

## NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

National Annual General Meeting held at the Crest Hotel, Brisbane Queensland on Sunday, 11 June 2006.

1. Chairman opened the meeting at 0935 and made welcome the 103 members in attendance and then asked the members, as there was no President presiding could he chair the meeting, all agreed.
2. Chairman then asked for apologies, Fred Butcher, John Hodges, Gordon Selby, Tim Everard, Dave Gilbertson, John Currie, Peter Wallen, David Byrne, Ian Prodger George Hunt, Bruce Patch, Gerald Degen, Tom Johnston, Jim Seaton, Chris Rubley, Derek Lilliman, Tim Duchesne and Huw Gethin-Jones.
3. Chairman called the members to stand in one minute's silence for departed comrades. Thank you gentlemen.
4. On completion, the chairman asked the committee to introduce themselves starting on his right hand side. Dave Bryant Secretary of the South Australian Branch standing in for Fred Butcher this morning, Kim Pitt standing in for Kim Pitt President of the Tasmanian Branch he's not feeling a hundred percent. Andrew Galley President of the ACT and Southern Regions. Peter Smith National Secretary, Peter Vidler National Treasurer standing in for the President John Hodges. Mike Bennett President of Victoria. Barry McKeown Queensland, Colin Ware New South Wales, Fred Lawrence Western Australia.
5. Chairman, the minutes of the last AGM held on the 12 of June last year someone move that they be accepted David Williams seconded Bob Marsland NSW.
6. Chairman, matters arising from the minutes from the list the first one Otama Project.
- 6a. Mike Bennett, there is not much happening on it there is nothing further to report on it at this time. Pat can do a further fill in on it
- 6b. Pat Heffernan the Otama Project is still on the go and it's a long way down the track yet and the Victoria Submarine Association isn't briefed in it, there are two different consortiums down there it's starting to get political we the Submarine Association are staying out of the politics of it. We are still great supporters of it, we will provide working-bees and everything when it has finally landed, but they have still got about twenty obstacles to get over before they are given permission to land. At the moment there are a lot of politics involved and we are just sitting back and watching what happens. Mike Bennett thanks Pat.
7. Chairman next is the DVA Report. Kevin will you give that report
- 7a. Kevin Hayton, do you mind if I leave that until my report. Chairman yes Kevin
8. Chairman, next is the **Review of the Constitution and Rules**, I would like Kim to talk on that one.
- 8a. Kim Pitt, settle in every one. Last year at the meeting held in Melbourne the AGM accepted a motion that there should be a review of the Constitution and that be based on a model following the RSL Constitution. The National President prepared a version which he eventually passed out to me and I then passed that with a copy of a draft prepared by Queensland out to the members of this Committee who where invited to act a coordinated body. I called for comments in November and silence was the stern reply not unexpectedly people put a lot of work in the various State Branches in considering the RSL Constitution, but really struggled to see how it might fit the functions and roles and the expectations of the Submarines Association Australia. Things went quite over the Christmas break, while I went off and played with my mates in the Antarctic and I apologise from the bottom of my heart for that hiatus that period from November through until about March was absolutely silent, it was only when Barry very gently prompted and said what the bloody hell is going on that I realised that there needed to be a lot of work done. By that time not only did we have the RSL model that John Hodges had presented early this year, we had a model the Queensland group had done work on and intervening period another two, one developed in New South Wales a paper that they believed appropriate to put to this meeting and another developed independently by Kev Hayton, which is very much appreciated. Unfortunately, by April looking at those various Constitutional drafts, remember we had the original, we had the RSL, we have the Queensland and the New South Wales and an independent piece of work. It became very, very torturous and difficult to fathom what was being proposed and why, let alone which ones deserved debated more widely. So I suggested that we might put things on hold and asked people if there were issues that needed to be raised directly in order to fix problems and in general the response was no it's not an issue of specific items that needed to be fixed right now, but we need to get ourselves sorted out and have a Constitution that really matches with where we are going in the future. So I came to the meeting with the view that we might take a more ordered approach to the task, select a Constitution perhaps other than the RSL model that we all agreed last year was where we wanted to start and I suggest that we use the existing Constitution to do that. Let me take a diversion here, it was an embarrassment yesterday when the National Executive committee met to find that we each had a different view to what the existing Constitution was, one State was looking at one model dated 1997, I was working on a model

dated 2001 and unbeknownst and a couple of others, the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2005 there is a more recent model, each of them remarkably similar but subtly different to the extent that it causes quite some difference in interpretation on how to behave in relation to some important issues we will be discussed later at this meeting. And I had one of those Chinese moments; when I was visited by Ah Hook and I thought right we need to go back and I would like to put to you that given that we have a Constitution signed by our President appropriately so, based on what I understand stood to be agreements reached last year and dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2005 that we use that as the starting point. Next I would like to call for comments, not new draft versions of the Constitution, but comments on that particular model so that we can form a list of things which need to be improved, modified, deleted and to allow three months for submissions. One of the things which I heard quite frequently during the past year was a sense of disquiet that people in the Association were being driven by a particular faction or not being allowed to have their say, I think we can defuse that if we open up to the full membership a call to be provided by some comment on the 2005 Constitution, but please do that through the State bodies so that it don't become completely chaotic mess on my laptop and then I will prepare a consolidated statement of the view of the membership about what is good or not out of that 2005 model and then I will come together with this Committee and draft a new version, which will be put out to you for comment and hopefully get ratified fairly quickly so that we have a safe path for....At this point I will make one comment, which is I don't think controversial but it's not normal to make negative comments about individuals, but I must say the task of the last year, has been laborious and difficult because two people didn't pull their weight, one was me and the other the National President, that is my report. Accepted with acclamation.

8b Chairman, can I have a proposer and seconder that that be accepted.

8c Bob Marsland, is there any chance of getting the 2005 Constitution sent out to all the Branches.

8d Chairman, that will be sent out to the Branches by Peter as soon as he gets it, because Peter hasn't got a copy yet and I didn't have one. As soon as someone sends it to Peter as we organised yesterday that will come out to all Branch Secretaries and Presidents

8e Kevin Hayton, Mister Chairman if I may, Kim just stated there was 1997, 2001, 2005 I cannot recall any amendments to these Constitutions coming through congress, so how come we have got three versions? Any amendments to the Constitution must be passed by an AGM, so come we have got three versions?

8f Chairman, the 2001 the Constitution was rewritten completely and that went through the AGM in 2001 there was a committee who rewrote it was Max Hardy, Peter Smith, Fred Butcher and myself rewrote it then that was put through the AGM in 2001. Last year there were two amendments made at the AGM I believe and they were added in that is the 2005 thing.

8g Kevin Hayton, high light where in the minutes where these were passed, please.

8h Chairman, Item 12 General Business. we only have two items that I have, one I know where the path and road down to changing our constitution, believe it or not we can amend our constitution right now, our current one just by a vote by the people in this room, the current members of the Submarines Association and I would like to propose an amendment to our current constitution which I hope will be in for a year and new amendment will roll over into the new one and the amendment is under rule four which talks about our Patron, rule four. Any person qualified for life or Ordinary Membership under Rule 6 and considered to have given distinguished service to the community may be invited by the National Committee to act as Patron of the SAA. That of course is our current Patron, Ian Mac Dougall. Here is Para B. To maintain the link between serving submariners and members, the officer posted as the Commander Submarine Force Element Group may be invited to act as Vice Patron of the Submarines Association Australia. Basically what I am asking is that we have a vice patron, that is not unheard of quite a few ESOs have vice patrons and quite a few ESOs have serving commanders as their patrons, the Naval Association of Australia have the current Chief of Navy, oh my god do you want me to keep reading all this out are people reading it.

8i Kevin Hayton, we can accept that as one but where's the other one?

8j Chairman, you then moved an amendment to the one Kevin I know.

8k Kevin Hayton, so 2001 all it has is one amendment?

8L Chairman, I thought there was two, I thought there was a second one.

8m Unidentified voice, there was a second one it was to do with war like operations.

8n Chairman, the AASM, yep here in 12a. The President stated there was one other, which is the ongoing push and thrust to have the Australian Service Medal with clasp Special Operations recognised as active service medal and the intelligence collections being recognised under the Veteran's Entitlement Act and qualifying service. I going through there.....

8o Kevin Hayton, there was no motion passed.

8p Chairman, that's what I am going down to find.

8q Kevin Hayton, so you have amended the Constitution (inaudible)

8r Kim Pitt, Mister Chair, I think it is important to point out that the Constitution dated the 12 June 2005 and signed by our existing President is not one that this committee can recall having discussed and debated, between the time we met yesterday and realised that this existed have been distracted and I think it has probably important that we have a look at this compare it with the 2001 which we haven't done yet in order to make sure that it does reflect what has been agreed to in appropriate process, but that has not yet been done. The word shambles comes to mind.

8s Fred Lawrence, Mister Chairman would it be prudent if Kim's got the copy of that 2005 Constitution and actually read out what is missing from the last page of that document, that way the membership will know what is being referred to.

8t Kim Pitt, just the modifications?

8u Fred Lawrence, no that last

8v Kim Pitt, in relation to the second copy was discussed last year, this version of the Constitution says under the heading of standing policy, one (something we derive from the Constitution). That the Commonwealth Government recognises Submarine Intelligence gathering Operations as Warlike Service. But, a couple of us have noted that the numbering system in here is a little different, so when you go to paragraph 8e its not talking about what's in the 2001 and others, so, it needs to be looked at more closely that just consideration of what was discussed at last year's meeting. We haven't done that in the last 24 hours. Blame the Queensland Branch for the piss up.

8w Chairman, while we talk about the Constitution, at the meeting yesterday morning, it was discussed that as we had major problems of not having a President here that the Association should have a Vice President I would like to move a motion that we change the current Constitution again in Rule 10 to add the words "Vice President" in between President and Secretary.

8x Kevin Hayton, Mister Chairman as acting Chairman may I suggest that you suggest a motion.

8y Chairman, I agree, fair enough Kevin. I would like someone to move that.

8z Terry Wyatt, far North Queensland, I will support that.

8aa Chairman, you move it, can we have a seconder.

8ab Pat Heffernan, Melbourne I second that.

8ac Chairman, all those in favour, carried unanimously. Thank you gentlemen, that solves a major problem of yesterday and this morning in who was going to chair the meeting it was discussed over emails at one stage amongst us.

8ad Col Deller, Mister Chairman I would like to find out the fact with the Constitution changes and all rest of that, the North Queensland Branch if you like have been going by the Constitution date written on 12 June 2001 and adopted on 31 August 2001 so there have been no other changes being put forward.

8ae Chairman, no, not in your instances, no.

8af Col Deller, I have had a talk with Kim Pitt and Barry McKeown that will go further, but we have a lot of North Queensland members here and want to know are we still going by this one at the present stage.

8ag Chairman, the only changes are nothing to do with your situation. I was trying to find you this morning to have a talk with you, Kim and Barry at one stage. Thank you.

8ah Norm Williams, Mister Chairman what I would like to propose is that the proposer put conditions.

8ai Chairman to Kim Pitt you can say that as proposer.

8aj Kim Pitt, I propose that we review the Constitution starting our work from the basis of the existing (I won't say which one because I have to confirm this), the existing Submarines Association Australia Constitution and that we take three months to accept submissions through State Branches so that a list of, a consolidated list of improvements, deletions can be developed in order then to draft a new Constitution.

8ak Chairman, do we have a seconder for that.

8aL Peter Watt, before we vote on that I have a question, Kim you are saying the existing Constitution item above, I know I am a dickhead engineer, but are we taking about 2001 or 2005 version.

8am Kim Pitt, I use my words deliberately Peter, not to confuse I am of the view, right now that the 2005 Constitution is correct, but with the questions being posed of how we arrived at this Constitution, what are the differences between it and 2001 which had not yet been analysed and correctly enunciated, but it would be unwise for me to say we will use this as the basis because if you find it is incorrect we will then have to go back to the 2001 Constitution so which ever of those two is correct we will only work on the one that is correct is what we will use as a model. That is going have to be passed out to every one. So that it is very clear of what we are working on.

8an Peter Watt, OK so what you are saying the model that is going to be passed out.

8ao Kim Pitt, we won't, we won't be using the RSL model.

8ap Peter Watt, the 2001 or the 2005 that will be determined by the National Executive.

8aq Kim Pitt, well I don't think we will determine it, there is only one that is legal we use the one that is legal.

8ar Peter Watt, and who will determine which one is legal.

8as Kim Pitt, any one in this room could do that very quickly by doing an analyse and that analyse hasn't occurred, so we have to sit down and do it, it will be very plain, it won't be an interpretation it won't be a debate it will be very plain which one is correct. If it's true that the modifications made last year in accordance with an AGM motion it will be the correct one.

8at Chairman, can I have a seconder for Kim's...

8au Roger Faramus, Victoria

8av Chairman, I put the motion, all those in favour, against, carried. Thank you.

9 Chairman, the next Item is **Corporate Membership of the Australian National Maritime Museum**, Peter, you want to talk on that.

9a Secretary, our current President even though he is not here, decided a couple of years ago that the Association become a corporate sponsor to the National Maritime Museum and each of the Branches were to pay part of the fees, at that stage was \$500 per year. I received a letter recently so say they have put it to \$700 and looking at the number of people who have actually used the facilities at the National Maritime Museum, over the past two years I think about 25 to 30 people who have actually gone there and I think it is a waste of our Association money to continue as corporate member of the National Maritime Museum. I would like to propose that we discontinue this cooperate membership.

9b Chairman, do we have a seconder?

9c Terry Wyatt, I will second that, I went down to the museum when I met you and I used my senior's card.

9d David Williams, what do we do in reference to *Onslow*, do we give the National Maritime Museum a little gratuity, I agree about the \$500 on corporate side, but what do we to get on boat?

9e Secretary, at the moment it costs \$15 to go on Vampire....

9f David Williams, exactly, exactly.

9g Secretary, Vampire, the boat and also Endeavour. \$15 per person.

9h Terry Wyatt, your can use you senior's card David.

9i Chairman, what David is saying can we give a donation.

9j David Williams, it's a sacred site. (The room erupted in mirth and acclamation.)

9k Terry Wyatt, Mister Chairman what Dags was saying is no worse, I went to Western Australia and went over *Ovens* and *Ovens* is an absolute shambles to get through that museum over there, it's a shit fight and New South Wales was absolutely excellent the way they put it on, I been to both boats and I have also been on the boat at Birkenhead and I favour New South Wales, Western Australia was an absolute shambles, going through that museum the way that they treated you, you say that you are an ex-submariner and you get treated like dirt so...

9L Unidentified voice, nothing's changed (greeted with mirth).

9m Chairman, state your name

9n Rob Woolrych, gentlemen on a secondary vote I bear in mind what Peter Briggs said last night about AE2 and I wondering wether there is something we might discuss in the future, perhaps this is not the appropriate time but in the future, that we might discuss in getting into bed in some degree with the Submarine institute re ....

9o Kevin Hayton, point of order Mister Chairman there is a motion put re the corporate membership it has nothing to do with the institute.

9p Rob Woolrych, it's for the future I said it had nothing to do with this, some thing to think about, OK.

9q Chairman, anyone want to talk against or for the motion I put the motion that we no longer keep the Corporate Membership of the Australian National Maritime Museum. All those in favour, against, two against, carried

9r Lloyd Blake, in support of what happened to Coyote, in the West we have recently revived a group known as the Friends of the Submarine Museum affectionally called FOSM. FOSM is a group that are raising money to look after *Ovens*. There is a problem where submariners are working with the public service who run the museum, that's the major hassle. Anyway FOSM is getting up to run, one of the plans includes making FOSM a national group that is born in Fremantle, but would include Holbrook and Victoria, it's a cot case in Victoria and Sydney, so we have FOSM, again you might not be aware but there are 97 submarines on display around the world, I have spoken to the Germans, the French, Americans and British, all have museums and they all get involved with each other, so this business of getting into museums at low cost can be address through a repository, so to alert you I guess, that FOSM as a National body can be good for membership priority number one, within the country but also reaching into other places and other submariners, so getting out of the museum is a great idea, thank you.

10 Chairman, the next one, Upgrade of the Australian Service Medal to AASM, Rob can I ask you to say something on that, you would know more on this than anyone else I think.

10a Rob Woolrych, yes OK, gentleman this project of mine stated as far back as 1994, when I first started to let it known at Defence about getting an upgrade. Crossgrove was not very approachable and in fact

in those days we got very little support for the submarine arm. Now it all comes down to the fact that at this stage we have the AVADSC on our side, we have the Naval Association now on side, and the Vietnam Veterans have indicated they are supportive on June the 20<sup>th</sup> I am going to Canberra with Les Dwyer who is the Naval Association National President and I am seeing the person in charge of the Nature of Service Investigation that's going on at the moment, now I want to make it quite clear to you all, this is not a push for benefits, this is a push for the submarine arm to get recognition for what they did on the mystery trips and if there are future mystery trips I hope we can convince the one star, I think there is a two star as well both army by the way, who are doing the Nature of Service Investigation that we can include this type of service in recognition of the AASM. I am also seeing Max Hancock who I think is the Second Naval Member, also the Chief of Staff to Billson who is the head of DVA Minister, so I hope in a relatively few weeks time Les Dwyer and myself can give some progress report , but it has been a long slog, alright that about all I can say. I am happy to take questions.

10b Chairman, anyone want to ask Rob questions on the report.

10c Greg Pennicuik, Rob we stand by you and the mystery boats and some of didn't do that the mystery trips, why can't we take that another step further about the submarine badge? The submarine badge is treated like dirt by many given out willy-nilly to people, who we then see on ANZAC Day wearing them on their left breast as an official emblem. Why can't we approach also, the fact that the submarine badge becomes part of the medal listings the same as the RNers have got?

10d Rob Woolrych, I think that is a different issue quite frankly, the submarine badge is a question of qualification it's a qualification that we have those people do service and go on mystery trips the general service people they come in and qualify as submariners at the end. Mike Bennett you handled that in Victoria did you not?

10e Mike Bennett, we are going through that now we are having a meeting with one person, yes we have handled it.

10f Rob Woolrych, it is the only issue I have had come up Greg, I have heard of this one. I think what's more important is that we have a few things that go further back like, I can remember Barry Nobes did a trip down the Antarctic down against a Zulu Group sometime ago, now I would, my feeling that sort of service, there would become categories of getting the AA or recognition. As for the trip against the Zulu Group down to the Antarctic would become an ASM, those people who do the mystery trips in threat areas would then get the AASM. This is where the Nature of Service meeting come into it. I hope with the Rick's support, I hope we do get something because I think the whole idea of service deserves recognition. I have had people who have been bleating in my ear about the fact I did them in the RN, now if we get the RAN in the first lot then we might be able to progress further, it is all a question of filling in the different slots. OK. There is a precedence set in Bosnia of all places were Australian troops served in Bosnia with the Poms they got war –service so we might be the same sort of thing with the RN. But I can't offer any answers on it at this stage.

10g Kevin Hayton, Rob one question with your meeting have you invited anyone the today's Submarine Commander to go with you?

10h Rob Woolrych, not today's Submarine Commander if you are taking about Rick, no we are doing it with the Naval Association and myself, it was Les Dwyer who has fronted Canberra to get this and Les has invited me to go with him, alright I will report to you as soon as I can if we have success. Alright.

10i Secretary, excuse me Rob there is one group that you probably not aware of the fact that the Submarine Association is affiliated of AVADSC, that group has got thousands of members and have been working on our behalf on the ASM to be elevated to the AASM, I was told at Christmas time by the past President and current President both ex-Rear Admirals they think there is a light at the end of the tunnel for us and if we fail they have a couple of back ups, so there have been quite a few precedents done with the other two services and we may get there.

10j Rob Woolrych, there's very much a light at the end of the tunnel, the army blokes are on-side, but I just don't want to give any body false hopes, it's a Nature of Service issue which means that the regulations for war service has to be changed.

10k Chairman, before you carry on, can those people with mobile phones switch them off or put them onto silence. Also Rob, I believe it went through the NSW RSL Congress and I am going to a District Council meeting next Saturday in the Riverina and we are taking it back to there as well.

10L Rob Woolrych, the Queensland RSL, I should have mentioned the RSL, the Queensland RSL I presented at the RSL State Congress in Brisbane a couple of years ago they have taken it up, I heard that Woolly was at the Coffs Harbour RSL and he supported it and now the NSW RSL is on side. So it's been a slow effort, but slowly gathering...we will probably be all dead before when we get, but maybe the submarines doing it under Rick's leadership now will get it, but at this stage we'll try, but can't promise anything. Just people are still afraid to talk about that the other the other issue.

10m Chairman, thank you very much Rob.

10n Noel Lowrie, Mister Chairman, I am normally pretty dense. I cannot understand can you have an upgrade of one medal to another medal when they are two separate medals; can you try and explain that to me?

10o Rob Woolrych, yes the AASM is given for different things what will happen is our ASM will get withdrawn and the AASM will go in lieu when there is a change in the nature of service regulations

10p Noel Lowrie, well I have both of them and I know a lot of other people who have both of them this is what I said to you what is the difference how can you up-grade one medal to another you can't do that?

10q Chairman, Noel if I can say something, what it is, is that some have only got the ASM for those trips they have not got war-service they should be entitled to it, therefore if this goes through the ASM will be withdrawn and the AASM will be given out to them.

10r Kevin Hayton, you will end up with both of them

10s Too many members talking at once to isolate debate. However debate was about whether one medal would taken away and a new one issued.

10t Don Meredith, (inaudible)...you get an ASM just because you served during that period of time, the AASM is if you serve in a war zone you have the ASM and at the present time those persons you are talking about who may get this AASM and has an ASM with the "special ops" clasp that's the difference. You can have the ASM with out the clasp just because you were in the Navy; it's the bar that makes the difference

10u Rob Woolrych, and at the moment AASM is not issued with a "special ops" clasp, it was Kennedy in his report, Commodore...Admiral Kennedy in his report said there was prima facie case that the issue of the AASM with the "special ops" clasp to the submarine mystery boat trips. That was were it stood with Kennedy, with Clarke, we put a submission to Clarke. Clarke could not make a discission he went to Defence. Defence told Clarke to stick it and we lost there, so now we go on again and we am going to visit the Nature of Service committee, alright I don't think there's more I can add.

11 Chairman, does anyone have any other matters arising out of the minutes. Someone move that the Minutes as read be adopted John Head, seconder David Williams; I put to the motion all in favour, carried.

12 Chairman, right **Welfare Foundation Report**, David Bryant can you give that?

12a David Bryant, read his report appended to the minutes along with Statement of Income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2006.

12b Chairman, can I have a proposer to have Dave's report be accepted Lloyd Blake, seconder Pat Heffernan all those in favour for, against, carried.

12c Fred Lawrence, Mister Chairman please may I, David on behalf of members of Western Australia I would like to present you with a further donation a cheque for \$500 this was greeted with acclamation.

12d David Bryant, Mister President Western Australia Branch very gratefully accepted by the Trustees thank you very much.

13 Chairman, move on Kevin can I have the National Welfare Officer's Report.

13a Kevin Hayton, opening remarks were not recorded while tape was being changed...record keeping, submarine culture, health hazards and health outcomes. Although the team from the Centre of Military and Veterans' Health handed down a draft report in February this year it cannot be acted upon until Defence Service Health and Repatriation Commission and Department of Defence have reviewed it. Even though I have been asked, I have been advised not to circulate the information before the report is finalised, it would be remiss of me not to at least give an out line of the conclusion. Just remember this fellows, anything said here don't try and use it because if they get wind of it will stop. The report said this quantitative study has demonstrated that multiple health hazards were perceived to been experienced by Oberon-class submariners in their working environment. The difficult, unpleasant and hazardous working conditions had done physical and physiological health ramifications. These hazards emphasise have been linked with adverse physical health outcomes with chemical materials and atmospheric conditions and ergonomic conditions. The lack of water for washing and general hygiene use, may have contributed to the adverse health effects of chemicals. The stress of being in an operational submarine in isolation were identified as prominent physiological hazards, in general all personnel were said to been exposed to all identified hazards because of the nature of the open ventilation system that circulated air throughout the boat and that fact that the small crew meant that anyone might be required to do a job at any time. Some of the physiological effects increased the use of alcohol (statement created mirth and an unidentified voice "I'll drink to that" more mirth) the effects of the increase (inaudible)...too, lead to potential further impacts on the health and wellbeing of the submariner. Pacifically, the increase of the use of alcohol may have been associated with a higher than average rate of marriage break-ups. The secret, confidential nature of deployments undertaken by the submariners along with the situations of often deploying at very short notice may have further

contributed to the family disharmony and isolation. The lack of commitment to occupation, health and safety on the Oberon submarine until the late 1980s, operational requirements often took precedence over occupation, health and safety considerations and many hazards inherent in the design of the boat could not be remedied. Personal protective equipment against hazards such as noise, chemical exposure and compromised atmospheric conditions was not available. The culture of loyalty, family and comradeship existed it was ascribed to the unique work and living conditions, this culture cemented the need or desire to get the job done, that many of the activities and exposures based on culpability or the regard to the personal safety. This culture of loyalty to the group and its association to personal exposure to hazards whilst getting the job done has been demonstrated in the aircraft maintenance personnel involved in the reseal/deseal program. Which you might say what's that mean the closing and opening a major impact on this because the reseal/deseal people have been accepted by DVA. The same culture also manifests as a reluctant to report medical concerns for the fear of being "as not pulling your weight". The lack of reporting is compounded by the lack of record keeping of medical presentations, the lack of adequate record keeping on board a submarine that many of the adverse conditions and specific incidents and their subsequent health and medical outcomes were not documented; the impact on this possibly is even more substantially today than at the time. As it means there is no evidence to support compensation claims for adverse health conditions. Now to me that is a positive report if and when Defence Health and the Repatriation Commission accept it, it could be beneficial to all. Hopefully we will hear from Defence shortly and once we have I will distribute the information to the Committee, I will post it on our website and I hope you can get some benefit out of it. At this moment the Association has 25 Pension and or Welfare Officers and they are waiting for you to assist you so don't hesitate. This year we saw new officers come onboard Greg Pennicuik from Victoria, Max Hardy, Arthur and Alison McKean our first female to put up her hand to be part of our Health and Welfare family, Peter Rasputin Vidler all from NSW, Brian Earle from Queensland and John Buster Keating from Western Australia. Last night gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen we were told a story by our comrade George Hunt about teamwork, I'm afraid some of us have forgotten about this teamwork, when it comes to some of our members putting in claims they need support from our officers, or our ex-officers a lot of our senior sailors because incidents were not reported. And we need a letter or a statement from these officers and senior sailors, but unfortunately there are very few who want to come forward and give their fellow submariners a hand in a claim. Just this year I wrote to several ex-commanding officers asking for simple statements saying quoting the lack of medical facilities on board a submarine and trained personnel and the lack of facilities in Platypus. Out of all the people I wrote to only four responded and I would like to thank those four one is Kim Pitt, Tim Duchesne, Barry Nobes and Geoff Anderson, I would like to thank them very much for their response to those letters, their information was very helpful for some of those boys. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Pension and Welfare Officers for their work and commend them for their efforts over the year, good health to you all. Report followed by acclamation.

Mister Chairman I am willing to answer any questions.

13b Chairman, any questions for Kevin gentlemen. I would like to move a motion that Kevin move that his report be accepted; would you like to move your motion?

13c Kevin Hayton, I move that my report be accepted.

13d Chairman, seconder?

13e Col Deller

13f Chairman, all those in favour, against, carried.

13g David Williams, I would like for the National body in response to Kevin's' brilliant work give thanks.

13h Chairman, yep and I also agree. (Followed by acclamation.)

14 Chairman, next item on the agenda is the **Webmaster Report**, Normie.

14a Norm Williams, Mister Chair, members of the Executive and members of the Association I would like today to give my report and basically this has been a very successful year for the website, we are currently averaging over 6,000 unique visits a month, what that means is 6,000 human visitors to the site per month, that is very encouraging when you consider we have a very small membership. It is also very interesting to note that the majority of our visitors are from America and in the remaining top ten we are number second, there's China, Sweden, Korea and some of the other strange countries around the world. It's quite impressive to have that many hits ...visitors, I don't go by hits they are not very accurate. But the stats themselves demonstrate what the site was able to achieve, it's a very valuable tool for the Association in getting our message out to members of the submarine community, and indeed recruiting for the Association. It is interesting to note that the amount of members who have joined over the last few years has stemmed a diminishing number of members and we have been quite successful in that fact. We have over the last 12 months had quite a lot of problems to the site, mainly caused by hardware and software, I felt like putting my foot through the computer on several

occasions, but too expensive, however these problems have been overcome and our problems have diminished. The comments by the visitors to the site and the information provided what has made the site. As of yesterday it is interesting to note, that the wives on Friday night, the number of wives who came up and commented on how they were finding out and hearing things in the organisation and it was very pleasing to see that the women were taking an interest. As it's...I think demonstrated by the larger number of females attending these assemblies. Most of you are aware that I offered my resignation about 6 weeks ago, the main reason for that, was that don't believe I have the full support of some members in the Executive and I thought that in the interest of the Association that I would put up my hand and make way. The reason for that is, to allow the Executive and the members of the Association to make their discussion on the way ahead. I called for volunteers and received two of interest; those were asked to send a proposal of their intentions so that the executive could make a discussion for the way ahead for the site. No response to my request was received, however I have been informed that two nominations have been submitted to the Executive and this is good news, you have a choice of who will run the web site, however that puts me in an awkward situation. Friday night and the number of emails I got, the amount of support, the amount of people who said don't do has made me reconsider my situation, so today I will be renominating for the position, so that gives you three people choose from. Acclamation. I want to break down these perceived barriers, I want the web site to be what we set it for, communication means for all the Association not Norm Williams' website, it's your website it's up to every Branch to participate if they don't participate that's great. However, if I am nominated and if I am contested today I will be seeking the assistance of the two other nominees help me to develop and...(inaudible) State Branches, that's my report. Acclamation.

14b Chairman, can I have a mover and seconder?

14c Terry Wyatt

14d Noel Earl

14e Chairman, all those for, against, carried. I would like to thank Norm for all his work I have had a fair bit to do with Norm we got on quite well together Norm? I would like to that you on behalf of the Association for your work and renominating mate. Acclamation.

15 Chairman, next is the **Auditor's Report**, I haven't got one I was able to use Huw this year I wasn't able to travel, I was ill so I had to get a local person to do the auditing of the finance report so actually don't have an auditors report. I think we will move on to the **Financial Report** and now I put on my other hat on as Treasurer. There are copies of the balance sheet of the year and the profit and loses account for the year there on the table where the book was every one got copies. We had a fairly good year, we had a \$1,300 plus profit for the year, which is the best we have done for a long time. Our biggest expense is still posting and printing "In Depth" the majority is covered by a donation we get from Raytheon. We picked up quite a few new members as Norm said a lot from the internet and other than that we have gone fairly well. We still got 61 members who are unfinancial, have not paid up yet, the latest copy will be sent next week by Peter (Secretary) around to the Branches to see if they can chase anyone up as we do regularly and I will send it to Norm when I get home to go on the web. Since the end of the Financial Year, I know this is not part of the balance sheet but we have had problems with Peter's (Secretary) computer, we had to replace the screen and the power pack blew up which we had to fix. So in this year's figures there is about \$500 that we had to send on equipment, but that's for this year not last year. I would like the meeting's endorsement for spending that money on my own account we could not contact the President, so just Peter and I decided to do it and go ahead. When we pass the report I would like to get that approved. That's about it, unless there are any questions about the report? I would like to get someone propose it because I can't propose it.

15a Norm Williams

15b Mal Bridge

15c Chairman, all those in favour, against, carried.

16 Chairman, there's a problem with the next one too, I don't think the National President has got a report and I am not giving one on his behalf, because I haven't a clue on what he has been doing .

17 Kim Pitt, Mister Chair. If I may I would like to make a statement about the absence of our President, I'm not sure others would wish to. My observation is over the past several months in particular, many, many of us have written, to the President or the National Executive Committee on a variety of matters and we have seen other send emails and we know that telephone calls have not been made and I for one have frequently thought that as part of a process of discreet response there were messages being sent back to all of these people that were being kept private and the rest of us weren't included in the communication, the fact is that it appears that none of these messages were responded to, most often none of the phone calls not taken emails and snail mail weren't going back from head office. This has had an impact on just about every single person trying to work to assist the Association deliverance outcomes this past year. Whether you look at welfare, the webmaster, the constitution issue or any

internal State discussions and debates the end result has been, it's very obvious this weekend, the end result has been that people have formed a view that they have been kept out of the loop, because they are not trusted, or that some manoeuvre happening to isolate them and their view on a particular topic. None of that is the case, the fact is that an organisation like this needs strong, focused leadership and plenty of communication and we have had none of that for at least six months. That's it.

- 17a Bill Hosie, Is it medical or is there something wrong.
- 17b Robert Marsland, can I answer that, he's doing some sort of university course that is taking up a considerable lot of his time, he said he should have resigned instead of sending out a letter to say I am too busy to do any thing.
- 17c Chairman, just like when he was President of the New South Wales Branch.
- 17d Kevin Hayton, Mister Chairman if I may, the gentleman is not here let's not give him a hard time. Take as it has happened and get on with it.
- 18 Chairman, the Election of Officers 2006/2007, I believe Wallaby that New South Wales nominations have been withdrawn.
- 18a Col Ware, they can be revoked if required.
- 18b Chairman, we have had nominations from New South Wales and were in the hands of the Secretary by the date of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April but there were other nominations come in after that time, normally they would not be accepted but under this situation that we were talking about at the Committee meeting yesterday morning and afternoon, that there....we believe strong push from the floor for nominations to come from the floor. Now, I don't know if that is fact or not, would anyone like to talk to that.
- 18c Kevin Hayton, Mister Chairman the Constitution clearly states that nominations must be in by a certain date. Now unless.... you cannot amend the Constitution now, but we cannot go against the Constitution we can amend it for next year, but as it stands at the moment you cannot deviate from the Constitution which says nominations must be in by a certain date prior to the AGM, there is one nomination on the floor whether fortunate or unfortunate you got to accept it.
- 18d Chairman, that is what I am try to find out what the members...
- 18e Kevin Hayton, you don't have to find out.
- 18f John Head, what was the shut off date
- 18g Chairman, 1<sup>st</sup> of April.
- 18h John Head, and what date did the New South Wales submitted entered
- 18i Chairman the previous New South Wales meeting was....when did you get it Peter?
- 18j Robert Marsland, as the New South Wales Secretary those were put in at the New South Wales meeting held in March.
- 18k John Head, we people, us Queenslanders knew nothing about it.
- 18L Barry McKeown, Mister Chairman, I would like to move that the clause in the Constitution to be amended to allow for nominations to be called from the floor, the proper floor.
- 18m Kevin Hayton, point of order Mister Chairman you can put an amendment, but that will be the amendment for next year, you cannot amend a Constitution today and enact it today, the Constitution clearly states that the time limit and you have got one nomination and that nomination has to be put up, if you want to amend it in General Business by all means Barry.
- 18n Bob Wilson, I believe the way this Constitution is being bandied around ...(inaudible)...it does say eight weeks and what we have found is that the States have not been informed by correspondence as they should have been and not from our little local magazine "In Depth" so I believe the whole thing is ....(rest of his statement inaudible on tape)
- 18o Chairman, the Constitution still states that it should be in by then, it has been the same for the last twenty years, twenty odd years that I know of that nominations are there every year there have been nominations coming in, we get nominated every year and stand down.
- 18p Bob Wilson, you've been involved for a number of years you don't pass on nominations in "In Depth" you should send out by Secretary to each State
- 18q Pat Heffernan, I am trying to get clarification are we going to nominate people here today for the positions according to one section of the Constitution or will they be voted on next year or are we going to nominate some one who will be voted on today and can we put our names forward.
- 18r Chairman, that is what we are trying to work out at the moment there is a nomination....
- 18s Kevin Hayton, a point of order Mister Chairman there is no debate here the Constitution clearly states for you to even suggest that there is a debate; you should not be in the chair to do that.
- 18t Dave Luck, we can make a motion today, but exactly as the law says it cannot be used until next year. A motion cannot be made retrospective in regards to a Constitution.
- 18u Lloyd Blake, Mister Chair may I suggest that eight weeks from now we can dump a postal vote and appoint the committee in eight weeks time.

18v Kevin Hayton, point of order Mister Chairman, you can suggest all you like the Constitution clearly state one nomination put the nomination up and get on with it.

18w John Rana, Mister Chairman, what happens to the situation if the nominee withdraws?

18x Chairman, yes I am about to ask that now.

18y Fred Lawrence, at our meeting yesterday morning I raised the issue of creating a position for a Vice President and I used the analogy that every boat needs a Jimmy, because if the old man goes down somebody has got to take charge. What I was hoping for and I hope we have sufficient flexibility here today to be able to create that position of a Vice President a Jimmy for our boat.

18z Kevin Hayton, point of order Mister Chairman, we have a nomination and it has nothing to do with Vice President the nomination is there ask him if he will accept it and get on with it.

18aa Chairman, we have one nomination for...oh, first I declare all positions vacant, at this meeting I shall as I am not standing for election this year I will continue to sit and hold this election until such times

18ab Terry Wyatt, I second that.

18ac Chairman, I need a motion and a seconder so that I can do it, yes

18ad Terry Wyatt, I propose that you stay in the chair.

18ae Chairman, all those in favour carried. Ok we have one nomination for President who was here on time David?

18af David Sandquest, Mister Chairman if I may there seems to be a bit of an issue, I am that nomination, I would like with permission from my Proposer and Secunder to withdraw my written nomination, if it makes the members feel better. Then they can select someone from the floor, if that furthers the meeting I will do that now.

18ag Chairman, gentlemen the nomination has been...yes

18ah Peter Donovan, as Kevin said earlier on the Constitution states that the nominations in by the 1st of April that nomination is in, if we want to amend anything for next year we start that later on. The nomination stands and he has done the right thing by us, he got the job.

18ai Chairman, he has but I just asked him to stand and he has withdrawn it.

18aj Colin Ware, no, no he hasn't said that.

18ak David Sandquest, I never said that. Mister Chairman I said at the convening of the meeting if they wish me to withdraw I will withdraw my written nomination.

18al Chairman, I don't think we can do that David it's against the Constitution again.

18am David Sandquest, the point is if they don't agree that they don't want me as President, fine.

18an Kevin Hayton, if I may Mister Chairman, if you withdraw your nomination you are withdrawing your nomination, right, you withdraw your written nomination if we are calling from the floor you can't put your hand up, right so your written nomination is there or it's not.

18ao David Sandquest, in that case Kevin, the written nomination stands. (Acclamation)

18ap Chairman, we have one nomination for President and are you willing to stand David?

18aq David Sandquest, yes.

18ar Chairman, I declare David elected as President, David Sandquest elected as President of the Association for the year 2006/2007. Carried with acclamation. We still have a couple of positions to go, do you want David to take over now and me to step down.

18as Kevin Hayton, Mister Chairman, excuse me you are the returning officer, finish the election and then put him on the chair

18at Chairman, OK, I was told to do it straight after, no I was just told. OK I have one nomination for Secretary. We have one nomination for Secretary Peter Smith, are you willing to stand?

18au Secretary, yes I willing to stand.

18av Chairman, I declare Peter nominated for Secretary. Carried with acclamation.

18aw Chairman, Treasurer, I am not nominating so, I know of one from New South Wales for Bob Marsland is there any others Pete? We had one from Bob Wilson, but it was not received until the 25th of May sorry 22<sup>nd</sup> of May so as before I declare that null and void and ask Bob are you willing to stand. I declare Bob our new National Treasurer. Carried with acclamation.

18ax Chairman, next we need an auditor for next year, I am not sure if Huw Gethin-Jones is willing to stand again, (voice, do you have it in writing) I am not sure if he is or not.

18ay Bob Marsland, he was nominated by New South Wales.

18az Chairman, if he was nominated....there are no nominations for Auditor gentlemen.

18aaa Norm Williams, Mr Chair is he a member of the Executive?

18aab Chairman, no he is not, no.

18aac Norm Williams, so he does not need to be elected?

18aad Chairman, no his appointed that's true, it was always at election that was why it was on there. That is all the executive then the others.

18aae Colin Ware are we going to have a Vice President this year.

- 18aaf Bob Marsland, can we bring that up in Other Business?
- 18aag Chairman, yes we have to. We have amended the Constitution as we said we can't do that until next year. I can get out of here now, David would you like to wander up here.
- 18aa Kim Pitt, Peter if I may, the fact that you were willing to step in and to chair the meeting is much appreciated, there have been some difficult issues to deal with over the last little while and I think you showed some stamina today, thanks carried by acclamation.
- 19 President, if I may I would like to call a vote of thanks for Peter (Vidler) for all his efforts seeing he is retiring. Carried with acclamation.
- 19a Peter Vidler, thank you David, thank you gentlemen.
- 20 President, where are we up to, venue for next year. I believe it is appropriate I'm just guessing that this appears for a reason.
- 20a David Bryant, Mister President if I may, South Australia have accepted the nomination for the venue of SUBCON 2007, we accept it with great pleasure and if I can get someone to drive this thing you will get a little bit of an insight into what you can expect in Adelaide over the June long weekend next year. President called a Break at 1058, resumed at 1109.
- 21b David Bryant, then presented a silent film tourist presentation of Adelaide and it's environs. Accepted with acclamation.
- 20c David Bryant, well worth waiting for, my last comment, I look forward to seeing you all at SUBCON 2007, however you will appreciate from the wonderful weekend we have had here, it doesn't all come together in a flash it takes a while to get all the infrastructure setup and particularly we need expressions of interest early. The organisers of these dos have to pay out extensive amounts of money prior to getting your payment and your confirmation of attendance of these dos. It causes people a lot of heart-ache and head-ache when the money doesn't come rolling in when it is required. Please bear that in mind when you make a commitment to come to Adelaide next year and you are asked to pay by a certain date, please pay by that certain date we will be asking people to send a deposit to secure if you like your commitment and then we will be doing exactly the same as our Queensland colleagues have done you can pay by cheque or you can direct pay into our bank account, so please bear that in mind.
- 21d Un-named voice, David seeing you haven't exactly said where it was, I assume it will be held at some vineyard and a few of here want to know will there be parking for caravans.
- 21e David Bryant there are heaps of caravan parks around Adelaide lot of grey nomads come through Adelaide and we will give you all that information when we start publishing this information shortly. Thanks very much for your attention and we look forward in seeing you at SUBCON 2007, thanks Mister President. Accepted with acclamation.
- 22 President, move on to number 14 **Items from the National Committee Meeting**, first I believe is **Life Membership**. I call on David Bryant.
- 22a David Bryant, Mister President thank you, South Australia Branch is very pleased and honoured to submit a Life Membership to the Executive which has been approved In the 18 years or so since we have been running as a Sate Branch we have only ever nominated one Life Member and that was our inaugural President Tid Currie, so today I have great pleasure nominating John Bishop our past Treasurer for Life Membership and I will read out the citation before I ask the President to present him with his pin Mister John Joe Bishop became the inaugural Treasurer of the South Australian Branch of the Submarine Association in January 1989, John continued to serve the Branch with great distinction for the following 12 years until the then relinquishing the role of Treasurer to the current incumbent in May 2001. During John's period as Treasurer he was instrumental in insuring that the Branch remain solvent throughout his period of his tenure, he worked to encourage and sustain a healthy financial membership, John was instrumental for procuring and on many occasions manufacturing models and plaques for fund-raising raffles and for members and visitors turning out the artefacts in his spare time at home. In addition to John's effort procured the sale to the members and their friends the collectable regarding badges which again helped to increase the funds of the Branch Association. The Branch Association is acceptably proud in its relationship the Port Adelaide Naval Association establishment of a submarine wall in establishing the wall John was the most involved in its design, which saw preparation, painting and completion. In 2000 the South Australian Branch hosted the annual southern conference SUBCON 2001 in the Adelaide hills town of Handoff, which was mooted by all who attended as a great success due to no small measure to the dedicated, talent sub-committee of which John was the leading figure. It is with much pleasure that the President and Committee and the members of the Submarines Association Australia, South Australia Branch hereby nominate Mr. John Bishop for Life membership of the Submarines Association Australia.
- 22b President, do we have a seconder for this nomination?
- 22c Peter Vidler, I will second that.

- 22d President, I put it to the membership do you accept this gentleman. There's no one for and no one against it I present Joey his Life Badge. Carried with acclamation.
- 23 President, I believe there is a second matter Committee Meeting, apparently there has been a gentleman presenting himself as various things I call on Peter Vidler to present to the meeting.
- 23a Peter Vidler, a couple of months ago when we got a nomination from a Russell "Chuck" Walters who included a sheet with what was seen as a official US Navy Service Certificate of Discharge. Russell Walters, was a regular marcher at the Merimbula Anzac Day Parade wearing a uniform of a Colonel in the US Marine Corp he wore various decorations including the Purple Heart and gold submarine insignia, he was also the founder of Merimbula Royal Coastal Volunteer Patrol and when he assumed this position as Commodore, the local newspaper printed an article detailing his services which detailed his length of service, which included two tours of Vietnam along with overseas deployments this is now been found to be incorrect. He was subsequently been revealed as an impostor and was named on the Coalition of Patriots for Military Honours website being as an impostor. I have got his whole history from the website and David Luck has definitely identified that he is the person who is an impostor; I would like to move that we through...from the Committee yesterday strike him of his membership send a letter to him informing him he is no longer a member of this Association and he is not allowed to wear our Badge at any time.
- 23b Mal Bridge, and he's not getting his money back.
- 23c President, do we have a seconder?
- 23d Max Hardy, second
- 23e Peter Vidler, there is one other thing Max, someone send the information to this website, the Australian and New Zealand Military Honours Impostors to add to the stuff that is on there.
- 23f President, all those in favour, against, carried.
- 24 President, this is a time constraint move along and go into **General Business**. The first thing I would like to do is to call under the circumstances as we have a motion or originally foreshadowed a motion about having a Vice President, some one moved that we call for nominations.
- 24a Fred Lawrence, Mister President, gentlemen I would like to move that this meeting call for nominations from the floor, today to fill the position of Vice President.
- 24b Kevin Hayton, point of order, first you've got to do is amend the Constitution to allow a Vice President
- 24c President, first thing I would like, would someone like to move an amendment to the Constitution.
- 24d Peter Vidler, point of order Mister President that was done earlier this morning I called for those and it's already passed (see 8w to 8ac).
- 24e President, so it's already passed it's been done so therefore we have amended the Constitution is that correct?
- 24f Pat Heffernan, I did approach Max Hardy last night and asked him if he was prepared to act as our first lieutenant er Vice President and he is glad to accept the nomination and I leave that up to the floor.
- 24g President, Kevin?
- 24h Kevin Hayton, Mister President now that you have got it in the Constitution covered for Vice President this come relevant next year, well nominate, put your nominations in eight weeks before the next AGM.
- 24i President, he is correct, however.
- 24j Pat Heffernan, inaudible...nominations are.
- 24k Unidentified voice, does this person who is being nominated Vice President have to be financial or not, you cannot nominate for a position on the Committee unless you are financial, are you sure about that.
- 24L President, that's correct.
- 24m Joe Eyck, is there any reason why we can't nominate one of the Committee members to act in the Vice President's capacity for the moment....(rest inaudible).
- 24n President, that's a good point, it's constitutionally that doesn't become effective until the next AGM however...
- 24o Joe Eyck, Mister President is there anything in the constitution that speaks of it?
- 24p President, no, or lack of, this is not, no, it depends on which Constitution you are looking at which is another issue.
- 24q Kim Pitt, none of them.
- 24r President, none of them.
- 24s Norm Williams, Mister President, I might be incorrect but I believe that the Executive once the motion has been passed and has been approved by a general meeting can implement at the Executive level, is that not correct?
- 24t Kevin Hayton, look I know you are getting sick of me, the Constitution clearly states right, that those amendments do not take effect until the rising of this AGM. You can talk for all you like on who you want to nominate, but do it in writing at the next bloody AGM.

24u Max Hardy, I have heard what Kevin had to say, commendable, commendable, but its nonsense at the same time. This Executive has the authority to appoint or demote if you like anyone to their Committee, anyone, now this is an annual general meeting at this meeting we can appoint anyone you wish to any position you which and there is nothing in the Constitution that said that you cannot, despite what Kevin said this Committee this meeting have the authority to appoint anyone you like.

24v President, Kim can you?

24w Kim Pitt, it is true that having made an amendment to the Constitution at this meeting it takes the year we face before it become eligible for election following standard procedures, however Max is also correct, if you as President and we the Committee supporting you, believe you need support to do work then we can call for someone to assist as long as it does not cost us money, that they behave appropriately, they do not make key discissions and they don't follow...they don't have any Executive authority.

24x President, basically it's a position without a vote

24y Kim Pitt, it's a position, he could help you in administration, conduct of business, hold your hand and but they would not have the right to sit in debate and discuss or vote on issues of importance.

24z President, until next year, it an honorary.....

24aa Barry McKeown, it becomes an appointed position, doesn't it? Not an elected position.

24ab Kim Pitt, correct

24ac Noel Lowrie, I believe under the Constitution you could call for a postal vote in eight weeks time that's the critical bit is the eight weeks notice is that correct?

24ad Kevin Hayton, no we do not have postal voting.

24ae President, we don't have postal voting

24af Noel Lowrie, who said we don't have postal voting?

24ag President, the Constitution, we can, however we can call a special General Meeting for the purpose of.

24ah Kevin Hayton, Mister President, I move that we appoint Max Hardy assistant to the President for this year.

25ai Andrew Galley, I second that.

25aj President, any discussion? All those in favour, all those against, carried. Thank you. (Acclamation)

26 President any other general business,

27 Unidentified voice, at this point have we a motion on the floor to appoint a Vice President and amend this Constitution for next year?

27a President, it has been done. It has been clearly done.

28 Col Deller North Queensland, Mister President as per the current Constitution and the crises we are in at this stage, I would like to inform, ask, plead or what ever, but notify you that as of 22/23 of July this year there will be a meeting held at Airlie Beach, of all the North Queensland representatives, they have under the current Constitution even with going by 2001 or 2005 there is no amendments to that paragraph Rule 7, Para (a) regarding other Branches in other states and I hereby duly notify you that as of 22/23 July at the North Queensland Branch will be formed at Airlie Beach covering all North Queensland from Gladstone through to the north, whether that violates any other Constitution rules, I don't know at this present stage, according to the Constitution currently in hand.

28a President, I think, the formality here is it has to be accepted by the meeting that in fact it can precede, it doesn't violate any part of the Constitution from what I can read. It says quite clearly that "State and Territorial Branches of the SAA may be formed to meet the requirements of locally resident members".

28b Terry Wyatt, I propose that we form a Branch in far North Queensland.

28c President, do we have a seconder for that.

28d Col Deller, I will second that seeing it was moved on my behalf.

28e President, any discussion for the motion.

28f Barry McKeown, I want to speak on that motion.

28g President, for first, for the motion. Against the motion.

28h Barry McKeown, I am not particularly against the motion, I just like to speak for the motion or on behalf of the motion. First of all I am not against any part, any state forming a separate Branch, however there are a number of issues that I believe need to be first cleared before another Branch can be established in any state other than the one that exist. First problem I see is representation from that Branch if you are going to have separate Branches within a state, how many sub-Branchees or Branches, Branches I should say, how many Branches we going to have or allow within any one state. Where do you stop is there going to be a limit, how many members or representatives of that Branch comprise a Branch and in the advent of the AGM are you going to have a separate Presidents representing each Branch within that state because it affects the voting of each state? So I believe there are a number of issues that first need to be considered before a vote. These considerations should be made aware to the members before that vote is taken.

28i Terry Wyatt, Mister President from the floor, step back in line, remember ACT went to a New South Wales meeting at HMAS Platypus, where we asked if I remember rightly Keith Freemantle we formed an Association in the ACT and later on we attached the words stroke Southern New South Wales on the end of that we formed that in the presence of the Committee of the Submarines Association Australia. No different to what we are trying to do in far North Queensland.

28j Unidentified voice, how many did you start with in Tasmania Kim?

28k Kim Pitt, we got about 27 on the books, but only a dozen or so attend, that's when we started.

28L Kevin Hayton, Mister Chairman I am speaking in favour of the motion, now as Kim read out before I put in a draft Constitution and part of my Constitution stated that a sub-Branch or a Branch could be formed within a 300 mile radius of a point and must have a minimum of 30 people, that can be flexible, as I said, if we pass this motion today and I wait for the Constitution people to put in to the our Constitution similar type boundaries and all this can be covered as for representing President, well it doesn't stop RSLs or other associations of having presidents in each, like take the RSL sub-branches could two miles apart and you've got two presidents that doesn't affect their operation. If we got Branches of the Association 300 miles apart how is that affect the operation? When we come to the executive, all we do is put in more heads and that's for the President to sort out not us.

28m Col Deller, with regard to Kevin's speech then we will inform you, currently on our books in North Queensland we have 75 people in North Queensland, of those members I can't tell you exactly I have not received figures from the SAA that there are quite a lot of those members are members of the SAA and we are covering say 700 -800 kilometres north of Brisbane up further so we are covering thousands

28n President, thanks Col.

28o Bob Marsland, basically we are here for Health and Welfare, looking after our mates, like all the Branches are in capital cities there is a lot of bloody distance between borders why can't we have a branch between borders and capital cities, we get together and have a piss up and look after each others health and welfare, that is what we are here for mate, that is my version mate.

28p Peter Watt, Mister President I just have a question the annual get together will it still be run by the states or will we now revert to Far North Queensland and they function it? There are a number of issues there to be resolved, so I don't know that we can quite arbitrarily just make a vote on now, I think there should be questions raised and appropriately answered before a sub-Branch is organised.

28q David Williams, what happened with us and give you an example, Queensland set the goal posts years ago, FNQ far North Queensland and the rest of it, it has all ways been there and they have representatives, now we have talked about the RSL Constitution we have always mentioned sub-Branches we have a president, Smithfield has got one, Wentworthville a whole lot of us as a result of that when State issues come to bear, you have a State President each sub-Branch selects a delegate to go to the State Conference what ever comes out of there goes to the National Body it is already in place. You know the demographics is ridiculous how do we expect blokes trying north and south it is just too far, so if you have interested bodies up there let it happen and they come back to the central body which is here in Brisbane it's not messy you just have to understand it. As a black fellow I'm the President of New South Wales Branch over all the TI (Thursday Island) fellows. We got a mob, ones who live in Moree, alright, because there is a mob of them out there, it's the same in Queensland.

28r Col Deller, with all that in mind that is very good now I live in community like Airlie Beach and we've got two RSL sub-Branches within the same community, both Presidents, the committees all work together and the members all work together and we also work for the State who in turn all work for the National Body.

28s Bob Marsland, this nomination can it be changed to say that North Queensland is formed subject to ratification when the new Constitution is written.

28t President is that an amendment to the motion? Is that a amendment to the vote.

28u Noel Lowrie, all we are missing is yes it is in place but they are all sub-Branches under the State

28v Unidentified voice, all that is the word that is missing is sub-Branch.

28w Bob Wilson, it should be a sub-branch of a State Branch they only get one vote, you go the other way you could have ten Branches in say how would WA get on or something.

28x Norm Williams, Mister President, I think the point is the Constitution and today we have argued very strongly that the Constitution is the Constitution, the Constitution clearly identifies that we can start that Branch, I fully support what Barry said it can become a shit-fight there need to be rules and guidelines put in place, we need to have rules that say if you have got 30 members 1,500 miles away from the next Branch then you are a Branch, but otherwise you're a sub-Branch, until that is in place unfortunately we are stuck with the Constitution, the Constitution needs to be revised, it needs to introduce sub-branches. Let's face it, today it has all been this is the Constitution this is the way it is and I think we have to support North Queensland for purely that reason. Sub-Branches have got to come in, you know WA, we a scattered group we have got people who would like to have a little sub-

- Branch down around where he is, I don't know why, at the end of the day WA put a proposal in two years ago on identifying sub-Branches what qualified a sub-Branch and what qualified you as a Branch I agree whole heartedly Barry it can be a shit-fight. What President represents Queensland at the moment at 1300 kilometres away I think it could be managed, but it needs to be stemmed, we need to bring in sub-Branches definitely in my experience, but as it stands now the Constitution says it all.
- 28y Kim Pitt, Mister President, just so that there is an understanding, I sure you are keenly interested in the wording of the Constitution we read it a lot before we came to the meeting this morning. Someone listening to the 97 model, 2001 version or the 2005 addition they all say the same thing. So that you understand what that is, in Rule 7 (a) (2005 draft) "State and Territorial Branches or Sub-Branches of the Submarines Association Australia may be formed to meet the requirements of the locally resident members". So that is a possibility already.
- 28z Col Deller, but that's a sub-Branch it's not a far North Queensland Branch
- 28aa Kim Pitt, Branches and sub-branches.
- 28ab Fred Lawrence, I think also it gives avenue if Northern Territory if we think of a territory that doesn't have much, they could form as a Branch, but I take the view that something formed within a particular State has to be a sub-Branch.
- 28ac President unfortunately, this is part of the current Constitution states that it does leave it open and there are some conjectures where this constitution needs to go, there are some....part of the problem part of the original discussion with Kim and everybody and I was one of the instigators of the proposed changes to the Constitution is that there are some holes in there that we could drive a truck through, and that needs to be fixed. But under the current Constitution the way I read it and the way that Kim reads it there is nothing to stop that Branch being formed.
- 28ad Kevin Hayton, Mister President I move that we put the motion.
- 28ae President, do we have a seconder?
- 28af Mal Bridge, I second it.
- 28ag President, I put the motion all those in favour North Queensland Branch
- 28ah Questions from the floor, Branch or sub-Branch
- 28ai President, it is a Branch, all those in favour, 45 for, those against, the motion is carried.
- 29 President any other general business?
- 30 Graham Atkinson, I would like to confirm with the bidding of the 2008 Conference is it still programmed for Canberra? And secondly, and it's probably against the Constitution by that date, we Andy Galley President have started working on it 2008 and it came to my notice that 2008 ANZAC Day happens to be on a Friday noting the success this year of the MOBIES and a couple of years ago the Communicators would there be any interest for us the Canberra committee looking at the ANZAC Day as an alternative weekend?
- 30a (A collective Ohs resounded around the room)
- 31b Peter Vidler, this suggestion was put up by Queensland quite a few years ago, that they hold it in September rather than on the Queen's Birthday Weekend. It eventually ended up with Queensland losing that SUBCON and it was transferred down to Sydney, sorry to Port Macquarie as they had volunteered to do it as the Constitution clearly states that it be held on the Queen's Birthday Weekend.
- 31c Andy Galley, Mister Chairman may I answer it on behalf of the ACT Branch this was a suggestion brought to me this morning, only the fact that I know a lot of you are adverse to the cold, we thought you guys, mainly the North Queenslanders I suppose would be freezing your, you know what's off and however it's obvious that from the reaction that we just received it doesn't look like that this motion would be carried, so I probably would like to , although I would like to put it to a vote I don't think it will be carried. So I will withdraw the nomination for April being the 2008.
- 31d Graham Atkinson, I want to make something clear I wasn't nominating April it was looking for expressions of interest.
- 32 Unidentified voice, on this state Branches thing, next AGM will that mean we will have two votes.
- 32a President, yes they will they are a Branch, two votes
- 33 Dennis Money, I just want a clarification something that was mentioned, the long weekend in June is in the Constitution is that correct (in response to several yes's) what if you don't have a long weekend for the Queen's Birthday.
- 33a President, Eastern States.
- 33b Peter Vidler, through the chair to (name distorted) that is some thing we can put in the change to the Constitution...for the new Constitution that it could be held on a different date....(room erupted with members stating no)
- 34 David Williams, I just want to bring to your attention, to every bodies attention and we heard it this morning from the National Executive about costs of equipment and so forth, everyone should be aware that the Department of Veterans' Affairs because we are an ESO organisation, there is a scheme called

- the Best Scheme right, get their money to pay for your electronics and all the gadgets and I suggest that all States Committees look into that fill in the form and the dollars are there curtsy of the Government, cost us nothing up to \$3,000-\$5,000 alright use it each year.
- 35 Noel Watt, I've really only have a query on regards of the Webmaster matter, I believe there are two nominations for that, Bungy has put it up to three, where do we stand with that?
- 35a President, my apologies gentlemen an oversight I do apologies we do have three nominations that's the next part of General Business we do have three nominations for webmaster are two of the other three men here, will you stand up Norm, sorry Norm I could not resist that one. The second nomination is and we have a third one, Tug Wilson where is he? OK I am now looking for the third one
- 35b Bob Wilson, Mister President, I will withdraw my nomination now that Norm has come to his senses. (Acclamation).
- 35c Norm Williams, I think now is the ideal opportunity to though to have multiple webmasters and indeed you being a Queenslander you talk Queenslander, I can't.
- 36 President is there any other business?
- 37 Fred Lawrence, there is one which I think was left from our discussions yesterday and that was in relational to the formalisation of our National Health and Welfare Coordination position, Peter can you go back to what we resolved on that
- 37a Peter Vidler, yes when President, previous President sorry, when he took over he changed the rules of the Health and Welfare Officer and took the responsibility off him and the meeting yesterday morning the Committee decided to reinstate every thing back to Kevin, he is the sole...he is in sole control of the Health and Welfare coordination matters of this Association. The only thing is he liaises with the Executives, you know on certain things that's all, other than that he has perfect full control.
- 37b Kevin Hayton, if you want to know when Barry Nobes was in the chair he gave me carte blanc to handle all correspondence and response to that, when he stood down the new President took all those responsibilities away from me. Therefore I was never able...could not contact anyone or write to anyone. The Committee saw fit to restore that, there is no way in the world that I would write without giving it all to the Executive.
- 37c President I would like a seconder for that, we have a proposal from Peter.
- 37d Roger Faramus, seconder
- 37e President, all those in favour of the accepting the recommendations all those for, against, carried. In fact I want a rider written to that it should be written into the Constitution as for future generations that is the responsibilities of that person and that it can't be taken away without your approval.
- 38 Brian Earle, I want to go back to the topic of the Welfare Fund and the incident with the person we had we had in Queensland who passed away recently Steve Addison. There were a number of issues that I think I saw that was glaringly obvious and we should be pretty shamed of the fact that this guy was dieing from terminal cancer and a few other goodies, he was not a member that probably be the last thing on his mind considering he had basically little or nothing because he had not been working for most of his working life after the Navy. I sort of saw the Welfare side of things as being something that was put together originally to support members in time of need, right and hardship. His wife was left with debts because they had no money, right, they had bills hell, west and crooked because they had no money and then we turn around and we see something that is absolutely ludicrous, we're got \$40,000 in this account and he has been knocked back for a lousy \$500 or what ever was asked for. Now I am putting it to you, is this particular fund run on politics or are we running it on humanity, because as far as I'm concerned that discission I will never forgive and I will never forget, right if that is the situation then I think that you got to re-hash the whole thing and give everybody back their money because politic should not play a part in any sort of Welfare problem and never should be repeated again. It was a disgrace, right and I would like to see that it never, ever happens to me or anyone else of my comrades. Thankyou
- 38a David Bryant, Mister President could I speak to that statement. When the Charter and I am telling you it is a Charter a Trust Deed when it was originally set up by the benefactor which was a lady who bequeathed \$20,000 to form the Welfare Fund, there is a Deed of Trustee which is you cannot change, that Deed of Trusteeship states quite clearly that the money is be spent on behalf of members who are members of the Submarines Association Australia. The fact that Steve Addison was not a member meant...as mush as we would have liked too we could not give him a bequeath from that fund, because it would have been in breach of the Charter we couldn't do it Brian it's as simple as that. No matter how much that it hurts, no matter how much everyone disagrees with it, you cannot...it's like the Constitution you can't go against the Charter , the Trust Deed or the Constitution otherwise you may as well tear it up, we may as well just all bore on down the road, in the same token we have had requests in the past for things like members wanting money to see themselves through an education, that not what the money is there for to help people who are in dire need, now Steve was in dire need, but as this

- membership probably aware that the broader submarine community knew that he wasn't going to receive money from the Trust so the Submarine community themselves collected some money and made sure that Steve Addison's widow was looked after. Normie, bless his heart did all the hard work through the website and he took all the contributions through the Western Australia fund and that money went to Steven Addison's wife, alright so you upset me a little bit by pointing the finger of blame at the Trustees of the Welfare Fund it's not our fault, we can't do anything about it. If you want to change it, you change this, you change the bit of paper and you do it. (A chorus of "you can't".)
- 28b President, if I may make a suggestion, sign the guy up and pay his subscription make him a member then there are no issues (a voice "too late") in this situation it is, some thing has happened you got to realise that this is a Trust Deed that cannot be changed.
- 28c Kevin Hayton, Mister President just to support David (Bryant) there you have got to understand that Deed of Trustees is a legal document, if one of the Trustees had given any of that money they are liable to go to prison...to gaol.
- 28d Brian Earle, I also appreciate that, to you Dave I apologise sincerely because it was not pointed at you, but what I am saying to the whole panel is, if it is not right, if it's defective, if it's outdated then perhaps the money that is given in, should go to a different account, be a welfare account or what ever and the rules to be drawn up where there is more flexibility.
- 28e Roy Collins, I work closely with David (Bryant) and I know how... (inaudible) I am a close friend of David and I know he gave \$100 to her out of his own pocket.
- 28f David Bryant, I wasn't going to say that, thank you Roy. Acclamation.
- 28g John Rana, this leads on to the other problem, is that Branches actually falling down on their responsibilities, people who have been members of their State Branch not of the National body. Now this would have been avoided if this member had been made a member of the National body. You can't be a member of any State, you all know first of all without being a member of the National body. So the Executive here and all these people here responsible for each State have got to get this right, check your membership, if you are not a member of the National body, well make it so or they are not members. Every thing could be avoided, this nastiness, we all felt for Steve and his family, in a way we looked after him we know the money did not come out of that fund, it can't be changed, so it's pretty simple really. (Acclamation)
- 29 Norm Williams, I would like to make just another comment on that incident, the response from the submarine community, the Queensland Branch was terrific we were all a bit slow getting off the mark, but when we did get off the mark everyone put into it and that demonstrates the worth of the website, we quickly communicated the problem and we helped that problem. They couldn't do it that was their problem they were stuck, but you guys here, the Queensland Branch and every other Branch in Australia put their hand up...
- 30 President, gentlemen if I may, as much as I would like to continue this discussion, we are short of time and I would like to move on to the next...any further general business if there is any because we do have a very limited time and there are a couple of other things that we do have to do.
- 31 Bob Marsland, is there any way we can be registered as a charity and incorporation of the Association?
- 31a President, you can and I had a look at that and my understanding is that you can actually be, if you actually incorporate you can actually be registered as a charitable body, that is something I will bring to the National Executive, if we become a charity then all of your donations will then be tax deductible, to become a registered charity is not a difficult thing to do, because we have got the Trust Fund in place. It make an interesting application to get...to become a registered Charity so therefore...all your donations that \$100 would have been fully tax deductible. Which meant Dave could have put in \$200. Any thing else, if there is nothing else. Before I formally declare the meeting closed, is to go through the procedure of passing the ensign. Is that alright Barry if you may?
- 32 Barry McKeown, David it is with indeed some pleasure to pass on the ensign for you to hand over to SUBCON 07 next year. (Acclamation)
- 33 David Bryant, on behalf of the President Fred Butcher who unfortunately has taken his wife Michelle to hospital she is not well. We accept with a great deal of pleasure the challenge of hosting SUBCON 2007 and on behalf of the South Australian Branch I just like you to thank Barry and his team. (acclamation) I wont say it has been the best SUBCON I have ever been to because Victoria was great, Hobart was great they are all great conferences and the reason there are such great conferences it's because of you guys you make the conference. Barry and his team did a great job and on behalf of the South Australian Branch I would like to present him with his dolphins. (Mirth and acclamation on seeing a large plaque with the submarine insignia).
- 33a Barry McKeown, there is just one thing I must say that for everyone that was here today who were in Hahndorf for SUBCON 2000 I am sure you would all agree a remember able, remember able event and

I am sure that SUBCON 07 will be in South Australia, Adelaide or where ever the venue might be will be an a remember able event good luck with it and all the best. (Acclamation).

34

President, gentlemen there being no further business I declare this meeting closed, and thank you (A collective chorus of “Shut”) at 1204.