



## SUBMARINE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

### **Annual General Meeting**

Sunday 7th June 2009

Naval Association Clubrooms

Fremantle, WA

### **MINUTES**

#### **In Attendance:**

NSW - 19

WA - 20

VIC - 9

SA - 7

ACT - 4

TAS - 1

QLD - 17

A total of 78 Members signed the attendance sheets, including 7 Life Members. A complete list of attendees is attached to the original copy of these Minutes as Attachment 1

#### **Apologies**

A total of 24 apologies were received. A complete list of apologies is attached to the original copy of these Minutes as Attachment 2

1. The meeting opened at 1100 with a (1) minute silence for members on Eternal Patrol.

#### **2. Welcome:**

The President welcomed members, new members and guests before introducing the Committee. The President reminded all present that this meeting was in fact the AGM and as such an election would be held to fill all office bearer positions for the coming year.

#### **3. Apologies:**

Members were requested to place the names of 'apologies' in the register at the door. The WA President advised the Meeting that an apology had been received by our Patron VADM McDougall who could not attend because of family commitments.

Fred Lawrence advised the Meeting that he had received a letter from Anne Redwood apologizing for Jim's absence due to ill health and that she wished to thank all of those that had been so helpful over the past few months.

#### **4. Previous Minutes:**

The Secretary advised that Minutes of the 2008 AGM had been available online and copies provided to the Meeting. The President called for the Minutes to be accepted and as a true record of proceedings.

Proposed: R Cross

Seconded: R Faramus

**Accepted**



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### 5. Matters Arising:

Incorporation: The Meeting was advised that the motion passed at the 2008 AGM to incorporate the Association was based on flawed information and that incorporation was state based. No further action would be taken at this time; other options were under consideration and would be addressed by the National Committee.

Affiliation with the NAA: The Meeting was informed that this was now in place, the Associations application was approved by the NAA National Council in April. No further action required.

Introduction of a Member's Card: The Meeting was informed that this was now in place. The cards are available, on request, from the Secretary. Starting from next year cards will be issued to Members when subscriptions are paid. No further action required.

Proposed: P Heffernan

Seconded: S Czabotar

**Accepted**

### 6-11. Reports:

The following Reports, copies of which had been available online and provided at the Meeting, were tabled for acceptance. The originals are attached to these Minutes as Attachment 4 all reports available online for perusal.

#### *Welfare Foundation Report:*

Proposed: D Bryant

Seconded: Guy Burton

**Accepted**

#### *Health & Welfare Report:*

Max Hardy gave an informative presentation to the Meeting.

#### *Treasurer's and Auditor' Reports:*

Proposed: J Rana

Seconded: L Graham

**Accepted**

#### *Presidents Report:*

Proposed: D Sandquest

Seconded: D Thompson

**Accepted**

#### *A / Secretary's Report:*

Proposed: N. Williams

Seconded: B Clayton

**Accepted**



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### *Committee Meeting Report*

On completion of Reports being tabled the President gave the Meeting a summary of the discussions and outcomes of the National Committee Meeting held on Saturday.

#### *Postal and On-line Voting.*

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. A Constitution By-Law shall be introduced by the end of September 2009 to accept 'on line' and postal voting as a legitimate means of voting on governance issues, within the Association.

#### *SUBCON Website*

It was suggested that a standard template be developed on the Associations web site for future SUBCONs. The Web Manager to liaise with the NSW Branch for the development of the SUBCON 2010 website.

#### *Password Protection on SAA website*

The introduction of password protection to some sections of the website will be introduced 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.

#### *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 3 to these Minutes). Barry proposed that a letter be sent by the President thanking the NAA for their efforts and this will be done.

#### *BEST Funding*

The matter of Branches taking advantage of funding available to Ex Service Organisations (ESOs) was discussed. This funding (available to Incorporated ESOs) 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. 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.

#### *HMAS Platypus*

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

#### *AEI Project Involvement*



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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.

### *In Depth*

In principal agreement was given to the Secretary mailing out In Depth to those Members that do not have access to a computer. Currently 200 Members do not have an email address on the Associations database. It is thought that this number would reduce once those Members are contacted. Cost is still a major issue and sponsorship is being sought, an estimate of costs for 6 issues to be posted out is between \$3,500 and \$5000 a year.

### **12. Election of National Executive**

Kevin Hayton was nominated as Acting Chairman to conduct the election of Office Bearers for 2009/10. As nominations were only received for the current incumbents the following were elected to Office for 2009/10.

<b>President:</b>	David Sandquest	<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Rana
<b>Vice President:</b>	Max Hardy	<b>Welfare Coordinator:</b>	Max Hardy
<b>Secretary:</b>	Norman Williams		

### **13. Election of Auditor for 2009/20010 Accounts**

The Treasurer advised the Meeting that the 2008/2009 accounts had been audited by accountant Mal Hughes and proposed that he be appointed as the auditor for 2009/10.

Proposed by: J Rana  
Seconded: K Hayton  
**Accepted**

### **14. Motion**

#### ***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.



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- 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.

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.”

Member participation would be called for in addressing these matters.

Proposed: N. Williams  
Seconded: P. Chegwiggen  
**Accepted**

### **15. Other Business:**

Kindred Associations Paul Meakin raised the issue of our relationship with the RSL. The Meeting was advised that we are on the RSL’s register as an Ex Service Organisation and it was recommended that individual members should consider joining the RSL to access the services they provide. (It is noted that the NAA can offer similar services but location of Branches is limited).

Allan Beasley informed the Meeting that the help that he had received through the RSL was of considerable value.

The Secretary advised the Meeting that he had been in contact with other ESOs to advise them of our existence and to be placed on their mailing lists.

In Depth Roger Faramus raised the matter of not getting In Depth. The Meeting was advised that this was being addressed.

### **16. Handover of the SUBCON Ensign**

The President of the WA Branch handed over the SUBCON Ensign to the NSW Branch President who advised that the next SUBCON and AGM will held in Coffs Harbour. Kevin Hayton then showed a DVD inviting Members to SUBCON 2010.

### **Meeting Shut:**

There being no further business the President declared the meeting Shut at 1215.

David Sandquest

Norm Williams



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President

Secretary