

**AUSTRALIAN WORLD WAR ONE DESCENDANTS**  
**MINUTES of AGM**  
**Held Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 at Petersham RSL Club, Petersham**

**Meeting opened 20.40**

**Apologies:** Royce Lockhart, Kel Sykes, Mark Griffiths, Lyndal Eeg, Karen Hurley, Ann Asciak, Toby Brunton, Greg mann.. Apologies were accepted by Nigel Hendy, seconded by Denise Hendy.

**Minutes of the last AGM:** were read, accepted and adopted as received by Bruce Connell, seconded by Sue McFadden.

**Matters arising from previous Minutes:** The updated Constitution was lodged and finalised with the Department of Fair Trading. It is now on our website.

**President's Report:** Royce was unable to attend the meeting, so Karen took over as Chairperson and read his final report as President:

“Welcome to the President's Annual Report for 2024. This time last year we adopted a new Constitution that was required by the Department of Fair Trading, and this has now set AWWOD up for some years to come. This year due to medical issues I was also unable to march with AWWOD in the Anzac Day city march, however I did watch it live on TV for the first time in years. AWWOD members looked good marching in their lines and that makes me proud to be a member. I am sorry that I was not with you all this year. Due to medical issues, I was hospitalised seven times last year and spent Christmas and New Year in a wheelchair and it is because of this that I will not be seeking re-election as President or accepting any position on the AWWOD Committee. I has been an honour to be a part of the AWWOD Committee for the last 13 years but due to health it is now time for me to move on and look after myself. I would like to conclude by thanking my fellow members of the Executive and the Committee for their assistance and help throughout the last 13 years. I wish the new President and Committee Members all the best in their new roles”.

**Vice President's Report:** No report.

**Secretary's Report:** Anzac Day was a success. As usual, the line up information from the RSL Headquarters was incorrect. They told us to line up in King Street, in reality, we lined up in Castlereagh Street. Same problem that we were confronted with last year, fortunately we were aware of last year's problem and took matters into our own hands. Nice to see many familiar members and to welcome a number of new faces.

TV coverage by the ABC was dreadful, we did not get a mention. They were concentrating on Legacy. That coverage covered not only the Legacy representatives but the Boar War representatives and us. A good gathering at “Harrys” after the March. Food and wine etc. was good and well priced. I was in contact with one of our “old” members last Tuesday, Richie Newnham. Richie is number 3 of our memberships and he held the position of Vice President for a number of years. He is far from well and sends his regards to all that knew him. The Merchandise form has been updated on the web site. Our Renewal Form is still necessary for a few members that still prefer to pay by cash or cheque. Not too many pay this way but we still need to have this facility for them. Still a few members not emailing Arline and Karen to let them know when they have made a deposit at their bank. Not all banks forward their name on, which means they are not marked off the Data Base and do not receive a receipt and could be deleted. I took part in the slow March from the Archibald Fountain to the Hyde Park Memorial on behalf of my great uncle Albert Jones 55<sup>th</sup> Battalion P.O.W. on Fromelles Day 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024. I was asked to give a family reflection speech during the official Ceremony at the War Memorial, which I did and it was a success. I then took part in laying a wreath on behalf of AWWOD and FFFAIF. The battle of Fromelles was a dreadful battle with the loss of five and a half thousand Australian men in a twenty four hour period and it should never be forgotten.

**Treasurer's Report:** AWWOD continues to remain in a stable financial position. Our closing bank statement balance at the end of the financial year was \$3258.66. All books and merchandise balance. Our expenses for the Financial Year totalled \$349.33 and were comprised of:

\$120.00 – Wreaths for Anzac Day services laid by Committee Members

\$146.38 – Anzac Biscuits (presented to Kings' boys 21/6/24) and Postae &stationery

\$ 57.00 – Committee badges

\$ 25.95 – Paper for Kings' boys Certificates (Karen)

**\$349.33**

Our Membership income totalled \$837.00 which is much the same as last year. No Interest was earned on our account, no exceptional income or expenses were present and no donations were made in this Financial Year. Previous problems with Westpac have been rectified.

**AUSTRALIAN WORLD WAR ONE DESCENDANTS**  
**(AWWOD)**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

### **MERCHANDISE REPORT**

We sold 1 tie and 1 scarf this year, and 1 replacement scarf was given to a Committee Member.  
Our inventory balances perfectly.

**Assistant Secretary / PR Report:** This year we had seven Kings' boys carry our Banner and their leader Christian Eatough also took photos and was kind enough to send me the link which Mark has uploaded to our website. I made a presentation to the boys at the Kings' School on 21<sup>st</sup> June with Certificates and tins of Anzac Biscuits. In the absence of our President Royce due to ill health, Arline, Kel and I led AWWOD behind our banner. As Arline mentioned, Hotel Harry was another great success with around 30 people joining us. Our usual special price on wine was not able to be negotiated this year, but the pub kindly gave us three free bottles. They initially had people in our area but swiftly moved them on. The hotel continues to provide our members a welcoming, comfortable and affordable venue for lunch after the march, and I have emailed the events manager a letter of thanks on AWWOD's behalf for their assistance in our reservation and their ongoing hospitality. The pub confirmed our booking for next year on 17/6/24, but I will follow up again anyway mid February. All A12 forms were lodged with the Department of Fair Trading for 2023, and our new updated Constitution was lodged with the DFT in October last year and added to our website. Our A12 forms for 2024 will be lodged shortly after our AGM.

**Nigel Hendy moved that all Reports above be accepted and adopted, Seconded by Sue McFadden.**

**Nigel Hendy moved that Ed Ronsisvalle would be our Returning Officer, seconded by Denise Hendy.**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Karen Dawson declared all positions opened and handed the meeting over to Ed Ronsisvalle as our Returning Officer, who declared all positions vacant. It was unanimously agreed that the following members form our new Committee:

President:	Kel Sykes, Nominated by Karen Dawson, Seconded Sue McFadden
Vice President:	Nigel Hendy, Nominated by Karen Dawson, Seconded Denise Hendy
Treasurer:	Karen Dawson, Nominated by Arline Ronsisvalle, Seconded Denise Hendy
Secretary & Public Officer:	Arline Ronsisvalle, Nominated by Karen Dawson, Seconded Bruce Connell
Assistant Secretary & PR:	Karen Dawson, Nominated by Arline Ronsisvalle, Seconded Michael Ferguson

**General Committee:**

Toby Brunton, Nominated by Arline Ronsisvalle, Seconded Denise Hendy
David Dawson, Nominated by Karen Dawson, Seconded Nigel Hendy
Denise Hendy, Nominated by Nigel Hendy, Seconded Karen Dawson
Sue McFadden, Nominated by Karen Dawson, Seconded Denise Hendy
Michael Ferguson, Nominated by Karen Dawson, Seconded David Dawson

Karen thanked Ed for being our Returning Officer, and all positions were accepted with no further nominations. Mark Griffiths has kindly agreed to continue as Webmaster and Bruce Connell as Paparazzi.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Karen spoke about the loss of our President, Greg Cowle, and thanked everyone for their support and good wishes throughout this difficult time. Greg was honoured to be a part of AWWOD and was very proud of what we had achieved over the years. He will be sadly missed by all.

**Bank Account Signatories:** Moved: Sue McFadden, Seconded: Denise Hendy, *“That Treasurer Karen Dawson, Secretary Arline Ronsisvalle and newly elected President Kel Sykes, be the current three (3) signatories with access to the Australian World War One Descendants Westpac Bank account with access to online banking”*. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael noted how bad the television coverage and commentary was this year compared to others. He decided to march with us as he had watched our coverage in previous years. A brief discussion on AWWOD's history followed, bringing Michael up to date.

**Meeting closed at 20.40**