



St John

--- Minutes ---

**23rd Annual General Meeting of
The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia**

Held on line on Monday 24 June 2024

1. Opening and Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Society's President David Fahey at 8.00 pm AEST. David provided an acknowledgement of Country, and paid respect to Elders past, present and emerging. David welcomed everyone to another Zoom meeting for the 23rd Annual General Meeting.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance – David Fahey (National President) Todd Skilton (Order Librarian), Matthew Glozier (Priory Librarian, and Deputy Order Librarian), Elizabeth Ellis (National Secretary), Paul Copeland (Treasurer), Robert Devere (Membership Officer), Brodie Taylor (Executive Committee Member and Minute Secretary), Fairlie Tucker (St John Australia Strategic Programs and Partnerships Manager), Bruce Caslake, (VIC), Alan Marshall (VIC), Dawn Cochrane (VIC), Alan Mawdsley (VIC), Ian Howie-Willis (ACT), Val Dempsey (ACT), Carol Anderson (ACT), Bill Bunton (ACT), Richard White (ACT), Lyn Dansie (SA), Peter Gill (SA), John Pearn (QLD), Peter McMurtrie (QLD), Frank Moloney (QLD), Tyrone Andrews (QLD), Trevor Hall (QLD), Sandra Moore (QLD), Finlay MacNeil (NSW), Steve Smith (TAS), Phil Blackwell (TAS).

Apologies – Neil Conn (NSW), Malcolm Little (NSW), Irene Simpson (WA), Neil Dine (VIC), Geoffery Dye (VIC), Ian Nicholson (VIC), Debbie Nilsson (VIC), Sven Nilsson (VIC), Richard Casare-Thwaytes (ACT), Edith Khangure (WA), Mark Compton (NSW), John Ward (NSW), Shirley Atchinson (NSW), Stephen Szabo (NSW), Greg Melick (TAS), Bernard Counce (WA).

3. Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting

The draft minutes of the 22nd annual general meeting of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia held by a zoom meeting on Thursday 27th July 2023, and as previously circulated, were accepted.

Moved L Dansie, Seconded S Moore - Carried

4. Matters arising from the minutes of last AGM

James Cheshire provided an update of the Constitutional Review, indicating that the project was waiting on the National Office's to complete its review of its various governance documents, licensing agreements etc. This larger project at a National level has not been signed off, and thus the Constitutional Review for the At John Ambulance Historical Society for Australia Constitution must be held over until the next AGM.

Elizabeth Ellis provided an update of the membership database, and indicated that while development had progressed brilliantly, alongside the new database being implemented by the National Office, however due to significant staff changes this project has been slowed.

David Fahey indicated that the need for a new minute secretary had been resolved, with the appointment of Brodie Taylor to the role.

There were no other matters arising.

5. President's annual report

The President commenced with noting the seminar that was held on 11 November 2023 in Canberra, and despite being held on Remembrance Day, it was well attended, with a diverse range of speakers. He provided special thanks to Matt Anderson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, who was the guest speaker, and our Patron Neil Conn for his presentation.

Looking forward to the seminar for 2024, which will also be held in Canberra. This is intended to be a hybrid meeting, for in person attendance and zoom functionality. The call for papers is still active and all are welcomed and encouraged to submit. David provided thanks for the colleagues of the Executive Committee who have volunteered to assist Elizabeth in planning and facilitating the 2024 seminar.

David reenforced what was mentioned earlier that there have been staff changes in the National Office, with Amanda Power and Gab Lhuede recently departing. Thanks and appreciation must be extended to both for their significant contributions to the Society.

He also wished to acknowledge two recent publications that have been developed by our State based St John Historical Society members; the publication on the Western Australian St John History, titled *Order from Chaos: A history of the St John Ambulance Service in Western Australia* and the imminent publication of a New South Wales St John History, authored by Dr Mathew Glozier. David thanked all the chairs who were able to provide their State reports, tabled at this AGM for acceptance, and noted the continued success which the Society has achieved with webinars and online activities. David wished to commend the members for their ongoing dedication to preserving, championing and advocating for the history of St John.

David finished by providing a sincere thanks to the members of the Executive, in particular but not exclusively to Elizabeth Ellis for her continued efforts for the large amount of work she undertakes for the Society and of course to the Chairs of the State groups for their leadership and collaboration.

David called for questions pertaining to his report. None.

MOTION - that the report be accepted.

Moved E Ellis, Seconded B Taylor - Carried

6. Treasurer and Membership annual report

Paul Copeland presented the Treasurer's annual report with David sharing the written report on screen.

Summary of Balance Sheet for 2023:

Bank Balance as at 1st January 2023 \$21,325.54

Term Deposit as at 1st January 2023 \$12,000.00

Total Cash at Bank as at 1st January 2023 \$33,325.54

Cheque Account Activity:

Income \$3,069.54

Expenditure \$90.00

Excess of Income over Expenditure \$2,979.20

Bank Statement Balance as at 31st December 2023 \$24,304.56

Term Deposit \$12,000.00

Total Cash at Bank as at 31st December 2023 \$36,304.56

General.

Paul for noted that during the Financial Period there was a \$90.00 Expenditure from the Commonwealth Savings Bank Cheque Account.

The Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit Interest was paid directly into the Cheque Account as it matured. On the advice from COMBIZ, the National Treasurer awaited to re-invest the Term Deposit and the amount of \$18,944.56 in January of 2024, in order to capitalise on the best Interest rate for the proposed 6 Month Term Deposit.

The Accounts were audited by Amanda Power, National Finance Manager, Australian Office on 20 April 2024. This Auditor's Report is attached. Amanda has kindly noted the shortfall of no provision of separate Membership Records, received reflecting the funds received in the bank account.

The management of the membership subscriptions and membership listings are being managed by Bob DeVere as the Assistant Treasurer. The Membership Database has been operational for four years, with remote access provided to Bob DeVere.

Paul provided a particular thanks to thank both Amanda and Bob for their work during the Financial Period of CY2023.

Paul called for questions pertaining to his report. None.

MOTION – that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved D Fahey, Seconded J Pearn – Carried

7. Membership Report

Bob Devere provided the following report to summarise the data for membership and renewals by State 2023-2024.

STATE	MEMBERSHIP	PAID	COMPLIMENTARY
ACT	20	4	
International	12	1	
NSW	41	15	1
NT	8	2	
QLD	35	18	
SA	22	5	
TAS	12	2	
VIC	45	10	
WA	18	3	1
TOTAL	213	60	2

Bob indicated that figures indicated a worrying trend that only 60 of the 213 members on the books were not in arrears. Evidence would suggest that a large portion of these members were simply not contactable and that perhaps the Society adopt a strike off policy for those in arrears over a certain period.

Bob also indicated that the accountancy at the National Office, may not be sophisticated enough to distinguish between those paying for several years of membership, and those paying for one year and giving a donation. This may explain why so many currently are in arrears. Bob will continue collaborating with the State Chairs to validate the membership contact details and reminding members of dues. Bob also mentioned many people had taken advantage of the newly established \$100 5 year membership option.

Bob called for questions pertaining to his report. Frank Moloney asked if he was currently financial. Bob answered in the affirmative. Peter McMurtrie also asked how it was best for members to check if they were currently financial. Bob indicated that he provides a receipt for all membership subscriptions and continues to provide regular reminders and explained that he currently does not have the means of facilitating personalised reminders.

Elizabeth reminded the attendees that a dues reminder is present on every copy of *Pro Utilitate* that is published. Mathew Glozier and David Fahey indicated that the State Chairs may be granted viewing access to the membership database, to assist Bob and the executive committee in keeping in touch with the members and validating contact details.

David thanked Bob for his report.

MOTION - that the report be accepted.

Moved R Devere, Seconded V Dempsey - Carried

8. Publications Report

Mathew Glozier provided an update on the One St John our international Order online Journal, Volume 9 is well underway, however now that they are effectively commissioning targeted authors with an overarching theme being addressed, it is expected this journal will now become a biennial publication, with volume 9 being the first to cover two years – 2023-2024. With Gab Lhuede's departure this does raise the question as to how the graphic design and layout of this journal will be carried out in future for uploading on the St John International website. Fairlie Tucker assured the meeting that all needs required for the journal to be published by the society, will be met by the National Office.

Todd Skilton, Order Librarian, requested to be informed of this progress for future reference, as there will be means of obtaining assistance from the International Office if required.

David Fahey then requested Elizabeth to assume the Chairmanship temporarily as he needed to step away for work purposes.

Elizabeth Ellis informed the members that Gab Lhuede has offered to continue to design and format the *Pro Utilitate* newsletter for the society in a voluntary capacity, and to provide paid services for any other design work that National may need. *Pro Utilitate* was progressing with articles continuing to come as well as letters to the editor. Elizabeth provided thanks to the members and the States for continuing to provide content and stories. As the Newsletter for the members of the Society, Elizabeth encouraged members to put their suggestions or ideas forward to ensure the publication accurately reflects the needs and wants of the members.

Elizabeth called for questions pertaining to her report. Peter McMurtrie made an observation that the financial position of the Society is healthy and strong, and that if our publications are required to be subsidised, that our funds should be utilised for such.

9. Reports from States/Territories

Elizabeth asked for the reports from the following States and Territories.

9.1. Victoria

Allan Mawdsley provided the following report -

the Victoria branch has resumed their quarterly meetings, and have had some very interesting topics presented throughout the year. They have had a rise in attendance and participation in activities in the Museum, with the Museum staff mounting exhibits in several other locations outside of the premise, including the local town hall and library.

Elizabeth thanked Allan.

9.2. South Australia

Lyn Dansie provided the following report - During the past 12 months our Museum volunteers have been very busy starting the mammoth project of a full inventory of our collection and the many various boxes of documents, reports, newspaper cuttings, etc. which were stored away by a small group of lady officers and Headquarters in the past. Following listing and recording electronically the Archival boxes are labelled and reshelved in an orderly category manner. This has been organised by Peter Gill our Secretary. We anticipate this will be ongoing for a few years. Also Greg Ramm catalogued our Library books.

One of our biggest projects was the organising and setting up our 'St John at the Beach' display in the Discovery Centre (Glenelg Town Hall) at Glenelg which was opened at the end of November 2023 and will be in place for 15 months for visitors every day.

The production of an international book published in the UK 'Life Saving Awards of the Order of St John – For service in the cause of Humanity' we were pleasantly surprised to learn that 2 South Australian members were included being William Stuart McLoughlin a Glenelg Cadet who rescued a 5 year old boy from drowning in the 1930s and James (Jim) Toshach from West Torrens Ambulance Division for disarming a man.

Yvonne Routledge our Archivist was successful in applying for a grant from the History Trust of SA for \$11,00.00 to produce some videos of our History. 5 short vidoes were produced and are now being used – they are 1. A short Introduction, 2. St John Foundation, 3. St John Ambulance Service (vehicles), 4. St John Cadets and 5. Women in St John. These can be view through links on our Facebook page and through the SA St John Ambulance Headquarters site under Museum.

Visitor numbers have been up this year with 64 visitors during the SA History Trust History Month in May. Visiting times are Friday mornings 10.30-12.30pm and Sunday afternoon 1.30-3.30pm. Group visits can also be arranged at other times by appointment.

In April our St John historical vehicles were invited be part of the celebrations the SA Police Foundation Day at Largs Bay. Glen Bone, David Heard and Graham Maloney were involved with driving ambulances with the Police from the Adelaide railway station in the 1930s and were also special guests with our CEO Mark Groote and several others St John Ambulance Historical Soc. members.

Brian Fotheringham has start collecting information of all the Commissioners in South Australia for another in-house publication. Another busy year for our dedicated members.

Elizabeth thanked Lyn.

9.3. Western Australia

Elizabeth advised there was no report.

9.4. Northern Territory

Elizabeth advised there was no report.

9.5. Queensland

Bob Devere provided the following report - The committee has been influenced in its operation by several factors within our St John organisation in Qld. These being the sale of the HQ building in St Pauls Terrace, the closure of several divisions due to amalgamation and the cessation of cadets in QLD from December 31st 2017. These factors have influenced our workload tremendously from reception and sorting of closed divisional items whilst packing up our entire collection for storage in late November 2017. In late 2023 St John moved to its now permanent property in Nundah QLD. The committee were invited to resume our meetings at this new location as we had not had a venue since 2017. We were meeting at the local Ambulance museum.

All of our collection was relocated from its temporary accommodation and is now in the new HQ building. This gave us a great opportunity to catalogue electronically most of the items that were in storage. This is still an ongoing task but the majority of the work has been done.

The committee membership is more inclusive of all members, and different age groups since 2017, which had mainly consisted of retirees from uniformed branch. Our numbers have been steadily increasing and we now have 17 active members. This diversity has been our strength over the last few years, in being able to refocus ourselves and develop more productive ways of promoting the Order and its works.

We are maintaining two displays at present. One of those is at the Beenleigh Historical Village where we have a semi-permanent display area which is often visited by school groups and general public. The other display is at our training facility at Yeerongpilly which contains a more secure display of medals and uniforms. In all, we have had a very busy but fruitful 12 months. I would like to say thank you to my dedicated committee for their dedication and guidance.

Elizabeth thanked Bob.

9.6. New South Wales

Dr Mathew Glozier provided the following report - **Supervisory:** The Hon. Archivist & Librarian is working within a new supervisory arrangement with John Ward KStJ acting as heritage champion to advocate for Archives. This is proving to be effective and profitable for NSW St John history and heritage. John Ward has initiated a number of meetings to clarify Archives direction, management, and operational factors including advocacy.

HQ move: Archives will soon move to the new NSW HQ building at Macquarie Park and we have been negotiating needs re. space and location requirements. Archives hopes to receive:

- storage and operational space
- Museum display space

When we have some more definite information, we can initiate planning re. moving and rehoming our collection. Archives will need significant work once the move occurs to rebuild due to the difficult few years we have had.

Onboarding: I want to formally welcome Mr Stephen Szabo to our Archives team. I approached Stephen, a long-term acquaintance, to gauge his interest in formalising his relationship with St John NSW by becoming a recognised volunteer. I am happy to report Stephen has accepted and been formally onboarded as a Volunteer. Stephen has also joined the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society and agreed to assist with organising this year's Seminar in Canberra on 24 November.

Acquisitions:

- St John first aid training medallion belonged to grandfather (Ryde Division) of Bruce Paddock. Donated by Bruce Paddock.
- Box of items (documents, mantle, bonnet, medals, photographs, tie, scarf) belonging to Raymond Kenneth Neal CStJ. Donated by his nephew, Simon Neal.
- First Aid to the Injured 37th edition 1921. Donated by Nita Teitzel, of Manly.

Book: We now have the final text of my St John NSW history book. This was greatly enhanced thanks to the efforts of Gabrielle Lheude, our National Publications Manager at Australian Office. Gab recently vacated this position, so we have the honour of being her final historical project while in office. She improved the text, design, and layout of the book. Unfortunately, this meant new page numbers so I had to re-construct the index, but that proved to be fairly straight-forward albeit time consuming. I am now awaiting advice about a production schedule to learn when/how it will be printed and launched. Anita Truninger is coordinating and overseeing this project.

Grand Council: I will be in Cardiff at Grand Council in July where my second Jerusalem Eye Hospital history book will be launched on 8 July. I'll also pursue some research at St John's Gate in London during my visit.

Elizabeth thanked Mathew.

9.7. Australian Capital Territory

Dr Ian Howe-Willis provided the following report - As previously, this report covers both the ACT and the Priory. We have had a quiet year. Our main activity has been receiving and cataloguing new items, all of which have been donations. Notable among these has been the important centenary history of the St John Ambulance Service in Western Australia by four members of the Historical Society. This is A.J. Ahern, I.L. Kaye-Eddie, E. Khangure & H.F. Oxe, Order from Chaos: A Century of the St John Ambulance Service in Western Australia, 1918–2018 (Perth, 2023, St John Ambulance, WA Ltd). A major emerging problem for the Priory Heritage Collection is that it has effectively run out of display space. There is now little cabinet space to display new books and heritage items, nor wall space to exhibit new pictures. Storing additions to the Collection offsite is hardly satisfactory for people who wish to view them. Digitising the collection for electronic display is perhaps a partial solution but

that in itself will be a major undertaking. Finally, we record our appreciation of the support we received from the Priory Librarian, Dr Matthew Glozier, and the Priory Manager, Ms Kylie Seidel.

Elizabeth thanked Ian.

9.8. Tasmania

Steve Smith provided the following report – The opening of our museum is set for the 11th October 2024, with Her Excellency The Governor, Deputy Prior to officially open the premises. John Cooper will be expected to pass on further information about this as time progresses. An official history for St John in Tasmania is currently being written, and to this end the Board had recently approved further financial support to assist the author in this endeavour.

Elizabeth thanked Steve.

10. Other Business

10.1. Collation of State newsletters

Elizabeth talked about the idea of collating the State newsletters into one central location, perhaps on the National website. All spoke in favour of the idea, and Elizabeth indicated she would explore this idea further.

10.2 Mick Davis AM

Peter McMurtrie paid tribute to Mick Davis AM for allowing the Queensland branch of the History Society to meet at the Queensland Ambulance Museum at Wynnum, during its time of flux. The significant item being that on the 24th of July 2024, a morning tea was held to celebrate Mick's 60 year service as a paid employee with the Queensland Ambulance Service, a remarkable achievement which the members sincerely congratulate him for. Sandra Moore suggested an article would be ideal for the Pro Utilitate, which Peter McMurtrie agreed to write.

11. Closing comments and Meeting Close

David Fahey brought the meeting to a close by thanking all those in attendance and stated that he looked forward to seeing everyone in Canberra either in person or on zoom on 23rd of November 2024 for the annual seminar.

The meeting was closed at 9.15 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by

Brodie Taylor
National Executive Committee Member, Minute Secretary

26 July 2024