

14th Annual General Meeting of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia held at the Royal on the Park Hotel & Conference Centre, Brisbane, May 1st 2015.

Opening & Welcome: The President, Dr. Allan Mawdsley, declared the meeting open at 3-31p.m. and welcomed all who were present to the SJAHSA AGM for 2015 which completed an eventful year.

Attendance & Apologies: Dr. Mawdsley offered apologies from Mr. Garry Harris who was attending a rehearsal for the formal events on Sunday, and requested that the attendance and apologies registers being circulated be completed. The attendance sheet was signed by 27 people and 19 names were recorded on the apologies register.

Minutes of the last meeting: Dr. Mawdsley advised that the Minutes of the 13th AGM, recorded by Dr. Edith Khangure, had been circulated to members in a Convention Kit prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM: Dr. Mawdsley asked if there were any matters arising. There were none and Dr. Mawdsley moved that the minutes be accepted. Mr. Trevor Mayhew seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

President's annual report, discussion & adoption: Dr. Mawdsley commenced his report with a review of the objectives of his first triennium. He did not want to be repetitive but the Society was more than just papers and publications. It was about the engagement of the membership to preserve and promote heritage. -His desire for every state & territory to have an active group with at least 1 AGM was partially complete.

-Secondly, progress was also being made with Honour Rolls – if you know who your important people are, you are half way to preserving heritage. The sum of local histories leads to a national history. It was very pleasing to him to note that in Victoria, archival work, research & presentations at quarterly meetings were booked up to a year ahead. This promotes encouragement and the process was being picked up in other states. His own paper on Dr. Springthorpe at today's seminar arose out of his research revealing a wonderful history of what people did. Another example was the paper on Sir Hugh Poate.

-There was considerable activity in other states e.g. the Roll of Honour was being pursued in Victoria, South Australia & Western Australia.

- For the first time a face to face full meeting of the executive committee took place on the evening before the seminar. A number of procedural issues were discussed.

-More activity in email communication during the year which improved administration.

- 'Pro Utilitate' was working well. Its quality was impressive & international developments were on the horizon.

- Dr. Mawdsley concluded that, in his opinion, the Society was alive and well and getting stronger because of these developments. He thanked everyone for their great work.

Applause.

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

Treasurer's annual report, discussion & adoption: In the absence of Mr. Gary Harris, Dr. Mawdsley 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 approximately \$14000.00. There was a book loss of \$545.04.

- Committee discussed a new format for the financial report to have assets i.e. plaques, ties, scarves, pins which generate income to be included.

- The report thanked Mrs. Jennifer Fayers from the National Office for assistance with the Society's accounts and Gabby Lluede for producing volume 14 of 'St John History'. It was noted that the National Office paid for half the cost of the annual journal and all of 'Pro Utilitate' which was more than the annual subscription. If a future National Office was not as generous the subscriptions would have to be reconsidered.

- The Treasurer asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Ian Howie-Willis presented a comment from Dr. David Fahey regarding voluntary annual donations & suggesting that if anyone wanted to show their gratitude they could make a donation. We ought to invite members to make such donations.

On behalf of Mr. Harris, the President asked that the Treasurer's report be accepted and, the motion being seconded by Mr. Vince Little, was carried.

Publications: journal, quarterly newsletter & website: Dr. Ian Howie-Willis apologised for some members not receiving the annual journal & conference pack & explained the Australia Post issue which was responsible for this. He then advised that the publications report would be presented in 2 parts by himself & Prof. John Pearn.

- Part 1 - His comments related to the quarterly newsletter, the annual proceedings and the website.

- 'Pro Utilitate' was produced 4 times per annum & the journal once a year.

- Every journal was now on the SJAA website & was being read around the world.

- The website was being used more & more as we are catching up with technology.

- Part 2 – Prof. Pearn recounted that approximately 12 months ago Australia was asked to take the lead on history & heritage. The Lord Prior had approached Ian & John for ideas for an international historical society. Ian & John suggested an international society on-line journal to promote international friendship & collegiality. They made a submission to the Lord Prior who accepted their proposition gratefully & also subsequently advised that the Grand Council received their proposal enthusiastically.

- Dr. Howie-Willis has completed the draft of Volume 1 using a selection of papers with international relevance. He has enough material now for 3 volumes & 1 or 2 issues per annum are planned. Ms. Gabby Lluedhe has designed the journal.

- 'One St John' will not compete with our own publication. The papers have to have international appeal – not local ones.

- The journal will be wholly on-line on the St John International website and will be cost neutral.

- The journal will be launched on the 23rd of May 2015 at the Grand Council meeting in Edinburgh by HRH, the Duke of Gloucester. A printed copy will be presented to him & he will then press a button to release it worldwide.

- The articles have been 'borrowed' & the publication will be made up of an - Introduction – 'A message from the Lord Prior'/Neil Conn

Editorial – 'A new journal of history'/Ian Howie-Willis & John Pearn

'The Most Venerable Order of St John: from Languet to Order'/Tony Mellows

'The Museum of the Order at St John's Gate'/ Gary Maydon

'A sight for sore eyes: the St John Eye Hospital of Jerusalem'/Philip Hardaker

'Surgeon-Major Peter Shepherd and his 'Little Black Book''/John Pearn & Ian Howie-Willis

'The SJAB in the South African War, 1899-1902'/Trevor Mayhew

'Friedrich von Esmarch : His contributions to pre-hospital care and airways management'/ David Fahey

'The Priory of the USA: its first 58 years'/Ruth Ann Skaff

'The first half century of St John in Papua New Guinea'/John Waingut

- Once the journal is established, the Australian editors will surrender the job to a committee of Priory Librarians which will take on future responsibility.

The President asked for questions.

Mr. Trevor Mahew asked for the address of the on-line journal & was advised that it would be launched on 2 websites – SJA Australia & SJA International.

There being no further questions, Dr. Howie-Willis moved that the Publication's Report be accepted. It was seconded by Dr. Ozer and carried unanimously.

Dr. Ozer then commented that the Society owed Ian and John a great debt of gratitude. Dr. Mawdsley described them as leaders in the field of St John history.

Dr Howie-Willis responded with thanks but said it was not a huge job – all they did was to put a list together & gave it to Gabby Lloedhe. – One week's work done by Society members. It is intended that it will pull in historians from all Priories & Commanderies where much historical work is being done but who have no vehicle for publishing as we do. It is the first time in 127 years that Australia is leading the world in preserving, maintaining & promoting history.

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. Each state/territory representative could however elaborate or add new information.

- **NSW** – Ms. Loredana Napoli has resigned as Historical Society contact person & replaced by Mrs. Betty Stirton. Mr. Trevor Mayhew had nothing else to add to the NSW report.

- **Victoria** – Mrs. Shirley Moon had no additional comments.

- **Queensland** - Ms Beth Dawson advised that they were continuing with their usual meetings & working bees. They had received an interesting donation of medals belonging to a South African member which they are trying to return to SA. These were being researched.

- The biggest problem for the heritage group was lack of space. They had tried unsuccessfully to have access to other rooms but the SJA Division using the rooms only once a week had denied the request. Ms. Dawson felt that this was quite unfair.
- The heritage group continue to assist with material for KOTO & the Grand Prior's award. The Roll of Honour is ongoing.
- They have just embarked on cataloguing the collection using the MOSAIC database.
- Ms. Dawson advised that she had just relinquished the Chair of the Queensland History & Heritage committee & Mrs. Gloria Fairfax was the new incumbent. Mrs. Fairfax was unable to attend owing to ill health. Ms. Dawson remains on the committee & a new member has joined – Mr. Tim Wieland.
- Dr. Howie-Willis moved an expressed of appreciation for Beth's 15 years of service to the SJAHSA & congratulated her. Seconded by Mrs. Anne Demaine & unanimously acclaimed with applause.
- Mr. Trevor Mayhew offered to assist with the SA medal ribbon and Dr. Allan Mawdsley thanked him.
- **South Australia**- Dr Brian Fotheringham commented that their CEO had resigned & he was saddened as he had been a great support. It was very important to have backing in State Office.
- The present museum is in a house in Unley & the lease has been extended for a further 3 years.
- They have now registered with History South Australia & received a grant of \$10000.00 which will be used to produce a series of 2-sided panels promoting SJA generally.
- A professional valuation of the collection was made & the contents are assessed at \$200,000.
- Some members have died & are missed.
- A 3 year plan has been prepared with short, medium & long term goals. The plan could be adopted nationally & is now to go to the SA Board for their approval.
- **Western Australia** – Dr. Edith Khangure advised that Mr. Kevin Young had retired from the WA Commandery Ceremonial & Heritage group as he has relocated to Esperance. His diligence & work ethic will be missed. There was nothing else to add to the report.
- **Tasmania** – No one was present.
- **Northern Territory** – Ms. Dawn Batt was not present but Mr. Mark Ferguson, the new Commissioner spoke. He commented on his interest in history. He advised that Mr. Frank Dunstan is working on an electronic version of 'Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs', Dawn is working on 'Commissioners of the NT' & another project on 'Women in St John in the NT' – is underway.
- **ACT & Priory** – Dr. Howie-Willis noted that Tim Wieland has joined the Committee as deputy editor – taking on the drudgery of the editorial role. He has been terrific as a back up support in the editorial relationship. There were 2 items of note.
- First, the official opening in February of the new Priory building. There is a shortage of space & no large items are on display. Consequently Victoria has asked for their Ashford litter to be returned.

- Second, a tip off alerted him to the sale of Sir Hugh Poate's medals at an on-line auction. The reserve price was \$500 with a minimum of \$300. He was successful with a bid of \$400. It was a very scary situation with other lots exceeding their reserve prices!

Applause.

Other Business:

Dr. Mawdsley asked for any other items.

- Mr. Bruce Caslake provided details of the next Historical tour in May 2017.

There is a maximum of 40 places & 20 have been taken.

- Dr. Howie-Willis asked all who had made wall posters to email the details to him so that he could include a synopsis in next year's journal.

- Mr. Mahew encouraged everyone to take a copy of his paper on Commissioners.

Date of next meeting:

There are no details available as yet.

Closing Comments: The president, Dr. Mawdsley, thanked everyone for their attendance & gave the times for the buses for the evening function. He offered best wishes to everyone for the coming year & and closed the meeting at 4-29pm. Applause.

Dr. Edith Khangure
Deputy Secretary