



The St John Ambulance  
Australia Historical Society



## THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE AUSTRALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Fourth Annual General Meeting,  
at the beachfront restaurant opposite the St John  
Ambulance Museum, The Esplanade, Williamstown,  
24 June 2005**

### **Draft Minutes**

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1. **Opening:** the President, Dr Brian Fotheringham, declared the meeting open at 1.50 p.m.
2. **Welcome:** The President welcomed those present, reminding them that the date was an auspicious one, being 24<sup>th</sup> June, the festival day of the Order's patron saint, John the Baptist.
3. **Attendance:** The President thanked the meeting for a strong turnout. 44 people attended the Annual General Meeting. (Earlier in the day up to 66 people had been present at various sessions of the History Seminar held at the Crown Promenade Hotel, Southbank, South Melbourne; and 55 people signed the seminar attendance register.) He said it was gratifying to note how strongly the Historical Society had grown in its four years of formal existence.
4. **Apologies** were received from 30 people, as follows: Dawn Bat, Margaret Boulter, Sandra Bout, Alison Brigg, Lennis Burke, Geraldine, Goldie & Jim Byrne, Richard, Caesar-Thwaytes, Averil Chadwick, Mark Compton, John Davis, Trevor Gibson, Reg Graham, Anthony Harrison, Alan Hills, Jim & Doreen Humphrey, Margaret Kentler, Rhonda Lang, Fred & Margaret Leditschke, Dorei Levy, Ken Milbourne, Graham Orr, Richard Shaw, John Springhall, Laurie Steinhardt, Gail Vann, Terry Walton and Kevin Young. The apologies were noted. Letters from Reg Graham, Alan Hills, Terry Walton and Kevin Young expressing their regrets at being unable to attend and conveying their best wishes for a successful meeting were also noted.
5. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The President called on the Secretary to introduce the Minutes of the last annual general meeting, held in the conference centre of Lasseter's Hotel, Alice Springs, on 16 June 2004. The Secretary advised that printed copies of the Minutes had been distributed shortly before the meeting had begun, and further copies were available at the front of the room. The Chairman then called for a motion that the Minutes be received. Moved Mr George Jackson, seconded by Mrs Glad Blackstock, that the Minutes be approved. Agreed unanimously.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** The President asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes. The Secretary drew the attention of the meeting to the item on elections for the management committee. He advised that as the current office holders and management committee had now been in office for three years, elections for their positions would be held later in the meeting.
7. **Annual Report:** The President advised that his annual report had been printed and distributed before the meeting together with the agenda and the last meeting's minutes. He then formally tabled the fourth annual report of the Historical Society then drew attention to its highlights. He advised the meeting that he would not be standing for re-election then thanked the membership generally and the management committee in particular for the support they had given him as he and the committee members had worked to establish the Society firmly over the previous five years. He observed that the Society had achieved more in those years than the former Priory Library Committee (which as Priory Librarian he had previously chaired) had managed to in the 52 years it was extant 1946-98.

Dr Fotheringham then drew attention to excellent work done by the Membership Secretary & Publications Officer, Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr, in developing a more efficient membership database and membership subscription system linked to the distribution of the Society's two publications, *St John History* (journal) and *Pro Utilitate* (newsletter). He thanked her for her efforts here and complimented her on the high professional standard of the record keeping system and the publications. He then called for a motion to record the meeting's appreciation of Ms Langdon-Orr's contributions to the Society as Membership Secretary & Publications Officer. So moved by Dr Harry Oxe, seconded Mr Jack Blackstock. Agreed unanimously. The meeting then showed its appreciation of Ms Langdon-Orr's efforts with applause.

In ending his report, Dr Fotheringham referred the meeting to the next item on the agenda, the Treasurer's Report, which he said he would present in Mr Byrne's absence. He then concluded his report by wishing the Society well under the leadership of its next president and management committee.

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Moving on to the Treasurer's report, the President tabled the report by the Treasurer, Mr James Byrne, copies of which had been distributed with the other agenda papers before the meeting. Dr Fotheringham said Mr Byrne's report indicated that total income for the period from 27 May 2004 to 8 June 2005 had been \$7,033.49; total expenditure had been \$1,608.35; and the balance of income over expenditure had been \$5,425.14. He advised the meeting that the Society's financial records had been voluntarily audited by Ms Kareen Brandt, Finance Manager of the Australian office of St John Ambulance Australia, who had certified his statement of income and expenditure as correct. On behalf of Mr Byrne, Dr Fotheringham expressed the gratitude of the Society for her assistance. He also thanked Mr Byrne for his concise report.
9. **Discussion of President's & Treasurer's Reports:** Dr Fotheringham then called for comments, questions and discussion of both the annual report and the Treasurer's report.

In opening the discussion of the reports, the Secretary drew the meeting's attention to the large scale of the donations-in-kind to the Society by the Publications Officer, Ms Langdon-Orr. On behalf of those present, he thanked Ms Langdon-Orr for her time and expertise in doing the lay-out, design, printing, enveloping and mailing out of both the journal and newsletter. The meeting then expressed with applause its appreciation of the generosity of Ms Langdon-Orr's gifts-in-kind, which had enabled the Society to project a very professional image to its members and prospective members within the broader St John community.

The Secretary also advised the meeting that two substantial donations of money had been received earlier that day, one of \$1000 and one of \$500, the latter specifically for the award of prizes to Cadets undertaking the "Knowledge of the Order" proficiency badge. (In this connection the Secretary reminded the meeting of the input that members of the Society had had into the redevelopment of the "Knowledge of the Order" syllabus.) The meeting showed its appreciation of these gifts with applause.

The President informed the meeting that the South Australian St John Ambulance Historical Society had also made a contribution-in-kind by producing a DVD containing two audiovisuals, "A brief background to St John Ambulance Australia" and "A short illustrated history of the Order of St John". He then presented the Secretary with a copy of the DVD for the Priory Library. In accepting the DVD, the Secretary referred to two other gifts presented to the Priory Library earlier in the day: (1) the small WA commemorative badge produced by St John Ambulance Australia (WA Inc.) to mark the centenary 1904–2004 of the Volunteer First Aid Service in Western Australia, donated by Dr Edith Khangure, Librarian & Archivist to St John in WA; and (2) the silver Maltese Cross with St John Ambulance Brigade roundel mounted on a polished wooden block, donated by David Heard, of Murray Bridge, Regional Superintendent of the St John First Aid Service in SA. The meeting indicated its appreciation of these gifts with applause.

The President then called for a motion to adopt both the President's and Treasurer's reports. Moved Mrs Betty Stirton, seconded Miss Beth Dawson: (1) that the President's and Treasurer's reports be adopted; (2) that the meeting record its appreciation of Dr Fotheringham's and Mr Byrne's efforts in preparing informative, succinct reports; (3) and that the meeting record its gratitude to Dr Fotheringham for his seven years of outstanding work in, first, establishing the Historical Society to fill the void left by the former Priory Library Committee and, second, leading the Society during its inaugural six years. Motion approved unanimously.

10. **Membership Secretary & Publicity Officer's Report:** Ms Langdon-Orr reported briefly on membership renewals and new memberships. Including the subscriptions received earlier in the day, the Society now has 175 financial members. She then reported on her past year's work in producing the Society's journal (*St John History*) and newsletter (*Pro Utilitate*). In concluding her report she made a special appeal for photographic material — the "fodder" on which the newsletter depends. The president thanked Ms Langdon-Orr for her report and urged members to respond to her appeal for photographic materials.
11. **Election of Office Bearers:** The President asked the Secretary to read out the list of nominations received for the vacant positions. The Secretary advised the meeting that one duly signed and counter-signed nomination had been received for each of the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer, those nominated respectively being Dr Harry Oxer, Dr Ian Howie-Willis and Mr James Byrne. As no other nominations had been received for these three positions, Dr Fotheringham declared Drs Oxer and Howie-Willis and Mr Byrne duly elected.

The Secretary then advised the meeting that six duly signed and counter-signed nominations had been received for the five vacant elective committee member positions — Mr John Blackstock, Miss Beth Dawson, Dr Brian Fotheringham, Dr Edith Khangure, Dr Allan Mawdsley and Mrs Betty Stirton. He said that as there had been six nominations for five positions a ballot would be necessary.

At this point Mr Ray Schilling pointed out that that a ballot could be avoided if the meeting agreed to create the new committee position of Immediate Past President and appoint Dr Fotheringham to it; that would

then allow the other five nominees for elective committee positions to be declared elected. The Secretary agreed that such an agreement would obviate the need for a ballot. He suggested that Mr Schilling move an appropriate motion, and further suggested that the motion should include a recommendation that all other currently co-opted and elected committee members be endorsed as co-opted members. Mr Schilling, seconded by Mr Blackstock, then moved as follows: “that Dr Fotheringham be appointed to the Society’s management committee as Immediate Past President in recognition of his pioneering effort in establishing the Society; that the other five nominees for elective management committee positions be declared elected; and that the remaining present committee members be co-opted as members of the management committee for the next three years. The meeting then approved the motion unanimously and expressed its pleasure at the outcome with hearty applause.

With the concurrence of the new President, Dr Oxer, Dr Fotheringham carried on conducting the meeting in his new capacity as Immediate Past President.

12. **Reports from States & Territories:** Dr Fotheringham 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:

- Australian Capital Territory & the Priory’s Australian Office — Dr Ian Howie-Willis
- New South Wales — Mrs Loredna Criniti
- Northern Territory — Mr Alan Bromwich
- Queensland — Ms Beth Dawson
- South Australia — Dr Brian Fotheringham
- Tasmania — Mrs Fay Reeve on behalf of Mr Ken Milbourne
- Victoria — Mr John Blackstock
- Western Australia — Dr Edith Khangure

At the conclusion of the reports Dr Fotheringham thanked the presenters and repeated his earlier comment about the Historical Society having engaged the interest and effort of a much wider circle of St John people than had the former Priory Library Committee. He advised the meeting that each report would be published in the next edition of *St John History*, the Society’s *Proceedings*.

13. **Other business:**

13.1 **Management Committee meeting**

Dr Fotheringham suggested that as those present were keen to visit the nearby Victorian St John Ambulance Museum, the management committee members might wish to forego the planned committee meeting. He pointed out that the key issue for the committee meeting, planning the topics for next year’s History Seminar in Perth, had been satisfactorily dealt with earlier in the day. Any other issues could be dealt with via the Secretary’s regular management committee circulars. The committee members present indicated their warm approval of this suggestion.

13.2 **Expression of appreciation of Dr Fotheringham’s period as President**

As incoming President, Dr Oxer formally thanked Dr Fotheringham for his efforts to establish the Society over the past seven years. He said that the Society’s members were grateful that when the former Priory Library Committee was abolished in 1998, Dr Fotheringham had taken it upon himself as Priory Librarian to convene the informal Priory History Group, which had soon evolved into the formally constituted Historical Society. The meeting indicated its approbation of Dr Oxer’s comments with applause.

14. **Closure:** There being no other business, Dr Fotheringham thanked all those in attendance for their presence and thanked all those who had participated by presenting reports and/or contributing to discussion. He declared the annual general meeting closed at 3.55 p.m. Those present then moved across The Esplanade to the St John Ambulance Museum to inspect the exhibits on display there.

**Ian Howie-Willis**  
**Secretary**  
**12 July 2005**