

MINUTES of NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING
Dated 16th January 2020

Meeting Opened 1010

Present: M Campbell, P Carey, P Norris, J Caldwell, Terry Hetherington, M Peake and D Martin.

K. Boundy was present for part of the meeting, to hear the Nowra Veterans' Wellbeing Centre discussion.

Apologies: Nil

The President opened the meeting by stating we had a fair amount of business to conduct with three major items to be discussed namely

- a. National Welfare Officer
- b. Veterans Wellbeing Centre
- c. Declining Membership

He also formerly welcomed new Treasurer Jock Caldwell and Secretary (in waiting) Terry Hetherington.

The President then informed the meeting that Mr Lee Cordner (District President of the RSL) would be in attendance at 1100 to give a presentation on the progress of the Nowra Veterans Wellbeing Centre.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: P Norris

Seconded: P Carey

"That the Minutes as read be accepted".....Carried

Business Arising from Minutes of National Executive Meeting 04 September 2019

Patron of the Association.

The President stated that he had had discussions with delegates of Divisions prior to the FCM in regard to this matter and he felt that we should leave this matter in abeyance at this time as he has a longer term plan. This was agreed to by the Executive.

Note: "The secretary was asked to keep this matter as an Agenda Item for the foreseeable future."

Correspondence:

IN

- a. Numerous emails re: membership/change of address/Slipstream.**
- b. Minutes of 2019 FCM**
- c. FAAA Welfare Rep Discussion Paper**
- d. WA Submission on National Welfare Rep**
- e. Email relating to Russ Dowrick**
- f. Musings from the WA President**
- g. Email from John Macartney to the President expressing his concerns relating to the Association.**

Out:

- a. Numerous emails re: membership/change of address/Slipstream**
- b. Cards of Condolence to departed members families.**
- c. Six Monthly Information Statements to WA Department of Mines.**

President's Report:

The president did not present a Report noting that he had covered the main topics in his opening remarks

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report is attached at the end of these minutes

The President welcomed our new treasurer (James Caldwell) and asked him if the changeover was completed.

James replied that it was however Denis remains available if required

Moved: D Martin

Seconded: P Carey

"That treasurer's Report be received".....Carried

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's Report is attached at the end of these minutes

Moved: P Carey

Seconded: P Norris

"That Secretary's Report be received".....Carried

1035: The President suspended business in hand and invited Mr Lee Corder to address the meeting on the subject of the DVA Nowra Veterans Wellbeing Centre.

Mr Corder is the President Central Southern RSL District Council which covers 31 RSL Sub Branches in Southern NSW and the ACT. He gave the committee a comprehensive background to the genesis and current progress of the proposed Nowra Veterans' Wellbeing Centre, as follows:

- Both the coalition and Labour gave a pre-election commitment to fund a number of Centres for Veterans' Wellbeing, should they be elected to government.
- The coalition has now committed \$30m over three years (commencing FY19/20) for the establishment of six VWCs, one of which will be in Nowra. (The others will be at Townsville, Darwin, Perth, Adelaide and Wodonga). All are progressing with the exception of Darwin, which he thought didn't have a lead agency yet.
- Each Centre will be unique, as it will need to cater for the particular needs of the community in that locality.
- The Nowra Centre will be Veteran focused, using a 'Hub and Spoke' model (the centre is the hub, and the services offered are the spokes, which may well be off-site).
- The Centre will not be 'bells and whistles' to begin with – the aim is to start modest. Key to success is getting the right staff, understanding Veterans' needs, and effectively connecting with existing service providers.
- DVA commenced discussion on 18 October at a workshop in Nowra. Essentially, they were looking for a lead agency. RSL subsequently discussed the proposal internally, and agreed they were best placed to take the initiative. In December DVA formally acknowledged this, and invited the RSL to be the lead agency.
- RSL has established a Steering Group, with a view to preparing a full Business Case for DVA consideration by the end of May 2020. Part of this process is to establish what Services are currently available, and what Services are needed (ie a Mapping exercise).
- Funding can be used for 'bricks and mortar' and initial set up, but not for ongoing operational costs. RSL is looking for potential sponsors and/or other means of providing OPEX funding.
- RSL is keen to have all major ESOs involved, and would welcome FAAAA involvement. Mr Cordner saw initial roles as assisting with Mapping, Needs Analysis and as a possible contributor for funding - but what ESOs can bring to the table will evolve as the project develops.
- As one of the largest ESOs in the immediate vicinity, the RSL is very keen to see the FAAAA on board.

On completion of his briefing the President thanked Mr Cordner for his time and assured him that we would give him our answer within 24 hrs.

The Executive then had a very productive discussion and agreed unanimously that we should be actively involved in the Nowra VWC Project. We will have a representative at the meeting on 6/2 (on invitation) and will endeavour to have people at any other forums that the sponsor sees as appropriate.

Because we are a National Organisation there was little appetite expending National funds on what is essentially a NSW project. However, we believe we can bring much to the table in terms of engagement, feedback, information gathering, assistance with mapping and so forth. As the project develops there may well be other roles we can look at.

Points of contacts for the project are:

Phil.Carey admin@shoalegal.com.au (NSW Division President)

Keith Boundy keithb@fastrac.net.au (NSW Liaison Officer)

Marcus Peake (National Exec: Responsible for communication through our website, newsletters, national magazine and emails

The Secretary was tasked with informing all Divisions on the DVA Wellbeing Centres.

“Normal Business was then resumed.”

Webmaster’s Report

The Webmaster’s gave a verbal report to the meeting

He noted that things had been relatively quiet over the holiday period apart for a problem with the site going down just after Christmas a temporary fix was installed and since that time the fault has been fully rectified and the Website is fully operational.

Moved: D Martin

Seconded: P Norris

“That the Webmaster’s Report be received”.....Carried

Database Manager’s Report

The Database Manager’s Report is attached at the end of these minutes

Moved: D Martin

Seconded: P Carey

“That the Database Manager’s Report be received”.....Carried

General Business

NATIONAL WELFARE OFFICER

The Secretary stated he had sent an email to our new Welfare Officer (Dave McKean) welcoming him to the National Executive and asking him if he had any matters he wished to discuss, but he had not received a reply at this time.

Vice President Phil said that he had only received one response from the Divisions in relation to the discussion paper given out at the FCM and that this was from the WA Division and it contained some good points in it.

The president stated that we should make this matter a priority and asked Phil to present a SOP as soon as possible

MEMBERSHIP DECLINE

Marcus Peake

Marcus raised the subject of membership decline stating that the secretary had at the last meeting on his behalf presented to the Committee a discussion paper on Membership Decline and ways to proceed to increase membership.

He stated that this matter was of great concern and that he was disappointed that it seemed to be left in limbo.

The secretary stated that at the last meeting it was pointed out by Vice President Phil that he felt that he could address this issue in conjunction with his work on the “National Welfare Op” liaising with Marcus on his return.

The President stated that he felt this matter should be acted upon as a matter of urgency at our next meeting, and asked the Webmaster to prepare a discussion paper on the subject.

Emails relating to Russ Dowrick

The Webmaster briefed the committee on the recent email chain regarding Russ Dowrick. Essentially, Russ believed that he had been given life-time membership of the Association by the then National President Geoff Ledger and ACT President John Schonberger.

The webmaster had written to Geoff and John to seek advice, and both had responded to the effect that no such offer had been made – indeed, there was no avenue to do so as Russ was not a member of the Association and, in any case, life membership can only be bestowed with the approval of the Federal Council. John S. suggested the misunderstanding might have occurred over a Facebook page issue. He asked the webmaster to write to Russ to explain the situation.

The Webmaster advised that he had written to Russ, as requested, and had also invited him to become a member (by payment of the appropriate subs) but had not received a response. He considered the matter to be closed.

“It was decided that NO FURTHER ACTION was required”

Email from John Macartney to the President expressing his concerns with the Association

The National President went through the issues raised by John Macartney in his recent email, attached at the end of these Minutes.

The President told the meeting that he had replied to John’s email and felt that most of the concerns were being actioned, whilst some others needed to be looked at. He was very concerned about the lack of communications between the Association and its Divisions and asked the new Secretary to look at Video Conferencing/Skype at the next FCM.

The Webmaster suggested that a major issue is the lack of interaction between some Divisions and their members. Some are good at it, putting out newsletters and/or arranging social events and get-togethers, whilst others have no known interaction. This was just one of the problems that needed to be addressed in the broader context of Attracting new members and Retaining existing ones (A&R).

The President advised that he wanted a structured discussion on the important issue of A&R and asked the Webmaster to produce a discussion paper for the next meeting, which would be brought forward to February.

NEXT MEETING

It was decided to hold another Meeting on the 26th February commencing at 1000
ESDT
Venue White Ensign Club

Items to be discussed are:

National Welfare Officer
Membership Decline
Veterans Wellbeing Centre

**There being no further business the meeting was closed by the President at 1210
ESDT**

**M Campbell
President
FAAAA**

**R Martin
Secretary
FAAAA**

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 16 Jan 2020 (in Aust Dollars) (cash basis)

Note by Webmaster: Figures have been removed from this on-line version.
Members can request a full copy using the “Contact Us” box below

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
FAAA (Aust) General Account	\$
FAAA (Aust) SS Account	\$
FAAA (Aust) Fixed Term Deposit (Matures 01 July 2020) @2.05%	\$
Total Cash and Bank accounts	\$
<u>TOTAL ASSETS HELD AT BANK</u>	\$
<u>LIABILITIES & EQUITY</u>	
Liabilities(nil outstanding cheques)	\$
Plus Outstanding Accounts	\$
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY</u>	\$

James E Caldwell
Treasurer
FAAA (Australia)

National Secretary's Report for Executive Meeting dates 16th Jan 2020

One major event has taken place since our last Executive Meeting namely the Annual Federal Council Meeting..

FCM

The 2019 Federal Council Meeting was held in the FAA Museum on the Saturday Morning prior to Coffee and a light lunch in the WEC. All Divisions were represented with the exception of Tasmania.

Our guest speaker was **COMFAA (CDRE Donald Dezentie)**

And he kept members entertained through -out his speech.

As you are aware 2019 FCM was an election year and the new National Executive of the FAAA is as follows:

President.....RADM Mark Campbell AM CSC RANR

Vice President.....Phil Carey

Treasurer.....Jock Caldwell

Secretary.....Nil

Webmaster.....Marcus Peake

Database Manager.....Paul Norris

Welfare Officer.....Dave McKean

Please Note: *“Dick Martin has agreed to continue as Secretary until a suitable candidate can be found.”*

We welcome new members Mr. Jock Caldwell (Treasurer) and Mr. Dave McKean (Welfare Officer)

In addition Mr. Terry Hetherington has agreed to become the new National Secretary in March 2020

We are still losing membership at a regrettable rate due to a number of factors and the seemingly lack of interest from our current fleet Air Arm Members.

Yours Aye

Dick Martin
National Secretary
14 Jan 2020

National Membership Database Manager's Report for Executive Meeting 16th January 2020

Membership Database Activities Since FCM

The period since the FCM in October last year has mainly been concerned with the distribution of the December issue of Slipstream, which for a change went out without a hitch, and the changeover to the 2020 membership year and consequential updates to members financial status, as and when the various Divisions provide advice on membership renewals (NSW Division is somewhat of an exception as I have direct online read-only access to the Division Account, although that only provides details of members who pay by EFT).

The New Year period provided a surge in activity due to the NSW Division having sent out a subs renewal circular to hardcopy Slipstream recipient members with the December edition that listed an incorrect bank account number for EFT payments, resulting in myself and the Webmaster offering the services of the database to send out a bulk email message advising of the error and providing the correct account details. In undertaking this exercise, I think we also copped the majority of the flak and angst from members regarding the error, but I guess it goes with the territory, i.e. it is always the messenger that cops it in the neck.

It is also understood that softcopy members also received the same renewal circular separately in the mail, however an offer to the NSW Division Secretary and Treasurer to contact those members in a similar manner to the hardcopy recipients went unanswered.

Membership Statistics

As we are currently in that state of flux with the changeover to the new membership year, it is not possible to give a true picture of the current membership, however since the FCM we have gained 7 new full members (1 being a previous member who has re-joined and 2 that were previously 'Non Members' but have now become full members) and one Associate member, but offsetting that we have lost four who have indicated that they will not be renewing and sadly two who have 'Crossed the Bar'. So, I guess from a membership number perspective, we continue to be just 'marking time'.

Current membership statistics, as at 14th January 2020, are detailed in the attached report.

Future Activities

The next Australia Post sort plan to cover the six-month period from 28th Feb 2020 will be downloaded and any changes will be incorporated into the membership database in time for the March Slipstream mail-out.

I am also yet to make any progress on making the further changes to the Membership Database Instruction Manual that I flagged in my FCM report, but this will be a work in progress over the next couple of months.

It is also my intention to work on an article for Slipstream in relation to my experience with the 1983/1984 changeover process from the FAA to the Australian Army. This has been something that I have been 'throwing around in my head' for a number of years and in the past week or so I have actually started putting some words together on my iPad of an evening and I also intend reaching out to some other members who transferred over with me to see if they have any photos that I can add to the article. I hope to have something to present to Paul Shiels for the March issue, but if not then, definitely the June issue – 'watch this space'.

Paul Norris

FAAAA National Membership Database Manager

Attachment:

FAAAA Monthly Statistical Report for 14th January 2020

Email from John Macartney.

----- Original Message -----

I have some concerns about the direction our Association is heading and if I may make some

constructive criticisms as a member who does not live in a Capital City nor the Shoalhaven. As such I'm very much kept in the dark about the FAAAA other than Flyby and the Slipstream (both are excellent) but they don't contain any minutes of meetings, etc.

My concerns:

· Communications.

o I wrote to the National Secretary over a year ago about contemporary communications method and was advised that it would be looked into during 2019 but I notice that people are still being flown great distances for a two hour meeting rather than utilising a video link conference call.

XXX I assume that you are referring to our Federal Council Meeting/Annual General Meeting? That is a fair enough call. Our rather rudimentary facilities in Nowra do not lend themselves to what I regard as standard modern communications. There is no reason that we cannot Skype the FCM at least. We shall look at this at the next National Executive meeting later this week.

O Because access to teleconference/video conference/Skype facilities are not embraced by our Association Leadership Group many talented people are excluded from having any input into the direction/running of the association.

XXX. As per my previous comment, our facilities are fairly limited and even the internet has been an issue in the past, but we shall investigate further

o Live streaming of meetings would allow members observe meetings and would provide insight and a feeling of belonging even though it one way communications.

XXX. True. We shall investigate further.

o Notice of meetings, both National and State, should be distributed to the overall membership so that members are aware that meetings are being held and could attend. This should include the agenda as well as the venue with time and date.

XXX. This is done now. I expect State Executives to pass this information on to members. We can promulgate this information on the website though as a catch all if this helps?

o Minutes of each should be posted on our website in a timely manner so members can make input into the next meeting.

XXX - I thought that this is done now? If not, it will happen.

o As a member, I cannot email the National President direct but have to rely upon the former National Secretary's private email in the hope that my email is passed on.

XXX - John, I can only assume that you have not passed your email address on to 700 members as a President of an organisation. I am a volunteer like the rest of the National Executive. I fill the President's position as a sense of duty and contribution. My email inbox is very busy like most people and whenever I pass my email address on to members, I usually regret it. Having said that, many members have my address and use and abuse the privilege. It is a difficult issue, but you have written to me, and I have replied within several days of receiving your note. That is what I do for 99.9% of people and members.

· Social Connections.

o National Reunions held at Nowra may not be the best option as many members have indicated that they would prefer a different location.

XXX - This is the first time that I have ever heard this suggestion. I shall inquire further. I no longer reside in the Shoalhaven, but what is your suggested venue?

o I recently stumbled upon a group of exRAN people who hold a reunion every two years at a different location, normally regional to reduce costs. Seemed fairly well attended.

XXX - Noted.

o Because of the size of the larger States Regional Sub-Branched (or whatever you may like to call them) may be a strategy to keep members in contact and possibly grow.

XXX - Possibly. We shall see.

· Membership.

o Our Association needs to urgently look at itself and determine why people are not joining or are leaving. The Leadership must take responsibility for this and develop strategies to make the FAAAA the ESO of choice and not just something that is nostalgic.

XXX - I agree wholeheartedly. We are working towards this goal.

o Great move to have a National Welfare Officer. As a former Level 3 Advocate I would advise that he be given maximum support.

XXX - I agree. Not everyone shares this view, but I am 100% convinced that a Welfare Officer is vital to having a user friendly and helpful ESO. If you want to use your Level 3 qual again for the FAAAA, please let me know . . .

o From my perspective there appears to be a real gulf between the current serving and former members of the FAA. As an example, the CO of 723 Squadron was twice invited to Vietnam Veterans' Day at Old Bar but no response was ever received. Mind you I had the same result from the NSW State Division of our Association.

XXX - I think that you are correct. It is something that we continue to work hard on. It remains difficult.

o This gap must be bridged for our Association to survive.

XXX - Agreed

o The membership must be treated as a part of the Association and not just as a source of income with annual dues otherwise, with no involvement, they will just fade away.

XXX - No-one in the National Executive sees the membership as a source of income. In fact, I am intrigued and horrified by the suggestion. The membership is fading away, true, but I hope not because they see themselves as a source of income!!??

Yours Aye

John Macartney

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