



ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held Friday, 7th November 2008, 10.25 a.m.,
at Monash & Blamey Rooms, Naval and Military Club,
27 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Geoff Neilson AM, welcomed members and thanked them for their attendance.

He acknowledged the presence of four previous State Chairmen: John Wertheimer AM RFD, Diana Jones AM, Ian Perdriau AM and Prue Gillies AM, and commented that the National Chairman, Dina Browne AO, would be arriving later in the meeting.

2. PRESENT

The attendance book registered the attendance of 66 members.

3. APOLOGIES

Nine apologies received prior to the AGM and a further three apologies tabled by Richard Rozen OAM were recorded.

The Chairman asked that the Apologies be accepted:

MOVED: LANCE WOODHOUSE OAM

SECONDED: MARION LAU OAM

CARRIED

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

Minutes of the 2007 AGM had been distributed before the meeting. The Chairman asked that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the 2007 AGM.

MOVED: KEVIN HOWARD OAM

SECONDED: PRUE GILLIES AM

CARRIED

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a) The Chairman presented a summary of his report, which had been distributed earlier, and said what a great pleasure it had been to be State Chairman of the OAA Victoria Branch in 2007-2008. He considered that the highlight of 2008 had been the History Essay Project that the State Committee had launched to foster greater awareness of Australian history and culture.

The topic had been why young people enlisted in the Australian Defence Forces to serve overseas in World War One and the Committee had been pleased with the number and standard of the entries. Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC acted as Chairman of the Judges and selected the winner from four finalists. The winner was Miss Sarah Lenthall, a Third Year Arts/Law student at Monash University and she would take up her prize (guided tours of Gallipoli and the Western Front battlefields, an around the world air ticket and \$5000 travelling expenses grant) in 2009.

b) **Regional Groups**

- i. The Chairman then commended the Regional Groups on their strong performance in 2008. He referred members to the report on the Regional Groups, which had been attached to the AGM papers, and thanked the Regional Groups' Coordinator, Kevin Howard OAM, for preparing it. He said that the Groups were the 'heart and soul' of Victoria Branch and he was appreciative of the strong support the Groups had received from the Branch Committee.
- ii. The Groups were also a great tribute to the work of the late John Rodda OAM who had died shortly after the 2007 AGM.

c) **Activities and Events**

The following events, details of which are provided in the Chairman's Report, were held:-

- i. **AGM and Lunch**
Held at the Naval and Military Club on 2 November 2007.
- ii. **Annual Dinner**
Held at the RACV Club on 7 December 2008.
- iii. **Australia Day Flag Lowering Ceremony**
Held at Victoria Barracks Melbourne on 26 January 2008.
- iv. **Cultural Lunch**
Held at the William Angliss Institute of TAFE Restaurant on 23 April 2008.
- v. **Tour of the State Library**
Held on 10 July 2008.
- vi. **New Members' Reception**
Held on 10 September 2008.
- vii. **Eureka Tower Visit**
Free entry to members was granted on two occasions.

d) **Governance**

The Branch Committee had agreed objectives for the year and these were reviewed at each meeting. New Branch Rules had been adopted and a Branch business plan prepared for adoption in 2009. Significant input had also been provided to the National Committee's review of By Laws. The Chairman acknowledged the work of the previous Treasurer, Eugene Falk AM OBE, who had retired because of ill health.

e) **Committee**

The Branch Committee met monthly except in January. Meetings were held at the RACV Club except for August 2008 when the Committee met in Geelong. In future one meeting a year will be held in a Regional group centre. The Chairman mentioned particularly three committee members; John Wertheimer AM RFD for his outstanding work as the previous State Chairman, Don Hyde AM for his work as Deputy Chairman and coordinator of an excellent newsletter and Kevin Howard OAM for his work as Regional Group Coordinator.

**MOVED: CHAIRMAN
THAT HIS REPORT BE ACCEPTED**

SECONDED: RICHARD ROZEN OAM

CARRIED

6. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

- a) Trevor Brown AM was invited as Honorary Treasurer to summarise the Financial Statements.
- b) The Treasurer moved that the Financial Statements as presented at the meeting be received and adopted.

MOVED: THE HONORARY TREASURER

SECONDED: GEOFF CHRISTOPHERSON AM

CARRIED

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE FOR YEAR 2008-2009

The Chairman declared all Committee positions vacant for year 2008-2009 and invited a former State Chairman, Mr Ian Perdriau AM, to take the Chair for the election.

Mr Perdriau read out the nominations for Office Bearers as follows:-

- Chairman- Don Hyde AM
- Deputy Chairman (Metropolitan)- Geoff Christopherson AM
- Deputy Chairman (Country)-Kevin Howard OAM JP
- Honorary Secretary- Max Chester OAM
- Honorary Treasurer- Trevor Brown AM

As no ballot was required, Mr Perdriau declared the Office Bearer positions filled.

Six nominations for Committee members were received, as follows:

- David Mann OAM
- Marion Lau OAM
- Marjorie Morgan OAM
- Richard Rozen OAM
- Rowan Story AM RFD,
- Voi Williams OAM

As the number of nominations did not exceed the number of positions available, the Committee Members were duly elected.

The Chairman thanked Office Bearers and Committee Members for their contributions to the Committee during 2007-2008.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The incoming State Chairman, Don Hyde AM, thanked the members for electing him to the Chair. He reminded them of the forthcoming Annual Dinner and the National Conference in Brisbane in February 2009. He then paid tribute to Geoff Neilson AM's two years as State Chairman and noted that, in those years, the Victoria Branch has seen:-

- An increased level of committee professionalism;
- Allocation of tasks to all committee members;
- A big expansion of regional groups;
- The introduction of quarterly newsletters;
- Obvious business acumen; and
- Emphasis on a high standard of English expression.

He concluded by saying that Geoff Neilson AM was a great Australian and would be asked to stay on the Committee as the Immediate Past President.

The outgoing Immediate Past President, John Wertheimer AM RFD, then added his tribute to Geoff Neilson AM who, he believed, had had a very successful period of office marked by:

- The production of accurate committee minutes;
- Active participation in National Council affairs particularly in overcoming the resistance, at national level, to the introduction and expansion of regional groups;
- Following on from his period as Treasurer, an expansion of financial activities on a broad front, including the financial affairs of the Regional Groups;
- Good email communications;
- Establishing a more formal relationship with RACV;
- Establishing an arrangement of Branch Committee meetings outside Melbourne; and
- Great courtesy and style.

Don Hyde AM and John Wertheimer AM RFD then presented Geoff Neilson AM with an inscribed silver platter as a sign of appreciation from OAA Victoria Branch.

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the 2008 Annual General meeting closed at 11.15 am.