 **MINUTES OF THE**

**MHSA FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING – MON 23 MAY 22**

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

**Present: *Nigel Webster (Chairperson), Justin Chadwick, Ian Curtis, Steve Daniher, Neil Dearberg, Terry Dineen, David Kemp, Katrina Kittel, Leigh Ryan, Ian Stagoll, Russell Paten, Russell Linwood (Secretary).***

**Apologies**: ***Elizabeth Hobbs***

**Absent: *Duncan McConnell.***

**Welcome by Chair:** ***Nigel Webster*** opened the meeting at 6.00 pm AEST.

**Previous Minutes:**

That the minutes of the previous Federal Council (FC) meeting held on 22 Feb 22 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: ***Justin Chadwick*** Seconded: ***Ian Curtis***

Motion CARRIED.

After they have been approved at the next FC meeting on 5 Sep 22, these minutes will be published on the MHSA website (as per FC Minute 9 of 25 Mar 19).

**Business Arising:**

**Sabretache Writer’s Prize. *Nigel Webster*** reported that he and ***Justin Chadwick*** had reviewed existing rules and proposed that book prizes provided through publishers be used in lieu of monetary cash awards. Promotion of the revised rules would occur per the previous minutes. Any further ideas were welcomed, in the absence of which awardees would be identified for 2022-2023 and the award of the Prize resumed.

*Action:* ***Justin Chadwick*** *to update and publish the Prize rules.*

**Update** **Military Spectacular Conference 14-16 Oct 22. *Russell Paten, Ian Curtis, and Neil Dearberg*** updated the meeting on conference preparations. Progress on grant applications was advised along with a broad description of the range and quality of speakers. FC was again encouraged to give maximum support to promote the event.

**Key Correspondence:**

*Out***:** Nil

*In***:** Invoice for logo trademark renewal at a cost of $1,500.00.

**MHSA Logo.** Coincidentally associated with ‘Inwards correspondence’ was the resumption of ***Neil Dearberg’s*** previous proposal for a more suitable and modern logo. Issues of relevance of the current logo which has been in place since the 1977 was established and what might replace it were discussed, with no definitive outcome. Consensus was achieved that the FC remain open-minded about the possibility of adopting a new logo while at the same time ceasing to incur the expense of protecting the existing one by trademark. It was suggested that a graphic designer be identified, preferably *pro bono,* and a concept brief be developed for a new and more dramatic image with broader appeal to the 21st century veteran and students of military history.

*Action*: ***Nigel Webster*** to coordinate a proposal, including receiving ideas direct for FC members out of session, for a future decision by FC.

**Interim Financial Report FY 20/21.**

Treasurer ***Justin Chadwick*** presented a pre-circulated Financial Reported. Following brief discussion, the report was put it to the FC for adoption.

Moved: ***Nigel Webster*** Seconded: ***Steven Daniher***

CARRIED.

**Membership**. Initially, discussion centred on the general subject of improving membership, noting that this is one of the current Business Plan goals and priorities. The potential for identifying what 21st century veterans and the younger cohorts in particular want was raised with the October Military Spectacular convenors suggesting the opportunity be taken to harness such peoples’ views in the run-up period to, and at the conference. Discussion morphed into the website-focussed application of a range of social media measures to help increase membership. To attract and retain website users, including potentially new members, ***Justin Chadwick*** proffered the view/advice that greater use of social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter were necessary. As no one in the conference was prepared to coordinate a sub-team to develop the improved use of such media, ***Russell Linwood*** undertook to invite ***Duncan McConnell*** (Webmaster) to see if he can spare time to do so. ***Steven Daniher, Justin Chadwick, Katrina Kittel,*** and ***Nigel Webster*** made known their willingness to assist/advise.

*Actions:*

1. Conference organisers to gather input from the target audience over the next few months.
2. ***Duncan McConnell*** be invited to coordinate the development of the adoption of social media in conjunction with those in a position to assist/advise.
3. All to submit any ideas, in the initial instance to ***Nigel Webster***, until ***Duncan’***s capacity to undertake such tasking is confirmed. There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.05 pm.

**Next Federal Council meeting will be at 6:00 pm AEST on Mon 5 Sep 22.**

**Remaining date for 2022 is Mon 5 Dec 22.**