



St John

The St John Ambulance
Australia Historical Society



THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE AUSTRALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**First Annual General Meeting
at the Hotel Marriott, Sydney, 21 June 2002**

Minutes

1. **Opening:** the interim chairman, Brian Fotheringham, declared the meeting open at 9.00 a.m.
2. **Attendance:** 37 people signed the attendance register; however, another dozen people were present at various stages of the meeting.
3. **Apologies** were received from: James Byrne, Reg Graham, John McLaren, Lesley King, Beth Dawson, Geraldine Byrne, Goldie Byrne, Alan Hills, Lennis Burke, Max Penaluna, Julie Penaluna, Ian Kaye-Eddie, Les Aris.
4. **Welcome:** Dr Fotheringham then welcomed all those attending. He invited the Patron of the Society, Professor Willis Marshall G.C.St.J. to address the meeting.
5. **Comments by the Patron:** Professor Marshall welcomed those present to the Priory Conference and to the Historical Society's Annual General Meeting and History Seminar. He congratulated the Society's management committee on the progress it had made with bringing the Society into being since the National Board of Directors had sanctioned its formation a year ago in Brisbane. He said the establishment of the Society was an important step in the history of St John Ambulance Australia. It was a forward step and much good would come from it because it would serve to increase St John member's understanding of their rich historical heritage both in Australia and overseas. Dr Fotheringham then thanked Professor Marshall for having taken time out of the meeting of the Board of Directors to speak at this the inaugural annual general meeting of the Society.
6. **Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation:** Dr Fotheringham presented Certificates of Appreciation of the Historical Society to Professor Marshall, Mr Len Fiori (Priory Secretary), Ms Therese Reilly (National Manager of Finance and Personnel for St John Ambulance Australia), Mrs Betty Stirton (Archivist for St John Ambulance in New South Wales) and Ms Loredana Napoli Stirton (Archivist for St John Ambulance in New South Wales) for their services to the Society in making the annual general meeting possible.
7. **Presentation of Life Membership Certificate:** Dr Fotheringham then presented Mr Kevin Young of Western Australia with the Historical Society's first Life Membership Certificate in acknowledgment of his great generosity as a benefactor to the Society.
8. **Annual Report:** Dr Fotheringham presented the first annual report of the Historical Society, which had been printed and distributed in advance. In speaking to the report he observed that the Society had effectively replaced the former Priory Library Committee, which had held its last meeting in June 1998. He said he had instituted the informal Priory History Group to fill the vacuum left by the closure of the former library committee, and was delighted that this group had so rapidly evolved into the present Historical Society. The historical function of the former committee was now being served much more strongly than previously because of the Society's formation. He then commended the annual report to members and called for a motion that it be adopted. Moved by John Blackstock, seconded Mervyn Goodall, that the report be adopted. The motion was approved unanimously.
9. **Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of the interim Treasurer, Mr James Byrne, the interim Secretary, Dr Ian Howie-Willis, presented the first financial report of the Historical Society, which had been printed and distributed in advance. Mr Byrne's report indicated that total income for the period from 20 June 2001 to 13 May 2002 had been \$1582.68; total expenditure had been \$483.49; and the balance of income over expenditure had been \$1099.19. Dr Howie-Willis advised the meeting that the Society's financial records had been audited by Ms Therese Reilly, National Manager of Finance and Personnel for St John Ambulance Australia, who had certified the Treasurer's statement of income and expenditure was correct.

Dr Howie-Willis then moved that the Treasurer's report be adopted and that Mr Byrne be thanked for preparing it. Mr Kevin Young seconded the motion, which was then passed.

10. **Election of Office Bearers:** Dr Fotheringham advised the meeting that duly completed nomination forms had been received for the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer and the five elective Committee Members' positions. He then asked the meeting to endorse Professor Marshall in the position of Patron. By unanimous assent of the meeting Professor Marshall was declared endorsed as Patron for the next three years.

Dr Fotheringham then passed the chairmanship of the meeting to Dr Howie-Willis. Dr Howie-Willis advised the meeting that only one candidate had been nominated for the position of President — Dr Fotheringham. He declared Dr Fotheringham duly elected under the terms of the Society's constitution. After congratulating Dr Fotheringham on his election he passed the chairmanship of the meeting back to Dr Fotheringham.

Dr Fotheringham informed the meeting that only one nomination had been received for each of the positions of Secretary and Treasurer — respectively Dr Howie-Willis and Mr Byrne. He declared them duly elected and congratulated them.

Moving on to the election of the five elective Committee Members, the President said that seven nominations had been received then announced their names. One of the seven then withdrew his nomination. A ballot for the five positions was then conducted, with Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr and Mrs Margaret Willis performing the duties of tally clerks. After the tally clerks had presented the results of the ballot to the President, he declared that the five elected were Mr John Blackstock, Mr Alan Bromwich, Ms Beth Dawson, Dr Edith Khangure and Mrs Betty Stirton. He congratulated those elected. The meeting then expressed its appreciation of the outcome of the electoral process.

11. **Co-option of additional Committee Members:** The President advised the meeting that in addition to the five elected Committee Members the Society's constitution enabled co-opted members to join the management committee. In appointing co-opted members the aim was to give each State and Territory broad representation on the committee. He then called on the meeting to endorse the following co-opted members: Ms Jackie Bettington (Qld), Mr Peter Burke (Vic), Mr James Byrne (Tas), Mr Richard Caesar-Thwaytes (ACT), Mr Charles Campbell (ACT), Mrs Barbara Davis (Vic), Mr Len Fiori (Priory), Mr Mervyn Goodall (Vic), Mr Reginald Graham (Tas), Mr Alan Hills (SA), Mr George Jackson (Vic), Mr Ian Kaye-Eddie (WA), Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr (NSW), Mr John McLaren (ACT), Miss Pat McQuillen (NT), Ms Loredana Napoli (NSW), Dr Harry Oxer (WA), Professor John Pearn (Qld), Mrs Fay Reeve (Tas), Mr Raymond Schilling (SA), Dr Michael Tyquin (NSW) and Mr Kevin Young (WA). After an indication of assent by those present, the President declared these members endorsed as co-opted members of the management committee. The President thanked the meeting for this decision.
12. **Reports from States & Territories:** The President then called on representatives of the various States & Territories to provide the meeting with written brief and/or oral reports on the work being done on St John heritage matters in their respective jurisdictions. The following members then spoke on behalf of their States and Territories:
 - New South Wales — Mrs Betty Stirton
 - Victoria — Mr John Blackstock
 - Queensland — Professor John Pearn (on behalf of Ms Beth Dawson)
 - South Australia — Dr Brian Fotheringham
 - Western Australia — Dr Edith Khangure
 - Northern Territory — Mr Alan Bromwich
 - Priory Headquarters — Dr Ian Howie-Willis (on behalf of Mrs Jenny Leeson)

The President then thanked those who had presented the reports for their States/Territories.

13. **Northern Territory's St John history:** Mr Alan Bromwich presented a short report on the progress of the official commissioned history of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory. He said that the historian, Dr Bill Wilson of the Northern Territory University, had been working for three years on the project, which was now nearing completion.
14. **Other business:** Nil.
15. **Closure & History Seminar:** There being no other business, the President declared the annual general meeting closed at 9.55 a.m. He then announced that the Society's annual History Seminar would begin immediately, and invited the chairperson for the first session of the seminar, Dr Edith Khangure, to take the chair. The seminar then proceeded.

Ian Howie-Willis
Secretary
21 June 2002