

## **Draft Minutes SJAHSA 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held online, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

by Dr Edith Khangure (Deputy Secretary)

### **Opening and Welcome**

The meeting was opened by the Society's President, Dr David Fahey at 8-00pm AEST. He welcomed everyone to another Zoom meeting and commented on the advantages such as making it possible for more members to participate and convenience, and disadvantages because of COVID restrictions.

### **Attendance and Apologies**

Attendance – D Fahey (NSW), A Marshall (VIC), A Mawdsley (VIC), R Devere (QLD), B Fotheringham (SA), D Heard (SA), D Bache (VIC), E Khangure (WA), F Dunstan (NT), J Cheshire (VIC), J Pearn (QLD), M Knight (NSW), M Little (NSW), M Elm (QLD), M Glozier (NSW), M Connelly (VIC), N Dine (VIC), P Copeland (VIC), P Burke (VIC), S Green, T Skilton (NZ), T Mayhew (NSW), T Andrews (QLD), K Miller (NSW), S Pearce (VIC).

Apologies – D Sturkey (ACT), F MacNeil (NSW), H Delaney (NSW), I Howie-Willis (ACT), J Mc Ewan (VIC), K Dansie (SA), L Dansie (SA), M Andrews (QLD), V Dempsey (ACT),

### **Confirmation of Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The draft minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia held by a ZOOM meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020, and as previously circulated, were accepted.

Moved D Fahey, Seconded T Mayhew – carried

### **Matters arising from the minutes of last AGM**

There were no matters arising

### **President's annual report, discussion and adoption**

The President welcomed Dr Matthew Glozier as the new Priory Librarian succeeding Prof John Pearn. He noted that Dr Glozier would be working as a team re historical matters with his two predecessors.

Dr Fahey welcomed Mr Todd Skilton, the Order Librarian, to the meeting.

He also gratefully noted that Dr Elizabeth Ellis had taken over as editor of Pro Utilitate, succeeding Dr Ian Howie-Willis, and was bringing a new flair and style to the publication.

The society's annual journal was delayed-again by COVID factors- but the ZOOM presentations of both 2020 and 2021 could be published together. The *Beacon of Hope* was expected to be finalised soon.

A highlight of the year was the work of Dr Allan Mawdsley re the restoration of Dr Neild's grave in Victoria. This and other highlights would be seen in the reports to come.

Moved B Fotheringham, Seconded A Marshall – carried

### **Treasurer and membership annual report, discussion and adoption**

Mr Paul Copeland presented the Treasurer's report. His highlights included the fact that the accounts for both 2019 and 2020 had been audited by Amanda Power, the finance manager

for St John Ambulance Australia and found to be in good shape. He thanked the national office for their support.

Dr Fahey shared a note from the finance manager which outlined discussions with both the treasurer and Mr Bob Devere, the membership secretary, re the difficulties with the society's bank account. We do not currently have an on-line account. If we did, it would simplify the treasurer's job, especially allowing him to see who was paying their membership dues. This type of account requires a number of signatures for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Canberra to establish. Again, because of COVID restrictions, this is not yet possible.

Dr Mawdsley, supported by Mr Neil Dine, commented on the Society's Term Deposits and their poor rate of interest. He suggested an Exchange Traded Fund. Mr Copeland was unaware of this option and Dr Mawdsley suggested asking our financial manager for advice. Dr Fahey raised the possibility of diversifying our investments and suggested asking Amanda Power what possibilities might be better than term deposits. There were no questions.

Moved P Copeland, Seconded A Mayhew- carried

### **Publications: journal, quarterly newsletter, website on-line international journal**

Dr Glozier presented this report in the absence of Dr Howie-Willis.

Two items for publication are with Gabby Lheude - *One St John*, Volume 7, and, *A Beacon of Hope* which is the priority. *One St John*, Volume 7, requires more time for the contributors to proof read their presentations. He will take the suggestion of 2019 and 2020 seminar papers as a joint publication to Ms Lheude who will give deadlines for the various publications early next year. Dr Fahey commented that combining the two years of the journal would also be cost effective.

The launch of *A Beacon of Hope* will be in London in June 2022. Dr Glozier will be present along with Prof Pearn and, hopefully, Dr Howie-Willis. There will be an Australian launch later but no details are available as yet. Dr Fahey thanked Dr Glozier for the report.

Moved M Glozier, Seconded D Fahey – carried

### **The Neild Grave Restoration**

Dr Fahey invited Dr Mawdsley to describe the project.

Dr Mawdsley shared his screen to show the members what the grave looked like in 2007 when he first presented a paper to the society on Dr Neild. The grave was dilapidated and in need of a more fitting memorial. He raised the issue with Stephen Horton, CEO at Victoria HQ who agreed to him establishing an appeal and committed \$10,000-00 as a starting point. The first provisional estimate for a traditional design replacement was \$25,000-00. Dr Mawdsley then wrote to 11 organisations for funding with very limited results. He subsequently approached Gordon Botwright, Victoria's new CEO, who took the issue to a CEO meeting and received a number of promised donations. However, because of the global financial crisis, little eventuated except for a donation from Priory. Mr Botwright then authorised him to organise a crowdfunding appeal. A total of \$21,000-00 was eventually raised from four organisations and individual donors, and a waiver from the Cemeteries Trust of \$2,500-00. In the mean-time a second non- traditional design with a quote of \$20,000-00 had been secured and was accepted.

Dr Mawdsley then showed an image and described the new grave – it is a double grave for the Neild's and their children. Some shrubs have been planted around the restored grave which will be officially unveiled on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Dr Fahey congratulated Dr Mawdsley on his tenacity in seeing the project through and Mr Cheshire proposed a vote of thanks.

Dr Mawdsley added another detail in that a QR Code has been mounted on the edge of the headstone which gives a biography of Dr Neild if accessed.

Prof Pearn commented that Dr Neild has a plant named after him - the Moondurup Bell, *Darwinia neildiana* and suggested that, if possible, a pot of it could be placed at the gravesite for the unveiling ceremony. Dr Mawdsley expressed interest in this possibility.

**Reports from States/Territories: reports to be tabled for noting; highlights only to be commented upon and all accepted at the end.**

Dr Fahey introduced the state/territory reports beginning with New South Wales.

- **New South Wales**

Highlights of Dr Glozier's report included confirmation of their Archives moving back into a new purpose-built facility at their Burswood HQ; that a museum space has been created; and that a modest history wall is in place at the Training Centre in the city.

Dr Fahey thanked him for his report.

**Victoria**

Dr Mawdsley advised that they had managed two meetings out of a possible four this year – Ms Shirley Moon's paper on *VADs who died in the Great War* was given in April, and Mr Bruce Caslake's paper on *Cyprus and the taking of Rhodes* in July.

Donations continue. There is an ongoing effort to explain the Archives as an historical repository and the relevance of their Museum and Archives.

Dr Fahey thanked Dr Mawdsley for his report.

**Queensland**

Mr Bob Devere highlighted that they were having monthly committee meetings and that they were a very dedicated group of volunteers. Dr Fahey commented on their good progress since last year.

**South Australia**

Dr Fotheringham's report's highlights included moving their Museum to Brighton which was quite a distance from the Adelaide CBD. Since the move and COVID's influence they have had only 112 visitors - about a sixth of their usual number, but their 26 volunteers gave some 3000 hours of service. Their prized motor cycle with side car will now be available for display and public events. They have joined with the Angaston and Penrice Historical Society for a joint venture re cadet camps and are currently sourcing finance for this.

Dr Fahey thanked him for the report.

**Tasmania**

There was no report available.

**Northern Territory**

Mr Frank Dunstan had no comments to add to the written report.

Dr Fahey thanked him for the report.

**Australian Capital Territory & the Priory**

Dr Glozier presented the report for the ACT and the Priory. He acknowledged the work of Prof Pearn, his predecessor as Priory Librarian, and his invitation to view the

Priory collection. Prof Pearn thanked him for his gracious words and advised that both he and Dr Howie-Willis would continue their support.  
Dr Fahey requested that all reports be accepted.

Moved D Fahey, Seconded A Mawdsley - carried

### **Other**

Mr Neil Dine raised the issue of a paid part time archivist for the Priory collection as part of succession planning. It is being looked at in Victoria. Dr Fahey noted that such an important collection needs help and that Dr Glozier appreciates its value. A collections report is needed as the first stage. With a professional assessment this might provide some leverage for a paid archivist. Dr Glozier stated that he needed to know more about the Priory and that a part time archivist was an interesting notion. There has never been a paid archivist nationally before. There would also be considerations of trust and security as well as the role of dedicated volunteers. Dr Fahey asked Mr Dine to let the society know of Victoria's progress. Dr Glozier asked for clarification – archivist or manager or both? There was long term value in the idea for advocacy and NSW had benefitted from having two trained archivists.

Dr Fahey asked for any other comments. Mr Devere supported the idea of a national archivist which would be good value. He queried the point of everyone collecting the same things – would one central body would be better? Dr Fahey hoped that progress with digitisation and electronic access would help in this area.

Mr Cheshire raised the issue of the society's constitution which is now 15 years old, having last been reviewed in 2007. Many things have changed such as ZOOM meetings and the executive need to look at this.

Moved D Fahey, Seconded B Fotheringham - carried

### **Closing comments and Meeting Close**

Having thanked one and all for their presence and contributions, Dr Fahey wished everyone a Happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 9-00pm AEST.