



Submarines Association of Australia Victoria Branch

President Keith Hatfield 0408 051 085

Vice President: Stephen Gray 0409 809 434

Secretary Ian Tanner 0450 642 835

Treasur John Whitehouse 0405 294 019

Committee Members A Cooper, Bill Rostron, Barry Davis, Rick Ling,

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting — Held at The Heroes Lounge, St Kilda RSL, St Kilda, 14th March 2021

Meeting opened @ 1200 With the Submariners Prayer and Tolling of the Boats.

Present — Frederick Bottrell, Ken Brazier, Robert Carter, Alan Cooper, Barry Davis, Steve Gray, Keith Hatfield, Rick Ling, Dave Morgan, Wayne Stephens, Ian Tanner, Les Thurgood, Pat Toogood, John Whitehouse, Werner Pelka. John Jones

Ladies Present – Lorraine Cooper, Sherry Hatfield, Lil Manskie, Terry Brown, Mavis Heffernan, Lois Stevens, Pat Brazier. Roz Carter

Apologies: Graham Atkinson, John Goss, Ashley Wade, Richard Coathup, Steve Gray, Bill Rostron, Mary Rostron, Doug Bews, Joanne Paasse.

Sick Parade – Steve Gray,

Not Present –

MarcusAlfonso, James Arnold, William Bacon, Brian Barkham, Lance Bennett, Michael Bennett, Patrick Beresford, Lee Bond, Charles Bonnett, Muhammad Breis, Robert Bretherton, Peter Briggs, Olivia Brown, Patrick Cahill, Timothy Chesterfield, Kevin Christensen, Christopher Cromwell, John de Bomford, Peter Delaney, Andrew Fairweather, Roger Faramus, Alban Farrawell, Graham Findlater, Ian Fitzsimmons, Colin Fowler, Jack Francis, Andrew Fraser, David Gilbert, Gerry Goodall, Miles Greenway, Ken Greig, Paul Hardy, Geoffrey Harvey, Ian Harvey, Trevor Hillier, Adrian Jallands, David James, Alan Johnstone, Michael Kearon, John Kendon, Christopher Kirk, Phillip Lees, Anthony Lillington, Curt Luebker, Ian Mansfield, George Mariotto, John Marshall, Brian Mathews, Robert Mcguigan, Darren McMahan, Garry Mellon, Neave Narrelle, Michael Newman, Wayne Oakley, Mark Oliver, Anthony Osborne, Dave Parker, Greg Pennicuik, Greg Raymond, Lawrence Reeves, Shane Richards, Michael Rikard-Bell, Noel Robinson, Ken Rylands, Richard Shalders, John Smurthwaite, John Sullivan, Ron Sulman, John Taubman, Joseph Vella, Ken Waixel, Matthew Wernas, Michael White, Leigh Wicking, Garry Winn, Ralf Wischnat, Shane Wyatt.

Minutes of Previous AGM. Read, and confirmed.

Moved: Fred Bottrell

Seconded: Keith Hatfield

Business arising from previous AGM Minutes: Nil.

President's Report for 2018 - 2020

The President provided a verbal and written report.

Well, what an interesting couple of years it has been, our last meeting was – apart from Christmas Lunch last November and our recent visit to Traralgon – February 2020.

It is pleasing to say that during Covid your committee and executive has continued to communicate and function and keep each other informed.

Unfortunately, there is nothing much to report on. Most States and branches have suffered the same consequences.

I would like to congratulate and thank the committee and executive, particularly our Hon. Sec, Ian Tanner and our Social Secretary Al Cooper, both of whom have continued to organise and create throughout this difficult period. Our Treasurer John Whitehouse has not had much work to do, thankfully – so our financial report should be fairly consistent with other years. Also, Steve Gray who has filled the position of Vice President since 2014 – thank you Steve and all the committee.

To all of you, today, thank you for your continued support of the branch. Many of you have been with us since the inception of the SAA (Vic.) and bear the many memories we have. This AGM is the 31st official AGM of the Victoria Branch – 1989 being our first 'official' meeting – we missed one AGM meeting in 2020, for those of us who are now counting the years! On record, I have now been President of the branch for 9 years – an unusual circumstance since the early days, when we had regular attendances of 60+ members. I must say it has been enjoyable time, but also a time when a lot of our members crossed the bar and we should take the time to remember them. It is also a time when a few younger members joined us, and they have thankfully fully contributed to us. I think this has been the same situation throughout nearly every Association.

Our latest 'sortie' was down to Traralgon where we met up again with Charlie and the ladies down there. It was a very pleasant and cheerful meet, and it was great to be together again. On completion of the meeting some of us ventured on to Mirboo North for a cheery night there. The next morning after we had recovered, it was suggested we visit Walhalla – the old gold mining town in the heart of Gippsland mountains. A lovely vista and pleasant little township, but one word of advice – don't visit on a Monday, as nothing is open.

Now with Covid seemingly – and hopefully – dissipating worldwide, we can look forward to getting back to 'normality' and once more commencing our social program.

In reality, I have only 2 regrets over the last couple of years, the first one was the cancellation of Anzac Day and all our meetings, last year – but that was unavoidable. This year has seen confusion with each State organising to get back to normality. Victoria, disappointingly, was put into a situation whereby only Australia and New Zealand can participate in the Anzac Day march, the march will consist of current members of all defence force branches and 'others' – there will be massed banners and no 'friendly' Associations represented. Personally, I think the decision was an incorrect one. As an Association our membership is for submariners – the only requirement is being a submariner, subsequently we recruited members from the Dutch, American and Royal Navy – who could not, unfortunately, be represented in the march, but all loyally contributed to the defence of our nation.

The decision was made – by me – that, as an Association, we will not march. Individually, members are encouraged to participate should they wish to, and on completion, assemble

with us at the St Kilda RSL for our reunion, but we will not be represented on Anzac Day as an Association. If we march, so does our banner – and we march as an association. Closing my report, I now stand down as President of the Association, but hold myself available for re-election should that be the case.

Faithfully yours,
Keith J. Hatfield, President, SAA (Vic. Inc.)

Secretary's Report for 2018 - 2020

The secretary asked the Association to thank Wayne Stephens for his work he has been doing as a DVA (compensations) advocate, not only for the Association but for the broader veteran community in the greater Melbourne area. He was also thanked for the donation of a framed diagrams of the general layout of the 'AE' class of submarine, which is now hanging proudly in the St Kilda RSL Board room.

Members – 98 registered

New Members

Olivia Jane Brown – Ex Collins Class

Correspondence In

Various emails from Consumer Affairs re Annual Report

Correspondence Out

Various emails to Consumer Affairs re Annual Report

Treasurer's Reports —

The Treasurer provided a verbal and written report which will be sent separately.

Business arising from Reports: Nil

Election of Office Bearers

Bill Rostron has decided not to stand for re-election to the committee. Bill who was a long serving member of the committee and an excellent past treasurer was warmly thanked by all attending. Thank you Bill.

The following committee members are eligible for, and have been nominated for and have accepted these positions for committee —

President	Keith Hatfield	Committee	Alan Cooper
Vice President	Steve Gray	Committee	Barry Davis
Secretary	Ian Tanner	Committee	Rick Ling
Treasurer	John Whitehouse	Veterans Compensation Advocate	Wayne Stephens

We welcome aboard a new committee member Wayne Stephens in the position Veterans Compensation Advocate. Well done Wayne.

Notices of Motion:

Nil

General Business —

St Kilda Army & Navy Club RSL ANZAC Commemoration Service.

The secretary informed the meeting that all members of the Association are welcomed to attend the St Kilda RSL's ANZAC Commemoration Service to be held on Sunday 18th March. Further details will be promulgated in due course.

ANZAC Day

The meeting was informed that due to the restrictions placed on all Associations regarding eligibility of attendance at the march the Association will not be marching but individuals can of course still attend.

A reunion will be held for all members at the St Kilda RSL

Annual Programme

The secretary briefly reviewed the annual programme, explaining that due to Covid restrictions placed on sausage sizzles at Bunnings it was decided not to hold one this year but will look to hold more sizzles in 2022.

The secretary also suggested that the planned social to be held at Geelong/Queenscliffe in July could be a full weekend affair starting with a ferry trip from Melbourne to Portarlington. Secretary to research.

SUBCON

The secretary explained that the organisers of SUBCON, which is to be held in Holbrook are looking for EOI's, and those members looking to attend should register their interest at the following website.

<https://www.submarinesaustralia.com/subcon21.html>

The secretary was asked how you could travel to Holbrook, John Whitehouse explained that the coach from Melbourne to Sydney stopped at Holbrook. The secretary would research the timetable and disseminate further information.

With no further business the Meeting was closed @1229.