**2ND BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.**

**MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT**

**TOWNSVILLE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE SUB-BRANCH**

**ON SATURDAY 29th OCTOBER 2022**

The meeting commenced at 11.23 am.

**The ODE**

**PRESENT**: As per the attendance book (13), Online (10), SEQ (50). The Secretary advised there was a quorum.

**APOLOGIES**: Wayne Woodhouse

**WELCOME**

The President welcomed all those in attendance.

**MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Moved: Malcolm Gray, Seconded: William Norval, that the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 30th October 2021 be taken as read.

**CARRIED**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Welcome all to this the 2022 2RAR Association AGM. Throughout this year the Association has provided focus in three key areas of support being; Our Welfare Program, Our Social Program and our Historical program.

Our Welfare Program provides unique support to both the current service members and our veterans. This is done through a number of key objectives. Our separation and transition support guidance is available to all separating members of the Battalion who require one on one support in preparation for separation for Defence. We encourage all serving members who are thinking of discharging to engage with the Association to help go through this process and administration burden. All though not directly run by the Association our current Vice President, Huggo provides DVA claims mentorship to help any Association member with regards to understanding the complexity of the DVA process and lodging claims. This role is a vital aspect in welfare support and the Association will look closely at getting additional members into advocacy roles into the future so as to continue in this support role. Volunteers are always welcome. Home and Hospital welfare checks and Bereavement support are also key parts to our current Welfare Program.

The 2RAR Association Social Program has been very effective, and I must note the huge achievement set up by Rick Avery in the establishment and continuation of SEQLD Coffee catch ups. The numbers at these events have increased continuously, and from all accounts are wonderful events to be a part off. Our Vic State Rep has also been very attractive in supporting veterans in the state and say thanks to Shaun for all of his efforts to date.

Thirdly, is our Historical program? The Association continues to provide a focus on attaining member’s personnel stories of times spent within the Btn. The goal is to slowly build these stories into a historical document of the history of the 2nd Battalion. A big part of 2 RAR History which is run separately from the Association is the 2 RAR historical Collection. The work that Jason Harrison and his small team of volunteers is to be commended and I strongly encourage all our veterans to come up to Townsville to see this impressive collection of our history and to donate any items that they may feel should be held in this collection.

Throughout the year the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has been a primary focus. The detailed and at times sad story told by many individuals and ex-service groups has gone a long way in shaping the decisions still to come for the Commission. It is not an enviable task but these stories need to be told so that our future veterans will be looked after and supported. To those veterans still hurting please reach out for assistance, be it with the Association or any other trusted support network.

The Association committee would like to take the time now to thank the CO and RSM of the 2nd Btn for allowing all the old and bolds to march alongside our current serving soldiers at the Freedom of Entry to the City of Townsville in late November 2021. It was truly a special occasion and made us old veterans very proud to have been given the opportunity to do so. We look forward to continuing to support the Btn moving forward into next year.

The Association presented an award of Life Membership to our SA State Rep Mal Allen this FY. This award to Mal was justly earned and he is a credit to himself, his family, and to all veterans in particular in the SA region. Mal was also given recognition in this year’s Australia Day honour’s list. The Association would like to thank Merv Dicton, Merv stood down this year as the President of the 2/4 RAR Association and we wish him well in his retirement. I would also like to thank two very important people to the Association, firstly our Patron – MAG Gen Mick Slater (retd) thank you for allowing us to work in supporting our Association members and the 2nd Battalion and allowing us diggers to continue the proud tradition set before us in running and supporting all members of the Association. Secondly I would like to thank our Honorary Padre Rev Graeme R Davis OAM, CSM for staying on as the Association Padre and providing commemorative support and spiritual guidance to our veterans.

The Association continues to provide our members with a quarterly magazine, RINGO and have increased our social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and on our new look website. I encourage all members to check these sites to keep in touch with the goings on of the Association. The Association remains financially strong and have increased our membership base thanks mainly to the diligent efforts by our Membership Member Rick Avery.

Although the Association probably did not meet all our goals this year, we will continue to strive to do better and are happy for any feedback any of our members may have in approving our quality of output to our members.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the outstanding work of the committee members. Their time and effort in volunteering to still serve 2 RAR is Second to None.

Thank you.

“Second to None”

Robert Althofer

President

2RAR Association

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

The Treasurer presented the Audited Statement of Accounts as at 30 September 2022.

Moved: David White, Seconded: Mervyn Dicton, that the Accounts be received.

**CARRIED**

Question from Jason Harrison: Why does the Association not have fixed term deposits in order to gain more interest?

Reply: fixed term deposits do not provide that much of a difference in interest gained, however, if you read the financial report you will see we currently have two fixed term deposits totalling over $36,000. Thank you for your interest.

**APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

RWM Accountants, the current Auditor, has indicated their willingness to continue in the position of Auditor for 2022 – 2023.

Moved: Robert Althofer, Seconded: Brendan martin, that RWM Accountants be appointed Auditor.

**ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2022-23**

Robert Althofer would stand for the position of President. As there were no other nominations for the position, the Chairman declared Robert Althofer elected.

 **CARRIED**

Justin Huggett would stand for the position of Vice President. As there were no other nominations for the position, the Chairman declared Justin Huggett elected.

**CARRIED**

Malcolm Gray would stand for the position of Secretary. As there were no other nominations for the position, the Chairman declared Malcolm Gray elected.

**CARRIED**

David White would stand for re-election as Treasurer. As there were no other nominations for the position, the Chairman declared David White elected.

**CARRIED**

The following members were nominating for the vacant positions in the Management Committee and were duly elected:

* Troy McGill
* Brendan Martin
* Wayne Woodhouse
* Richard Avery
* William Norval

**CARRIED**

**THE COMMITTEE:** President: Robert Althofer, Vice President: Justin Huggett MG, Secretary: Malcolm Gray, Treasurer: David White, Members: Troy McGill, Brendan Martin, Wayne Woodhouse, Richard Avery, William Norval

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**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Proposals for Consideration**

There have been proposals bought forward by a financial member, Jason Harrison, which should be discussed as they could fit as an agenda item. The proposals were sent to all members with an email address, however not to those without due to their length. There are, potentially, four proposals within his document, and due to the timeframe, verbosity of the document and need for discussion and due diligence on the proposals I would like to defer this matter to be heard at a later date, potentially at a Special General Meeting if deemed warranted.

I would like to make note that these proposals are in Jason Harrisons words and not one item has been changed. I encourage all members to seek out a copy of this document, available through the Secretary, and provide any points for discussion. If they are further discussed in any further meetings, I also urge Jason to re-read his document and seek the current edition of the Constitution (amendment 5 is the current edition). I also urge Jason to place facts in his documents to back up his comments, do not allude to current or past members and their ability to conduct business diligently and professionally.

Jason Harrison was not accepting of this decision and attempted to continue with his proposals. The Honorary Legal Officer, Mr Pat Savage, MC reminded the Chairman that the discussion was not consistent with the rules of the Association. The Chairman stopped the discussion and the meeting continued.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Discussion items from the President.**

Access to the Historical Collection to be added to the website.

US Air Medal Update.

Government response to the interim report from the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide. Justin Huggett, MC and the Patron Micchael Slater, AO, DSC, CSC both spoke of the results so far of the Royal Commission.

RARA roadmap.

Proposal: money be provided to any meeting to attend the AGM via ZOOM be provided with money for entertainment purposes up to $10 per head.

Moved: Mervyn Dicton. Seconded: Troy McGill.

**CARRIED**

Proposal: a vote of thanks be given to Rick Avery and Gordon Hurford, AM for their continued support of veterans of the battalion through reunions and coffee catch ups.

Moved: Mervyn Dicton, Seconded: John Cassidy.

**CARRIED**

Question from Jason Harrison, How many grants has the Association applied for?

Answer: The Association currently has three grant/sponsorship requests being deliberated, BRAVUS, RSL and Townsville Small Business. They were successful through Gordon Hurford, AM for six grants/sponsorship for the Terang Reunion. We also are gathering information for the ANZAC Day trust and have had donations from the office of Senator Phillip Thompson, OAM MP of office supplies.

Question from Jason Harrison: why does the battalion not have two members involved in the committee?

Answer: the battalion RTF association was asked and a position offered to any member of BHQ to attend. No one has attended a meeting. We will continue to ask and if they do SO we will run general meetings to facilitate.

Comment from the Patron, Michael Slater, AO, DSC, CSC. Thank you to the committee for growing the member base of the Association and meeting their objectives. He asked that certain members discontinue in their attempts to undermine the executive committee and to join it if they believe they can do better.

Comment from Mark Tutton, CO 2 RAR: Thank you to the committee for their continued work, he also invited the President to provide a presentation to the battalion at next years induction.

**Closing Remarks – Robert Althofer**

Thanks to Senator Macdonald and Federal Member Phil Thompson in their support with our RINGO publication. Thanks to the Patron, Life Members and Honorary members and a big thank you goes out to all our families, without the support and appreciation from our families then a lot of this support could not be possible. Thank you for your attendance today and for your continued support to the Association. We as an Association will continue to strive to work in the best interest of all our members and remain accountable for our actions. Thank you to all.

**DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date, time and place for the next Annual General Meeting will be 28 October 2023.

**CONCLUSION**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 1230 pm.

**Robert Althofer Malcolm Gray**

President Secretary

2 RAR Association Inc 2 RAR Association Inc

15 November 2022 15 November 2022