

**MINUTES****Minutes 28****Of the****Army Health Services Historical Research Group Meeting****Held 21JUL09 at 1800****At the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of South Australia Inc.**

**Attendees:** COL B Perks (Chair), COL S. Cameron (Minute Secretary), COL A. Summers (Treasurer), COL M Jelly, COL D Beard, COL R Beal.

**Apologies:** COL J Aiello, COMD A Swain, GP CAPT C Verco, COL B Mollison, Mr L Tyner, COL P Byrne, COL P Thomas, COL R Carter, LTCOL J Shepherd, LTCOL S Kuusk, MAJ R Melbourne.

**1. Minutes of previous meeting (MAY09)**

The Minutes of previous meeting were accepted as a true record (Jelly/Summers).

**2. Business and Actions arising from Minutes**

**2.1 Website**

The Chair noted the good usage of the site. He stated that the lack of presence of SA Units was being attended to. And that the SA branch of RAAMC Assoc would also need to be mentioned. There is also a potential to have a link to AMOSA.

**2.2 Contacts with retired RAAMC members:**

**2.2.1 Magarey Diary**

No change, COL Aiello has the material presently.

**2.2.2 COL B S Hanson**

No change.

**2.2.3 Harry Medcalf Fisher**

COL Mollison is actioning this item.

**2.2.4 MAJ von der Borch**

COL Jelly is progressing this item. Service included Alice Springs and Morotai.

### **2.2.5 SGT K Davies**

COL Beard to be interviewed re El Alamein tented theatre, description of 'Coolgardie safe' arrangement for cooling of the theatre etc. This ARES initiative lead to the establishment of an operating theatre capacity in the Regular Army and FST.

## **2.3 Other Matters**

### **2.3.1 Reunion 5 July**

Bill McLaughlin and his wife did all the arrangements and the event was successful. COL Jelly did a presentation about the history group and almost inevitably found himself elected as Chair of the SA Branch of the RAAMC Association which was formed that day. The first meeting of the Branch is to be held on 1 AUG.

### **2.3.2 Workshop 12 July**

9 members of the group attended at 3HSB to appraise the collection of memorabilia held in the Unit. There was an introductory address by the CO 3HSB who offered the Group free access to historical items and reserved a workroom for their use. In effect this room became a museum room and items of historical interest that were to be retained in the Unit would be recorded in the Regimental Funds Account, on loan from the Museum. Historical documents would be forwarded to the Museum.

Items were initially triaged into collections such as:

- uniforms (of which Nursing Corps uniforms predominated) and items of personal clothing ,
- kit such as webbing,
- Corps-related items such as first aid kits, surgical kits, loose surgical items,
- Items of personal property such as writing compendia, some of which have clear provenance,
- Paper work, press cuttings and other documents,
- Non-Corps related items for return to AMOSA

The next task is to correctly identify each item and catalogue them as accurately as possible. Sven Kuusk supplied detailed catalogue cards titled 'Object Data Record' that will make this task much easier. Block scale and CES terms will be used for descriptors where possible. Photographs of items can be appended to these cards.

Much of the material was identified as Museum property and the ARES curator will be tasked with entering all items into the Museum catalogue. Some members indicated that they could attend the Unit on some Tuesday mornings to continue the process of identification and documentation. Bruce Perks spent time photographing the Keswick barracks area to document items of historical significance for future use if Defence dispenses of this property.

The question of the documentation and preservation of similar memorabilia held at Warradale was raised but not resolved, though it was noted that MAJ Hembrow has a photographic record of those items and the Group holds a copy on loan.

### **2.3.3 Proposed expenditure 2009/2010**

The Chair's suggestion that the Group funds the updating of Honour Boards in Adelaide was discussed and it was recognized that other funds may be available to do such a task. The Group needs a strategy and then we can budget against that.

## **3. Correspondence**

A verbal message from Janice Pavils was received by the Chair and she expressed her appreciation of the evening, the chance to present her material and that it was to be published on the website.

## **4 Treasurer's Report**

COL Summers tabled her report. It shows a balance of \$2994.60 to the end of June. The books are to be audited with the Museum books. The Chair commended her on the 'donation sheet' and thanked all donors.

## **5 New Business**

### **5.1 Roger Freeman and 2/6<sup>th</sup> Fd Amb**

Roger cannot attend on 18 Aug but will forward the book to the Chair and attend at a later date.

In this context the whereabouts of COL Jelly's book on 2/5<sup>th</sup> FD Amb were canvassed. LTCOL Rankyne and CAPT Dibden were members of that unit and CAPT Dibden's uniform is held by AMOSA. COL Jelly will bring a list of the SA members of that unit to the next meeting.

### **5.1 RAAMC National Memorial in Canberra**

‘Digger’ James may be able to confirm the memorial site on Anzac Parade at the next Corps Committee meeting.

### **5.2 Passing of Allan Kerr-Grant**

COL Beard and COL Jelly attended the memorial service.

### **5.3 Tom Beare**

It was noted that Tom is very ill.

### **5.4 David Kirby**

COL Beard and COL Beale attended David’s memorial service.

### **5.5 The Fricker families**

Chair is in receipt of a framed photograph of the Adelaide War Memorial donated by the Fricker families. Their Company built the Memorial and recently was responsible for its restoration. The Chair will seek further documentation of the families’ involvement with the Memorial and then the item will be forwarded to AMOSA.

### **5.6 Annual Dinner**

The date for the AGM has been confirmed for 15DEC09 with dinner to follow. The format will be the same as last year with wives meeting in the bar while a short meeting is held, then all will retire to dinner.

### **5.7 AMOSA matters**

The Treasurer noted that there will be a Board meeting of AMOSA and AGM In September. Members of the Group need to be financial members of AMOSAF. She also noted that affiliated groups such as ours will be required to provide a short summary of their activities for the AMOSAF annual report.

### **5.9 HMAS Protector**

The Chair mentioned that a gun from HMAS Protector, once sited on the Semaphore foreshore has been moved into an obscure site by the City of Pt Adelaide Enfield. The item remains the property of the RAN but a liaison person is required to help with the refurbishment. COMD A Swain will be approached to see if he could help in this matter.

### **5.10 MAJ Clark**

MAJ ‘Nobby’ Clark has photographs and memorabilia of ARES/CMF events. COL Jelly will attempt to identify names.

### **5.11 MAJ Laurie**

MAJ Geof Laurie holds memorabilia of a Fd Amb deployed during WW1.  
The Group will attempt to identify the Unit.

**6 Date of next Meeting**  
**18AUG09**

Members stayed for an enjoyable dinner after the meeting.

Chairman	date
B L Perks	
COL	