting. - *A process has been identified in the Draft Concept Constitution and is being used to gauge comment on item a.*
- c. Establish better communications with Kindred Organisations. - *A proposal to establish permanent Liaison Officers is being addressed by the National Committee; we have several volunteers and have represented the SAA this year.*
- d. Circulation of In Depth to Members. - *Action complete.*
- e. SAA Involvement with AE1 Committee.
- f. SAA involvement with HMAS Platypus's future. - *Ken Williams (NSW) has been appointed on the NSW Governments Platypus Committee.*
- g. Password Protection on SAA website.- *Available to Members on request. Not much in there, only a list of members, no other suggestions have been made. I believe that all other information should be transparent; we are not a secret society.*

Priorities for 2009/10

Although I will not be standing for Office this year I believe that the priorities for my relief should include:

- Communications
- Placing up to date membership lists in a secure section of the website so that Branches have up to date information on current and new members. *Assistance required from IT trained person.*
- Correct errors/inaccuracies in the Constitution that require rectification or modification.
- Correct and draft new Rules to support the Constitution.

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



Norm Williams OAM
National Secretary

2 June 2010

Annex A

List of New Members May 2009 – April 2010

Bass, G	Gunn, Chris	Wilkinson, A
Strangward, D	Beauchamp, D	Stokes, P
Budden, M	Haw, I	Bews, D
Harvey, G	Lumsden, S	Gapes, P
Larkin, C	O'Beirne, J	Cummings, G
Reinke C	Walker, P	Delaney, P
Snudden, D	Warner, K	Howard, M
Wight, G	Whelan, W	Baker, RG
Frost, TA	Garguilo, R	Pascoe, MG
Mills, R	Doodson, G	Pearse, K
Smith, BJ	Dangel, A	Weekly, K
Benavente, G	French, G	King, G
Burton, G	McEvoy, S	Irwin, L
Harrison, T	Rippon, K	Milne R
Werley, C	Rubenstein, T	Hoff, I
Dixon, M	Waits, C	

On Eternal Patrol May 2009 – April 2010

LEUT PG Evatt DSC RANVR	WOETCSM PA Green
WOCOXNSM J Redwood	LSTD SM BJ Smith
WOCOXNSM KA Mills	ABUWSM W Needham
LCDR D Wilson DSC, RANVR	CPOEWASM G White
LCDR M Shean DSO RANVR	CPOETCSM R Hibbert
CPOCOXNSM A Henry	CPORSSM R Sylvester
LEUT D Turner MBE, RN (Rtd)	WOMTSM S Haggerty