



MINUTES OF 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2020)

Held on 6th Dec 2020 at Sargood Barracks and via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Opening address (Chair)
Verify proxies and quorum
2. Vale – Acknowledgement of members passing since last AGM (Chair)
Lest We Forget
3. Apologies and Present (Chair)
4. Minutes of last AGM (Secretary)
5. Business arising from the Minutes (Secretary)
6. Correspondence (Secretary)
7. Reports
 - a. President (President)
 - b. Treasurer (Treasurer)
 - c. Membership (Membership Sec.)
8. Election of Office Bearers, Committee and Auditor (Chair)
9. General Business
 - a. Annual Subscriptions (Chair)
 - b. Honorary Members for Life (Chair)
 - c. Social Activities (LtCol Rowley)
 - d. 150th Anniversary events (Col Cooke)
 - e. Support Activities (Secretary, Capt Batten, Maj Hamer)
 - f. Victorian Gunner history (LtCol Rowley)
 - g. Bty Address – CO 9 Regt/BC 2/10 Bty (BC 2/10 Bty)
 - h. Open Forum (Chair)
10. Close Meeting (Chair)

Prelude

Overview of technical aspects of participating via Zoom.

1. OPENING ADDRESS

The President, Colonel Jason Cooke, opened the meeting at approximately 11:05 hours welcoming all members. A count was conducted and there being enough members for a quorum, he declared the AGM open.

Following a COVID-safe plan – declared a training event so masks off.

For the purposes of a quorum the only members eligible to vote are: Honorary Members for Life and All Ordinary Members - 178. AGM quorum required is 10

2. VALE – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS PASSING SINCE LAST AGM

It is with regret that the President acknowledged the passing of the following members since the last Annual General Meeting:

SSGT Keith Zibell	Ord Life	13 Jan 2020
CAPT Michael Macneil	Ord Ann Sen	14 Mar 2020
LBDR Klaus Heil	Ord Ann	5 Jul 2020
LTCOL John Morkham RFD	Ord Life	14 Nov 2020

Upon reading out the names, all members rose and stood for one minute's silence ending with the President leading with "Lest We Forget".

3. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

At this point the Secretary declared we had 11 members in attendance, with 0 proxies. Members as recorded below:

Present: COL Jason Cooke (President), LTCOL Peter Rowley (Vice President), CAPT Craig Batten, CAPT David Edwards (Secretary), SGT James Overell, GNR Paul Heron, LBDR Bosnjak. Total – 7.

Via Zoom: LTCOL Ian George, MAJ David Osborne (Auditor), MAJ Garry Rolfe, MAJ Don Shields. Total – 4.

Visitors: MAJ James Eling. Total – 1

Proxies: None. Total - 0

Apologies: As per the PowerPoint slide (+ John Henry). Total – 21 (+1)

Motion: Move that the attendance, apologies be accepted.

*Moved: **Jason Cooke***

*Seconded: **David Osborne***

Carried

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous AGM have been provided via a dropbox link prior to the meeting.

The President asked any questions from the floor before they were accepted. There were no questions from the floor, minutes accepted.

Motion: Move that the previous AGM minutes be accepted.

Moved: Jason Cooke

Seconded: Paul Heron

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

As there was no business arising from the previous meeting, the President declared this agenda item closed.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The secretary highlighted the following WRT correspondence over the year:

- Newsletter (Cascabel) and Monthly Updates
- Sundry emails, including:
 - Vale notices from RAAHC (Peter Bruce)
 - 150th Anniversary Updates
 - Dandenong Depot Plaque
 - Notices from Head of Regiment, Master Gunner, RAA Association
 - Newsletters and updates from other Arty Associations
- Correspondence stored on DropBox
- Relevant items shared with members via email, website and Facebook

The Chair declared that all correspondence had been dealt with by the committee throughout the year.

However specifically for this AGM the following documents were tabled and discussed under their respective agenda items:

- a. Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 by the Treasurer.

The president read out a letter from the Master Gunner of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, a letter from the Master Gunner of St James' Park, Royal Artillery, and Head of Regiment (Colonel Commandant) of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

7. REPORTS

a. President

The president thanked the committee for an outstanding effort during 2020. He is extremely proud of the associations achievements this year.

He recognised the following individuals:

- David Edwards – secretarial duties and website
- Reg Morrell – pillar of the association for 35 years, supporting many presidents and committees
- Sandra and James are standing down. Thanks to Sandra for work as Secretary and James as Treasurer
- Paul Heron – membership secretary

Association continued to make RAA Assoc relevant – COVID has caused a new way of operating and changes to how we can do things, need to improve, looking for feedback from the membership.

Improving our membership management and engaging across the four generations of membership.

Looking forward to an exciting 2021 - number of projects the committee is looking at, including the 150th anniversary. We continue to engage at the National and State Association levels. MAJ James Eling (BC 2/10 Bty) is on the RAAHC.

Merry Christmas / New Year

b. Treasurer

The financial statement for year ending 30 Jun 2020 was shared with the membership via a dropbox folder prior to the meeting.

The treasurer acknowledged MAJ David Osborne for his continued support of the FY20 Audit and Financial Statements (made available prior to meeting).

Overall FY20 has resulted in little movement of the accounts.

Disruptions due to bushfires and COVID have impacted the level of activity over the period and as a result of the little expenditure, we have a net profit of \$852 (shop sales, RAA Luncheon).

We have registered with CommBiz for electronic transactions with multiple signatories.

Motion: The Members to consider, and if thought fit, to approve the Financial Statements as circulated.

*Moved: **James Overell***

*Seconded: **Peter Rowley***

Carried

c. Membership

The Membership secretary submitted his report as follows:

	Current Membership	2019 Membership
Honorary Members for Life	6	6
Ordinary Life Members	147	154
Ordinary Annual Members	12	23
Ordinary Annual Senior Members	13	5
Associate Life Members	2	2
Associate Annual Members	2	2
<u>Affiliate Members</u>		
Associations	27	22
Libraries	4	4
RSLs	3	3
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	9	9
<u>TOTAL</u>	225	230

New members: MAJ Donald Andrew Shields, LBDR Stjepan Bosnjak

Archived members: GNR Bill Rowe, GNR Maurice Minehan, SGT George Beale, SGT Robin Thomas, SGT Ian Wingate, LT Bruce Eva, LT John Auchettl, LTCOL Robert McCallum, Mr Colin Bragg, Mr Derek Trewarne.

Motion: The committee will resolve the outstanding general committee positions and report back at the next AGM.

*Moved: **Jason Cooke***

*Seconded: **James Overell***

Carried

Motion: To accept the nominations for general committee positions (MAJ Rolfe, CAPT Batten, GNR Heron)

*Moved: **David Edwards***

*Seconded: **Jason Cooke***

Carried

(Secretary - I don't believe this latter motion was necessary given that the number of nominees was less than the positions available).

At this point the President took the time to thank those that nominated and congratulated them on their ongoing or new positions. He then encouraged any member present to approach the committee in the future if they change their minds and wished to serve on the committee.

The president also highlighted the service of MAJ Gary Rolfe who has recently retired after 42 years and four months of service to the Australian Army. Great support from the CO on behalf of 5/6 RVR. Congratulations on your service milestone.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

The following items of general business were discussed.

a. Annual Subscriptions

In accordance with our constitution, it is a requirement that our annual fees be discussed and agreed upon at an AGM. Concern that the membership is not growing and very few annual members, we're eating into our savings. Committee has decided to keep the amount as per 2019-20.

Motion: That the 2020-21 annual subscription remain at \$20 and \$200 for life membership.

*Moved: **Jason Cooke***

*Seconded: **James Overell***

Carried

b. Honorary Members for Life

As per our constitution, those members that have received the honour of Honorary Members for life are to be read out at the AGM. The following members have been recognised:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| - MAJ Robin Smith | - MAJ Merv Taggart | - WO2 Lionel Foster |
| - SSGT Reg Morrell | - SSGT Brian Cleeman (dec'd) | - MAJ David Osborne |
| - BRIG Doug Perry | | |

Committee approved adding MAJ Neil Hamer to Honorary Life Membership due to his long-term commitment to the association in various role, including President.

c. Social Activities

We ran the annual RAA Luncheon in March. Another planned for 2021. Nothing else due to COVID.

Restrictions are easing. Planning for events in 2021. Mentioned that 10 Mdm Association is starting to run events, such as St Barbara's day yesterday (Waurm Ponds)

d. 150th Anniversary Events

Major national events as previously shared driven by HoR:

- National synchronised ceremonial gun salute (1 Aug)
- Laying up of old banner at SoA
- Parade and Drumhead Service at Victoria Barracks (6 Nov)
- Cocktail Party (6 Nov)

What should we do in Vic? Activities we do next year should align. The following was discussed:

- The RAA Luncheon will fit into the 150th theme
- WRT the Gun Salute 1 Aug, we will have the Bty M2A2 firing. We expect to get 2 x 25 Pdrs via BRIG Perry, perhaps as a static show around the firing gun. Will contact Alan Stirling from the Werribee Half Bty about including the Armstrong Gun. Pres has been speaking to DHoR inquiring if we might be able to get a M777 and other equipment from the Regiment/School.
- We have the “Artillery flag” at the Shrine. The Association will liaise with them to arrange for it to be flown on relevant occasions (such as 1 Aug)
- Propose a social event, like a cocktail party, to align it with the Sydney event timings.
- Other events - RSL events, 10 Mdm Association events – keen to tie them in

President opened this up to the floor for commentary.

The president has spoken to LtCol Nick Floyd (RAAHC) who’s organising cocktail party about how to get similar to run in Vic. Pres will write to HoR and Ian Ahearn to get them recognised as official events. President plans to formalise the Vic events in a letter to HoR so they are recorded as official events.

Comment from LtCol Ian George – congrats to Pres and committee on getting this done and a great opportunity.

Follow us on Facebook for updates.

The president also mentioned that they plan, with the BC, to reopen the gunner symposiums.

e. Support Activities

The website and facebook page have been discussed and MAJ Hamer’s efforts with the newsletter have been recognised. Mention of analysis being done on website usage, with downloading of the newsletter being a major driver for website access.

f. Victorian Artillery History Project

The President talked to the project to capture the missing pieces of the Victorian Gunner History:

- Long running project to record the history of Artillery in Victoria
- Have Jim Killinder’s book and brief history on the website
- Looking to produce a more detailed history
- Need to define the goal, and type of history to capture
- Proposed scope is to focus on the Army Reserve (1980) to today

The president also has documentation from an ex-ADJT. The President has reached out to MAJGEN Mike O’Brien about how to go about it. The Vice President, LTCOL Peter Rowley is driving this project and will be leveraging the membership to provide and validate historical content.

g. Bty Address – BC 2/10 Bty

The president introduced MAJ James Eling, who marched in as BC 2/10 Bty in 2020 to give a summary of the Bty this year.

Most of the Bty deployed on OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST at the start of the year. It was the biggest deployment of the Bty to date, and the first call-out of Reserve. BC and one of the Bty Lts had key roles in the control centre.

After this the Bty went straight into the COVID restrictions. The Bty moved to virtual training around June, good but challenging for a technical trade unit. It ran a UAS course. 9 Regt is custodians of UAS assets for 2 Div, so the Bty needs to increase capability and this will involve tighter integration with other units of the Brigade.

The training program for 2021 is quite dynamic with three live shoots planned, and a focus on foundation warfighting and technical skills. There will be a 9-day exercise with the Brigade.

There will be the 150th shoot on 1 Aug. BC will request a M777 from the School, reaching out to try to get SP (K9/AS9).

He continues to produce his Principles of War podcast, including a dedicated RAAHC seminar series for 150th, also looking at a series around the impact of artillery.

Ian George suggested the RUSI Library should be a good resource. The president congratulated James on the work he's done with his podcasts.

h. Open Forum

David Osborne had a conversation with Reg Morrell about the old copies of Cascabel on the website. Some are missing, and if someone can find them and get them to him, he can digitise and get them back to us to publish.

The president raised that the Jarks club/history room is still there, but with Reg Morrell moving on, the committee will need to find someone to curate.

The president recognised Don Shields. Don mentioned a reasonable turnout at the 10 Mdm event and that the 10 Mdm Association is working on getting the 5.5 out of the depot into Waurn Ponds.

10. CLOSE MEETING

The President thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was closed at approximately 1225 hours. The next Annual General Meeting would be scheduled for the 5th December 2021 to be held at Sargood Barracks commencing at 1100 hours unless otherwise notified.



President
COL Jason Cooke



Secretary
CAPT David Edwards