

**Australian World War One Descendants  
Minutes of AGM 2018**

**Meeting opened 7.45pm.**

**Apologies:** Mark Griffiths, Peter Hawkins, Lyndall Eeg, Jo-Anne Hayes, Jessica Smith, Karen Hurley, John Rich, Phil Ross, Cleo Lynch, Ann Asciak, Damon Ronsisvalle, Christine Horrocks, Bill Newnham. Apologies were accepted by Royce, seconded by Bruce.

**Minutes of the last AGM:** were read and accepted by Royce, seconded by Bruce

**Matters arising from previous Minutes:** Steve Weingarh will brief us on his visit to London during General Business.

**President's Report:** Greg welcomed everyone to the AGM 2018. Due to the RSL shake up there was no RSL March participants meeting until the last minute. They changed the order of the march this year with current serving forces through first as they were younger and quicker, followed by the Veterans. This worked well. **Two ceremonial horses were to be put back further but didn't turn up as they couldn't get them through the crowds.** WW1 unit banners were placed in a new position in front of Legacy. Ten Kings' boys carried our banner again this year and did a great job leading us; and their leader David Vassallo managed to arrange the Kings' Band who marched in front of us. The Pre-Anzac day service at Mortdale organized by Royce was a great success and the kids spoke very well. This year marks the end of the Government Centenary events, with only a few left. Greg said it will be interesting to see what events are commemorated from next year forward. Fromelles Day tomorrow will be attended by Karen, Arline, Denise, Nigel, Royce, and Sue and Bruce.

**Vice President's Report:** Royce advised he attended the Anzac Day March Participants meeting at the Hyde Park Inn the week before Anzac Day and to date the RSL have not had a post Anzac Day meeting. Due to other commitments, Royce has not attended all the services that AWWOD have been invited to, but he has kept the AWWOD Executive and Committee up to date on any and all changes that are made within the RSL. He also mentioned that any member is welcome to attend our Committee meetings if they wish. He concluded by thanking his fellow members of the Executive and Committee for their assistance throughout the year.

**Secretary's Report:** Arline reported that we had a good show up for the Anzac Day March approx. 80 people. There were all sorts of problems getting the notices out prior to the March as the necessary information did not arrive from the RSL March Committee until late on the Thursday before Easter. However, Arline managed to get it written up, printed and posted out the following Thursday. Unfortunately, many members returns were not received prior to Anzac Day, but that was the fault of Australia Post. Some did not arrive until four weeks after Anzac Day. **Those members that are paying by Direct Deposit or are paying on Anzac Day, please still return your Membership Renewal Form.** Fifteen members have been removed from the data base as they have not renewed since 2016. Any members that have not renewed since 2017 will be removed when the notices go out next year 2019. Five new members fully joined on Anzac Day, thanks to our member Ayden Casey (a J.P.) signing their Stat Dec forms on the spot. Another four new members joined us after Ayden had moved on and as yet, they have not returned their paperwork. There were 13 AGM notices posted out to members who do not have email addresses. Unfortunately, Officeworks's colour printer was not working and they had no idea when it would be, so the Newsletter posted to non email users, had to be printed in black and white. We now have 118 members on the data base plus 10 family memberships and 2 life members. A total of 130 members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue advised we have a total of \$4001.58 in our account as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. We have had outgoings totalling \$575.18 which is made up of stationery and floral tributes that Committee members have laid on behalf of AWWOD at various Commemorative services throughout the year. Sue advised that AWWOD continues to be in a stable financial position. Sarah asked if we could produce receipts digitally on

Anzac Day to save time. Karen responded by advising that members request their receipts on the day, so unfortunately this would not be possible.

**Publicity Report:** Karen advised she did not contact RSLs this year as she felt it would not be necessary, and we get very few new members as a result of advertising anyway. She may however look at advertising next year due to the end of the Centenary. Again, the overall dress code this year was excellent, and 3 ties and 10 scarves were sold this year overall. The Kings Boys were exceptional as always – we had 10 marching with us and also their leader. Karen met with them and their leader David Vassallo and presented them with AWWOD Certificates of Appreciation and a box of Anzac Biscuits each, on 28<sup>th</sup> May during their morning House meeting. Hotel Harry was a great success again this year. We had about 40 people join us for lunch and the hotel continues to provide our members a welcoming, comfortable and affordable venue for lunch after the march. Karen has emailed the events manager a letter of thanks on AWWOD’s behalf for their assistance in our reservation and their hospitality. Television coverage was very good and we looked amazing and very professional. The ranks marched particularly well and the ABC commentary was quite long due to the fact we’d stopped right in front of the cameras. We also featured in a school video prepared by the Kings’ School. As always we are lucky to have our very own “Paparazzi” each year and our thanks go to Bruce for another sterling job. The photos have been added to our AWWOD website. Karen also advised that she has been working with Webmaster Mark on malleable PDFs of our Membership forms which will save members postage and time. They also include provision for direct deposit receipt numbers (or method of payment). This has streamlined our processes.

**Ties & scarves inventory:**

**84 SCARVES @ \$18.70 Cost = \$1570.80 / @ \$20.00 Sell = \$1680.00 (Sold 3 this year)**

**71 TIES @ \$16.68 Cost = \$1184.28 / @ \$25.00 Sell = \$1775.00 (Sold 3 this year)**

**TOTAL @ COST = \$2754.28 / TOTAL @ SELL = \$3455.00**

**Webmaster’s Report:** Mark could not attend the AGM, but he advised Karen that he is happy with the GoDaddy hosting of our website, and that the Honour List has not had any new entries for some time: members can “Email Mark” through our website. The AWWOD link on the RSL website has fallen off so Karen will contact Lindsay Russell and request it be reinstated.

**All reports were accepted by Bruce and Seconded by Kel.**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Greg thanked the outgoing Committee for their work this year, and declared all positions opened. He handed the meeting over to Ed Ronsisvalle and invited him to be our Returning Officer. It was unanimously agreed that the following members form our new Committee.

President:	Greg Cowle, Nominated by Royce, Seconded by Bruce
Vice President:	Royce Lockhart, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Kel
Treasurer:	Sue McFadden, Nominated by Arline, Seconded by Sarah
Secretary & Public Officer:	Arline Ronsisvalle, Nominated by Royce, Seconded by Karen
Publicity Officer & Asst Sec:	Karen Dawson, Nominated by Sue, Seconded by Sarah

<b>General Committee:</b>	Sarah Dawson, Nominated by Denise, Seconded by Karen
	Bruce Connell, Nominated by Sue, Seconded by Karen
	Kel Sykes, Nominated by Bruce, Seconded by Sarah
	Denise Hendy, Nominated by Sarah, Seconded by Sue
	Nigel Hendy, Nominated by Sue, Seconded by Bruce

Richie Newnham resigned as General Committee Member, and Karen thanked him for all the assistance he has provided AWWOD over many, many years. Mark Griffiths will continue as our Webmaster.

**General Business:** Kristine Brinkley made a suggestion that we advertise relevant overseas tour groups (e.g. Matt MacLachlan). Karen said this is something we could look into, or perhaps include a link to their websites. We will discuss this at the next committee meeting. Arline mentioned how important it is to have the younger generations marching with us to better their understanding of our Diggers and Australian history. Nicole Forrest-Green mentioned the St John Monash Centre and other Commemorative centres overseas. Steve Weingarth gave an interesting talk on his trip to England representing AWWOD at the Anzac Day service at Westminster Abbey, which was attended by around 10,000 people including Prince William and Kate. He also attended the dawn service at the London Cenotaph where he laid a wreath, also in attendance were Prince Harry and Megan. Steve addressed an audience in a church hall in Leighterton and made a special mention of AWWOD. He noted that the British held Australians in high respect for our sacrifice. He also read a letter from Brendan Nelson and also Trent Zimmerman who is the Federal MP for North Sydney. Steve concluded by showing many wonderful photos of his trip. Our sincere thanks to Steve.

**Meeting closed at 9.00pm.**