



St John

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**21st Annual General Meeting of
The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia**

Held on line on Tuesday 13 September 2022

1. Opening and Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Society's President David Fahey at 8.00pm AEST. David welcomed everyone to another Zoom meeting and he commented on the advantages such as making it possible for more members to participate and convenience as well as giving us additional time on the day of our seminar.

2. Tribute to the Late Sovereign Head of the Order

The Society's President at the start of our gathering paid tribute to the Late Sovereign Head of the Order HM Queen Elizabeth II. Reflections were made in relation to The Queen's great support and connection to the Order and its works as well as the fact that she was the first recipient of the Ultra Long Service Medal of the Order presented by the Lord Prior Prof Mark Compton at Buckingham Palace, London on 11 March 2020 with three gilt clasps. David expressed and acknowledge our collective and deep condolences and our loyalty to our new Sovereign Head, HM King Charles III.

3. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance - D Fahey (National President), T Skilton (Order Librarian), M Glozier (Priory Librarian), J Cheshire (National Secretary), R Devere (Membership Officer), E Ellis (Editor), M Andrews (Qld), T Andrews (Qld), B Counce (WA), D Cochrane (Vic), L Dansie (SA), N Dine (Vic), F Dunstan (NT), W Foley (Vic), D Heard (WA), I Howie-Willis (ACT), M Jacobson (Tas), M Little (NSW), F Macneill (SA), P McMurtrie (Qld), T Mayhew (NSW), K Miller (NSW), S Pearce (Vic), J Pearn (Qld), J Ward (NSW), R White (ACT), R Wilson (Vic).

Apologies - C Oxley (Chancellor), P Copeland (Treasurer), E Khangure (Deputy Secretary), K Brown (TAS), H Cockman (ACT), K Dansie (SA), V Dempsey (ACT), S Finlay (NSW), P Gwilliam (UK), V Little (QLD), G Lhuede (ACT), J McEwan (Vic), A Mawdsley (Vic), H Oxe (WA), D Rice (ACT), J Rosenfeld (Vic), R Southby (USA), P Warfe (ACT), N Warne (WA).

4. Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting

The draft minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia held by a zoom meeting on the Thursday 25 November 2021, and as previously circulated, were accepted.

Moved J Ward, Seconded N Dine - Carried

5. Matters arising from the minutes of last AGM

There were no matters arising.

6. President's annual report

The President David Fahey commenced his report by stating how excited he is that we will be able to host a face-to-face seminar this year in Canberra. David referenced the observations of our Late Sovereign Head when The Queen stated during her COVID address that *"we will meet again"*. How true these words are particularly with our plans for November. David made mention of the incredible work done on the Eye Hospital history *Beacon of Hope*. It is a wonderful book and brings tremendous credit to the authors Ian, John and Matthew as well as Gabbi in supporting the publication. David commended the state/territory reports and stated how uplifting he found reading of the great work and achievements as groups are getting back to full activity post-COVID. David closed his remarks by thanking the members of the Society executive for their efforts and work over the past year.

7. Treasurer and Membership annual report

The Treasurer was an apology for the AGM as he is currently travelling overseas. As a result the Treasurer's report was presented by the Deputy Treasurer and Membership Officer Bob Devere. Bob tabled the audited financial report and spoke to it. Bob made particular reference to current banking and investment of funds in a term deposit which is only attracting 0.15% interest. Bob also highlighted the number of persons on the membership list who are unfinancial. Bob foreshadowed some work which might be done with local groups to encourage more active involvement from members.

David Fahey spoke of the discussions held at the recent Executive meeting whereby the need to move to an electronic banking product which will permit better and more efficient reporting on the finds of the society. It is intended with the support of the AGM that these changes be made in November when the principles connected with the current CBA account will be in Canberra and able to physically attend a branch to make the necessary changes.

Discussion ensued supporting this approach as well as endorsing the plan to move more funds into accounts to achieve a better interest rate and hold about \$5,000 in our at call account for service any invoices or costs which may present themselves. Speakers in support included Neil Dine, Elisabeth Ellis and John Warner.

MOTION - That a plan be developed to provide financial support for worthy St John history projects from the funds held by the Society.

Moved E Ellis, Seconded L Dansie - Carried

MOTION - That the Executive be authorised to make such changes to the current banking arrangements of the Society as are reasonable and appropriate to provide for electronic banking for the at call funds and selection of appropriate investment of term deposit funds.

Moved J Warne, Seconded T Mayhew - Carried

8. Publications Report

The publication report was commenced by Elizabeth Ellis. Elizabeth spoke initially of the fantastic work which achieved the publication *Beacon of Hope*. Elizabeth paid tribute to the authors as well as the support team behind them at National Office including Gabbi and Fairlie. Elizabeth referenced the impressive launches that the book had in London by the Grand Prior and in Canberra at Yarralumla by the Australian Prior. These were both significant events and appropriate to mark such a significant work.

Elizabeth moved on to discuss her unexpected enjoyment producing the Newsletter. Elizabeth spoke of it as a labour of love to produce and highlighted that it was 'your' publication. A publication for and by the membership. Elizabeth encouraged contributions and indeed described them as essential in the production of this periodical. Elizabeth is particular interest in any feedback including letters to the Editor and encouraged them on any topic including controversial subjects. Elizabeth close by saying writing is important no matter the size of the contribution.

Matthew Glozier then spoke of the preparatory work being progressed on the St John History which will cover the 2020 and 2021 seminars. All of the text is in and being typeset for the publication. Matthew particularly acknowledged the tremendous support of Gabbi in the role she plays assisting these publications. Matthew spoke of the unfortunate delay in getting St John History and the New South Wales history to print due to competing priorities for limited resources.

MOTION - That a vote of thanks of the Society be recorded for the outstanding, sustained and expert contribution made by Gabbi Lhuede to the publication work of the Society.

Moved M Glozier, Seconded E Ellis - Carried

9. Reports from States/Territories

9.1. New South Wales

The state report for New South Wales was tabled by Matthew Glozier who spoke briefly to its content.

9.2. Victoria

The state report for Victoria was tabled by Neil Dine.

9.3. Queensland

The state report for Queensland was presented by Bob Devere. Bob acknowledged the recent passing of a founding member of the Society Beth Dawson AM DStJ. A memorial service will be held locally in coming weeks at which her St John work will be recognised. Bob stated that their programme was slowing returning to a pre-COVID state. There is now a display at one of the large Queensland training venues of historical items. Work is also being done with a historical village to see what mutually beneficial activities might be progressed.

9.4. South Australia

The state report for South Australia was tabled by Brian Fotheringham who spoke briefly to its content. Brian spoke of the group also getting back to full activity post-COVID with a one of their current projects being to look at Cadet Camps. Brian highlighted the benefit that can be achieved from joining with another history group to obtain funding for projects. Brian also highlighted that this will be the last time he delivers the South Australian report as President as he will be stepping down at the end of the year.

9.5. Western Australia

The state report for Western Australia was tabled by Bernard Counce who spoke briefly to its content.

9.6. Tasmania

The state report for Tasmania was presented by Margaret Jacobson. Margaret spoke of the new room the history group has been given in the Headquarters offices near the front reception. There is some hope that they will be able to develop their holdings into a museum space. The issue of the flooding in May of this year is still being assessed. It is still hoped that the permanent damaged caused to their collection is not too significant.

9.7. Northern Territory

The territory report for the Northern Territory was presented by Frank Dunstan. Frank spoke of his most recent book and that due to some competing personal priorities it was necessary not to take it to printing but instead was released as an eBook for individuals and groups to download and read or print themselves. Frank has seen that by doing this the publication has reached a far wider audience than previous hard copy printing has achieved. Frank also made mention of the work being done to move reach holdings online to support those researchers and historians who may be looking into topics which others may have already collected some material. Frank feels that this will assist others and provide an ongoing resource.

9.8. Australian Capital Territory & The Priory

The report for the Australian Capital Territory and the Priory was tabled by Ian Howie-Willis who spoke briefly to its content. Ian confirmed that Frank's publication has been included in the Priory library. Ian also acknowledge the passing of Beth Dawson a foundation member of the Society. Ian spoke of St John ACT personality and Australian Senior of the Year Val Dempsey who will be attending the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth as one of the Australian Government representatives. The Priory library is being supported by Hayley Cockman who is working on the archive and adding to the catalogue of holdings within the collection. The work of Mark Goodman from the Priory of South Africa in producing a history of that priory was highlighted and commended to the meeting. In closing Ian addressed a number of points concerning *Beacon of Hope*. Ian again acknowledged the assistance of Gabbi and also informed the meeting that the book is so sought after that there will be a production in paperback.

MOTION - That the reports of the states, territories and Priory be accepted.

Moved L Dansie, Seconded J Pearn - Carried

10. Other Business

- 10.1. 2022 Seminar – James Cheshire provided an update in relation to the 2022 Seminar to be held in Canberra on Saturday 26 November 2022. There will be a number of St John functions occurring over the course of the weekend including Chapter and Church Service with additional advice and information being provided by National Office in coming weeks.
- 10.2. Constitution Review – a draft of amendments was circulated in the AGM papers for review and comment. Once all comments have been received and actioned it is the intention to put the draft amendments to National Office to ensure they are consistent with current organisational governance prior to it coming back to the membership for formal acceptance.

MOTION – That the amended Constitution as circulated be sent to National Office for review and advice on under current organisational governance arrangements.

Moved D Fahey, Seconded E Ellis - Carried

- 10.3. Youth Engagement & Centenary of Australian Cadets - James Cheshire provided an update in relation to discussion which have been held with Fairlie Tucker of National Office in her role supporting the national youth groups. As part of the 2022 Seminar there will be the opportunity for a networking event over afternoon tea to encourage mentoring of youth interested in history projects. This is particularly relevant as we approach the Centenary of Australian Cadets. Additional projects are being considered by the various youth groups for the recording of Cadet histories and marking of this significant milestone.
- 10.4. Representation of The Order at Funeral of The Late Sovereign Head – Elizabeth Ellis advised the meeting of the arrangements that have been made for the Order to be represented and be acknowledged during the funeral for our Late Sovereign Head, HM Queen Elizabeth II. The Order will be represented by three people being the Lord Prior, the Eye Hospital CEO and a representative of our volunteers. While other member sof the Order will be present it will be these three individuals, Prof Mark Compton, Dr Ahmad Ma’ali and Ms Nakkita Charag who will attend in the role of representing the Order and its works.
- 10.5. Observations of the Order Librarian – David Fahey acknowledged the attendance at our gathering of the Order Librarian and friend of the Society Todd Skilton and invited Todd to address the AGM. Todd then delivered some remarks and spoke very highly of the work he sees being done across the groups in Australia. Todd made particular mention of the great publications produced in recent times as well as the archival work which both preserves and shares the great history of St John. Todd closed by saying that he looks forward to attending the Seminar Canberra in November.

11. Closing comments and Meeting Close

David Fahey brought the meeting to a close by thanking all those in attendance, paid particular thanks to the members of the Executive for their ongoing work and stated that he looks forward to seeing everyone in Canberra in November for our annual seminar.

The meeting was closed at 9.11pm.

Minutes Prepared by

James Cheshire
National Secretary

14 September 2022