



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

**Minutes of the  
Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Headquarters' Board Room  
28 Best Avenue, Georges Heights 2088  
on Saturday 21 October 2017  
At 1030**

**1.0 Opening and Attendance.** The Chair opened the Meeting at 1030 hours and thanked members for attending the AGM.

**In attendance** were: Schon Condon, John Cox, Rob Crawford, Tim Ford, Brian Hall, Peter Hartup, Peter Lawrence, Richard McNeill, Robert McNeill, and Vince Williams (total 10).

**2.0 Apologies and proxies.** The following apologies were received: Ian Ahearn, Kevin Browning, Nick Floyd, Paul Fordyce, Steve Gower, Bill Neill and Danny Toplis (7).

**3.0 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 October 2016**

3.1 The Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

3.2 Motion:

*That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the RAAHC held on 15 October 2016 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting."*

Moved by Brian Hall, seconded Richard McNeill and carried.

**4.0 Review Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2016 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 during 2017 Lieutenant Colonel Rob Crawford joined the Board and had been appointed to the role of Collections Director, a role in which he has been particularly active. Lieutenant Colonel Nick Floyd was on leave of absence from the Board whilst on operational service.

5.3 He advised that the RAAHC continued to support the activities of 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. In recognition of the

value the RAAHC added to the heritage of Australian artillery, the RAAHC had been offered permanent formal observer status on the RAA Regimental Committee.

5.4 He noted the achievements of the RAAHC were detailed in the Board papers and Financial Report for 2017 that were available on website for several weeks as well as being reported throughout the year in “Cannonball” and through RAAHC periodic “Airburst” newsletters. The plans for the current three years were outlined in the RAAHC Corporate Plan FY 2016-19 which is available to all members and the public on the website.

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 until 2018. Much effort has gone into both these activities by dedicated volunteers.

5.6 The Chair reported the tragic death of one of an ACG volunteer, Luke Dowell, in a car accident in September 2017. Luke had been a stalwart supporter of the team and the Lead Driver for many of the events. He will be sorely missed. A gun detachment from the volunteers will represent Australia at the Passchendaele Salute at Fort Seclin in France on 10 November 2017. All the volunteers have met their own costs for this trip. The ACG will also parade in Brisbane as part of the ANZAC Parade in April 2018.

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*. A further four seminars are planned over the next year.

5.8 The Chair confirmed that the Company had completed the disposal of most of the RAAHC collection in accordance with the disposal plan advised to members last AGM. All items identified as appropriate and useful for the future Australian Army Artillery Museum (being part of a combined Armour/Artillery Museum to be built outside the secure area at Puckapunyal) had been formally gifted to the Commonwealth through the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU). This included items already transferred to Bandiana in 2012 and other items that were located at North Fort. The items to go to the Commonwealth by the end of 2017 were estimated to be worth over \$54,000 and included much of the Whitelaw Collection. In all, the RAAHC will have gifted a collection worth more than \$874,000 to assist the Army in preserving the Regiment’s heritage. Some other items had been gifted or loaned to various responsible organisations where requested, including a number of uniform items to Government House in Sydney. Surplus items not required have been advertised and then sold with the funds being made available to the RAAHC to sponsor future projects.

5.9 He reported the continued warm relationship with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT) and had met with the new Executive Director, Mary Darwell. A new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SHFT had been agreed which protects the valuable collection in the RAAHC library and Australia’s Memorial Walk at North Fort. SHFT had requested that all items on loan from either Army or the RAAHC for public display held at North Fort be removed. Arrangements

are in hand with AAHU to recover these weapons and relevant buildings at North Fort will be vacated by the end of this year.

5.10 The chair noted his appreciation for the ongoing contribution of the teams at the Cutler Research Centre, the Australia Memorial Walk and the production of obituaries by the Obituary Coordinator, Peter Bruce,

5.11 He concluded by expressing his gratitude the RAAHC Directors, the Patron, Major General Steve Gower AO, AO (Mil) and the Honorary Solicitor, Paul Fordyce. He particularly highlighted the contribution of the Honorary Auditor, Bill Neill, who has stood down at this AGM after providing services to the Company for over 20 years. He announced that Graham Martin had volunteered to be nominated as the new Honorary Auditor.

5.12 Motion:

***“That the Chair’s Report be received”.***

Moved by Peter Hartup, seconded Peter Lawrence and carried.

## **6.0 Financial Statement, Financial Performance and Auditor’s Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2017**

6.1 Peter Lawrence (PL) informed the AGM that the Honorary Treasurer had provided the material for the Financial Report but had since stepped back from the role. Brian Hall will continue to support the Board as and when he is able.

6.2 PL summarised the Financial Report, stating there had been increased revenue and increased expenditure over 2016 with a net (\$2,393) against \$61 for 2016. In terms of the financial position the net assets were \$1,578,752 against \$1,581,145 for 2016. In regards to cash flow there was a reduction in interest from \$1,947 (2016) to \$990, and an increase in restoration expenses (\$11,043) in 2016 to (\$20,420); with income increased (\$15,615) in 2016 to \$20,596. Overall the net cash equivalents increased from \$145,586 (2016) to \$158,540.

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

6.4 He concluded by reminding the AGM that the Board had conducted an Endorsement Worksheet for Income Tax Exempt Charities provided by the ATO for self-assessment. The Board was satisfied that the Company continued to be compliant.

6.5 Motion:

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

Moved by Brian Hall, seconded Schon Condon and carried.

## **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 2018, subject to ASIC approval”.***

Moved by Tim Ford, seconded Schon Condon and carried.

## **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 John Cox, Tim Ford and Peter Lawrence were elected as directors.

## **9.0 Draw Down of North Head Collection**

9.1 The Collections Director, Rob Crawford, provided a summary on the progress to draw down the items of the Collections at North Fort and also to report on the arrangements with the Australian Army History Unit to recover remaining elements of the Collection from North Head. In accordance with the MoU with SHFT he expected the Company would be able to hand back the North Fort building known as the 'Registry' by the end of December 2017.

## **10.0 Other Business**

10.1 The Chair opened the meeting to other business.

10.2 He then invited Peter Hartup to provide a presentation on the development of the Online database and catalogue. A copy of the presentation is at Attachment 1.

10.3 At the conclusion of the presentation he thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 1145 hours.

**Tim Ford**  
**Chairman**

October 2018

Attachment:

1. Presentation: Online Database and Catalogue