



The St John Ambulance  
Australia Historical Society



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## THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE AUSTRALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Second Annual General Meeting,  
at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart, 18 June 2003

### Draft Minutes

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1. **Opening:** the President, Brian Fotheringham, declared the meeting open at 10.30 a.m.
2. **Attendance:** 25 people signed the attendance register; however, various other people were present at different stages of the meeting and the History Seminar that followed.
3. **Apologies** were received from: Margaret Boulter, Alan Bromwich, Averil Chadwick, Vera Crook, Keith & Lynne Dansie, Ann & Norman Demaine, Vlas Efstathis, Nola Fairhurst, Trevor Gibson, Reg Graham, Pat McQuillen, Paul Meyers, Loredana Napoli, Dot Price, Doug Raby, Raelene & Ray Schilling, John Springhall, Michael Tyquin, Margaret Wilkinson, Gordon Young and Kevin Young.
4. **Welcome:** The President welcomed the 30 people present at the opening of the meeting. The apologies were noted. The President then read a letter from Kevin Young expressing his regret at being unable to attend and conveying his best wishes for a successful meeting.
5. **Presentation of letters of greeting:** The President welcomed to the meeting Terry Walton, a representative of the St John Historical Society at St John's Gate in the UK. He advised the meeting that Mr Walton had recently accepted a position on the management committee of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society as a co-opted member representing the UK. In reply, Mr Walton expressed his pleasure at being able to be present. He explained his involvement with the UK society and then read and presented letters of greeting from the following office-holders of the UK society:
  - Dr E. Colin Dawson K.St.J. of Orpington, Kent, the founder of the St John Historical Society
  - Ms Pamela Willis, Curator of the Library and Museum of the Order of St John, St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London.
6. **Presentation of Life Membership Certificate:** The President presented Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr with the Historical Society's second Life Membership Certificate in acknowledgment of her great generosity as a benefactor to the Society. He thanked her and then announced that she had volunteered to take on two positions in the Society, first as membership secretary and second as publications officer. He called on the meeting to express its appreciation of Ms Langdon-Orr's services to the Society.
7. **Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation:** The President presented Certificates of Appreciation of the Historical Society to Professor Villis Marshall (Patron), Mr Len Fiori (Priory Secretary), Ms Therese Reilly (auditor) and Mr Charles Campbell, Mr Mark Compton, Mrs Ruth Donaldson, Mr Ian Kaye-Eddie, Dr Edith Khangure and Mr Kevin Young (benefactors). He thanked them for their support of the Society then asked the meeting to express its appreciation of their efforts.
8. **Annual Report:** The President presented the second annual report of the Historical Society, which had been printed and distributed in advance. In speaking to the report he observed that in three days the Society would be two years old. He then enumerated the six main reasons for its existence and commented on the way each of the six purposes of the Society was being fulfilled. He advised the meeting that his term as Priory Librarian would finish at the end of the present calendar year, and that he would discuss with his successor the advantages for the Society in the new Priory Librarian also being the Society's President. He expressed his great pleasure at having witnessed what he described as "the transformation from the relatively arcane and quite small [former] Library Committee [of the Priory] into the present vibrant and much more widely influential national Historical Society". He concluded his report by thanking the members of the Society's management committee, elected and co-opted alike, then moved the adoption of the report. His motion was seconded by Dr Khangure. The motion was approved unanimously.
9. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Mr James Byrne, presented the second 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 31 May 2002 to 2 June 2002 had been \$4,045.35; total expenditure had been \$1,202.49; and the balance of income over expenditure had been \$2,842.86. Mr Byrne advised the

meeting that the Society's financial records had been voluntarily audited by Ms Therese Reilly, National Manager of Finance and Personnel for St John Ambulance Australia, who had certified his statement of income and expenditure as correct. He thanked her for her assistance to the Society then thanked the donors for their generosity in contributing \$1,685 to the Society's income over the year. In referring to donations he mentioned that they had provided almost three times the revenue coming from membership subscriptions. As membership subscriptions were \$5.00 per annum, nearly all of which (\$4.81) went to producing the Society's main publication, its *Proceedings*, he suggested that the management committee should reconsider the level of the subscription. He then moved that his report be adopted. Mr Mervyn Goodall seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. The President concluded this agenda item by thanking the Treasurer for his contribution to the meeting.

10. **Election of Office Bearers:** The President called upon the Secretary, Dr Ian Howie-Willis, to advise the meeting whether or not any nominations had been received and whether or not an election would be necessary. The Secretary said that the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer had been filled by election at the last annual general meeting, as had the five positions for elective Committee Members (by Messrs John Blackstock and Alan Bromwich, Ms Beth Dawson, Dr Edith Khangure and Mrs Betty Stirton). No election would be necessary because according to the Society's constitution the people elected then could retain office for up to three years. He therefore suggested that the meeting endorse the present elective office holders and co-opted committee members for another year. On the motion of Mr Blackstock, seconded by Mrs Stirton, the meeting then indicated its agreement to the present management committee continuing for another year.
11. **Endorsement of Membership Secretary and Publications Officer:** The President advised the meeting that, as already mentioned, Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr had offered to take on the responsibilities of Membership Secretary and Publications Officer. He pointed out that the Society had much to gain from her expertise in electronic communications, information technology and desk-top publishing. He also said that one of her projects as Publications Officer would be to assist in the production and distribution of a newsletter for the general membership twice annually. He then asked the meeting to endorse her appointment to the two positions. Her appointment was approved by acclamation. The President thanked the meeting for this decision. He also thanked and congratulated Ms Langdon-Orr.
12. **Reports from States & Territories:** The President called on representatives of the various States & Territories to provide the meeting with written 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 — Ms Beth Dawson
  - South Australia — Dr Brian Fotheringham
  - Western Australia — Dr Edith Khangure

At the conclusion of the reports the President advised the meeting that each report would be published in the next edition of the Society's *Proceedings*. He then thanked those who had presented the reports for the thoroughness of their presentations.

13. **Other business:**

13.1 **Medallion commemorating the foundation of the Historical Society**

The President announced that two Western Australian members of the management committee, Dr Edith Khangure and Mr Ian Kaye-Eddie had presented a commemorative gold medallion to the Society. Produced at the Perth Mint, the medallion is mounted in a small rectangular block of jarrah. It is about the size of a 50¢ coin. The face bears the Mint emblem. Engraved on the reverse is the inscription "To celebrate the inaugural meeting of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society, June 2002". The President displayed the medallion to the audience and thanked the two donors for their generosity and thoughtfulness. He said the medallion would be added to the Priory HQ collection of memorabilia and would be displayed in the glass cabinet in the foyer of the Canberra building.

13.2 **Membership subscriptions and newsletter for general Society membership**

Ms Dawson spoke briefly on two matters, as follows:

- First, she raised the possibility of increasing the membership subscription as suggested in the Treasurer's report.
- Second, she asked whether Queensland's offer to assist with the production and distribution of the proposed newsletter would be taken up now that Ms Langdon-Orr had been appointed as Publications Officer.

At the Secretary's suggestion both items were held over for consideration at the management committee meeting to be conducted after today's History Seminar.

14. **Closure & History Seminar:** There being no other business, the President declared the annual general meeting closed at 11.45 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, Mrs Stirton, to take the chair. The seminar then proceeded, with five papers being delivered.

**Ian Howie-Willis**  
**Secretary**  
**3 July 2003**

# **The St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society**

## **Record of meeting of the Management Committee in the Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart, 18 June 2003**

1. **The meeting took place** immediately after the History Seminar that followed the Society's annual general meeting.
2. **Present were:** Brian Fotheringham (the President), Ian Howie-Willis (the Secretary), John Blackstock, Beth Dawson, Mervyn Goodall, George Jackson, Edith Khangure, John Pearn, Faye Reeve and Betty Stirton.

3. **Evaluation of the Annual General Meeting and History Seminar**

The President asked those present for suggestions about improving future meetings to make them more attractive to their audience. During the discussion that followed the following points were made:

- Reverse the order of the AGM and History Seminar so as to run the seminar first. It was pointed out that the seminar had more audience appeal and would attract more interest if run first when people were still fresh and better able to concentrate.
- Where possible ensure that the History Seminar and AGM don't clash with other events such as national committee meetings, seminars and tours.
- Start the meeting earlier, e.g. at 9.00 a.m.
- Consider the possibility of having evening meetings.
- Conduct a section of the seminar before morning tea.
- Promote the Society's special needs to the Priory Secretary.
- An informal poll of committee members by the Secretary at the end of the meeting indicated that on a scale of 1 to 10 the average rating for the success of the day's events was about 8.

4. **Membership subscriptions**

- It was agreed that the subscription for 2004–05 should be \$10 and that the increase from \$5 should be advertised in the newsletter and *Proceedings*.
- Also agreed that for UK members the subscription would be £10 because of the additional cost of airmail postage.

5. **Current management of the Society**

- The meeting expressed general satisfaction with the way the Society's affairs are being conducted.

6. **Ensuring greater involvement of State/Territory committee members**

- It was suggested that the States/Territories could take on more responsibility for functions such as membership recruitment, publicity and collection of subscriptions.
- Other activities for State/Territory committee members could include (a) sending letters about the Society to people who might be interested in becoming members, and (b) placing inserts about the Society into the local State/Territory St John news sheets and magazines.

7. **Newsletter for the general membership**

- Agreed that the Secretary should discuss how the newsletter might be produced and distributed with Beth Dawson and Cheryl Langdon-Orr.
- In subsequent discussions between them they agreed that the Secretary will assemble the material, Ms Langdon-Orr will do the layout and Ms Dawson will handle the mail-out.
- The discussion with Ms Langdon-Orr also indicated that on-line publication via a Society website is another possibility.

8. **Speakers at next year's seminar**

- Agreed that an item calling for expressions of interest from people wishing to present papers at the seminar in Alice Springs in 2004 should be published in the newsletter.

- Agreed that it would be an advantage if someone from the Northern Territory could present a paper. In this connection it was agreed that the Secretary could write to Dr Bill Wilson asking him to speak about his official history of St John in the NT, *To Be Faithful, True & Brave: A History of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory from 1928 to 2002*, which will be published later this year.
- Agreed that an inducement to prospective seminar contributors would be an offer to publish their papers on-line in an electronic version of the *Proceedings*.
- Agreed that a Cadet should be invited to report on a historical research project at the seminar.

#### 9. Proceedings of the SJA AHS

- The title of the *Proceedings* was discussed. Various suggestions were made, including *The Journal of the SJA AHS* and *Pro Utilitate: the Proceedings of the SJA AHS*.
- Agreed that members' views on this matter should be canvassed in the newsletter.

#### 10. Secretary's expenses

- Agreed that the Secretary should maintain a cumulative list of his administrative costs. He indicated that he had begun such a list.

#### 11. Logo

- The Secretary said that the present logo — SJAA red logo above a boomerang and the name of the Society — had never been officially adopted and that it could be changed.
- Agreed to leave the logo "as is" for the time being and that meanwhile members' views could be canvassed in the newsletter.

#### 12. Life Saving Medal

- Beth Dawson raised the possibility of nominating Wendy Scurr for the Life Saving Medal of the Order. Agreed that the President should discuss this matter with the Chancellor.
- Postscript: the President has meanwhile discussed this matter with Prof. Marshall and has written formally to him about it.
- *Would committee members please keep this matter confidential? We do not wish to start rumours that could cause embarrassment and disappointment.*

#### 13. Conclusion

- The President thanked those present for attending and for contributing to discussion.
- He then closed the meeting at 4.30 p.m.

Ian Howie-Willis  
Secretary  
3 July 2003