

AUSTRALIAN WORLD WAR ONE DESCENDANTS
MINUTES of AGM
Held Wednesday 27th July 2022 at Dooley's Catholic Club, Lidcombe

Meeting opened 19.45.

Apologies: Sarah Hailstone, Rhea Delascy Wells, Phoenix De Carteret, Gordon Brian, Valerie Johnson, Lyndall Eeg, Yvonne Foott, Peter Horam, Ritchie Newnham, Karen Hurley. Apologies were accepted by Royce, seconded by Arline.

Minutes of the last AGM: were read, accepted and adopted as received by Royce, seconded by Karen.

Matters arising from previous Minutes: None to report

President's Report: Greg welcomed everyone to the AGM 2022. Good to see we had around 60 members marching with us and the Kings' boys were wonderful as always. We moved down and stepped off at 10.45 instead of 11.30 as originally directed by the RSL and the march moved very quickly, was over before midday. There was a notable absence of Marshals. The television coverage was fleeting and the commentary ran over the contingents behind us. Great to see so many Members joining us for lunch.

Vice President's Report: 2020 was the worst year, with all ANZAC Services being cancelled and only having a Light Up the Dawn with people standing to their driveways with candles. 2021 saw the return of ANZAC Services and the ANZAC March in the City but still under some COVID restrictions to Services and the City March. 2022 was good to see ANZAC Services and the City March return to some normality, be it a very wet ANZAC period but still with a good turnout. In his role as an RSL Hon. Secretary, Royce gets updates about changes that are happening within the RSL and keeps the AWWOD Executive and Committee members up to date on these changes. Royce concluded by thanking the Executive and Committee for their assistance and help and also for attending the ANZAC Sunday Service at Mortdale on Sunday 10th April.

Secretary's Report: Anzac Day was successful even though the information sent out by the RSL re position to meet and time to march off proved to be incorrect. There was NO distinct division organised between WW1 and WW2 Descendants. We had three legitimate new members and we welcome them very positively to our Organisation but there were a few "illegitimate" people marching with us by the time we had our photos taken in Hyde Park. These people wait on the side lines until we move off and then just join in, NO paper work done and no membership paid. Arline has removed 13 members from the Data Base. They were members that had not paid or marched since 2017 and 2018. She has left some members from 2019/20/21 that have not paid but will remove them after next Anzac Day if we have not heard from them. Unpaid members are usually removed from the Data Base after not paying for two years. We have 156 people on our Data Base but 37 belong to 10 family memberships and we have 2 life members. Only 1 member is now without access by email, so she is the only member that information has to be posted to and she lives in Qld. Direct debiting of Membership contributions and computer supplying of receipts worked well but we still have a few members that post cheques and cash pre Anzac day. We had nine members email apologies for non-attendance at the AGM. Arline and Karen attended an "Invitation only" ceremony for Fromelles Day at the War Memorial in Hyde Park on 19th July on behalf of AWWOD. As usual, a very moving ceremony and hopefully, Covid allowing, the ceremony will be open to all 2023.

Assistant Secretary / PR Report: Karen's report included 2021 as no AGM has been held since 2019 due to Covid. Last year unfortunately our **Kings boys** were unable to help us due to their annual school camp but we were very lucky to have the assistance of Ron and Rod, both of whom are members of the 18th Battalion Re-enactment Group, of which Greg is also a member. This year we had six Kings boys carry our Banner and their leader Christian Eatough also took photos. Karen made a presentation to the boys at the Kings' School in 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 which was a great relief after last year being

downstairs near the very noisy two-up game. She “negotiated” a special price on wine at \$36/bottle, a better price than \$48. **Television coverage** was the best ever last year, with additional coverage of AWWOD after the March. This year however was a bit disappointing with very little coverage and the commentary ran over the contingents behind us as Greg mentioned. We’re not marching to get our heads on television though. We did look amazing and very professional both years and as always the ranks marched particularly well. Karen was contacted a few weeks before Anzac Day last year by the Department of Veterans Affairs who wanted to do a piece on WW1 and was invited to do an interview on the Paul Murray show to talk about the bravery of our WW1 soldiers and also promoted AWWOD. It aired on Foxtel on Anzac Day night last year. No media interviews were requested this year. **New procedures** have been implemented by Arline and Karen that have streamlined the receipt and membership check in process dramatically. In 2021 due to Covid, the RSL required us to provide a list of those marching via a spreadsheet to be sent through the Friday prior and updated the Monday after Anzac Day with those members who were last minute. From last year Karen is now emailing receipts to members upon constant reconciliation of our statement online. A full spreadsheet is done in further reconciliation including scarves and ties and given to Sue to assist her Treasurer’s report. It has also been decided that we abolish annual Membership Renewal forms. We do however ask that Members advise Secretary Arline of changes to any contact details. All future correspondence from AWWOD will be emailed to Members rather than mailouts. This will further reduce not only our costs, but the time taken in collation of documents. **Donations:** As a non-profit organisation, we are on the look out for potential recipients of donations from time to time. In 2020 we donated \$1000 to the Banjo Paterson Bronze Statue project in Yeoval which was unveiled in February last year. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions none of our Committee could attend. We also donated \$500 to the Fromelles Association DNA Project which entails the exhumation and identification of unknown soldiers in Fromelles. **Vale:** It is with great sadness that we advise the passing of our friend and long time Member Julie De Launay. She fought hard for three years after a tragic surfing accident in Byron Bay and our love and thoughts go to her family.

Royce moved that all Reports above be accepted and adopted, Seconded by Greg Mann.

Treasurer's Report: Sue prepared Reports for years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22.separately.

2019/20: The 2019/20 annual report is quite different to previous years. In 2018/19 we had an increase of nearly \$500 leaving us with a balance of \$4484.26, so in keeping within the boundaries of our financial regulations as a non-profit organisation, we made a couple of donations. This included \$1000 donated to Mulga Bill Inc. for a contribution towards a bronze statue of Banjo Patteron... More than a Poet, to be exhibited in Yeoval. The second donation was for \$500 to the Fromelles Association of Australia who are in the long process of identifying soldiers by their DNA. Apart from our usual expenditure for floral wreaths for special memorial services, stationery and printing, we also made a payment of \$757.65 to GoDaddy to run our website. As the 2020 ANZAC march was cancelled due to Covid, we retained the same quantity of ties (67 at a value of \$1117.36) and scarves (79 at a value of \$1477.30). Our bank balance at 30/6/20 was \$2069.41.

2020/21: This year, although not completely back to normal, at least the march could go ahead with limited numbers and registration prior to the day. The only expenses this financial year were for the website costs of \$443.69 and stationery and printing amounting to \$211.28. We had an opening balance of \$2069.41 and our bank balance at 30/6/21 was \$2485.17.

2021/22: This year our financial situation has increased again as it normally does. We had an opening balance of \$2485.17 and a closing balance of \$2859.58, an increase of \$374.31 after expenses. We are also currently holding 69 scarves at sell value of \$1380 and 52 ties at sell value of \$2680. During the period 2020-2022 we have sold 10 scarves and sold/gifted 14 ties.

Moved: Royce, Seconded: Nigel, “That the Treasurer’s Report be received and adopted and all accounts found correct”. Carried.

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 as our Returning Officer, who declared all positions vacant. It was unanimously agreed that the following members form our new Committee:

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

General Committee: Sue McFadden, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Royce
Bruce Connell, Nominated by Royce, Seconded by Denise
Kel Sykes, Nominated by Greg, Seconded by Sue
Denise Hendy, Nominated by Karen, Seconded by Nigel
Nigel Hendy, Nominated by Royce, Seconded by Bruce

Greg thanked Ed for his assistance this evening, and all positions were accepted with no further nominations. Mark Griffiths has kindly agreed to continue as Webmaster.

General Business: Greg thanked Sue for her work as Treasurer over the past ten years.

Bank Account Signatories: Moved: Royce, Seconded: Kel, *“That President Greg Cowle, Secretary Arline Ronsisvalle and newly elected Treasure Karen Dawson be the signatories to the Australian World War One Descendants Westpac Bank account with access to online banking”*. Carried.

Phillip Ross asked how we police non-members marching. Karen explained that she and Arline do their best by checking the forming up of our contingent just before step off, but nothing can stop people jumping in from the sidelines once we get moving. We have had Committee Members marching at the back from time to time, but it is still impossible to stop people. Mostly those who do also disappear at the conclusion of the march.

Greg Mann very kindly thanked the Committee for their friendship and professionalism. He also asked about Remembrance Day, and Karen advised we generally attend our own local services individually. Royce advised that the Mortdale Remembrance Service is now cancelled due to lack of attendance, and that the NSW RSL website lists services in all Sub-Branches.

Meeting closed at 20.26.