



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

**Minutes of the
Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company
Annual General Meeting
Location: 137/81 Constitution Ave, Campbell, ACT
on Saturday 28th October 2023
1005h**

1.0 Opening and Attendance.

The Chair opened the Meeting at 1005 hours and welcomed members. He acknowledged the availability of the RSL's National HQ, thanks to BRIG (Retd) Phil Winter. He reinforced the importance continuing online access for members' participation, through Zoom or similar, to best achieve a quorum.

1.1 Directors in Attendance:

Ian Ahearn, Chair	IA
Schon Condon	SC
John Cox	JC
Rob Crawford, Honorary Secretary	RC
Bill Foxall, Assistant Honorary Treasurer	BF
Peter Lawrence, Honorary Treasurer	PL
Sean Ryan (online)	SR

Members in Attendance (online unless indicated):

Ian George
John Johnston
Iain MacInnis (in person)
John Morris

Observer

Paul Camilleri (Webmaster)

2.0 Apologies and proxies. The following apologies and proxies were received:

Proxies

Nick Floyd appointing John Cox
Craig Furini appointing John Cox
Ron West appointing John Cox

Apologies:

The Patron, LTGEN Greg Bilton
James Eling (Director)
Nick Floyd (Director)
Craig Furini (Director)
Ron West (Director)
Kevin Browning

Tim Ford

3.0 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th November 2022

3.1 The Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

3.2 Motion:

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the RAAHC held on 12th November 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.”

Moved by Ian Ahearn, seconded John Johnston and carried.

4.0 Review Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2022 AGM

4.1 No matters arose from the Minutes of the AGM held 12th November 2022.

5.0 RAAHC Chair’s Report

5.1 The Chair’s report (along with all AGM papers) had been published on the RAAHC Website (<http://www.artilleryhistory.org/>) prior to the AGM. IA outlined his report, covering:

- Members of the Board of Directors.
- *Whose Name We Share*. The book is a history of 103rd Battery RAA, by Gunner Hemi Croft Cannonball, 8th/12th Regiment RAA.
- Reduction in the amount of members’ subscriptions.
- Cancellation of Commonwealth funding for the Combined Arms Learning and Heritage Centre at Puckapunyal.
- Cutler Research Centre – overview of its business and services.
- Online contact with the Military History Research Group of the International University Foundation of Madrid.
- Australia’s Memorial Walk – completion of entry monument renovation, including a plaque acknowledging the traditional landowners.
- RAA UAS (drone) pilots, qualified Category 3 and higher will now receive and wear a ‘Wing’ brevet.
- The Essential History Project, in some detail, including that the Company will likely deal directly with Big Sky Publishing, an application will be submitted for a DVA grant and the title will be something like ‘*ACTION! ACTION! ACTION! – A History of the Employment of Australian Artillery 1871 to 2021.*’
- Recognised and thanked the efforts of the Company’s group of
- Thanked the Patron, Lieutenant General Greg Bilton, AO, CSC, the Honorary Solicitor, Paul Fordyce and Honorary Auditor, Graham Martin.

5.2 Motion:

That the Chair’s Report for 2023 be received.

Moved by Ian Ahearn, seconded John Cox and carried.

6.0 Financial Statement, Financial Performance and Auditor’s Report for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

6.1 The Honorary Treasurer, Peter Lawrence, drew the attention of AGM participants to the Company’s Annual Financial Report, for the reporting period ending 30th June 2023, approved by the Board on 26th September and signed 4th October 2024. He reminded those attending that the Financial Report is available on the website and encompasses the Directors’ and Auditor’s Reports and details the financial position of the Company. The RAAHC is in a sound financial

position, able to pay all current creditors and can consider funding a major heritage project in FY 23/24; being the Essential History, if the grant is not forthcoming. PL also outlined the Company's assets, cash values and underspending along a number of budget lines.

PL thanked the Honorary Auditor, Graham Martin (of Martin and Luscombe) for auditing the Company and delivering of the Financial Report, already mentioned.

6.2 **Motion:**

That the Financial Statement for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2023 be received.
Moved by Peter Lawrence, seconded Bill Foxall and carried.

7.0 **Election of Directors of the RAAHC**

7.1 The Honorary Secretary advised the AGM that, as per the RAAHC's Constitution, three directors had retired and that all had agreed to stand for re-election. The resume of each nominee, along with their nomination form, stating proposer and seconder, were available on the webpage established for the AGM, on the Company's website. RC took the opportunity to acknowledge the assistance of the Webmaster, Paul Camilleri, in facilitating membership access to the AGM's papers.

Additionally, Sean Ryan had consented, in writing, to being a director on 25th September 2023.

Status of the Board of Directors. There being fewer directors than the maximum of 15 permitted by the Constitution, the Honorary Secretary enquired if there were any objections to the three directors seeking re-election and one seeking election for the first time. There was no objection. RC noted he was one of the directors standing for re-election, so handed over election proceedings to the Chair, Ian Ahearn.

7.2 **Motion:**

That in accordance with Clause 15.4.2 of the Constitution, Robert Crawford, Craig Furini and Peter Lawrence be re-elected and Sean Ryan be elected as directors of the RAAHC.
Moved by Ian Ahearn, seconded Bill Foxall and carried.

8.0 **RAAHC Corporate Plan 2021-2024**

8.1 The Chair stated that the Corporate Plan for the period 2021-24 remained extant. A copy of the Plan is available on the RAAHC website. The Company will rewrite the Corporate Plan in 2024.

Note. Item 8 was an update of an already approved plan. No motion was required.

9.0 **General Business - Nil**

10.0 **Other Business**

10.1 **Essential History Project – Update**

The Project Manager, John Cox, gave a comprehensive update on the project, particularly the progress since the Board had approved Company funding for the project and direct engagement with Big Sky Publishing had rapidly gained traction. In short, the project has found 'new life'. JC provided detail relating to:

- The pleasing relationship formed with Big Sky Publishing Staff.
- The new title and why it was chosen (*'ACTION! ACTION! ACTION! – A History of the Employment of Australian Artillery 1871 to 2021'*).
- Project funding and that the grant application was well advanced.
- Progress of the authoring and imagery.
- The style of the finished product, ie how it will look.

Note. Item 10.1 was an update only, so no motion was required.

11.0 **Meeting Closure and next Annual General Meeting**

11.1 **Closure.** There being no further business the Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 1042 hours.

11.2 Next AGM is planned for either Saturday 26th October or 2nd November 2024, with confirmation and details to be posted to the RAAHC website.

Ian Ahearn
Chair RAAHC

October 2024