 **MINUTES OF THE**

**MHSA FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING – MON 28 FEB 22**

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

**Present: *Nigel Webster (Chairperson), Justin Chadwick, Ian Curtis, Neil Dearberg, David Kemp, Duncan McConnell, Leigh Ryan, Ian Stagoll, Russell Paten, Russell Linwood (Secretary).***

**Apologies**: ***Steve Daniher, Terry Dineen, Katrina Kittel.***

**Absent:*****Elizabeth Hobbs.***

**Welcome by Chair:** ***Nigel Webster*** opened the meeting at 6.00 pm AEDST per the Agenda and Zoom notification. The initial part of the meeting took part with only five Councilors present The President halted proceedings to contact those not yet online by telephone. There was confusion about the starting time being AEDST.

**Previous Minutes:**

That the minutes of the previous Federal Council meeting held on 6 Dec 21 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: ***Russell Linwood*** Seconded: ***Ian Curtis***

Motion CARRIED.

After they have been approved at the next Federal Council meeting on 23 May 22, these minutes will be published on the MHSA website (as per the Federal Council Minute 9 of 25 March 2019).

**Business Arising:**

***Russell Linwood*** sought progress on the possible award of the Sabretache Writer’s Prize for 2021. Action minuted in Dec 21 to place a refresher advertisement of the award itself in Sabretache has not yet been actioned. The President advised that the matter was still under consideration but that he was a supporter of encouraging authors.

Action: see later Council discussion on the Sabretache Writer’s Prize in these minutes.

**Key Correspondence:**

*Out***:** Nil

*In***:** Nil

**Membership details for Sabretache**

 ***Ian Curtis*** addressed the general state of membership details updates and forwarding of subscriptions. He invited the recording of his appreciation as the MHSA Membership Officer to the WA and SA branches for their timely efforts, along with those of QLD branch/Division. Once all available Councillors were present, the general matter was discussed with all branches again reminded of the need to be timely and accurate with such administration.

*Action:* meet deadlines in all administration

**Update** **Military Spectacular Conference 14-16 Oct 22**

***Neil Dearberg*** and ***Russell Paten*** updated the Federal Council on planning and the outline of this seminal event being organised by QLD branch/division on behalf of the Society. This will be conducted at the Caloundra QLD RSL. The program has an array of excellent topics and speakers, with accommodation packages and social activities including side-tour options available to make the experience one to remember. All were urged to pass on information including website location [www.websiteevents](http://www.websiteevents) and other materials (forwarded on 1 Mar 22 direct by the Secretary). All branches were strongly encouraged to get their members to register for information. A high profile and competent Master of Ceremonies is needed. Advertisements will be placed in both Sabretache and on the website.

*Actions:*

1. All branches /divisions to actively promote.
2. Organisers, Editor and Webmaster - Advertisements to be supplied and promulgated in Sabretache and the Society website.

**Interim Financial Report**

Treasurer ***Justin Chadwick*** spoke to a pre-circulated paper indicating the Society is in a sound financial position with a satisfactory cash flow. Printing remains the largest single cost. ***Ian Stagoll*** raised the possibility of securing a different, and honorary, auditor for the next report. ***Neil Dearberg*** supported the notion and after discussion ***Nigel Webster*** called for any nominations, preferably on an honorary basis, should be forwarded to the Treasurer ASAP for consideration.

*Action*: All to seek possible new auditor

**[Future] Arrangements for the receipt and recording of membership applications and annual membership subscription renewals**

***Ian Stagoll*** raised possible changes to the current practice pertaining to general membership management. As the matter is not conducive to decision taking in the Federal Council meeting without detail, he was invited to prepare a position paper for circulation (via the Secretary) in good time to enable such consideration to take place. Until then, there will be no change to current practice.

**Action: *Ian Stagoll*** to prepare a Position Paper.

**Sabretache Writer’s Prize 2022**

This matter was raised by ***Russell Linwood*** in 2021 (see 6 Dec 21 minutes where its use was *‘…strongly endorsed by meeting participants.’)*. It is apparent that few Federal Councillors (and probably the bulk of the membership) still have little knowledge of this extant, but dormant, award. ***Justin Chadwick*** (Editor) has prime carriage at this time, and so he outlined its general concept. Discussion ensued about the purpose, intent, and utility of the Prize, and it became clear there is no consensus, probably because the Prize’s criteria is not well known. No clear action was identified other than the completion of minuted action on 6 Dec 21. ***Nigel Webster*** undertook to review its usefulness including the awarding of the prize itself (monetary or not), selection panel and related criteria with Editor Sabretache, and invited any submissions from Councillors once they had seen the current criteria.

Action: Prize criteria to be made available and submissions invited; possible award for 2021 and 2022 to be administered using current rules as minuted in 6 Dec 21, and in these minutes.

**Webmaster appointment**

 ***Nigel Webster*** announced the appointment of ***Duncan McConnell*** to the ex-officio position of Webmaster vice ***Paul Sutton*** who has moved to the United Kingdom. Duncan’s broad background and capabilities were outlined. He will work with all stakeholders as necessary, including with Paul who generously made such an offer even on leaving the Society. The Webmaster will report to the Federal Secretary.

Not raised at the meeting, but recorded here, is the priority to post the 2021 Constitution and Rules to the website and escalate the Military Spectacular advertising.

*Action:* Webmaster to liaise with the Secretary and Editor to achieve these priorities, and with the Secretary for general website development as required.

**Fellow nominations 2022**

 ***Nigel Webster*** spoke to the utility and worth of using the Fellow process to reward exceptional performance. Such nominations at re to be accompanied by a 1–2-page maximum submission from Branch heads to the Secretary. Assistance, as in the past, is available with this ‘Awards-in-confidence’ process on request to the Secretary.

**General Business**

**Affiliations – an Object of the Society**

Using examples, ***Ian Stagoll*** spoke to the general value of having affiliations with other entities with similar aims to the Society. He opined a membership spin-off benefit and increased interaction of mutual benefit. He recommended all branches to consider such development at the branch level.

S**uggested change of MHSA Badge**

***Neil Dearberg*** raised the issue of changing the MHSA Badge to that used for the Queensland Military Spectacular Conference as more representative of a modern forward-thinking society.

***Nigel Webster*** commented that the current badge of the MHSA was the registered trademark of the society.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.30 pm.

**Next Federal Council meeting will be at 6:00 pm AEST on Monday 23 May 22.**

**Remaining dates for 2022 are Monday 5 September and Monday 5 December.**