

AUSTRALIAN WORLD WAR ONE DESCENDANTS
MINUTES of AGM
Held Wednesday 26th July 2023 at Petersham RSL Club, Petersham

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 20:01 hours.

Apologies: Greg Cowle, Mark Griffiths, Kel Sykes, Lyndal Eeg, Karen Hurley, Ann Asciak, Toby Brunton, Anthony O'Connell. Apologies were accepted by Denise Hendy, seconded by Greg Mann.

AGM Minutes dated 27 July 2022 were received.

Matters arising from previous Minutes: Nil

Moved: Bruce Connell, seconded: Nigel Hendy *"That the AGM minutes be adopted"*.

President's Report: No Report was given.

Vice President's Report: Royce welcomed everyone to our AGM and Chaired the Meeting. He advised that late last year our Secretary Arline received an email from the Department of Fair Trading informing us of changes that needed to be made to our Constitution to comply with current rules under the Association Incorporated Regulation 2022. He started working on this last year and found that it would be simpler to adopt the Model Constitution from the DFT with changes to suit AWWOD and to simply adopt a new Constitution, which we would vote on during our AGM tonight. Due to medical issues he was unable to attend the Dawn Service or join AWWOD on Anzac Day. He did watch it live on television however, and noted there were a lot of gaps in the march as there are every year. AWWOD Members marched beautifully and he is proud to be a Member, was very sorry that he could not join us. In his role as an RSL Hon. Secretary he gets updates about changes that are happening within the RSL and keeps our AWWOD Executive and Committee members up to date. He concluded by thanking his fellow members of the Executive and Committee for their assistance and help throughout the past year and also thanked them for attending the Anzac Sunday service at Mortdale RSL.

Secretary's Report: A successful Anzac Day March, apart from poor Karen having a nasty fall, but being the trooper that she is, she still got up and marched. We had approximately **70 members** marching. We had four new members join us on the Day and we have had another join since then (a family membership). She saw us marching and decided to join our group. Lovely to have new members. Unfortunately this year, due to ill health, both our President and Vice President were too ill to take part in the March. Thank you to Arline's grandson, Toby, for his support on the Day. He carried our banner, which certainly was far too heavy for Karen or Arline to manage, from house to car, car to train, train to meeting point and then aided in putting it together and then at the end of the day, he reversed the procedure. So important to have these young descendants of the original Anzacs taking part in AWWOD to keep their memory alive. The Merchandise Form on the web site needs to be changed as the \$5 postage charge, goes nowhere near the latest Post Office charges. Two parcels sent out recently both cost over ten dollars to send and who knows when the next increase by Australia Post will occur. We have **increased postage/handling** to \$15 on the updated form to cover postage of several items if necessary. The alternative is for members to pay for their item prior to Anzac Day and pick up from Karen on the Day. We now only have one member without an email address and it makes correspondence with members so much easier. No more mailouts to members going astray, or in one case, three weeks to get to them. The AGM notices finally went out by email this year, even though Arline's computer refused to cooperate (even for her husband) so the notice had to be transferred to his computer before it could go out. Sorry for the confusion about the email address to some members but a very big thank you to her husband, Ed, for his cooperation and support. Karen and Arline attended a very moving ceremony last 19th July at the War Memorial in Hyde Park. **Fromelles Day**, a disaster for the Australian troops on the Western Front, with the loss of over five and a half thousand Australian troops in one twenty four hour period. Arline laid a wreath on behalf of AWWOD.

The ceremony this year also commemorated the 100 year anniversary of Legacy. Another wonderful organization started by WW1 diggers in 1923.

Treasurer's Report: AWWOD continues to remain in a stable financial position. We have \$382.11 in expenses to be reimbursed to Committee members and also \$195 in cash and cheques to be banked, pending bank authorities to be re-established after the Election of Officers during this AGM,.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2022/2023		
OPENING BALANCE		\$2,859.58
RECEIPTS		\$837.00
INTEREST		\$0.00
EXPENSES		-\$532.33
CLOSING BALANCE		\$3,164.25
TOTAL PROFIT 2022/2023:		\$304.67

MERCHANDISE INVENTORY		@ COST	@ SELL
TOTAL TIES SOLD/GIFTS	3	\$16.68	\$25.00
PREVIOUS INVENTORY	52		
TIES BALANCE	49	\$817.32	\$1,225.00
TOTAL SCARVES SOLD	3	\$18.70	\$20.00
PREVIOUS INVENTORY	68		
SCARVES BALANCE	65	\$1,215.50	\$1,300.00
TOTAL MERCHANDISE		\$2,032.82	\$2,525.00

Our closing bank statement balance at the end of the financial year was \$3351.36, but does not include the cash and expenses mentioned above. All books and merchandise balance, and we sold 3 ties and 3 scarves this year.. Our expenses for the Financial Year totalled \$532.33 and were comprised of:

\$135.00 – Wreaths for Anzac Day services laid by Committee Members

\$ 46.67 – Postage and stationery

\$100.00 – Committee badges

\$150.66 – Department of Fair Trading lodgement fees (2020/2021/2022). 2023 DFT fees will be paid after our AGM along with any lodgement fees for our New Constitution

\$100.00 – Anzac Biscuits presented to the Kings’ boys in gratitude for them carrying our banner

\$532.33

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.

Assistant Secretary / PR Report: Karen welcomed everyone to our new venue at **Petersham RSL** and hoped that they were happy with our move from Dooley’s. The decision was made due to renovations at Dooley’s no longer meeting our needs, and our Committee visited Petersham last November to find it far more suitable with its’ location close to Petersham station and plenty of parking underneath the Club. The Club has also waived our fee, so our Members are encouraged to enjoy a meal or a drink before and/or after the meeting. This year we had eight **Kings boys** carry our Banner and their leader Christian Eatough also took photos, which have now been uploaded to our website. Karen made a presentation to the boys at the Kings’ School in May with Certificates and tins of Anzac Biscuits, and her speech this year focused on the Gallipoli Evacuation. Without a President, Vice President, nor Marshals, Karen said it was very difficult to get information as to when we would step off and thanked those Members who assisted in searching for Marshals. The only organisation of the march seemed to be provided by the SES. In running up and down our ranks Karen decided to check the pavement of Pitt Street a little too closely, and thanked our Members for their kind expressions of concern. She has made a full recovery. **Hotel Harry** was a great success again this year with around 25 people joining us. We were back in our usual area upstairs. As always though it is a very good venue, well placed at the end of the march and well priced as well. She “negotiated” a special price on wine at \$37/bottle. **Television coverage** was good and we looked great. **New procedures** of emailing receipts upon payments received and balancing the statements regularly is continuing to work well and streamlines the amount of work on Anzac Day for the Committee. Only one Member without an email address requires documents posted. Karen posted a tie and scarf to a Member at a cost of \$10.60, so we have decided to increase our postage charge to \$15 to cover handling as well. Members ordering a tie or scarf are always encouraged to pick them up on Anzac Day.

Denise Hendy moved that all Reports above be accepted and adopted, Seconded by Julie Searant.

Nigel Hendy moved that Ed Ronsisvalle would be our Returning Officer, seconded Bruce Connell.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Royce Lockhart declared all positions opened. He 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:	Royce Lockhart, Nominated by Greg Mann, Seconded by Denise Hendy
Vice President:	Kel Sykes, Nominated by Greg Mann, Seconded by Arline Ronsisvalle
Treasurer:	Karen Dawson, Nominated by Royce Lockhart, Seconded by Arline Ronsisvalle
Secretary & Public Officer:	Arline Ronsisvalle, Nominated by Royce Lockhart, Seconded by Karen Dawson
Assistant Secretary & PR:	Karen Dawson, Nominated by Arline Ronsisvalle, Seconded by Royce Lockhart

General Committee: Nigel Hendy, Nominated by Denise Hendy, Seconded by Sue McFadden
Denise Hendy, Nominated by Nigel Hendy, Seconded by Karen Dawson
Sue McFadden, Nominated by Karen Dawson, Seconded by Royce Lockhart

Bruce Connell, Nominated by Royce Lockhart, Seconded by Karen Dawson
Toby Brunton, Nominated by Arline Ronsisvalle, Seconded by Royce Lockhart

Royce 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Bank Account Signatories: Moved: Denise Hendy, Seconded: Sue McFadden, “*That Treasurer Karen Dawson, Secretary Arline Ronsisvalle and newly elected President Royce Lockhart, 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.

Special Resolution to Adopt a New Constitution:

To adopt a New Constitution for the Australian World War One Descendants Incorporated.

Supporting Argument:

Our current Constitution does not comply with the current Association Incorporated Regulation 2022. Under the new Association Incorporated Regulation 2022 we are required to amend our current Constitution to be updated with the regulations, to do this it is simply to adopt a New Constitution with the new regulations. The Committee would like members to support the adoption of the New Constitution as the Constitution for the Australian World War One Descendants Incorporated.

The Special Resolution to Adopt a New Constitution was put to the Members and carried unanimously.

Greg Mann pointed out that a few people still don't adhere to our dress code of a dark coloured suit. Karen explained we can only do our best, unfortunately. He also very kindly thanked the Committee for their friendship and professionalism.

There being no further General Business the meeting was closed at 20:38 hours.