

SAA NATIONAL
VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT
2024 NATIONAL AGM

My focus over the last year has been to review the SAA National Constitution and to draft motions to change it to ensure that it reflects best practise and is a workable document. This was hampered when four of the five motions which were tabled at last year's AGM were not debated and voted on in accordance with the Constitution. In view of that I have submitted a motion that they be revisited at the 2024 AGM.

At last year's AGM, I volunteered to continue to review the constitution, sadly assistance from members has been limited to feedback from just a handful of members after the distribution of my discussion paper early this year. I note that at least four of those people are here tonight, and I thank them.

Over the last decade the administration of the SAA has drifted further and further from the Constitution, and some actions were taken that were not constitutional. The National SAA is not an Incorporated Body as are most of the Branches. This means the need for compliance is lesser from a legal perspective. What it does mean is that the members of the National Executive, indeed the National Executive Committee more broadly, can be held individually liable for their actions. For that reason alone, we should either follow the constitution or legally change it.

That said, we need to draw a line in the sand, accept what happened in previous years and start to move forward. The egg has been scrambled and there is little value in trying to put it all back in the shell. For example, every award of Life Membership since 2012 was not conducted i.a.w. the Constitution. It would be totally unfair and impractical if all those nominations were returned to their nominating Branch to be discussed and re-submitted.

Bob Hendrie and I have updated the Eternal Patrol page on the website. The list of deceased members we inherited was corrupt with many misspelt names and incorrect ranks. These errors have largely been resolved and through research the EP has tripled in size. I have drafted numerous obituary notices for members, and I have represented the SAA at several memorial services for deceased members.

A couple of years ago, Rob Nicholls, a Plank Owner of Orion, presented the SAA with "Poppy Dolphins". With Rob's permission we have reserved the remaining 70+ Poppies to present to the families of recently deceased submariners. Recently I presented Poppy

Dolphins to the sons of the late Paul Barnett and the daughters of Bob Moores. I have also assisted families in obtaining the Navy Bereavement Pin, issued by CN's office to spouses and siblings of former and serving members who pass away. It is extremely important that if you become aware of the passing of a submariner, regardless of whether they are a member of the SAA, that you advise Bob Hendrie and me.

Personally, it has been a difficult year, and family issues have meant that I have had to go deep and quiet on more than one occasion. This will probably increase over the next year, and I will foreshadow that I will not be standing for re-election next year at SUBCON 2025.

Yours Aye

Tony Vine

SAA National Vice President

6 October 2024