

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of  
The St John Ambulance  
Historical Society of Australia**

**The Sebel Albert Park Conference Centre  
66 Queens Road, Albert Park, Victoria  
Thursday 24 June 2010**



**M I N U T E S**

1. OPENING The President of the St John Historical Society of Australia Dr Harry Oxer as Chairman, declared the meeting open at 4.11pm.
2. WELCOME The Chairman Dr Oxer then formally welcomed all those in attendance and made comment on the outstanding success of the Museum Tours which had immediately preceded the Annual General Meeting. Dr Oxer supported by the meeting thanked the organiser Dr Allan Mawdsley for his efforts in putting the programme together.
3. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES A total of **38** members of the society were present for the meeting with **33** members having apologies recorded for them in their absence.
4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING The Chairman advised that the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the society having been held on Friday 19 June 2009 at the Gold Coast in the State of Queensland had been circulated to all members in the last edition of the newsletter Dr Oxer then asked that they be taken as read and called for a motion that they be received.

PROPOSED Mr Matthew GRIFFITHS  
SECONDED Dr Allan MAWDSLEY  
CARRIED

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES The Chairman advised that he believed that all matters outstanding are dealt with in his President's Report and received the assent of the meeting to progress immediately to that agenda item.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT The Chairman as President then presented his Annual Report for 2009-10. The written report was tabled to which Dr Oxer spoke to highlight a couple of issues for the membership.

- ⊗ Priory Heritage Collection – Although the management of the collection is not a formal function of the society Dr Oxer noted that there has been some significant work on the collection by members of the society in National Office at The Realm. Specific mention was made of the work and support of Mr Peter LeCornu, Mrs Betty Stirton and Dr Ian Howie-Willis.
- ⊗ Membership – Membership of the society now stands at 235. A very healthy figure which despite the unfortunate loss of some members to a higher calling tends to a slight increase.
- ⊗ Knowledge of the Order (KOTO) Prizes – Again the society supports the Mark Compton Knowledge of the Order Prizes for Cadets completing their Knowledge of the Order Proficiency. This is the fifth year of the awards and they were presented at the Grand Prior's Award Breakfast this morning.
- ⊗ Lapel Pin for the Order – This was a project inspired by the society and worked on by small group of society members. Unfortunately although receiving good support from within the Priory in Australia, inclusive of the Commandery in Western Australia, there are issues in relation to international branding which prevent this initiative from being realised at this time. The President acknowledged and thanks those members of the working party for their efforts.
- ⊗ Appointment of Deputy Secretary – Following the last conference the President and Secretary identified that Mr James Cheshire was being asked to engage in a number of duties on behalf of the society including that of organising this year's conference and meetings. We invited him to accept a position as Deputy Secretary which he agreed. I request that in accepting the President's report the appointment of Mr Cheshire be also endorsed by the membership.
- ⊗ Acknowledgements and thanks – The society continues to receive significant support and encouragement from a number of people. We make specific mention and thank the Chancellor Dr Neil Conn, the society Patron Prof Villis Marshall, Priory Secretary and National CEO Mr Peter LeCornu, National Manager Publications Ms Shirley Dyson, Society Honorary Auditor Ms Amanda Power, Personal Assistant to the CEO Ms Kylie Seidel, National Office Project Officer Mr Shay McAuley, and Society Treasurer Mr James Byrne. The President also acknowledged and thanked the Secretary Dr Ian Howie-Willis and Deputy Secretary Mr James Cheshire.

Dr Oxer then proposed that his report be accepted and adopted, specifically in relation to the endorsement of the appointment of Mr James Cheshire as Deputy Secretary.

PROPOSED Dr Harry OXER  
SECONDED Mrs Lyn DANSIE  
CARRIED

7. FINANCIAL REPORT In the absence of the Treasurer Mr James Byrne the Society Secretary Dr Ian Howie-Willis presented the report. The written report was tabled to which Dr Howie-Willis spoke to highlight a couple of issues for the membership.

- ⊗ Cost of Journal – The ongoing cost of the publication of the journal is a significant issue to the financial viability of the society. The current run is subsidised by National Office for which we are grateful. Discussion from the floor spoke of the excellent product being produced and identified a number of options. The President, Secretary and Deputy Secretary will work on this issue in the ensuing twelve months.
- ⊗ Revenue – Dr Howie-Willis spoke of the funds coming to the society from the sale of goods such as the ties and scarfs. There are also a number of donations provided for the work of the society some of which are anonymous.

Dr Howie-Willis then proposed that the Treasurer's report in relation to the finances of the Society be accepted and adopted.

PROPOSED Dr Ian HOWIE-WILLIS  
SECONDED Mrs Betty STIRTON  
CARRIED

8. PUBLICATIONS The Secretary Dr Ian Howie-Willis spoke to the issues surrounding publications and the society.

- ⊗ Mention was made of the work to be done in relation to the options surrounding publication of the journal in to the future.
- ⊗ Website and the Internet – The Secretary and Deputy Secretary have had preliminary discussions in relation to ways to move forward in this regard. It is a project which will be lead by the Deputy Secretary in the ensuing year.
- ⊗ Banner – The production of an eye catching banner bearing the logo of the society has been procured at a much reduced rate. The banner was on display at the AGM and will be on display at society functions during the course of the convention.

9. STATE & TERRITORY REPORTS The Chairman invited each of the State and Territory representatives to table their report and speak to a particular highlight for the society members within their particular jurisdiction.

- ⊗ Australian Capital Territory: Dr Howie-Willis – Tabled; highlight new display within National Office at The Realm.
- ⊗ New South Wales: Mrs Betty Stirton – Tabled; highlight new displays and additions to the New South Wales collection.

- ❖ Northern Territory: Ms Gwyn Balch – Tabled; highlight reunion luncheon. Hope that this will be an ongoing event.
- ❖ Queensland: Mrs Beth Dawson – Tabled; highlights continuing restoration and conservation work on collection and the development of a computer system for the History and Heritage Committee.
- ❖ South Australia: Dr Brian Fotheringham – Tabled; and left with a thought.
- ❖ Western Australia: Ms Edith Khangure – Tabled; highlighted change in direction for the library with paramedic training moving to an outsourced university programme and the ongoing assistance provided in the loan of items from the Western Australian collection.
- ❖ Victoria: Mrs Shirley Moon – Tabled; highlights recent donations and visits by Order of St John notables.
- ❖ Tasmania – No report tabled at the meeting.

10. OTHER BUSINESS The Chairman opened the floor to matters of general business.

- ❖ Historical Seminar – The Deputy Secretary spoke in relation to the Historical Seminar to be held the following day, Friday 25 June 2010 and highlighted the Key Note speaker Dr Allan Mawdsley and a special guest the Hospitaller of the Order Dr John Talbot.
- ❖ Access to Grants: Mrs Beth Dawson – Mrs Dawson stated that she had become aware that some state offices were restricting the ability of local branches in obtaining external funds through government and philanthropic grants. This was seen as being restrictive on the work of some branch groups. The President Dr Oxer said that he would take the issue up with National Office to ensure consistency in relation to this issue nationally.
- ❖ Presentation to National Collection: Mrs Beth Dawson – Mrs Dawson made a presentation of the Order Commemorative Medal struck in 1999 to the national collection which was gratefully accepted by the Secretary of the Society in his role as Priory Librarian which much thanks.

11. CLOSING There being no other business being forthcoming, the Chairman thanked those present for their support of the Society, their attendance and participation in the meeting. Dr Oxer went on to remind those present of the seminar to be held tomorrow and that next years meetings will be held in Hobart in May 2011.

The meeting was closed at 5.13pm.

**James Cheshire**  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**8 July 2010**

## HISTORY SEMINAR

### NOTES OF HISTORY SEMINAR HELD FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2001

The President of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia, Dr Harry Oxe, opened the seminar at 10.30 a.m. immediately following the Plenary Session of the Priory Conference. He introduced the Session Chairperson, Mrs Lennis Burke, and then explained that the second Chairperson, Mrs Julie Penaluna, would be unable to attend because of an accident and consequently Mrs Burke would chair both morning and afternoon sessions. After expressing the concern of everyone present for Mrs Penaluna, he handed the proceedings over to Mrs Burke. At this point the Deputy Secretary of the Historical Society, Mr James Cheshire explained how questions were to be put to speakers during the discussion period later in the day. He asked those with questions to write them out on the slips provided then 'post' them in the box on the table at the rear of the room.

Mrs Burke then introduced the first speaker. At the appropriate junctures she introduced the other speakers too. The speakers and topics in order of appearance were:

- **Allan Mawdsley:** *'The Red Cross–St John Ambulance link' (Keynote presentation)*
- **Vince Little:** *'St John on track: St John and the Railway Ambulance Services'*
- **David Fahey:** *'The use of carbon dioxide in resuscitation'*
- **John Pearn:** *'The Philately of the Order of St John'*
- **Gary Harris:** *'Links between the Heidelberg Military Hospital and St John Ambulance'*
- **Heather Fogerty:** *'Caravaggio—The artist who was a Knight of St John'*
- **Ian Howie-Willis:** *'The Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) movement: An Historical Outline'*
- **John Talbot:** *Order Hospitaller and Chair St John Eye Hospital Jerusalem*
- **Jann Butler:** *'The Bendigo Combined St John Ambulance Division: A regional history'*
- **Merv Goodall & James Cheshire:** *'Ties that bind: The ties and scarves of the Order of St John'*
- **Ian Howie-Willis:** *'St John the Baptist—Patron saint of the Order of St John'*

At the conclusion of the presentations, Mr Cheshire managed the question time & discussion session, using the questions already submitted by members of the audience.

Following question time, Mr Cheshire recorded suggestions from the audience for topics for next year's History Seminar in Hobart.

To conclude the day's proceedings, Dr Oxe thanked the presenters and the Chairperson. He also expressed his pleasure that the seminar had been such a success. He noted that 65 people had signed the attendance register but observed that considerably more than that number had been at the seminar at various times during the day. He then declared the proceedings closed at 4.45 p.m.