

Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia held at the Doubletree Hilton Conference Centre, Darwin, NT, Saturday 1st June 2013.

Opening & Welcome: The President, Dr. Alan Mawdsley, declared the meeting open at 1-03p.m. and welcomed all who were present.

Attendance & Apologies: Dr. Mawdsley requested that the attendance and apologies registers be completed. Only 28 people signed the register although others were present. A further 22 names were recorded on the apologies register and a list of 15 additional names from Queensland sent to the Secretary, Mr. James Cheshire, were noted.

Minutes of the last meeting: Dr. Mawdsley advised that the Minutes of the 11th AGM had been circulated to members in a Convention Kit supplied by Dr. Ian Howie-Willis and included with the last edition of the newsletter early in May.

Dr. Harry Oxer moved that the Minutes be taken as read and Mrs. Betty Stirton seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM: Dr. Mawdsley asked if there were any matters arising. There were none.

President's annual report, discussion & adoption: Dr. Mawdsley commented that as his second report had been made available in the Convention Kit before the meeting he would comment very briefly on only two items: -

- Firstly, the Society's subscriptions. Both he and Mr. Gary Harris, the Society's Treasurer, were grateful to the Priory Office for handling the Society's subscriptions but, because the subscriptions due and the National Office's busiest time of the year clashed, complaints were being received re cheques not being cashed and receipts not issued. Consequently, Mr. Harris had taken on all duties in respect of subscriptions, including address labels, to achieve a more efficient and timely service.
- Secondly Dr. Mawdsley commented on his 'hobby horse' vision that all state and territory branches would have historical committees. He noted that Victoria's listing of Knights and Dames and their Roll of the Order was very useful for material for local branch meetings.

The President asked if there were any questions. There being none, Dr. Oxer moved that the President's report be accepted. Mrs. Stirton seconded it and affirmation was unanimous.

Treasurer's annual report, discussion & adoption: Mr. Gary Harris presented the Society's Financial Reports and advised the members that copies of his documents were available from the table at the rear of the room. He drew attention to a number of items:

- There was a very small discrepancy with the Northern Territory's accounts. Given the previous subscription system's difficulties it was not easy to resolve.
- The Society's account with the Bendigo Bank has been closed.
- Mr. Harris thanked both Amanda Power and Justine Black from the National Office for their assistance.
- He also thanked Gabby Lluede for producing the Society's journals.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions. Mrs. Stirton asked about receipts. Ms. Lesley King from the NT commented that they would have sorted out the discrepancy issue if informed previously. The treasurer explained his new system, which uses a spreadsheet and then moved on to a proposal for renewal of subscription rates.

The subscription rate was proposed at \$20.00 for single Australian membership, \$30.00 for families, \$35.00 for group members and \$30.00 for overseas members. In addition, overseas members were to pay in Australian dollars. The treasurer asked that this proposal be accepted.

There being no further questions, Mr. Harris asked that his report be accepted. Mrs. Lyn Dansie moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, and, the motion being seconded by Dr. Howie-Willis, passed unanimously.

Publications: journal, quarterly newsletter & website: Dr. Ian Howie-Willis advised that he had nothing further to add to his report as previously circulated. He did however comment that he was

'editor' and not 'editor in chief'. The Secretary, Mr. Cheshire, said he was responsible for the 'new' title!

Dr. Oxe commented on the great standard of the Society's publication. This was greeted with applause.

A number of comments were made regarding our publications and their cost.

- Dr. Howie-Willis commented on the policy of what jokes are included in the newsletter.
- A question was asked re the cost of producing our publications and whether we need to increase subscriptions. In response,
- Dr. Mawdsley commented on the support we receive from the National Office.
- Dr. Oxe said the National Office recognises the Society's value to the Priory.
- A question was asked whether there were any plans to have the newsletters distributed in an electronic form.
- Dr. Mawdsley replied that not all members have computers but the Committee will confer with the Editor re asking members what/how they want to receive publications.
- Dr. Howie-Willis said this approach had already been tried and only 1 out of 160 members favoured electronic only publications. He would however look at the issue again.
- Mr. Trevor Mayhew commented on the cost savings of newsletters/journals being on-line.
- Dr. Howie-Willis reminded all present that the volumes of the journal were on-line in the historical section of the national web site.

Mrs. Lyn Dansie moved that the Editor's Report be accepted. It was seconded by Mrs. Stirton and accepted unanimously.

Reports from states & territories: Dr. Mawdsley advised that all reports would be taken as read. The reports were available before the meeting in the pre-conference package.

- NSW's representative, Mrs. Betty Stirton advised that their report had been prepared by herself and Ms. Loredana Napoli but, owing to staffing shortages, Loredana was unable to attend. Mrs. Stirton commented on the Collections Policy developed by Ms. Jeanette Regan and advised that it was good for anyone starting an archival collection.
- Victoria's representative, Mr. Gary Harris apologised for Mrs. Shirley Moon's absence and highlighted a number of items from her report. These included a number of significant gifts, improvements on the maintenance and security of their building, developments re the Neild memorial project, and the encouraging trend in sharing between the states via duplicates exchange and research projects. Mrs. Stirton gave details of the historic first aid certificate which NSW had donated to Victoria. There was some additional discussion between Drs. Howie-Willis and Mawdsley re an 1883 certificate.
- Queensland's representative, Ms. Beth Dawson, commented on a busy year. In addition to the details provided in their report, they are working on producing a brochure. Ms. Dawson also advised of the death of Rhonda Lang - one of their dedicated members. There were no other matters to report.
- South Australia's representative, Mrs. Lyn Dansie spoke on behalf of Dr. Brian Fotheringham. The most significant development during the year was the move into new premises and the official opening on the 5th of May 2013. A brochure has been produced to publicise their collections and activities.
- Western Australia's representative, Dr. Edith Khangure, thanked Queensland and NSW for donations made during the year to WA. A duplicates and desiderata list has been sent from WA to all other states and territories. Work on the Honour Roll is ongoing and some 52 years have been completed.
- Tasmania had no representative to report on their situation.
- Northern Territory's representative, Ms. Dawn Batt, commented on two projects from their report for special mention. These were the collection of information on past "Commissioners in the Northern Territory" and a NT 'Women in St John' collection. There are also new displays at the Casuarina Centre and plans to commemorate Tennant Creek Division's 50th birthday and Darwin Division's 60th birthday.
- ACT & Priory representative, Dr. Ian Howie-Willis endorsed Dawn Batt's commendation of Mr. Frank Dunstan's book, which was launched at the Darwin meeting. There was applause for Mr. Dunstan. A special challenge this year has been attempting to value the Priory's collection e.g. the Ashford Litter on loan from SA is valued at \$ 8000.00. Mrs. Jeanette Regan has joined the Canberra

staff as their first professional Priory Curator. Dr. Howie-Willis also described the new Canberra St John House which is hoped will be occupied by October.

The Cohen table and chairs will be returned from WA and reinstalled in the new premises. They were last used at an Historical Society meeting in 2008. Dr. Howie-Willis made special mention of a 6 year research project by Mr. Richard Caesar-Thwaytes on the SJAB/First Aid Services Branch in the ACT. This was greeted with applause. Professor John Pearn asked about the B. C. Cohen history lectures, which used to be an annual event in WA. Dr. Khangure advised him that the lectures had not been held for some years because of lack of interest.

A question was asked about the state floral emblem stained glass windows, most of which were in storage. Dr. Howie-Willis advised that they would return to the new St John House but a decision on how to display them was not finalised yet. He also told the members that the windows were valued at \$50000.00 and were quite valuable as were the portraits of Chancellors and Priory regalia.

Other Business: There were 6 items raised: -

- The Secretary, Mr. James Cheshire advised that next year's Historical Society's meeting would be in Perth in August and would be held concurrently with the WA annual state conference. A short Chapter meeting would be held in May in Canberra. Mr. Bruce Caslake queried the dates and was advised August 21st -24th.
- Ms. Beth Dawson made a special presentation to the Priory Librarian – a book which had been given to her when she was manager of the Queensland team at a cadet camp in New Zealand. In accepting the book, Professor Pearn commented that there was much information on the Internet but special items like this could only be found in heritage collections. Applause from the members.
- Mr. Bruce Caslake advised that there were still 11 places left on the 2014 history tour from May10th –June 2nd. M. Allan Bromwich asked for some details, which were given. The cost of the tour is \$8500.00 with a deposit of \$2500.00 required.
- Ms. Dawson requested advice re a list of names on Priory letterhead.
- Mr. Frank Dunstan donated a copy of his book to the Priory library. Professor Pearn accepted it with thanks. Applause from the members.
- Mr. Trevor Mayhew described some medal donations given to him by his family, which would form the basis of a paper on medals. He also advised that he had donated a ceremonial sword to NSW. It is a replica of a Crusader broad sword.

Closing Comments: The president, Dr. Mawdsley thanked everyone for attending. He said it had been a joyful meeting with a great variety of papers.

The meeting closed at 2-15pm.

Edith Khangure
Deputy Secretary