



## AIR DISPATCH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 14 April 2018 at Penrith RSL, Tindale Street, Penrith**

#### **MEETING OPENED 1005 HOURS**

The President welcomed all attendees. He introduced the committee who were present and the Secretary, Lou Heidenreich, who was on line and deemed present for meeting purposes. He added we have a quorum. He advised that the meeting would be recorded.

#### **1 PRESENT**

BAINES	Ian
BARNES	John
BARRETTO	Alberto
CHRISTIE	Graham
COLE	Gary
CONWELL	Matt
COOPER	David
CORNISH	Andrew
FILEWOOD	Richard
FOSTER	Grant
GANNON	Barry
HARRIS	Geoff
HEAD	Vince
HEIDENREICH	Lou
HUGHES	Michael
JANSEN	Ken
LUSCOMBE	Kerry
McBAIN	Sean
McCANN	Denis
MILLER	Eric (Ned)
NICOLAI	Mark (Nick)
PAPWORTH	Graham
RUSSELL	Peter
TOWERS	Rusty
WARD	Robert
WATSON	Keith Ray

#### **2 APOLOGIES**

BABER	Kemm
BATES	Paul
CUTTS	Geoffrey
EDDIE	Anthony
FELKIN	Chris
HORDERN	Tony
IRVING	Brian
SLEE	Patrick
WAHLEN	Mark

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## SICK LIST

DOWD	Tony
LISTON	John
OSBORNE	Richard

The President called for a minute's silence in respect of passed comrades.

### 3 ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES

Everybody was given time to read the minutes of the previous meeting. When seeking a Proposer that the minutes be accepted Denis McCann stated that the previous minutes were incorrect in that an AGM had never been advised in the Clipped Wings. The Secretary advised that in fact they had when Chris Gill had been the secretary and that the Association would continue to advise its members of AGMs by any means possible including by post for those who do not receive the Clipped Wings via email.

Moved: Barry Gannon

Seconded: Denis McCann that the minutes as read be accepted.

Carried

### 4 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

### 5 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President read his report.

Over the last twelve months, the ADAA has gone from strength to strength in a number of areas.

I want to breakdown the report into two areas

Fundraising and Social Activities and Finance and Membership

#### **Fundraising and Social Activities**

Our basic fundraising activities have not changed dramatically but have been constant with a minimum of two sausage sizzles a month which generates approximately \$1200.00 a month to our coffers.

The primary aim of these activities was to provide a trip to the UK for one of our widows to attend the Tour and Reunion arranged for association members. Mrs Wanda Deacon was the lucky recipient of the trip and she is looking forward to it with great anticipation.

The other aim of our fundraising comes directly from our constitution: Paragraph 3.

The objects of the association are to promote, maintain and foster military corps spirit and comradeship amongst members in an atmosphere of friendship and informal respect.

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This is being achieved by organising and partially funding Reunions, the Myola Ball, tours and dinners not to mention the 2016 Christmas drinks held at Beenleigh RSL, QLD. We have also funded presentations for soldiers at March-out parades of 22 Platoon at Kapooka, Students of Merit at trade courses conducted by AMTDU and Soldier of the Year Awards at 176 Air Dispatch Sqn. These activities and presentations have been the product of fundraising and not funded by other accounts.

Another venture in which the association is prepared to assist is a proposed trek over the Owen Stanley Ranges via the Kokoda Trail by some members of 8 Tp. We had proposed a similar trek to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but that failed to come to fruition. That said, we are still looking to support those 8 Tp members if required.

I must also mention volunteer hours. Without volunteers, we could not achieve the outcomes we work towards. In the last calendar year, 2017, volunteer hours were in excess of 1000 hours, of which 350 hours were put in by non-members of the association. Let that sink in for a moment, 350 volunteer hours provide by spouses, partners, children and friends of the association. People who in most cases do not receive recognition for their time and money other a verbal "Thank You" or a can of soft drink and a snag sandwich, whilst some members of the association criticise the association because they are not getting what they want. Those people who have volunteered their time and money, on behalf of the association, I "Thank You Very Much".

### **Finance and Membership**

Our finances this year are at an all time high, due mainly through our previously mentioned fundraising activities. That said, our Admin account, where your annual subscriptions are processed for operating and insurance purposes is a stand-alone account. I must also add, payments into the Admin account also includes GST repayments from the Tax Office which although part of fundraising are not placed back into the Fundraising Account.

Similarly, our Merchandise Account is for the sale of Merchandise only, again a stand-alone account.

Our Grants account, another separate account is used for the purchase of computers and printers and largely used for the hire of buses and other forms of transport and is primarily funded by the Dept of Veterans Affairs.

Our membership list currently stands at over 80 Financial Members and 9 Life Members. The decline in Financial Members is believed to be a product of an off-set Membership Year compared with the associations Financial Year. This is to be hopefully rectified, in the near future.

After speaking with, a number of people, I found that association was seen, by many as an old boy club, principally comprising of ex Vietnam veterans who did not welcome others and having a "Them and Us"

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attitude. This belief is slowly being eradicated and previous CMF, Ares and Regular soldiers are being actively encouraged to join the association.

I have recently been in discussions with our Patron Brig Mick Ashleigh and CO 9 FSB, Lt Col Andy Harrison-Wyatt who suggested the OC and SSM 176 become active members of the Management Committee. This still, remains to be seen, as they are both busy individuals and although supportive of the association have concern on how recruiting of new soldiers from the ranks can be achieved.

### **The Management Committee**

At this AGM, a new Management Committee is to be elected. The committee puts in so many hours working towards a smooth-running association. We have members in numerous states of Australia, this shows how diverse our association is. Dealing with problems such as different time zones and poor internet connectivity are just two of the issues we face. But special mention must be made of one of our committee members chooks, who decided to create a diversion during one of our telephone hook up committee meetings. I am grateful for your assistance and Thank You for your service

Those people standing down from their current positions and not seeking re-election, I would like to thank you for providing support to the association and committee and I would like to mention them personally

Ned Miller who was our Secretary, Ned is standing down as Secretary but has agreed to hold the Public Officers position

Geoff Harris our Treasurer and his wife Kim who did most of the work and also backed up as our Merchandise Officer

Lou Heidenreich our Assistant Secretary who stepped up to the plate again to relieve Ned when Ned stepped down.

To those people, Thank You sincerely for your effort and sacrifice, your time away from family and your positive attitude.

To our new, soon to be elected, Management Committee members, I wish you all the success in your positions and would advise you to talk to your predecessors or other members of the committee for advice. The people standing down have a wealth of knowledge and information, tap it where and when you can.

Similarly, one of our State Reps is standing down. Graham Papworth has been the State Rep for Victoria and Tasmania for many years and has decided to step down but in doing so will assist the association where possible. I would like to mention, Graham was instrumental in organising the beer supply from Carlton United Breweries for our 2016 and 2017 Reunions as well as the roll up banners we have adorning the

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room. Thank you, Graham, I hope your successor can assist in a similar fashion.

Finally, in closing, none of the management team have passed Mind Reading. If you have a concern or a gripe with the association, let us know. Put it in writing and send it to whoever you think can assist. It will definitely be discussed, and an answer will be forthcoming. Please do not smoulder over an issue that can be resolved by a phone call or email.

Moved: Ian Baines

Seconded: Rusty Towers that the Presidents report be accepted.

Carried

### 6 SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary was asked to read his report.

Members, as you are well aware I assumed the position of Secretary in November 2017 after the resignation of Ned Miller for family reasons. Ned has stayed on the committee as the Public Officer, I would like to thank him for all of his work and wonderful organisational skills during his tenure as Secretary.

The Association has moved ahead over the last twelve months with great efforts from Committee and helpers who have willingly given their time in the fund-raising process. As evident by the Treasurers Report the Association is in a very healthy position.

It is sad to see the resignations of some of our Committee Members and of our Auditor of many years standing, Mr William (Bill) Hardman. Bill served the Association, as honorary auditor for 20 years. He has always provided incite full and timely advice to our Treasurer. We have lost two stalwarts' in Geoff and Kim Harris. As Treasurer Geoff has done an amazing job, his wife Kimberly has been an excellent Merchandising Office, we now have quality clothing items and far less old stock held than was previously the case. For their hard work I would like to thank them, it is not easy to hold down full-time jobs, be a father and mother and find time to keep the finances of the Association on track.

I have always been reticent to be a member of Ex-Military organizations, I have seen firsthand how many of them have scant regard for the people that they are meant to represent but are more interested in the glory and rewards that come from senior positions in some organisations. These organizations are becoming far less relevant in this day and age as can be seen by the decline of the RSL here in South Australia. There are currently many Ex Service Organizations in Australia all trying to compete for an annually decreasing charity dollar. Our Association is far less reliant on donations and has put itself in a strong position through fund raising at sausage sizzles.

For our organization to move ahead we need to be far more relevant to serving soldiers. There are some initiatives that have been helpful in that regard i.e. the Soldier of the year award, the Student of Merit award for the Basic Air Dispatch Course and the Most Improved Soldier Award for 22 Platoon at the Recruit Training Establishment. Remembering back to my early years in Air Dispatch the one lasting memory that I still have today is the Irvin parachute badge given to me at the completion

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of my basic parachute course in 1969. Whenever I pin it onto a jacket or suit I always think of the friends I made on that course. Perhaps it is time that we presented an ADAA badge to soldiers who have completed their BAD Course for I believe that they are awarded their brevet now on completion of that course. As the current serving Air Dispatchers are automatically members of the Association we should also provide them with an ADAA badge to remind them that they are welcomed members of the ADAA.

Sadly there have been a number of veiled threats and innuendoes floated around the Association in recent times, it would appear that some people are more concerned with the denigrating of the Association committee than assisting it. A simple telephone call to the Secretary can alleviate issues and allow for rectification of any concerns. If the Committee is not aware of the concerns of its members then we can not improve the delivery of the service that we would like to our members.

Communication is the answer to the problem, if you have an issue with what the Association is doing then please speak to a Committee member.

The Association is moving into a new era of change brought about by amendments to the guidelines for the function of committees by the NSW Office of Fair Trading. Over the next twelve months these changes will be implemented.

### Correspondence IN

Email from Bill Hardman 22/2/2018

#### 6.1 Correspondence In:

6.1.1 Commonwealth Ombudsman regarding Defence Abuse- Restorative Engagement Program and Reporting abuse in Defence- reparation payments. There is a lot of information, so I will forward the info to the Clipped Wings for the widest destination

6.1.2 Email from Bill Hardman 22/2/2018

#### 6.2 Correspondence Out:

6.2.1 Nil

Moved: Grant Foster

Seconded: Rusty Towers that the Secretary's Report be accepted.

Carried

## 7 TREASURER'S REPORT

The President asked the Treasurer to read his report.

This report will be my last one as Treasurer of The ADAA as I with my wife's help for the last 2 years have undertaken this role while both working fulltime and coping with personal family issues over the last 18 months. I believe it is now time to pass the baton onto someone else.

Over the last 2 years we have been regularly, with a handful of volunteers fundraising with BBQ's at Bunnings with the aim to be able to fund activities for all members of the association. From this fundraising one of our objectives was to fund one of the

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associations widows to travel to the UK for the International Reunion in August 2018. We have been successful in this undertaking and the lucky recipient of this is Mrs Wanda Deacon. A big thank you needs to be given to Nick and Joyce for organising BBQ's at Kirrawee and Wollongong Bunnings and Foz for organising BBQ's at Valley Heights and Penrith. Thankyou to all the members who have given us a helping hand at any of these BBQ's. Any help from our members is gratefully appreciated. I travel from Bathurst to help once a month at the Valley Heights BBQ. From the proceeds of these BBQ's we have previously subsidised the 2016 International Reunion in Sydney and the Melbourne Anzac Day Reunion in 2017. We have also been able to subsidise our Annual Myola Dinner held in August each year since 2016 where we are trying to establish a greater member base by encouraging the current service personnel to become involved with the Association. So far this year 2018 we have raised \$4167.20 from BBQ's with costs of supplies at \$1283.85 leaving a profit of \$2885.35. For the 2017 financial year We raised \$22,842 from our BBQ's, with the costs for supplies being \$7,527 leaving a profit from these BBQ's at \$15,315, which was used towards subsidising the Melbourne Reunion and our annual Myola Ball.

Our Reunion expenses totalled \$10,856 and we received contributions from members of \$7266, the difference of \$3590 was paid from the fundraising Account

The Myola Dinner expenses were \$5455, and we received ticket sales to the value of \$3688, the difference of \$1767 paid from the fundraising account.

Memberships for the Association are due for renewal as our memberships run to the financial year. We currently have 9 life members and 84 current financial members. In 2017 payments of memberships totalled \$3110.00

All our Insurance policies are up to date for Volunteer workers and Management Liability through Pro Insure, costing a total of \$1120.00 to the Association. Our annual donation of \$500.00 was made to the Vietnam Veterans Association who cover us in their Public Liability Insurance policy.

We received a Volunteer worker's grant of \$4500 from the Dept Social Services to go towards new computer equipment for the association, volunteers travel expenses and volunteers training. We purchased a new laptop for our Vice President and Treasurer. We also repaid a balance of \$4440.37 back to DVA from the Bus Grant for the money not spent.

Merchandise sales this year have totalled \$2503 and new purchases of stock, which included the new ADAA ties and Polo shirts cost the association \$3765. The closing value of stock in the merchandise inventory is \$7424.

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Our Accounts have been Audited by Bill Hardman, who after many years of volunteering his time to audit our books each year has decided to retire from the position of Auditor for the Association. We would like to say a big thank you to Bill for his time and dedication in this role. Ned Miller our Public Officer has secured the services of a new Auditor for the Association. The Audit Report is included with this report.

The income received for the Association in the 2017 financial year was \$37 465 and our total expenditure was \$29 676, leaving us a surplus of \$7789 for 2017.

In closing I would like to remind members that the ADAA is a Small Not for profit Association, which is run by a handful of volunteers who give up their own personal time to ensure the Association is run effectively to benefit the members, by being able to organise and subsidise events for all of our members, if they chose to participate. I personally would like to thank anyone who gives up their time for the benefit of the Association.

Moved: Denis McCann

Seconded: Grant Foster that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Carried

### 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

#### 8.1 Model Constitution

The review of the current constitution is required in line with the NSW Office of Fair Trading's new Model Constitution.

The president called Ned Miller to give an explanation of what is required

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Annual General Meeting for the Air Dispatch Association of Australia for the year 2018; as you are aware this meeting will cover the operation and Activities of the past twelve months.

I would first like to remind everyone that the nature of this Association means that we all have a common background, we were all professionals, to varying degrees, in our proud profession of Logistic Air Support., be it utilising Dakota aircraft, and Sioux helicopters through to the C17 and Chinook monsters of today.

We were professional because we had training institutions in place and experienced people to teach us what was required of us and how to reach the professional standard required of us.

It was an environment that proved to be very successful over the years during training exercises, emergency and humanitarian relief operations and on active service. It worked because we learned from those that went before us as well as our mistakes; and we operated in harmony with each other towards a common goal; and we were 'equal to the task'



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One of the objectives of our Constitution is:- "To promote, maintain and foster military Corps spirit and comradeship amongst members in an atmosphere of friendship and informal respect." That was put in place by a number of our elders, some of whom are still here with us today, while others are still with us in spirit

Today, we the same people are trying to run an Association that requires the same sort of professionalism with the same dedication to the task, but it seems that we don't have the structure in place required to achieve what we set out to do. We are missing that continuity that teaches the next generation.

Recently there have been a number of changes made by the Government that are designed to improve the running of organisations like ours. It is now the task of the Management Committee to update all the procedures necessary to meet the current requirements.

The Associations Act, The Associations Regulations, the Requirements of a Constitution and Fund-Raising requirements and Authorities have all been changed in one way or another: We have an obligation to meet those new requirements and it means the Management Committee and others working together to achieve the required result.

One of the major changes that affects us mostly is the New Model Constitution.

This model provides a basic framework that individual Constitutions must adhere to; this means that our current Constitution has to be completely rewritten to incorporate the new detail or adopt the Model Constitution and produce a series of By-Laws that pertain to the daily operation of the Association.

To avoid newly elected Management Committees starting from scratch each year, we need to put into place a series of detailed duty statements to provide Direction and Guidance to ensure they can follow correct administrative procedures for the correct functioning of the Association.

Additionally, the Association requires the knowhow on the correct procedure for meetings; be they Committee Meetings, General Meetings, Special General Meetings or Annual General Meetings.

Fortunately, there are publications available that deal with these procedure in great detail and are available for purchase. They are specifically designed to take to meetings and to extract and use information contained therein for Organisations such as ours. The publication we have been looking at is in two volumes. Volume One deals with Running Voluntary Organisations, and Volume Two deals with Guidance for meetings.

Conclusion - The review of the current constitution is required in line with the NSW Office of Fair Trading's new Model Constitution. This may be able to be achieved by adopting the model constitution and the inclusion of by laws to cover the needs of the Association. There will also be a need to adopt the Committee Position Requirement Documents (duties and responsibilities) previously written by Ned

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Miller to form part of the operating instructions for Committee Members.

The outcome identified we adopt the Model Constitution and the committee is to report to all members through the Clipped wings and Website

Moved: Richard Filewood

Seconded: Barry Gannon that the Model Constitution is adopted.

Carried

**NOTE:** A copy of this minute is to accompany the new constitution application. Special notice is to be made regarding our membership year as our AGM is around ANZAC day it would be impossible to have our auditors report prior to the end of June.

8.2 Change of Membership year withdrawn subject to adopting the Model Constitution

8.3 Create the position of membership officer

The appointment of a non-elected official to act as a Membership officer was discussed. It was decided that the position could only be created within the framework of the new NSW Office of Fair Trading's Model Constitution. The proposal would be discussed by the Committee at a later time with role and responsibilities captured within the Committee Position Requirement Documents.

8.4 Banner ANZAC Day 2019

The selection for the hosting of the 2019 Anzac Day was discussed. The President alluded to the fact that that Sydney and Melbourne had paraded the banner for a number of years and it would be appropriate for it to be paraded in one of the other states. Queensland was raised as a state with perhaps the second largest contingent of ex Air Dispatcher after NSW and that it may be an idea to hold it in a country region of QLD, either the Gold Coast or the Sunshine Coast. Graham Papworth iterated that the Victorian Committee would be willing to consider conducting Anzac Day in Tasmania. The major impediment to Tasmania would appear to be the cost of members getting there. The President asked members from QLD (Barry Gannon and Richard Filewood) to liaise with the State Rep from QLD Kemm Baber to see if it was feasible.

The possibility of having current serving members parade the Association banner was also raised but it was decided to hold any decision in abeyance until discussions could be had with the OC 176.

This report is to be back to the President no later than 31 May18

Moved: Mark Nicolai

Seconded: John Barnes

Carried

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### 8.5 2010 New Zealand Reunion.

The 2020 International reunion is to be held in New Zealand, whilst the NZADA has commenced the initial planning they asked that no details be released yet. Discussion centered around who the Association would invite to the 2020 reunion. There were a number of possibilities, one of the widows again, a grand child of a deceased member was another consideration and also a serving soldier from 176 should be considered in line with the Associations focus on young serving members.

A survey is to be put in the Clipped Wings to decide do we send 1. A Widow, 2. A grandchild (20 Years of age), 3. A Soldier from the Sqn, or 4. A member of the association

Moved: Mark Nicolai

Seconded: Richard Filewood that discussions continue

Carried

1155 the meeting was adjourned for a break. 1211 the meeting recommenced.

### 8.6 The motion raised by Gary Cole and seconded by Barry Gannon was discussed.

The President asked what the real purpose of the question was.

Barry Gannon wanted the 2016 Treasurer's Report" be fully discussed for explanations in detail of some income and expenditure items including the provision of all expenditure and receipts and minutes of meetings approving such expenditures. He also requested Denis McGann carry out a forensic audit on the accounts.

With regard to the first part of the motion the President explained the question related to the Treasurers report tabled at the 2016 AGM held in Melbourne. The report had been audited by the Honorary Auditor, passed as being true and accurate and forwarded to the NSW Office of Fair Trading and that there were no anomalies with the report.

The discussion continued with Richard Filewood stating "It would not be appropriate to open the 2016 Treasures Report as it had already been passed and recommended the motion be withdrawn and a new motion raised.

The motion was then withdrawn

After a brief discussion it was decided that incoming committee should place notes next to accounts with a brief explanation explaining expenditure, etc

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Moved: Barry Gannon

Seconded: Richard Filewood

Carried

## 8.7 Widow attending Reunion in Coventry

Request from Gary Cole and Barry Gannon for answers to questions regarding the widow going to the Tour and Reunion in August 2018. Is travel insurance being paid?

The President explained The Association would take out insurance so that funds could be recovered if Mrs. Deacon was unable to attend for any reason.

The President explained that the widow, Wanda Deacon, would be travelling with the President and his wife. She has paid for an upgrade from economy to premium economy, and there were no further costs for anyone accompanying.

## 8.8 Fund-raising donations

Fund raising was discussed by Mr. Papworth. He also presented a framed picture of the Penrith Panthers last grand final win, to be auctioned and the benefits going to the Association. He also presented two plaques to be donated to the Vietnam Veterans National Museum (VVM) in Philip Island, Victoria. The President thanked Mr. Papworth and will make arrangements for the plaques to be sent to VVM

Mr Papworth indicated he would be standing down from Vic/Tas State Rep position. The president thanked Mr Papworth for his service.

## 8.9 Reunion subsidies

Denis McCann complained that those attending the Tour of Scotland and Ireland were not being subsidised. It was explained the UKADA changed the goal posts by opting not to adopt the proposed tour as the Reunion and decided to have their own in Coventry. The President advised those attending the Reunion would be subsidized. Because the Tour was now not part of the UKADA Reunion, there would be no subsidies for any Tour participants.

## 9 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER

The President declared all positions vacant and asked for a volunteer to act as Returning Office: Sean McBain volunteered to act as Returning Office.

## 10 ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The nominations for all positions were read out and the following positions on the Management Committee were elected unopposed:

President: Mark (Nick) Nicolai

Vote: Carried

Vice President: Anthony Eddie

Vote: Carried

Secretary: Richard (Dick) Filewood

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Vote: Carried

Treasurer: Rob Ward

Vote: Carried

Assistant Secretary: Lou Heidenreich

Vote: Carried

Committee Members: Grant Foster  
Geoff Cutts

Vote: Carried

## 11 NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ASSUMED OFFICE

## 12 OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Eric (Ned) Miller retained position of Public Officer

Russell (Rusty) Towers has just taken the position of Merchandising Officer.

Ian Hill to take over position of State Rep for Victoria and Tasmania.

Bruce Patterson to take over position of State Rep for ACT.

Other State Rep positions remained unchanged:

Queensland – Kemm Baber

NSW – Grant Foster

SA – Lou Heidenreich

WA – Ed Duffy

## 13 OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 New Merchandise Officer, Rusty Towers asked if old blue chambray shirts could go to Denis McCann for presentations to soldiers

Moved: Rusty Towers

Seconded: Dave Cooper

Carried

MEETING CLOSED 1314 HOURS