 **MINUTES OF THE**

**MHSA FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 10 October 2021**

**Location:** Zoom Pro Conference facilitated by the Federal President located in Canberra.

**Present: *Nigel Webster (Chairperson), Tom King (Secretary), Justin Chadwick, Elizabeth Hobbs, Leigh Ryan, Ian Stagoll, and Russell Linwood***

**Apologies**: ***Neil Dearberg, Katrina Kittel, Russell Paten, Paul Sutton***

**Absent**: No apology to date has been received from Steven Danaher

**Welcome by Chair**. ***Nigel Webster*** opened the meeting at 07.00 pm ADST.

***Previous Minutes (19 July 2021)***

**That the Minutes of the previous Federal Council meeting held on 19 July 2021, be accepted as** a **true and accurate record.**

Moved: Tom King Seconded: Nigel Webster

Motion CARRIED.

After they have been approved at the next Federal Council meeting in December 2021, these minutes will be published on the MHSA website (as per Federal Council Minute 9 of 25 March 2019).

**Business Arising:**

*Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MHSA and Military History Society of New South Wales (MHS NSW)*

Prior to the meeting the President circulated the MOU to all Council members.

The President reminded Council members that a MOU is an instrument of understanding, and it is NOT binding on either of the parties to the agreement.

**That the Draft MOU be ratified between the two societies.**

Moved Nigel Webster Seconded Ian Stagoll

Motion CARRIED

***MHSA Biannual Military History Conference 14, 15 and 16 October 2022 at the Maroochydore RSL Club organised by the Queensland Division of MHSA*** *-*

*In the absence of Neil Dearberg this item is carried over to the next Federal Council meeting. However, Nigel Webster commented that the Queensland Division had already secured an impressive variety of speakers such as MAJ “Les Hiddins AM (Retd) – “The Bush Tucker Man.” He commended the advertising that has already being done such as in “Reconnaissance” the online magazine of the MHS NSW.*

*President’s Report*

The President advised that since the last meeting he had attended am interactive Lecture presented by Mr Robin Droogleever on the New South Mounted Rifles in the Anglo-Boer War for the MHS NSW.

He also reminded Federal Council of the existence of the Military History Society of Western Australia (MHS WA) which was a breakaway military history group from MHSA WA Branch. This occurred approximately 30 years ago in similar circumstances that led to the creation of the MHS NSW. He had contacted Steven Danaher (President of the MHSA Western Australian Branch) re local intelligence about the MHS WA and the feasibility of creating closer links in future such as an MOU. Nigel Webster said his approach to this issue would be governed by the views of the MHSA WA.

The President also mentioned revitalising links with the New Zealand Military Historical Society Inc (NZMHS). This organisation has already signed a MOU with the MHSA. Their magazine ‘The Volunteer” is sent to the MHSA and he believed that it was going to the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum where the MHSA archives are stored.

(A subsequent internet search by the Secretary shows that the NZMHS was formed in 1973 and it costs $NZ75 a year for an individual membership. The NZMHS published a journal ‘The Volunteer’ three time a year, (a journal index is available for downloading). The NZMHS website has numerous links, one of which is the MHSA!)

*Treasurer’s Report*

Dr. Justin Chadwick

Trading Account $5,894.86

Term Deposit $22,536.22

The Treasurer also advised that the $5,000 grant to the Qld Branch for the 2022 Biannual Military HistoryConference has been paid. The loan of $5,000 is yet to be advanced.

*Key Correspondence*

*Out:* Nil

*In:* Nil

**General Business**

***RAR Association Online Bibliography Russell Linwood***

By way of introduction Russell Linwood advised that the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) is the collective entity within which the Australian Regular Army infantry battalions are grouped, and its members form a sizable part of the Army even when not serving in regimental postings. Many are fellow military historians.

The RAR bibliography is a very large, comprehensive online bibliography, of every known media (e.g., written, Video pictorial) in which this element of Australia’s military history is recorded. The bibliography covers the period from the late 1940s to the present. It contains over 2,000 entries.

Information is requested from any MHSA members of any materials pertaining to the RAR that are NOT yet on the bibliography. This can be sent to Russell direct, and he can then follow up any lead, developing a bibliography entry in the format used by the RAR Association.

In this manner, the MHSA is both benefitting for those interested in accessing RAR-specific material AND using its enormous collective capability to help the RAR Association, capture all known material about the RAR for permanent access by any researcher in the future.

A briefing note on the RAR database is attached to these minutes.

***MHSA Website upgrade Russell Linwood***

A project team headed up by Katrina Kittel andassisted by Russell Linwood is revamping and improving the MHSA web page. Russell Linwood spoke to this item and reminded the Council members that effectiveness of the Website is part of the MHSA Business Plan (Key Reporting Area (KRA 6). The website helps to explain what the MHSA does and improves its visibility. Comments and suggestions from Council members would be most welcome by the project team members.

Ian Stagoll asked about the webmaster, Paul Sutton’s replacement. An ACT branch member is prepared to take on the webmaster’s role in future. Ian will speak to this matter and provide further details at the next meeting.

Justin Chadwick also mentioned the possibility of a Facebook page and other social media and the connectivity of various platforms such as Instagram and twitter. Nigel Webster commented on the broad social media presence of organisations such as the MHS NSW and the NHSA.

***MHSA Constitution Russell Linwood***

Russell Linwood raised the matter of the status of the new MHSA constitution which was adopted at the May 2021 Federal Council meeting. Leigh Ryan will undertake a prompt constitutional review of the document with regards to the status of and need for any additional rules.

Russell will then go through the new constitution and edit the content as a final review of the content to ensure it is fit for purpose.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 7:50 pm.

**Next Federal Council meeting will be at 7:00 pm ADST on 6 December 2021.**

*Drafted by Tom King- Secretary on 20 October* 2021

*Cleared by Nigel Webster – President on 31 October 2021.*

***Attachment to MHSA minutes of 10 October 2021***

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT (RAR) ASSOCIATION BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Background (Where we are now)**

The RARA Bibliography supports both research and general interest enquiry, listing an ample collection of materials which contain reference to the RAR, its battalions and/or its individuals. It is entirely voluntary work.

It is presented on a website at [https://rarnational.org.au/category/bibliography/](about:blank) and open to the public. However, some materials covering the RAR are only accessible through the Defence Restricted Network. Over time, these should also become available as such materials are periodically declassified.

This product represents a very significant Regimental achievement in **assuring the permanent retention of focused RAR history**. A master list is available on the website.

A project plan which specifies the Bibliography’s purpose, structure, collection plan, update and maintenance processes, responsibilities, related collections, business continuity arrangements and work priorities guides the Bibliography work effort.

**Structure (What we already have on the website)**

The structure accords with the historical groupings of deployments and other Australian military activity.

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| **Part** | **Structure** | **Comment** |
| **1** | General Histories | Only a small number of publications are actually “Official” Australian histories. There are six official history series as defined by the Australian War Memorial; relevant volumes are included in the Bibliography while a list of ALL such Official Histories is linked electronically to this Part as a service to users. |
| **2** | Regimental & Battalion Histories | Includes successive copies of SOPs, Standing Orders, and other publications consistent with security classifications and as made available from battalions. |
| **3** | Personal Narratives | Include autobiographies and biographies, and unpublished works such as diaries and letters made available by donors. |
| **4** | RAN, RAAF, other Army Corps, and non-military Agencies | RAN, RAAF, police, border protection, Non-Government Organisations. |
| **5** | Foreign Force Histories (all media) | Includes enemy sources, with more than just histories & narratives. |
| **6** | Journals and Periodicals | Picks up the field of magazines, fliers, specials. |
| **7** | Audio-visual (tapes) | Material on tape that has not been digitised e.g., reel to reel. |
| **8** | Films | Celluloid medium. Increasingly, these are being digitised. |
| **9** | DVD/CDs | Disks – DVDs can contain anything. CDs can only hold sound and still images. |
| **10** | Audio history recordings | Include type e.g., cassette, reel to reel, MP3. If recorded on a DVD/CD, cross-referenced. |
| **11** | Websites | Materials defined as having a website address. |
| **12** | Honours and Awards, Insignia and Equipment | Supporting materials, usually narrowly technical. |
| **13** | Fiction | All materials that are not confirmed fact but have value. |
| **14** | Personnel Matters | Assignment to Corps, training (officers and ORs), casualty lists etc. |
| **15** | Media and Miscellaneous Matters | Newspaper articles and other documents not published in any other Part. Many are to be held digitally in the Electronic Library (Part 16). |
| **16** | Electronic Library | Material (Parts 1 – 15) that is not available anywhere else i.e., cannot be found in a library, or borrowable except from the RARA bibliography itself. Currently assembled in digitised format; to be made available on-line from August 2020 (2019 deadline not achieved, but material mounts). |

All Parts (less 14) have identical sub-headings, making it easier for researchers to find their area of interest.

1. **GENERAL** (covers *two or more* of the following periods as well as the non-operational service periods of time in between)
2. **JAPAN AND KOREA** 1946-53
3. **SOUTH-EAST ASIA** 1950-current (includes Malaya, Borneo, Singapore & Malaysia)
4. **VIETNAM** 1962-75
5. **PEACE KEEPING & PEACE-MAKING OPERATIONS (**Somalia 1992-93, Rwanda 1994-95, Cambodia 1994-95, Papua New Guinea 1946 to 1975, East Timor 1999-2012, Bougainville 1994, The Solomon Islands 2000 -2008, all remaining deployments not covered by UN or above (egg Rhodesia, Uganda)
6. **IRAQ** 2003-09 and 2014–ongoing
7. **AFGHANISTAN** 2006-ongoing
8. **HUMANITARIAN/DEFENCE AID TO THE CIVIL COMMUNITY (**Civilian Humanitarian Disaster OPS (incl Darwin 1975 and other cyclones and floods, overseas egg PNG, Indian Ocean, and lately, Border Operations, and DACC (non-disaster) egg Olympics and Commonwealth Games and other government support egg APEC, G20)

**Objectives (Where to from here)**

The RARA Bibliography’s *prime objective* is to strengthen the range and speed of retrieval of materials pertaining to the RAR to support researchers and casual enquirers alike.

Supporting objectives are the expansion of content and the creation of a physical Regimental Library collection.

*Brief prepared by RARA Bibliography Registrar LTCOL Russell Linwood, ASM – 0403544866 –* [*rlinwood@bigpond.net.au*](about:blank)