



Minutes of the
RAN WRITERS ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting 2008
Held at the Tuggeranong Community Centre, Thursday 20 November, 2008

In attendance:

Lew Horsfield, Geoffrey Hardwick, Leonard White, Laurie Dillon, Roy Sly, Graeme Campbell

Apologies:

Margie Grogan, Mark, Mark McConnell, Amanda Ruffin, Mark Yarrod, Savi Matic, Cheryl Lane, Peter Shultz, Charlie Woods, Graham Bartlett, John O'Brien, Steve Daws, Jill Kelly, Brian Gorringe, Les Beresford, John Gill, David Haley, Mal Richie, Mick Devenish, Dennis Benfield, Alan Axford, Christine Barber, Alex Goodieson, Alan Hooley, Les Roberts

Opening:

The meeting was opened at 1842 and all present were welcomed by the President. The secretary informed the meeting that there was a quorum for the annual general meeting.

Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting were presented by the secretary and seconded by Graeme Campbell. There was no business arising from those minutes.

President's Report

Members of the Royal Australian Navy Writers Association, it is with pleasure that I present to you the members, my report for the year ending June 2008.

The year has been a busy time for the members of the National Executive Committee. All core functions of the association have been attended to for the benefit of the members. Arrangements for the fourth national reunion in Hobart are progressing well.

- The Scribes of Townsville had an enjoyable get together, which I attended.
- The Annual Sydney Luncheon was once again a success.
- The Scribes in Darwin have held two Luncheons which was a first under the new sub committee setup.
- The Adelaide Scribes mustered for 3 "Pie Floater" Lunches.
- The Victorian Scribes met for an Evening Dinner, attended by about 40 Scribes, which I attended
- The Canberra Scribes had a successful Christmas Lunch.
- Over 100 Scribes attended the 3rd National Reunion in Perth
- The Committee conducted 2 electronic meetings and one face to face meeting in Perth before the 2008 Reunion
- The Executive Committee met face to face for one meeting, in Canberra.
- Arrangements for the 2011 Reunion, to be held in Hobart are well in hand.

During the reporting year I attended the Graduation of Initial Writer Course 247 and presented the Student of Merit award to Smn Wtr Ross Puckeridge. Presentations were also made to the Student of Merit for the other Initial Writer Classes held in the reporting period., and the Dux of the Leading Writer Professional Development Program. The presentation of this award was made by Jeannie Roberts our Sub-Committee Leader in Darwin to LSWTR Samantha Langley-Sepulcri, prior to her taking up a posting in West Australia. We congratulate the winners of the awards. Arrangements are being put in place to initiate some new awards, with a Leading Writer promotion course called the Intermediate Course being made into a Residential Course and the Professional Development Course, being renamed the Advanced Writer Course being converted to a Residential Course

During my travels I have also managed to visit 10 Scribes who, so to speak, live off the beaten track.

The Committee has been pleased with the increase in membership of the association. The association requires the support of all Writers, both serving and retired to contribute to our growth and stability. We are proceeding with the set up of Sub Committees in various states and areas, where sufficient numbers exist, so they can assist the Executive Committee and in the long run, you, the members of the association.

Our Secretary Geoffrey Hardwick and Treasurer Leonard White have fulfilled their duties in a truly professional manner. Our new Vice President, Martin Grogan and Committee Member Denis Benfield, have enabled us to expand our areas and both have introduced new ideas into the association. On behalf of all of you I extend your warmest thanks to them.

The Editor of the Scribbler and Web Master, Geoffrey Hardwick has again excelled in his duties. The Newsletter continues to receive high praise for its content. I believe this medium is our most valuable tool in which we are able to disseminate information to all members in a timely manner. I would also like to encourage all members to help this continue through the submission of articles for the Newsletter. I would also like to thank our sponsor, National Mailing and Marketing Pty Ltd. for their invaluable continued support

I wish to put on record my most sincere thanks to Brian B.J. Tucker, who will not be seeking re-election to the National Committee this year, for the hard work he has put in to the Association over the past years. BJ organised the very successful Adelaide Reunion in 2005, and on behalf of the Committee and all members I say many thanks.

During the year I was honoured to present on your behalf The RAN Writers Association's Certificate of Recognition to Dave Rickard for his effort in the production of our book, The Pen is Mightier.

We have lost a lot of good friends throughout the year, some were expected, some were very sudden, and quite unexpected. Some 7 members who were listed as Missing have been confirmed as Crossing the Bar.

LEST WE FORGET.

As you see from the Treasurer's report the Association is in a sound financial position. This is through the excellent management skills of the treasurer. We are always open to offers from any

Member who is in business, and thinks they can obtain a business gain from advertising in our Newsletter.

We look forward to a bigger and better year for the Association in the 2008/2009 reporting year.

That completes my report and I table this report for information and any discussion.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Leonard White, presented the audited Financial Report – a copy of which is attached. This report was seconded by Laurie Dillon

Web Site

The secretary of drew attention of members to the attached statistics regarding the website. Interesting to note that we have a over 1.9 million hits in 12 months. Members should actively promote the statistics as a means of generating income from businesses that are interested in advertising on the site.

At this point the President declared all positions vacant and called on the Secretary to read the nominations.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2008/2009

It is a requirement of the rules that all nominations for election to the Committee “shall be lodged with the Secretary at least fourteen days before the AGM”.

The following nominations were received on or before 3 November, 2007:

- 1 For President: Lew Horsfield
- 2 For Vice President: Martin Grogan
- 3 For Secretary: Geoffrey Hardwick
- 4 For Treasurer: Leonard White
- 5 For three Committee Member positions:
Denis Benfield,
Frank Carville,
Alan Axford

As these were the only nominations, each person was duly elected.

General Business:

Item 1. Membership fees.

It is proposed that membership fees be increased as follows:

- Yearly membership from \$10 to \$12
- Life membership from \$100 to \$110.

This is due to increased administration costs and in addition, allows for people to pay by credit card (the association incurs a processing fee for each transaction). Postage recently increased from \$.50-\$.55 per letter, cost of paper, envelopes, etc have also contributed to this small increase. Proposed Leonard White, seconded by Lew Horsfield Carried.

Item 2 Honorary life memberships - see papers under

The Secretary submitted the attached paper on the proposal for Honorary Life Memberships. The secretary informed the meeting that this draft had been advertised on the website since February 2008. The paper was agreed by all members present. Grammar Campbell, proposed an amendment to the paper as follows. "Members for life" that are awarded life membership will be reimbursed their full life membership fees. Seconded Laurie Dillon passed as amended.

Item 3 Refreshments at official functions.

The association is now in a sound financial position and the executive considers that it is now time to provide some benefits to our members.

It is proposed that at official writer functions, i.e. luncheons/dinners that the association contributes \$5 per member attending the function towards refreshments. It is emphasised that any writer (retired or serving) attending a function, must be a member of the RAN Writers Association to receive this benefit.

For instance, at the Sydney annual luncheon, if we have 40 attending, and only 20 are members then the association would only contribute \$100 to refreshments. It is proposed that the association only contributes to one luncheon per year in a particular region. In most cases, there is only one luncheon held each year in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and possibly two in Adelaide and Darwin. The member organising the function will be required to submit the name and membership number of those members who have attended the function when seeking reimbursement.

Proposed by Leonard White seconded by Roy Sly, Passed unanimously

Item 4 – Awards for writer courses

Currently the Initial Writers Course receive:

Pen and book about the Navy written by Dave Rickard

With the advent of the new residential courses to commence in 2009 – AB to LS, and LS to PO. It is proposed that we award the following for the new courses to commence next year:

Intermediate Writers Course:

Pen and Writers Tie

Advanced Writers Course:

Pen and pencil set and Writers Tie

Intermediate Dux of the year:
Time clock



Jetsetter World Time Clock \$31.30

RAN JETSETTER WORLD TIME
CLOCK. USE ON THE DESK OR WHILE
TRAVELING THIS QUALITY FOLDAWAY
CLOCK FEATURES WORLD TIME AND
ALARM. GIFT BOXED DECORATION:
LASER ENGRAVED 1 POSITION WITH
THE RAN BRANDING

Advanced Dux of the year:
Sword desk set



Sword Desk Set - Indent \$50.00

TWO TONE PLATED MEDALLION AND
SWORD PRESENTED IN A WOOD DESK
STAND WITH A STYLISH METAL PEN.
PACKAGED IN A SILVER AND BLACK
PRESENTATION BOX WITH A CLEAR
ACETATE LID.

Lew Horsfield proposed that this proposal be accepted and Leonard White seconded the motion.
Passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 1928.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Geoffrey Hardwick".

Geoffrey Hardwick
Secretary