



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

Minutes of the

**Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company's 20th Annual General Meeting
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Headquarters' Board Room
28 Best Avenue, Georges Heights NSW 2088
on Saturday 27 October 2018
At 1030**

1.0 Opening and Attendance. The Chair opened the Meeting at 1030 hours and thanked members for attending the AGM. He specifically acknowledged the presence of the Patron of the Company MAJGEN Steve Gower, AO, AO(Mil) (Retired).

In attendance were: Steve Gower (Patron), Tim Ford (Chair), Kevin Browning, Frank Colley, John Cox, Rob Crawford, Nick Floyd, Peter Lawrence, Robert McNeill and Vince Williams (total 10).

2.0 Apologies and proxies. The following apologies and proxies were received: Ian Ahearn (proxy Tim Ford), John Balfour (proxy Vince Williams), Peter Bruce, Arthur Burke, Schon Condon (proxy Tim Ford), Brian Hall (proxy Tim Ford), Peter Hartup, John Macpherson and Peter Spence (total 9).

3.0 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 October 2017

3.1 The Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

3.2 Motion:

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the RAAHC held on 21 October 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting."

Moved by John Cox, seconded Robert McNeill and carried.

4.0 Review Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2017 AGM

4.1 No matters were raised from the Minutes. The Chair advised his report would address matters that were relevant from the previous AGM.

5.0 Chair's Report.

5.1 The Chair noted his full report had been published on the RAAHC Website (<http://www.artilleryhistory.org/>) prior to the AGM. He summarised his report for the meeting.

5.2 The Chair noted that Frank Colley had joined the Board, Nick Floyd had returned to the Board after his absence on operational service and that Brian Hall was still on extended leave of absence. He also welcomed Paul Camilleri as the new RAAHC webmaster.

5.3 He advised that the review of the Corporate Plan for 2018-21 emphasised that the critical goal of the RAAHC was to support in any way possible the RAA Regimental Committee, the RAA Head of Regiment and the RAA Representative Colonel Commandant and to work closely with a range of stakeholders, regional and unit artillery organisations and individuals around Australia. The RAAHC Corporate Plan FY 2018-21 is available to all members and the public on our website.

5.4 He noted the achievements of the RAAHC were detailed in the Board papers and Financial Report for 2018 that were available on the website as well as being reported throughout the year in “Cannonball” and through RAAHC periodic “Airburst” newsletters.

5.5 The Chair acknowledged the continued success of the two RAAHC ANZAC Centenary projects – the ANZAC Centennial 18 Pounder Memorial Gun Project (ACG) and the Firepower History Seminar Series – both of which continue in one form or another into 2019. Much effort has gone into both these activities by dedicated volunteers.

5.6 The Chair reported that the ACG has been paraded, displayed and occasionally fired at over 35 national, state and local events over the last three years. Its activities are planned to continue until June 2019 after which an appropriate future home for the Gun and Limber will be sought. He stated that the Company is hoping that it may be at a new Australian Army Artillery Museum once it is built. Alternative arrangements for display and perhaps future participation in commemoration events will also be considered.

5.7 The RAAHC History Seminar Series had also continued strongly with a further three very successful seminars conducted in Canberra during the year on Firepower: *Lessons From the Great War*. The opportunity to reflect on the profound and enduring influence of the Great War on artillery tactics, technology and command has been very welcome and he was pleased to advise that interest in attendance and a professional appreciation of the value of the presentations in these seminars has steadily and significantly increased. He was looking forward to a lively discussion at the final seminar on 8th November at the Australian Defence Force Academy and to the publication of an anthology of the seminars in 2019. He congratulated Nick Floyd on his perseverance and dedication towards the project.

5.8 The Chair confirmed that the Company now holds a much smaller historical collection, compared to late 2017 and to that which was previously owned when the Museum was open at North Head. In November 2017 the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU) collected the last of the large items that have been given to the Commonwealth. The vast majority of our previous collection is now in Bandiana awaiting transfer eventually to the Australian Army Artillery Museum (planned to be built at Puckapunyal). Over the last year two guns and some smaller items surplus to the AAHU requirements were made available for private sale and at auction. The limited number of items that remain in the RAAHC’s collection will now be managed through a series of long term loans to heritage organisations around Australia with a very small number still held at the Sir Roden Cutler VC Artillery Research Centre (CRC). He congratulated Rob Crawford on a job very well done.

5.9 The Chair confirmed that over the reporting period we have continued to slowly develop the CRC from a standalone, paper and other media based library to a ‘Trove’ compliant, online, remotely accessible research centre while retaining and improving fundamental library capabilities. This is a demanding long-term process. The CRC along with its network of specialist researchers has also continued to provide significant historical and heritage information services over the last year often working in conjunction with the RAA Regimental History Committee]. The Company continues to develop its network of researchers and to answer enquiries from around Australia and overseas, and as a result has published many worthy articles in the RAAHC’s journal, Cannonball

5.10 The development of the national Artillery Register continues with Peter Hartup constructing a Trove compatible database. Trove, an initiative of the National Library of Australia helps us find historic resources and information from many organisations around the world. The RAAHC’s Obituary Coordinator, Peter Bruce, continues to develop the Obituaries record on our website and to add those he receives. This record has now become a significant research resource with more than 185 entries. Along with the “Gunnery of Renown” record on the RAAHC website, these two collections provide a memorable source of information on Gunnery who have contributed to the heritage of the Regiment. The Chair encouraged all to add to this record by sending in additional biographies of memorable Gunnery.

5.11 Australia’s Memorial Walk (AMW) at North Fort remains under the care of the RAAHC. While it remains the Company’s intention to handover this national memorial to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust for their continued care at a mutually agreeable time, options still exist to add both individual and centre piece pavers, and in fact there has been a continued increase in the level of requests and placement of pavers over the last 12 months. The Chair sincerely thanked John Balfour for the great work he continues to undertake with marketing and managing the AMW.

5.12 The Chair also advised the AGM that the RAAHC had also supported the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Coral Balmoral that was commemorated in Canberra over the period 11-13 May 2018. RAAHC members Ian Ahearn and Chris Jobson were heavily involved in the planning and conduct of the events which included a Gunner Veterans meet and greet, a Gunner Service at the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery National Memorial, a National Gunner Dinner and the DVA National Commemoration and reception. Additional support was provided by Head of Regiment staff (particularly Major Terry Brennan), RAA Association ACT, 8/12 Regiment and 161 Battery RNZA. The ACG Team provided the 18 Pounder to act as a Minute Gun during the Gunner Service.

5.13 The Chair also congratulated John Cox and Nick Floyd for their excellent work in producing *A Brief History of Employment of Australian Artillery*, which will be Annex A to LWD 3-4-1 *Employment of Artillery*, due for publication in 2019.

5.14 The Chair then thanked all those who have contributed to the success of the RAAHC this year, particularly the wide range of volunteers around Australia that assist our activities and a wide range of heritage projects. Amongst these, he particularly acknowledged those volunteers working on our various projects and in the CRC; and the RAAHC Directors for their significant contributions throughout the year. Finally, he offered a special thank you to our Patron, Major General Steve Gower AO, AO (Mil) as

well as to our Honorary Solicitor Paul Fordyce and our Honorary Auditor Graham Martin.

5.15 Motion:

“That the Chair’s Report be received”.

Moved by Tim Ford, seconded Peter Lawrence and carried.

6.0 Financial Statement, Financial Performance and Auditor’s Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2018

6.1 Peter Lawrence summarised the Financial Report, stating that as a result of gifting the majority of the Company’s collection (valued at \$928,000) to the Army the Company’s net assets have reduced to \$806,324. He indicated that our cash flow situation remained similar to the previous financial year with \$163,287 in the bank. He noted that of this figure, \$70,000 consisted of unspent donations to the ACG.

6.2 He stated that RAAHC is financially sound and can meet all foreseeable expenses for the next year.

6.3 He concluded by recommending, for audit clarity, that the Company formally advise the Chief of Army of the Auditor’s conservative valuation of the collection gifted to Army and request an acknowledgement of this gift. The Head of Regiment and the Head of the AAHU should be informed at the same time.

6.4 Motion:

“That the Financial Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2017 be received”.

Moved by Peter Lawrence, seconded Rob Crawford and carried.

6.5 Kevin Browning, as a Life Member of the RAAHC and past Chair, asked that the Minutes acknowledge the significant role the Chair and the Board of the RAAHC have played in bringing the Company to its current strong financial position.

7.0 Appointment of the Honorary Auditor

7.1 Motion:

“That Graham Martin of Martin and Luscombe, Chartered Accountants be appointed the Company’s Auditor for 2019”.

Moved by Peter Lawrence, seconded Rob Crawford and carried.

7.2 Peter Lawrence informed the meeting that since Graham Martin had been appointed by ASIC, there was no longer a requirement for a formal motion of appointment to be made at each AGM until such times as the Honorary Auditor changed.

8.0 Election of Directors of the RAAHC

8.1 Tim Ford advised the AGM that in accordance with the current Constitution three Directors had retired. He confirmed that the retiring Directors were standing for re-election. There were no other nominations for directorship. The AGM was reminded that each nominee’s nomination with proposer and seconder; and resume were published and available on the RAAHC website.

8.2 There being fewer directors than the maximum of 15 required by the Constitution, the Chair enquired if there were any objections to the nominees. There was no objection. Therefore Ian Ahearn, Nick Floyd and Vince Williams were elected as directors.

9.0 The RAAHC History Seminar Series

9.1 Nick Floyd briefed the AGM on the Firepower Seminar series and explained its underlying goals. He then outlined how the final seminar on 8 November would be structured. He also explained in some detail how the Anthology for the full series would be developed in 2019 now that the AAHU had agreed to consider publishing a 100,000 word tier 2 publication. He explained that Dr William Westerman would edit all the papers with his (NF) support and that of a steering committee (members to be identified) with the goal of publication before the end of 2019.

9.2 The Chair acknowledged that what had been achieved had been an excellent piece of work and a very good model on what can be done going forward.

9.3 The Patron then added his congratulations, stating that he was very impressed with what had been achieved and that all the seminars had been pitched at the right level. He did suggest that while Blue Sky were good publishers there was a lot to do to achieve the timelines for publishing the Anthology and a good proof reader would be most useful.

10.0 Other Business

10.1 The Chair opened the meeting to other business.

10.2 Robert McNeil raised concerns, on behalf of his late father and himself, about the intended move of Hurlstone Agricultural School and the fate of the WW2 Memorial Cairn and the WW1 memorial grove of trees at the site. He was asked to provide some details regarding his concerns by email to the Secretary and the issue would then be investigated further.

10.3 There being no further business the Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 1120 hours.

Tim Ford
Chairman

October 2019