

15th Annual General Meeting of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia held at the Rydges Hotel, 1 South Terrace, Adelaide, Friday May 13th 2016.

Opening & Welcome: The President, Dr. Allan Mawdsley, declared the meeting open at 3-35p.m. and welcomed all present to the SJAHSA AGM for 2016. He stressed the need to be efficient & timely as the room was needed by 4-30pm.

Attendance & Apologies: Dr. Mawdsley requested that the attendance and apologies registers being circulated be completed. The attendance sheet was signed by 29 people, and 25 names were recorded on the apologies register.

Minutes of the last meeting: Dr. Mawdsley advised that the Minutes of the 14th AGM, had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM: Dr. Mawdsley asked if there were any matters arising. There were none. Mr. Trevor Mayhew moved that they be accepted & Mr. Robert Devere seconded the motion. Approved by show of hands without dissent.

President's annual report, discussion & adoption: Dr. Mawdsley advised that as his report had already been published in *Pro Utilitate* it would be taken as read. He added a number of other points:

- The Historical Society's Executive had also held a Committee meeting to discuss the future of the Society & make a number of planning decisions.
- Current Committee members had triennial appointments which would expire in 2017 when elections would be held. With this in mind he had asked all Committee members to develop position statements, including any criteria for the roles, to be published in *Pro Utilitate* beforehand.
- Details of the budget with estimations of income & expenditure would be given in the Treasurer's report.
- The Society will continue with quarterly issues of *Pro Utilitate* & the Annual Proceedings. Another significant publication was *All In Order: the very best of St John history* which was compiled & edited by James Cheshire as a fund raising project for the Society. The book had been launched during the seminar & the President urged everyone to buy & give away as many as possible. There were no current plans for any other publications until we see how well this book sells. The President expressed the Society's gratitude to James for his project. Applause.

The President asked if there were any questions regarding the work of the Committee. There being none, Prof. John Pearn moved that the President's report be accepted. Dr. Ian Howie-Willis seconded it and affirmation was unanimous.

Treasurer's annual report, discussion & adoption: In the absence of Mr. Gary Harris who was ill & although making good progress was not able to attend, Dr. Mawdsley presented the Society's Financial Report. Full details would be published in *Pro Utilitate* but the major points were:

- The Society has assets of c \$19,000.00 & no liabilities. The income for the current year was anticipated to be c \$6500.00 & expenditure c \$2500.00. These figures excluded the \$4284.00 publishing costs of *All In Order*.
- The surplus was based on the support of the Priory Office for subsidising the publication's costs & postage. Without this support the actual cost of membership would be \$55.00 to \$60.00 per annum. Because of this support however the current lower level of subscriptions would continue.
- The President asked if there were any questions. There were none & on behalf of Mr. Harris, the President asked that the Treasurer's report be accepted. The motion being seconded by Mrs. Betty Stirton, was carried.

Publications: journal, quarterly newsletter & website: Dr. Ian Howie-Willis prefaced his report with some comments on the various T-Shirts from the Priory History Collection he had on offer. The T- Shirts had been largely donated by Dr. Neil Conn during his travels as Lord Prior. However there was no space to display them. Attempts to sell the T-Shirts at \$10.00 each had not been successful & they were now free to good homes. He noted that Mr. John Seen from Singapore was taking one.

- The quarterly newsletter & annual journal continue & are great value. The postage alone exceeds member's subscriptions.
- There were postcards advertising the online journal available to all present. They made good bookmarks & Mrs. Lyn Dansie had additional copies if required.
- The first edition of the on-line journal, as reported by Dr. Ian Howie-Willis & Prof. John Pearn in Brisbane, had been published. Whilst 2 editions per annum had been initially anticipated, the second edition had been deferred until June 2016. The delay for this was outlined in the pre seminar edition of *Pro Utilitate*.
- Although the journal is wholly on-line on the St John International website some difficulties have been reported in accessing the journal which has led to increasing pressure for the Society to have a better & higher profile via its own dedicated website. The issue was discussed at the executive meeting & the special problems with websites in terms of maintenance. We do not have the required expertise &, because the National Office is already providing their website for our use, a separate one would not be considered at the present time. There being no questions, Dr. Mawdsley thanked Dr. Howie-Willis & Mr. James Cheshire moved that the Editor's Report be accepted. It was seconded by Mrs. Lyn Dansie and carried unanimously.

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** – Mrs. Betty Stirton advised that NSW did not have a committee but that she was still doing research & other work, keeping all records up to date & using them as in her preparation for the Sir Hugh Poate presentation. She continues to work 3 days a week at the Archives & does work at home. Dr. Mawdsley invited questions but there were none.
- **Victoria** – Mr. Mike Sellar advised that their St John Museum at Williamstown was open to the public on Thursdays & Sundays. Group visits were available by appointment on Tuesdays. They have several computer programs & intend to computerise their whole collection. At the moment they are very busy digitising

all the records of members since 1910. They anticipate up to a half a million records & have completed 18,000. The President invited questions but there were none & he thanked Mr. Sellar.

- **Queensland** – Mrs. Gloria Fairfax advised that she had little to add to her report & the group were continuing with their usual meetings & working bees. The organisation has a new General Manager but to date he has not attended any of their regular meetings. After asking for questions Dr. Mawdsley thanked her.

- **South Australia**- Dr. Brian Fotheringham opened his report with special thanks to their Secretary, Lyn Dansie, their Treasurer David Heard & the other SA Historical Society members who had helped with the seminar. He briefly noted their work this year including the Em-Care ambulance vehicle restoration project, producing a series of 2-sided panels promoting SJA in SA generally, introduction of the MOSAIC Catalogue & the purchase of a medal cabinet. The Register of SA members of the Order stands at 1042. Over 500 people have visited the Museum this year. As there were no questions the President thanked Dr. Fotheringham.

- **Western Australia** – Dr. Edith Khangure advised that there was nothing else to add to the report excepting to again note the invaluable work of the Museum Volunteers. There were no questions.

-**Tasmania** – No one was present.

-**Northern Territory** – Mr. Mark Ferguson noted the deaths of Drs. Allan Bromwich & Stephen Baddeley. He advised that Mr. Frank Dunstan's electronic version of *Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs* has been completed. He also noted the administrative problems they were having in paying membership fees. There were no questions & the President thanked Mr. Ferguson.

- **ACT & Priory** – Dr. Howie-Willis had nothing to add to his report but described a little of Prof. John Pearn's role in the organisation. As Priory Librarian, his portfolio responsibility is to head Program 9 which relates to History & Heritage. He is a very eminent presenter & represents us at important meetings. Applause. In reply, Prof. Pearn said Ian had overstated his contributions but thanked him. He then commented on the quality of the publications Ian produces which was also greeted with applause. Ian appealed to everyone to keep sending the jokes & how popular they are. One avid fan is Marion Greyden (NT) who is wheelchair bound in permanent care. Marion reads the jokes to the other patients who all approve. Ian thanked David Hearn who sends hundreds of jokes to him. Dr. Howie-Willis expressed his gratitude to Mr. Peter Le Cornu for his assistance & also thanked the new Priory Secretary, Mr. Robert Hunt who is very supportive of the Society. There were no questions & Dr. Mawdsley thanked Dr. Howie-Willis .

Other Business:

Dr. Mawdsley asked for any other items.

Lyn Dansie commented on seeing a display of medals of the Order during her visit to Priory & asked Ian Howie-Willis if there was a photograph of them. He said he would investigate & publish his findings in *Pro Utilitate*.

Ian then welcomed Mr. John Seen, the CEO of St John, Singapore & an international member of the Society to the meeting. Mr. Seen said he was

overwhelmed by today's seminar & it was a great impetus for Singapore with their heritage of 130 years. He expressed heartfelt appreciation for Australia's encouragement. As CEO he said it was his responsibility to help each & every member & in the last 11 months he had really enjoyed support from & conversations with Ian which had resulted in him being here sharing with us. He thanked Ian from the bottom of his heart. Applause.

Dr. Mawdsley then asked Dr. Howie-Willis to announce & present some Honorary Life Memberships. Ian briefly explained the Society's history of life memberships. There had only been 6 to date, acknowledging donations & service such as Mark Compton & the KOTO awards. None had been awarded for the last 5 years but today 3 people would become the 7th, 8th & 9th recipients in recognition of their support for the Society from 1999, work on the first constitution & state representation. He invited Beth Dawson, Edith Khangure & Betty Stirton to join him & having received 3 framed certificates from the Secretary, James Cheshire, presented them. Photographs were taken & applause received from the members.

Date of next meeting:

There are no details available as yet.

Closing Comments: The President, Dr. Mawdsley, thanked everyone for their attendance. He offered best wishes to everyone for the coming year & and closed the meeting at 4-17pm. Applause.

Dr. Edith Khangure
Deputy Secretary