

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia** held at the Perth Conference Centre, Western Australia, August 21st 2014.

**Opening & Welcome:** The President, Dr. Allan Mawdsley, declared the meeting open at 3-34p.m. and welcomed all who were present.

**Attendance & Apologies:** Dr. Mawdsley requested that the attendance and apologies registers be completed. Only 30 people signed the register although others were present. A further 10 names were recorded on the apologies register and a list of 18 additional names from Queensland sent to the editor, Dr. Ian Howie-Willis and forwarded to Mr. James Cheshire, the Secretary, were noted.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** Dr. Mawdsley advised that the Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> AGM had been circulated to members in a Convention Kit prior to the meeting. Mr. Kevin Young 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 commenced his report saying that it was a great privilege to address the members. He noted that it was the end of the triennium but he was still happy to be carrying the flag for heritage issues.

-It had been an interesting seminar and thanks were due for all the preparations beforehand as well as the papers. Thanks were also due to everyone involved in promoting the event. The committee had been a very active group. Dr. Mawdsley then commented on specific aspects of his report.

- Firstly his belief that the sum of local histories could lead to a national history. Although this objective had not been fully met there had been progress.

-Progress was also being made with Honour Rolls.

-There were developments in displays e.g. South Australia and the Priory Headquarters with collaboration from New South Wales.

-The centralised database and electronic distribution of 'Pro Utilitate'.

Dr. Mawdsley concluded that the Society was stronger because of these developments.

Applause.

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

**Treasurer's annual report, discussion & adoption:** Mr. Gary Harris presented the Society's Financial Reports. He drew attention to a number of items:

- It had been a good year for the Society's finances finishing with a credit balance of \$13994-78. This was to a large extent because of subsidies from the National Office and the sale of merchandise.

-He had been looking at more options of paying subscriptions including payment by Credit Card but this was not viable.

-Mr. Harris thanked Jennifer from the National Office for her assistance with auditing the Society's accounts and Gabby Lluede for producing volume 13 of 'St John History'.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions. There being no questions, Mr. Harris asked that his 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 little further to add to his report as previously circulated. His comments related to the quarterly newsletter, the annual proceedings and the website.

- One discussion last year was whether there were any plans to have the newsletters etc. distributed in an electronic form. Dr. Howie-Willis advised that the standard current arrangement now in place was for electronic distribution unless members specifically ask for hard copy.

-Instructions as to how to access the History section on the website were in his report. The Society cannot have its own website – it is not warranted and everything re SJAA is available on the national site.

-It is planned for the index of the annual journal to be included every 5 years. Dr. Howie-Willis asked if there were any questions and, there being none, moved that the Editor's Report be accepted. It was seconded by Mr. Vince Little and accepted unanimously.

### **Election of Office Holders**

Prof. John Pearn took the chair and advised that no one had applied for any position except the current office holders who would now continue for the next 3 years. Prof. Pearn thanked the current office bearers.

Applause.

**Reports from states & territories:** Dr. Mawdsley advised that all reports had been tabled in the pre-conference package and would be taken as read. Only supplementary information and questions were now required.

-The ACT and Priory representative, Dr. Howie-Willis stated that the ACT was in recession and not likely to be reactivated. Priory had changed locations having been at the Realm since 2009. The Priory owns the new building with tenants on the upper floor. Whilst there is not enough room for larger museum items it is considered 'appropriate' for a small scale museum i.e. it is better for grass roots people to see a modest display and not something large and ostentatious. When the tenant's leases are due for renewal the space issue will be reconsidered.

Meanwhile the Ashford Litter, Cohen table and chairs and oil paintings are in storage. Dr. Howie-Willis had asked Mrs. Stirton how she rated the display and was told 12/10! Mrs. Stirton said that this rating excluded the signage but the new bookshelves and display of Australian literature were especially good. There were no questions and the report was acknowledged with applause.

- NSW's representative, Mrs. Betty Stirton commented on a donation of 10 texts from 1 family who had been clearing out. The books included the names of all the users. When Betty and Loredana checked the records they discovered that the grandparents met at a first aid course and they were able to give the family all of

the details. Another issue of note was that an item on keeping records was now on the website. Mrs. Stirton reiterated that they encourage everyone to send in all documents etc. and they will decide on their future. The message was 'Save, Save, Save'. Applause. There were no questions.

- South Australia's representative, Dr. Brian Fotheringham advised that their Roll of Members was almost complete. They had also been in the new museum for 12 months and had recently been recognised by Museums South Australia. They had 500 visitors during the year and the Heritage group had given some 2000 hours of voluntary work. One of their members, Mr. Cliff Wright received an OAM. Dr Fotheringham raised the question that when SJA Operations Branch members retire are they still members of St John? This very topical issue was greeted with applause. Mrs. Stirton said that NSW had a retired members group and she emails them all the news.

- Western Australia's representative, Dr. Edith Khangure advised that the Roll of Honour work was ongoing and all routine work would resume after the National Members Meeting. Mr. Trevor Mayhew thanked her for the information sent re Mr. Manford and Dr. Cato.

- Tasmania, The Northern Territory, Victoria and Queensland had no representatives to report on their situations in person.

### **Other Business:**

-Gary Harris raised an issue re approaching Gabby Luede for extra copies of the St John History journal. Dr. Fotheringham suggested getting copies from Society members but Dr. Mawdsley felt that members wanted to keep them. Dr. Oxer expressed his gratitude for Ian Howie-Willis's high standard of the publication. His comment was greeted with applause. Dr. Fahey asked Ian Howie-Willis about standard referencing of papers. In reply Dr. Howie-Wills said it was a lot of work for a publication which was not a refereed journal. He was satisfied that the format was the same and from his personal past experience when offering guidelines people may or may not use them. Mr. Vince Little said he found it helpful to use 'End Note' – it was a lifetime assistant.

- Dr. Mawdsley moved on to the issue of abstracts being submitted for the next seminar. Dr. Howie-Willis commented that following up on abstracts has been difficult in the past but he perseveres. A number of suggested topics were then proposed – Trevor Mayhew on NSW Commissioners; Dr. Mawdsley on Dr. John Springthorne; Prof. John Pearn on the Good Samaritan in stained glass; Vince Little on behalf of his wife re the architecture of the Order and 2 options for himself; Dr. Howie-Willis suggested Samuel Knaggs teaching the first aid class in 1881, Railway men in Sydney or the first Australian Commissioner. As time was pressing Dr. Howie-Willis terminated the discussion and deferred final choices until everyone submitted their abstracts which would be evaluated by the Society's prescribed process.

-Dr. Mawdsley gave the floor to Mr. Cheshire who advised everyone that Trevor Mayhew had spare DVDs of his presentation still available and reminded the members of the evening timetable and that registration for tomorrow's program was required.

**Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting would be in Brisbane from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May but the exact timetable for the History Seminar was not yet known.

**Closing Comments:** The president, Dr. Mawdsley, thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 4-19pm. Applause.

**Addendum:**

After the AGM, a number of the executive committee and general members held an informal meeting. Future possibilities and avenues for the society to consider were discussed and a decision was made to coopt a further 3 general members onto the Society's committee with specific areas of interest. These were Dr. David Fahey (NSW) as Vice President, Mr. Bruce Caslake (VIC) responsible for tours, and Mr. Tim Wieland (QLD) as deputy editor.

This decision was subsequently ratified by the executive committee.

Dr. Edith Khangure  
Deputy Secretary