

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the NATIONAL EXECUTIVE of the NATIONAL SERVICE and COMBINED FORCES ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED held at NELSON BAY on the 8th October, 2016.

As all folk expected were present, the Meeting opened at 10.15 am with President John Redman reading the Ode and a Minutes silence for Departed Comrades.

President John then welcomed all and said that our Auditor had passed away in July, he had been a Nasho.

He informed the Meeting that Canberra wished to record the Meeting and asked whether there were any objections. There being none, the Meeting continued.

APOLOGIES:

Les Dunne Leeton, Colin and Beth Ashcroft, Hay, Col Thorley Nelson Bay and Bob Oliver Newcastle.

PRESENT:

As per the Attendance Book – 27 – with 3 who did not sign the Attendance Book as required.

MINUTES of the AGM, held at GOULBURN on the 10th October, 2015 were then read by the National Secretary.

Moved Esma Kane, Seconded Pat Sessions, that the Minutes as read were a true and correct Record. CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Allen Russ spoke and said the Motion for Eric Bell was for Padre not Returning Officer. This was amended. 1 of 5.

CORRESPONDENCE pertaining to the AGM:

Proxy Forms to Vote on their behalf from Hay, to Mr Beckhouse and Leeton, to Mrs Tompsett. Copies handed to the two respective Nominees.

Soucila Tompsett then spoke and said the Chairman was not following the Notice of Agenda. President John apologised.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (See Attached Report)

June Roach explained she had only to-day received the books and the Auditor's Report. The Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Report were then read. Mr Beckhouse asked why the Auditor's Report was not signed. President John explained why the books were so late, that his daughter had picked them up on the 29th, while she was in Dungog for him, he them from her and when he discovered they were not signed, he rang and was informed the Treasurer had to sign the sheet before he could sign them.

Discussion took place that this was not correct.

President John then asked the Nelson Bay Auditor, David Arundell his opinion. Mr Arundell said in his opinion, it was usual for this to be done.

Mr Beckhouse queried had the payment of \$50.00 reimbursement the Lunch for Mr & Mrs Csibi, when they attended the Nelson Bay Christmas Party in December 2014. This was not shown in the Report.

Mrs Attwood, Mrs Owen and others spoke. After further discussion regarding the Report, Mr Beckhouse Moved that it be taken back to the Auditor and signed. Seconded Mr Mears, and that Certified Signed copies then be forwarded to all Branches. CARRIED.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (See attached Report..

Received by a show of Hands.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (See Attached Report

Mr Rowney read his Report which also contained news of Nelson Bay, which because of murmurings in the room, President John stated, would also come up in the Nelson Bay Report.

Mr Beckhouse spoke about the March in Goulburn in 1999, as mentioned in the Vice President's Report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President John did not give out a copy as he had only completed it on Friday. A copy will be done and attached to these Minutes.(See Attached Report

Before handing over to Mr Csibi, President John read out Mr Noel Donnellan's CV.

President John then asked Mr Csibi to do the duties of Returning Officer.

Mr Csibi came to the table and asked the Secretary were there any Nominations. She replied "Yes" and handed over the Nomination Forms.

The Returning Officer then read these out, commencing with position of **President** – Mr John Redman nominated, and accepted by Mr Redman. Mr Csibi then asked if there was

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Any nomination from the floor – there being none – he declared Mr Redman, National President.

Snr. Vice President – Mr Owen Rowney nominated and accepted by Mr Rowney. Mr Csibi then asked if there was any nomination from the floor – there being none – he declared Mr Rowney, National Snr Vice President.

Jnr. Vice President. Mr Noel Donnellan, nominated and accepted by Mr Donnellan. Mr Csibi then asked if there was any nomination from the floor – there being none – he declared Mr Donnellan Jnr. Vice President.

The following Nominations were all treated as those above had been.

Secretary. Mrs Esmá Kane, Declared

Treasurer. Mrs June Roach, Declared.

Committee. Mrs Fay Rowney and Mrs Patricia Sessions, Declared.

The positions of Auditor, Returning Officer, Public Officer and Padre were appointed Positions.

Public Officer. Mr Alan Williams.

Mr Mears inquired as to why Mr Eric Bell was not invited to attend, Mr Bell, only last week, had rung Mr Mears asking if there was going to be a Service? President John replied that owing to the distance to Apex Park and the National Service Memorial, there was no Service. Also it was taken that the Notice of the AGM was sent to all Branches and was presumably read at the Branch Meeting, which included Mr Bell. Mrs Kane spoke and said in July when she was informed of the situation of Mr Trembath – she emailed Mr Bell of the fact and asking for his phone number as she only had the email address for contact. The next morning, when she was told Mr Trembath had passed away, she again contacted him and gave him John's phone number. There was no further contact either with John or her. Later she received an email just stating his phone number.

At this point, Mr Des Cobb went to see if Lunch was ready. While this was happening, the President asked the Secretary to read out the two (2) "Notices of Motions".

On Mr Cobb's return, the meeting was adjourned for Lunch.

On return from Lunch, "Notice of Motion" No 1 was again read by the Secretary.

"That as from the 1st January, 2017, Canberra would no long print the 'Servicemens Magazine'."

Mr Beckhouse spoke and said it was hoped the Executive would continue it in 2017. President John said the Executive would not be taking it on. The adds were not covering the cost and a number of the Canberra advertisers had not replied to the emails that the Treasurer had sent out – Canberra stated that they had not been told of this fact.

Mrs Mudford said the add not paid for the Maitland Billabong, was paid up to the September issue.

President John said, if Mr Csibi agreed, the Reports and ads could be forwarded to Mr Csibi to be put on the Web site. Mr Csibi agreed all could be put on the Web.

Discussion took place and it was finally agreed the September issue would be the last in the present form. Advertisement paid for in excess of this issue, would be returned by the National Treasurer to the Subscriber.

Mrs Mudford spoke and said this was breaking up the Association and for those with no internet would not get the Reports.

Mrs Rowney asked could you download and print and pass it onto these folk – Mr Csibi replied “Yes”.

Discussion took place as to who owned the Printer and the cost of it. Mr Beckhouse replied that Canberra Branch bought the Toshiba Printer for \$10,000.00 on a five (5) year Contract which included ink and maintenance . It was only used for the Servicemen Magazine and the Canberra Newsletter. After a long discussion, Mr Cobb suggested Canberra sell the printer, and if any Branch wished to make a donation to Canberra they could.

Finally, Mr Russ moved that the Canberra Branch sell the printer and Branches could donate if a Branch wanted to. Seconded Mr Cobb.. CARRIED

Notice of Motion No 2 was then read –

“Canberra Branch protests about the change of venue of the AGM without prior consultation with NSCFAA Branches”

Mrs Tompsett spoke and said it should have been discussed with Branches, the full reason as to why the Executive changed the venue – President John explained how the cost had gone up at Goulburn and including paying a non-refundable fee for use of rooms in the Club. Also the meal cost was exurbanite. Discussion became heated. President John spoke and said the decision was made as per the Constitution and with full support of the Executive and Committee and if Members were no happy, he would stand down – No comment was made from the floor at this point. He again spoke and said he was not going to Goulburn next year.

After further discussion and input by Mrs Owen, Mrs Attwood and Mr Russ, it was decided that Branches make inquiries in their area as to cost for venues by the 30th November 2016, and these figures be circulated to all Branches for decision.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr Russ brought up the matter that two (2) delegates per Branch should be the only people to cast a vote – none of the Executive except in the case of a tie, then the President has a casting vote. Seconded Mr Mears, CARRIED Mr Russ stated that this was the case with the RSL Sub-Branches.

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Mrs Sessions spoke and asked Mr Russ when Canberra were the Executive – didn't they get a vote – he replied he did not know.

Mrs Sessions then put her question to Mr Beckhouse and he replied , "Yes, but it's different now".

Mr Russ spoke again and Thanked the National Secretary for the help she provided with obtaining a "Certificate of Currency" from the Insurance Company, so their Sausage Sizzle could go ahead. at Bunnings the following Saturday.

The Secretary replied that she had rung the Insurance Company the next morning to be told you had to ask for this, it was no longer automatically forwarded as in previous years.

On payment in April 2017, the request will have to be made.. The Secretary had handed each Branch delegates present, a copy for both Policies and would forward copies to Hay and Leeton in the near future.

There being no further business, President John asked the Secretary to read the "Servicemans Prayer".

The meeting closed at 3.25pm.

President _____ Date _____

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