

National Committee Meeting held in the Sebel Playford Hotel on Saturday, 9 June 2007

The President David Sandquest opened the meeting at 0958 and introduced himself and then asked the Committee Presidents sitting from his left to introduce themselves, Col Ware NSW, Mike Bennett VIC, the Assistant to the President Max Hardy, Roger Hardwicke WA, Kim Pitt TAS, Welfare Officer Kevin Hayton, Andy Galley ACT, Barry McKeown QLD, Fred Butcher SA, Mal Bridge North QLD, Acting Treasurer John Rana and Secretary Peter Smith.

There were no apologies.

Welfare Report: The president called on the National Welfare Officer Kevin Hayton to give his report (which is appended to the minutes). On completion of his report he called for questions. Fred Butcher stated that he had responded and had sent information and was unsure of what else he needs. Kevin repeated he could not do his job with one response and that the position needs more help from the Branches. The President called for a proposer that the report be received moved Col Ware, seconded Mal Bridge carried. Max Hardy informed the Committee that a Business Line sent out by the National Manager of the Compensation Policy Group in Canberra that was directed to all DVA officers that all claims put through for submariners that they state on the forms that they are submariners and to look at the conditions pertaining to submariners. Roger Hardwicke called for a vote of thanks be recorded for the work Kevin has done over the past six years.

Web master's report: In the absence of the Webmaster Norm Williams, the President read out his report (which is appended to the minutes) on completion the President call for a proposer that it be accepted, moved John Rana, seconded Mal Bridge carried. The president then called for discussions on the report. Fred Butcher spoke for the site and stated that the separation of his site and the Association's site had been completed. Barry McKeown spoke against the site re that "up periscope" was still connected by a link. Further debate ensued on what is a link and the SAA's page separation and censorship of the Webmaster. The President stated that at the last AGM it was approved by the meeting that the Chief's Log could stay and it be uncensored by anyone in the Association and it was not his position to remove his site from the link to the SAA website. Further debate was support for Norm and for his actions. The President ended the debate by stating he did not have to step in, he changed it himself, he then stated that the motion had been put those in favour, those against, carried.

Minutes: Proposed David Sandquest that the minutes be taken as read, seconded Mike Bennett carried.

Proposed Peter Smith that they be accepted as a true record of the proceedings seconded Mal Bridge carried.

Matters arising from the minutes: The Constitution and Rules (C&Rs). Kim Pitt spoke on the development of the new C&Rs and items that were sent that were not part of the review process. Kim then recommended that the new C&Rs document be taken to the members at the AGM for adoption. Moved John Rana, seconded Col Ware and on a show of hands, all Branches for and Queensland against. The President declared the motion carried and then thanked Kim for all the hard work that he had undertaken. On debate from Queensland on the unfairness of the process, many of the Presidents debated that the input was fair and Kim Pitt then explained the process and the many messages he received and that he only replied to those people that needed to know. President then stated that Kim had gone to extremes above his brief to create the new document and again thank Kim for his work.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary gave his report (which is appended to the minutes) he then moved that it be received, seconded Fred Butcher.

John Rana stated that the figures given by the Secretary was fairly accurate and corresponded with his figures. He stated that as he had taken over from the incumbent Treasurer who has since passed away that there was no hand over. On the request of Branches unfinancial members John handed a list of the members to each of the Branch Presidents. The National President then informed the Committee that as there has been no books for John to do an audit he then suggested that a motion from the room be moved that if members stated that they have paid and we don't have the proof, we draw a line through that and accept that, moved Roger Hardwicke, seconded Mike Bennett carried. Debate on the membership data and payment of dues ensued. The President informed the Committee that an offer from Rick Steley to create an online data base with only two people allowed access to it and he then asked what the Committee thought of that. The idea was greeted by the Branch Presidents and the Treasurer agreed a new way of doing the membership is needed. He also commented on those members who receive "In Depth" by internet that half the time they move or change their email address and not inform us. The President stated there was a way around that by updating using an email blast.

Carried that the Secretary's report be accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The Acting Treasurer John Rana gave a report on what he managed to find on the accounts and stated as he was not a signatory to the accounts he could not find all the information, one item he did find was two payments to Vita recorded, one in June 06 and December 06, he then asked the Secretary to find out and take action.

Kim Pitt suggested that the new treasurer set up a certain time frame to take action on the accounts. The President then asked for a suggested time frame Kim Pitt proposed that there was two parts to this, first we take it to AGM and tell the members that we are confident that all steps have been taken to present a clearest statement as is possible at the moment and there is no concern of impropriety or the graveness of the report, however we have set in action for the new Treasurer to work with the Auditors to reconcile statement our accounts within 90 days, Seconded Barry McKeown. All in favour, carried.

The President called for a break at 1110 and the meeting resumed at 1120

President suggested as we have action on the past accounts are concerned that we empower the in-coming Treasurer to look at the current set up of accounts the number of accounts we got, the interest they earning or not earning and come back with a resolution with in a similar time frame. Come back to the National Committee with what should or should not be done. After debate Proposed Mike Bennett, seconded Fred Butch carried.

General Business:

1. Life membership: Fred Butcher read out his report for the nomination of South Australian Branch member William (Bill) Hollas: Proposed Fred Butcher, seconded Peter Smith carried unanimously that it be taken to the AGM.

2. Seven motions to change the C&Rs. The President stated that it behoves us to look at them and make recommendations from this committee, as they do pertain to the 2001 C&Rs and if the proposed C&Rs are adopted. Kim Pitt stated that if the 2001 C&Rs is kept, these motions would be accepted, however if the new C&Rs are accepted then discussion on these motions should take place, seconded Roger Hardwicke. On debate it was pointed out that the motions could not be raised first as the proposed C&Rs take precedence as it is Business Arising from the minutes of last year's AGM and the motions could not be raised until Other Business the following day. Debate continued on some of the motions especially motion number 5 on how un-practicable it was seeing that the executives were press-ganged volunteers, it was also pointed out that we were members of the SAA first who happen to live in different States. The president then stated should the meeting see those motions, his answer was yes, and whether they accept to vote on them is their prerogative. Max Hardy asked would the motions be addressed before Business Arising ,answer no, In that case these motions would have to be reworded and if the new C&Rs are adopted then these motions are irreverent as they refer to the old C&Rs they need to be reworded as the old C&Rs would not exist. They need to be reworded and re-tender Barry McKeown proposed that on recommendation of this Committee that the motions submitted by the Queensland Branch be considered at a later date in the event that the draft C&Rs being adopted seconded Kim Pitt carried unanimously.

3. Barry McKeown raised several points re the draft C&Rs of issues that have not been resolved. One 5.7.2 the website (form and content) is not covered under by-laws in Annex D. The President replied that Annexes can be adopted at any time by the committee it is the Constitution that can be adjusted by the AGM, the rules and procedures can be modified by this Committee at any time and be adopted at the AGM at the next meeting. Incorporation? That document does not refer to incorporation as it was taken out as it was not part of the procedure. Incorporation is important and something that I would like to progress, that document can be incorporated but we could not put forward a constitution for amendment plus a constitution for incorporation because it was not our original draft guide lines. Debate on where we would incorporate was raised, however the President stated that it will be brought back to the meeting for discussion.

4 Barry McKeown raised a second question of the individual duties of the web manager and Welfare Officer Coordinator as they are not listed. The President stated that it was not part the preamble, it is again out side of the constitution it is part of the annexes, debate followed on the work of the National Welfare Officer that he be a Coordinator and work with the Branches' Welfare Officers.

5. Barry McKeown moved the motion that the name Submarines Association and its acronym SAA be registered, after debate seconded Andy Galley carried unanimously.

6. Col Ware raised the issue of the 40th Anniversary of the commissioned of HMAS Platypus and the work undertaken by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Trust, he then proposed that a member of the National Executive be involved on the committee. The president recommended that it be taken to the AGM as the current Executives may not be voted in.

7. Col Ware raised a second issue of the chance to getting a serving member from the Squadron nominated as a link to the Association or do we have a person in the Squadron as a link? On debate of the issue it was noted that we have not presented the Submariner of the Year trophy for the past 3 years and should restart it up, the lack of apathy among the serving submariners with the Association and the difference since the Squadron moved to the west. It was noticed that the Association is mentioned in the Squadron's magazine "The Trade" and that the Squadron has initiated the Submarine Ball each year from September on and the WA Branch is organising a table. Also the Governor General will be dining with the WA Branch.

8. Mike Bennett raised the item that the Otama keeps coming up in the AGM agenda and he stated could be put to bed, he will take about it tomorrow but it must be stated it has become a commercial venture and the Branch and the Association has any input or dealing with it, and after tomorrow that it cease being an agenda item.

9. Barry McKeown stated that on the website the Queensland Branch is being called the South Queensland and wishes this to desist. On a second issue he raised the President's comments on the Web as not having no voice or vote and wanted to know who on this committee was involved in the decision to declare the Queensland Branch no where to stand with no voice or vote and were minutes kept. The President stated it was discussed with the National Executive level which included Bob Marsland at the time, it was not the decision made it was the decision the Branch had appeared to have made, for our current Constitution has no adoption of affiliates or for some one who says that they are not a Branch. I did not make that decision the Branch made that decision. Further debate ensued on the cause and effect of the past two years and it was stated that there should be solidarity of support and would be good for all sides to stop the pressure

10. Fred Butcher stated the way we are organised we have our executive meeting we sat here taking of a lot of things then we go away and throw it open to the floor tomorrow and we are making decisions on the run affectedly, the Constitution allows people to put motions from the floor I don't think that is right. How can we operate when our membership has not the opportunity to be involved? As far as I am concerned the decision making should be made here not the floor tomorrow morning where the executive give a report to the membership. After debate where it was stated that all decisions should be made at Branch level and brought to the National Committee to be decided on. The President raised that there was a way in the draft C&Rs for proxy voting. The drafting of the C&Rs was re-raised and was suggest that we tell the membership that we do have some problems with the C&Rs and we want the membership's assistance in correcting it and the changes brought back early next year and that will see us working in unity. President raised the question, at that meeting does the membership have the opportunity accept or reject the report. They get the opportunity to vote on the report. And why he baulked at rule 7 in the Queensland proposed C&Rs as there were no checks and balances on the Executives/committee on further debate on Motion 7 it was stated it needed to be tidied up. Fred Butcher read the motion and it was agreed to make the changes and bring it back.

11. Roger Hardwicke stated that each State Branch have their AGMs at the same time on the day, the President stated it was up to the States to change their times of AGMs and as a preamble of the C&Rs we can go through that.

12. The rest of the proposed motions were debated and as it was pointed out if the draft C&Rs is approved then the motions will have to be withdrawn. Barry McKeown stated that those motions will be considered but not adopted.

The time and venue of the next SUBCON weekend, Andy Galley stated the ACT Branch in Canberra from 6 to 9 June 2008

The President stated that as there was no more business that he declared the meeting shut at 1232.