

MINUTES of NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

Dated 04 June 2019

Present: M Campbell, D Mulvihill, M Peake, P Norris and D Martin.

Apologies: P Carey

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The President pointed an error in the minutes as read and the Secretary has corrected the minutes to read as follows:

“The President informed the meeting that Mr Paul Norris our new Database Manager was in attendance and welcomed him to the National Executive.”

Moved: M Campbell

Seconded: D Mulvihill.

“That the corrected Minutes as read be accepted”.....Carried

Business Arising from Minutes of National Executive Meeting 06th Feb 2018

Patron of the Association-moved to General Business

Correspondence:

In:

- a. Numerous emails re: membership/change of address/Slipstream.
- b. DFWA MEDIA STATEMENT (Final) Dated 09 MAY 2019
- c. ADSO Policy Objectives dated 29 April 2019
- d. ADSO MEDIA Statement (Draft) 29 April 2019
- e. ADSO Contact List 6A dated 29 April 2019
- f. DFWA Media Statement dated 26th March 2019
- g. MEDIA RELEASE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION OF DEFENCE FORCE RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS SCHEME COMMUTATION ARRANGEMENTS (Minister of Defence)
- h. WA Presidents Remarks on the 2018 FCM dated 27Feb 2019
- i. Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Bill 2019 dated 16Feb 2019
- j. Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Bill 2019 dated 16Feb2019
- k. (Second Reading)Thursday, 14 February 2019
- l. FAAAA Items for Sale dated 29 Jan2019

Out:

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

President's Report:

The President presented his report which is attached at the end of these minutes

Moved: D Martin

Seconded: D Mulvihill

“That President’s Report be received”.....Carried

Treasurer's Report:

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

Moved; D Martin

Seconded: M Peake

“That treasurer’s Report be received”.....Carried

Secretary's Report:

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

Moved; M Peake

Seconded: D Mulvihill

“That Secretary’s Report be received”.....Carried

Webmaster's Report

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

Moved; D Martin

Seconded: D Mulvihill

“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: D Mulvihill

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

General Business

Patron:

The President asked the Executive as to whether they thought a Patron was necessary for the Association. The general feeling by the Executive was that having a Patron added a great deal of prestige to the Association.

The President then stated he was hoping to have the matter sorted in the near future.

Wall of Service Application Form

Paul Norris asked if a change could be made to the Application form for the Wall of Service. The Secretary pointed out that the Wall of Service was controlled by the NSW Division (John Balzac is the Administrator) and he would need to be consulted. However the Secretary was sure that there would be no problem.

Australian Service Medal

Marcus Peake raised the subject of the long-standing matter of the Australian Service Medal (CT) for those involved in Operation Bursa. By way of background, this application was started by Brett Dowsing and Ted Wynberg some years ago, to address the anomaly whereby conforming Army Aviation personnel are entitled to the Award but Fleet Air Arm members were not, even though the Operation was essentially identical. The application has been moving slowly towards a positive outcome but over the last year in particular has stalled, somewhere between Legal and Honours and Awards areas within Defence. He asked the President if he would be prepared to write to the CDF, who was supportive of the proposal when he was Chief of Army, to see if it could be moved forward.

The National President indicated he would be happy to consider a letter to CDF but would require a full background briefing before committing. Marcus said that he would talk to Brett Dowsing to get the latest advice on where the matter now rests and would advise the President in due course.

FCM 2019

The Secretary informed the meeting that 2019 was an election year and all positions were declared vacant. He also informed the meeting that he and the Treasurer will not be standing for re-election

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday August 27th 3019

Venue; White Ensign Club (adjacent to the FAAA Museum)

Time: 1000EST

There being no further Business the meeting was closed by the President at 1130 ESDST

M Campbell
President
FAAAA

R Martin
Secretary
FAAAA

Presidents Report – National Executive Meeting June 2019

The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), together with its partners in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) has continued to debate the contents of the Productivity Commission's draft report into compensation and rehabilitation for veterans. I have made no further input, and am watching developments with interest. The military covenant matter has continued to be on the backburner. I shall advise if and when it returns to prominence.

I have finally managed to meet with Air Chief Marshal (retired) Mark Binskin on the matter of FAAAA Patron. In short, he wishes to remain a member of the FAAAA but has no desire to be our Patron. I have also had discussions with Vice Admiral (retired) Tim Barrett. I have not yet put a direct question to him, and the fact that he is still not a FAAAA member was an issue during the discussion, but will seek your thoughts on the subject at our meeting on Tuesday.

I will shortly meet with COMFAA, CDRE Dezentje on the matter of regular updates on FAA matters for the FAAAA membership. I shall advise on the success or otherwise of those discussions by email to the FAAAA Executive in due course.

Finally, I have recently met with Dr Karl James, the recently appointed Head of Military History at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Karl is interested in increasing the prominence of the FAA involvement in the Korean War at the Memorial which is excellent. I have urged him to include the FAA involvement in the Vietnam War (RANHFV) as well, however he is reluctant to expand the task at the moment. I shall keep you across developments in this area.

M. G. Campbell
RADM, RANR
National President

2 June 2019

**NATIONAL Secretary's Report for EXECUTIVE MEETING dated 04 June
2019**

Cripes six months of another year have gone by already time seems to fly by as we get older.

Things have been fairly quiet since our last meeting

ANZAC Day has been and gone and was as usual well supported ,the Greenwell Point Dawn Service grows bigger every year and as one old member said the hill gets steeper and steeper.

As you have probably seen by our Web based newsletter "Flybys" we have a new editor for our quarterly magazine "Slipstream" namely Paul Shiels a member of the South Australian Division, by all reports Paul has been involved in the newspaper game over a number of years and we wish him well in his new role. Also I would like to thank Ron Batchelor for his tireless efforts as editor over the past few years may be he will give me a little peace now that he has time on his hands. I am also including with this report a short article on the current way we process Slipstream.

It is also worth noting that the Long standing President of the New South Wales Division Greg Wise retired at their recent AGM. Greg was replaced by Phil Carey and we wish him well in the position of President. Greg has done a tremendous job over the past decade presiding over at least 4 Reunions, the Wall of Service and he was instrumental in establishing the Wall of Honour. These are only a few of his achievements for the Association.

At the risk of repeating myself here is a reminder to the Executive that 2019 is an election year for our association and all positions on the National Executive are open for nominations Please note that nominations must be in accordance with Rule 14 of the FAAAA Constitution. I ask any current members who are standing for election or re-election to please inform me so that I can initiate their nominations.

On 25 March 2019 the Minister for Veterans Affairs announced an Independent Inquiry into the Administration of the DFRDB scheme. The Inquiry is to be undertaken by the Ombudsman. Since then the Ombudsman has initiated his 'own motion' or internal investigation which must be limited to the accuracy of information provided to DFRDB scheme members by scheme administrators, particularly in relation to commutation. The Ombudsman must be guided by what is in the legislation only. The Ombudsman has since then called for submissions from scheme members in relation to commutation.

Dick Martin
National Secretary

FLEET AIR ARM ASOCIATION of AUSTRALIA

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 04 June 2019 (in Aust Dollars) (cash basis)

Financial record has been removed from this website copy. Bone-fide financial members can request a full copy if they wish.

Webmaster's Report for National Executive Meeting of 4 June 2019

In response to the promise of a fuller 'Slipstream' by the new Editor, **Paul Shiels**, the webmaster has significantly scaled back his monthly newsletter 'FlyBy'. From now on it will only contain material that would not last up to a three month waiting period, or which is inter-connected with website articles.

The website remains highly stable with a greater than 99% availability rate over the year. We recently upgraded Servers to improve speed and to double our storage capacity to 10GB. This came at a premium: our server/maintenance contract for the current year is \$330.00, which reflects the 25% discount we attract as a 'non-profit' organisation. We also have annual Domain renewal of around \$30.00.

The reduction in work for 'FlyBy' will allow the webmaster to concentrate more on website content. To that end, he has been actively engaged in generating a new "Skyhawk Heritage" article to replace the existing, sadly deficient one. The expected release date is towards the end of June and the content will be very significant.

The webmaster also continues to provide support to **Paul Norris**, the Database Manager, on request. Paul has proven to be a highly effective DBM and is serving the FAAAA well.

Marcus Peake
Webmaster

National Membership Database Manger's Report for Executive Meeting 04 July 2019

Membership Database Activities since Last Meeting

In the period since the last Executive Meeting handover of management of the membership database from the Webmaster is considered complete, although Marcus still provides some mentoring as required, particularly on matters concerning the 'back end' functions of the database, such as Script amendments. The Database instruction Manual has also been updated and reissued, I am also happy to advise that I believe I have developed a good working rapport with all the State Division Secretaries.

In conjunction with the Webmaster, I have been corresponding with the new Slipstream Editor and offered the facility of the membership database to send out an 'all members' email advising of the new Slipstream format and offering all members, both hardcopy and softcopy recipients, the opportunity to peruse the new online format for the June issue only- The email will also seek feedback on the new format and content. Members, particularly the current hardcopy recipients, would also be given the opportunity to change their delivery preference accordingly.

In early May, I forwarded up to date membership lists to all State Secretaries, with the exception of Tasmania, with a request that they advise what action was to be taken with regard to changing the status of those members who remained financial for 2019. To date:

- Sec. VIC. has advised that 1 member has resigned and the other 10 financial members are to have their memberships cancelled and all remaining members are financial.
- Sec. ACT has advised that three members were to be cancelled and all remaining members are financial.
- Sec. SA. and Sec. WA advised that they had meetings scheduled for late May where the status of financial members would be considered and I would be advised accordingly. At the time of writing this report, I am still awaiting such advice.
- Sec. NSW and Sec. QLD have advised that they were contacting all financial members and would advise me further. with respect to Sec. QLD, I am aware that he is currently stuck in WA following his spouse having undergone emergency hip surgery and I do not believe he has real-time access to his membership records, so I am not sure when I will get a definitive response from that quarter.
- All TAS DIV members are financial for 2019.

Membership Statistics

Ln the period since the last meeting we have gained 16 new members, 8 of whom are Wall of Service {WOS} Plaque applicants and 2 are returning members. We have lost 4 members who are deceased, including one WOS applicant who unfortunately passed away in the period between submitting the WOS application and membership being processed.

As previously stated, we have lost 14 members through non-payment of 2019 subscriptions. Current membership statistics, as at 1st June 2019, are detailed in the attached report. (663)

Paul Norris
FAAAA National Membership Database Manager