

MHSA Federal Council Meeting 8 May 2023 - Approved

Present: Nigel Webster, Justin Chadwick, Ian Curtis, Ian Stagoll, Russell Paten, Steve Danaher, Leigh Ryan

Apologies: Russell Linwood, Neil Dearberg, Katrina Kittel, Elizabeth Cotterill

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

Previous Minutes:

That the minutes of the previous Federal Council (FC) meeting held on Monday 20 February 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Leigh Ryan Seconded: Russell Paten

Minutes CARRIED.

Business Arising:

Correspondence:
Bank statements and royalties have been received.

President's Update:

Russell Paten has requested an ABN for the federal body and this is being arranged.

Russell Paten raised the matter of the federal secretary's email contact.
Ian Curtis mentioned that Duncan McConnell was the contact for this. Ian will follow up with Duncan.

Nigel Webster mentioned that he had received a variety of correspondence and six requests for information on Australian Boer War Contingents from South Africa which he has addressed.

The Military History and Heritage Group Victoria is having a one-day conference titled "Defenders of the Queen: Imperial and Colonial Defence 1850 -1901 on Saturday 04 November 2023.

The Military Historical Society of New South Wales (MHS NSW) is sending regular information and will be holding a one-day conference titled "New South Wales at War" on Saturday 07 October 2023.

They are seeking additional speakers, so please contact the Federal President. Mr Rohan Goyne, who is a corresponding member, has already offered to speak at the MHSA NSW Conference. Nigel Webster has forwarded his details on to Robert Muscat (the MHS NSW President).

The Federal body of the MHSA has now been incorporated in the ACT. This provides greater protection for FC members than being in an unincorporated body.

Nigel Webster has almost completed his response to correspondence on Kokoda Track/Trail controversy.

Treasurer's Report:

Justin Chadwick informed the FC that the current balance of the MHSA account is: Cash on hand \$10,592.17, to which is added a Term Deposit to the value of \$22,766.60.

Editor's Report:

Justin Chadwick reported that the June edition of *Sabretache* is nearing completion and will include a printed colour section (the first use of colour for a while), though will come at a higher cost.

Ian Stagoll asked whether members were able to get hard copies as a choice. Justin restated the cost of printing and distribution and the requirements of the need to move to electronic delivery.

Steve Danaher mentioned calculating the actual costs of electronic vs hard copy and make members know the cost. Justin Chadwick agreed to review the costings at the time of membership subscription renewal. Nigel Webster concurred with a review and agreed that the imbalance of electronic to hard copies requires that members need to be educated about the economic consequences of this trend to MHSA Inc. in the long term. Ian Curtis noted that the Victorian membership largely receive hard copies, including new members unlike the other branches.

Nigel Webster moved that Justin Chadwick investigate the costings of *Sabretache* and report at the September meeting. Seconded. Steve Danaher - Carried

Sabretache Writer's Prize Update:

Justin Chadwick mentioned that he had spoken with Nigel Webster and was of the opinion that the prize was a promising idea and he was supportive of the concept. However, he felt that without a consistent flow of quality articles the prize may be either not awarded or be given to an average article just for the sake of presentation. He recommended to monitor the volume of articles that are submitted to *Sabretache* and review the prize at the end of the year with the purpose of introducing it next year.

Katrina Kittel (via email) wanted it to be known that any award given should be in the form of a cash prize rather than a prize pack of books.

Nigel Webster commented on history of the *Sabretache* Writers' Prize and highlighted the problem of consistency of quality articles.

Ian Stagoll said that the prize had not succeeded in attaining its original goals. An attempt to encourage articles by ADFA students did not succeed which included a prize. Nigel Webster concurred as did Ian Curtis.

Ian Stagoll wondered about the purpose of the prize and whether it actually promoted the society. He saw the need to increase membership as more pressing. Leigh Ryan was happy that if articles were not worthy then no prize should be awarded. Nigel Webster called for

members to show support or otherwise. Ian Stagoll agreed in principle but disagreed with a cash prize. The matter will be reviewed at the end of the year.

MHSA website upgrade:

Justin Chadwick spoke of the need to contemporise the website. Some changes have already been introduced by Duncan McConnell in discussion with Russell Linwood which have been beneficial.

Justin Chadwick recommended that the FC allocate funds to employ a professional designer to design a new website. Ian Curtis supports and moted that the logo be changed simultaneously. Nigel Webster spoke of the need for professional design. Russell Paten has a member in Queensland who made the Military Spectacular website and will talk to him if future.

Ian Stagoll agreed that the website needs some work and there still remains some problems with getting access to old copies of Sabretache. Justin Chadwick asked Russell Paten to speak with the Queensland member and research his availability and cost. Steve Danaher mentioned about the need for a budget.

Motion: That the FC allocate funds toward a new professional design of the MHSA website.
Moved: Justin Chadwick. Seconded: Ian Curtis -Carried.

MHSA 2023 Business Plan:

No comments were received on the business plan.

General Business:

Ian Curtis spoke on membership. New members are coming in across all branches. Numbers are small.

Membership Renewals start next month. Ian Curtis will be standing down at the 2023 AGM. At the Queensland Division - AGM it decided to hold an inaugural lecture to be held at Maryborough. They hope to secure a senior RAAF officer to speak of future plans under the Defence Strategic Review (FSR).

Nigel Webster asked that Russell Paten contribute an update of event.

Ian Stagoll asked what the situation of the Military Spectacular and the federal funding contribution. Ian Curtis and N Webster mentioned that this had been discussed earlier at FC. At this stage, a one-day event will be 2024 in Southeastern Queensland. Nigel Webster restated that FC would support the event through a financial contribution. Ian Curtis mentioned the cost incurred by the Queensland branch and its members.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.13pm (AEST).

Next Federal Council Meeting will be at 6.00pm (AEST) Monday 4 September 2023

Minutes drafted by Justin Chadwick on Monday 8 May 2023 and reviewed by Nigel Webster as Federal President.

Minutes cleared provisionally by Meeting Chair (and President) on Friday 30 June 2023.