

**AUSTRALIAN WORLD WAR ONE DESCENDANTS**  
**MINUTES of AGM**  
**Held Wednesday 30th July 2025 at Petersham RSL Club, Petersham**

**Meeting opened 20.05**

**Apologies:** Rhea De Lascy, Nicole Forest Green, Ann Asciak, Karen Hurley, Royce Lockhart, Julie Searant and Nigel and Denise Hendy.

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

**Matters arising from previous Minutes:** There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

**President's Report:**

Good evening everyone and welcome to our 2025 AGM . Thank you for your attendance and ongoing support of the association and its aims and objectives . I'd also like to thank the club management for its very generous use of this meeting area free of charge . Please show your support in any way you can .

Overall I believe it's been a positive year , although it's been difficult to keep up with ongoings due to ill health in the past six months . I know our very capable individual executive reports will cover the year's happenings in full .

Prior to Anzac Day I was fortunate enough to attend Mortdale RSL's commemorative Anzac service along with our treasurer Karen, who laid a wreath on AWWOD's behalf . Thanks to our former President, Royce Lockhart for the opportunity to represent the association and also the invite back to the club for some much appreciated refreshments. Anzac Day followed with a 10:30 form up advised by the RSL which proved to be most ambitious as we didn't step off for nearly two hours later. This seems to happen every year as we wait around for an inordinate amount of time, no one knows what's happening and there are no officials around to ask. Once everything is up and running though, the march runs smoothly and seems to be over in no time. That's how it happened again this year with lots of support from the crowd reacting to our banner, proudly carried by the Kings boys. I've had a couple of comments from friends who watched the TV coverage, saying how professional we looked. Following the march, we all gathered on the steps at Hyde Park for a group photo, then for those interested, wandered down the hill for lunch and refreshments at Hotel Harry's. Another successful if not long day. Some things could be improved as the march is one of the focal points of our aims and objectives, but this will be taken up by the committee at future meetings.

I'm pleased to report that this year we have created a Facebook page, thanks mainly to the efforts of Toby Brunton. I'm not familiar with the ins and outs of Facebook, but am determined to find out more and encourage all members to get behind this latest initiative. Hopefully it can grab the attention of a younger audience, one we definitely need to nurture and encourage for the future of the association

Financially I'm not aware of any issues facing the association but I'll leave the details to our Treasurer Karen, to be outlined in her report.

Our committee meets several times a year to deal with ongoing matters of the association with most issues being resolved by the "dynamic duo", Arline and Karen. The whole show runs seamlessly thanks to the huge effort and hard work put in by both these talented and multi skilled ladies covering the roles of Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer and Public Officer between them. Huge thanks from all to the "engine room" of the association. Whilst on this note, I'd also like to acknowledge the work of our Webmaster, Mark Griffiths, who is a committee member but we rarely cross paths because of his shift work commitments. He continues to put his hand up for this role, doing an exceptional job on our website along with other technical tasks. We as fellow committee members, very much appreciate his time and effort, as should the whole association. Again on the thank you list are the Kings boys, who carry our banner on Anzac Day every year. It certainly presents our association in the best possible light as shown by crowd response and television coverage.

Also big shout out to Karen for organising the boys through their team leader but also backing this up by thanking them with certificates and tins of Anzac biscuits. It's a special bond we have built with the Kings school and this very important gesture cannot be underestimated.

Looking forward to the next year for AWWOD, I'd like to see the promotion of the Facebook as much as we can. Along the same lines I'd like to see the involvement of younger people to consolidate the association's future. We must put our heads together to see how we might achieve this .

In conclusion, I'd like to thank my fellow committee members and particularly the executive for their help and support throughout the year. I've not been particularly active as President, especially through the second half of my term due to ill health and appreciate the patience shown. I'm happy to nominate for the position of President again, if only to improve on my first term's showing . Thanks again everybod. Lest We Forget .

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

### **Secretary's Report:**

Anzac Day was a success with 4 new members on the Day and a Family membership of three people since as a result of them seeing us on that Day. Karen and I attended the Fromelles Day Memorial Service and March on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July. It was the 109 year anniversary of the dreadful battle of Fromelles. I laid the AWWOD wreath on behalf of AWWOD and especially in memory of my great uncle Albert Jones. FFFAIF very kindly supply the wreath, so there is no expense for AWWOD. Some members are still not notifying either Karen or myself when they make their yearly subscription, which could result in them being removed from the Data Base. I will be doing this again shortly. Usually if a member has not paid their subscription for three years then they are removed. We have 161 listed on our Data Base, 6 people have not paid since 2021, 17 since 2022, 32 since 2023 and 15 since 2024. Some of these numbers are family memberships with sometimes up to 10 people in the memberships. I have compiled an "involvement of Australians in WW1". I tried to keep it to the Battles where we lost the most men. Undoubtedly, I have missed a Battle somewhere that a member's relative was involved in, possibly killed. If so, I apologise. Committee member, Toby, has entered this on Facebook and our webmaster, Mark, has put it onto our web page. I also attended a Gallipoli Association meeting at the War Memorial on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May'25. I was fortunate enough to be invited because of my association with FFFAIF and the Fromelles Association. There were a few other AWWOD members present. AWWOD did get a mention.

Lastly I would like to thank my husband Ed, for his help printing our badges and his backup when my computer dies, usually at a critical time when notices need to be sent out.

### **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 \$3527.24. All books and merchandise balance.

Our expenses for the Financial Year totalled \$448.42 and were comprised of:

\$145.00 – Wreaths for Anzac Day services laid by Committee Members

\$175.18 - Anzac Biscuits (presented to Kings' boys 30/5/25) & Postage and stationery

\$72.00 – Committee badges

\$56.24 – DFT A12 form lodgement 2024-5

**\$448.42**

Our Membership income totalled \$717.00 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. We had a profit of \$268.58 this year, slightly down from last year due to lower membership numbers and fewer merchandise sales. Previous problems with Westpac have been rectified.

**AUSTRALIAN WORLD WAR ONE DESCENDANTS (AWWOD)**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025**

**MERCHANDISE REPORT**

We sold 1 scarf this year, plus 1 scarf and 1 tie was given to Committee Members.  
Our inventory balances perfectly.



### **Assistant Secretary / PR Report:**

I received a “survey” from RSL NSW regarding our thoughts on this years’ march, which I completed. I mentioned that there were no Marshals (again) and very little information provided to contingents on the day. The gaps were enormous between contingents and this was the main reason for the long delays in step off times. I requested that in future years a more accurate step off/form up time may be considered.

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 30<sup>th</sup> May with Certificates and tins of Anzac Biscuits.

**Hotel Harry** was a great success again this year with around 30 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. It has become an annual kind gesture that the hotel give us three free bottles. 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, but as always I will follow up again anyway mid February.

We looked great on the **television coverage** and quite a long commentary was given to us. We formed up in rows of 5 this year to spread us out a little due to smaller numbers our of Members.

A12 DFT forms were lodged for 2024 and the 2025 lodgement will be completed in the next week or two.

**Sue McFadden moved that all Reports above be accepted and adopted, Seconded by Toby Brunton.**  
**Kel Sykes moved that Ed Ronsisvalle would be our Returning Officer, seconded by Karen Dawson.**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Kel Sykes 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 by David Dawson
Vice President:	Nigel Hendy, Nominated by Bruce Connell, Seconded by Sue McFadden
Treasurer:	Karen Dawson, Nominated by Kel Sykes, Seconded by Sue McFadden
Secretary & Public Officer:	Arline Ronsisvalle, Nominated by Karen Dawson, Seconded by Toby Brunton
Assistant Secretary & PR:	Karen Dawson, Nominated by Sue McFadden, Seconded by David Dawson

**General Committee:** Toby Brunton, Nominated by Arline Ronsisvalle, Seconded by Karen Dawson  
David Dawson, Nominated by Karen Dawson, Seconded by Michael Ferguson  
Denise Hendy, Nominated by Kel Sykes, Seconded by Sue McFadden  
Sue McFadden, Nominated by Kel Sykes, Seconded by Toby Brunton  
Michael Ferguson, Nominated by Karen Dawson, Seconded by David Dawson

Kel 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:** David suggested we discuss some strategies for our future growth at our next Committee meeting which may include contacting schools. Toby suggested we start increasing posts from Remembrance Day to assist in further recruitment and as a matter of interest to our Members moving forward.

**Meeting closed at 21.15**