



South Australian Division

President's Report to Council 16th of November 2020

Meetings and Functions. 21st of October Mess lunch with Ron Payne; 24th Division AGM; 28th Remembrance ceremony with Associazione Nazionale Carabinieri d'Italia; (Murray Bridge 1st of November WR/GW/LN); 29th Legacy AGM; 2nd, FSC TPG; 3rd Magpie 91 Fly-past (later cancelled); 4th RSL Breakfast; AF 2021 and Repat naming; 5th Premier's ESO function at TPG; 6th Poulsen funeral, Victor Harbor; AFA National President telecon with Greg re Moonta; Remembrance Day: 11th Gawler WR; West Tce CK/GW; Repat RB; Salisbury WC; Nth Tce. DH; afternoon meeting re AF2021 and the VWM. The AFA National Board will meet by vidcon tomorrow, the 17th. Among other things it will address funding for the Moonta Sculpture.

The CESM continues to put on an excellent convivial lunch each month with engaging speakers. Ron Payne, RSL volunteer and son of Keith VC, spoke on his Vietnam "pilgrimage", with a few surprises. There will be another lunch in two days' time and a Christmas function on the 16th of December. Councillors may need to consider whether we regard the CESM as doing things for camaraderie on behalf of our members, or whether it is independent and commercial, before we set about preparing a new five-year Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, with members of its committee.

The AGM was well attended, received a splendid preview from Greg Weller for next year's Centenary, and heard no contentious issues whatsoever. Despite the many previous objections, queries and even a few adverse comments within State Council about constitutional amendments, all were passed. I was prevented from talking too much by Don Looker, Bomber Command veteran. He simply wished to know that Council recommended the changes, which it did when we met last month. As predicted, we do have Council vacancies. But they may be filled, if necessary, without the need for a Special General Meeting. Our reversion to AFA from RAAFA was accepted without comment. We will need to change the badge in our letterhead etc. We have made a start to notify our Political and Civic leaders, friends, members and associates.

Welcome to a new Council. We are delighted to welcome Dave Pyatt, WOFF, loadmaster, former ADG/Ready Reserve as our latest member, helping to lower the median age of Council together with serving members, Vice-President Greg Weller and Craig Keane. This new look will help us to transform and to focus on our need to become relevant to younger Air Force veterans. We have a new Treasurer in Lawrence Ng who also wears a uniform, with the Air Force Cadets. He has already made a great start to become familiar with our finances, accountancy firms, systems and our constitutional purposes. He has convened a meeting of a Finance sub-committee before being asked and has helped to redraft the Employment Agreement for our Administrative Officer, Annette Moore. It is also a great relief and a pleasure that we welcome the return of Vice President, former President and Secretary Dave Helman. Dave's corporate knowledge and experience in so many parts of our business are invaluable. He will help to restore the balance lost as we farewelled Bill Chappell, Arthur Jeeves and John Stapleton concerning all of whom I have written previously. Significantly, Bill will continue as Editor of "Plane Connection", John will maintain our web page, Arthur will contribute to RSL's Virtual War Memorial with Air Force records.

Declaration by Councillors. We have not previously had a set protocol for the induction of Councillors, as we should. It will be a task for a future Governance sub-committee. But Dave Helman, as Secretary, would appear to have prepared a draft document nearly three years



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ago. As a start today I shall ask all Councillors, new and old, to declare any relevant Business or Pecuniary interests, to declare that they are responsible persons who have not been disqualified from serving on any previous Council or Committee and to declare any conflict of interest. We hope to present to Councillors a “swipe card” for entry to the TPG, appropriate keys, and a name badge. The latter may not bear our new AFA Badge, however. We are in the process of retrieving boom gate access cards previously issued but not recently activated.

Sub-Committees: I have referred to a **Finance** sub-committee already. We will need to agree to its formation and to delegate its responsibilities, (see Constitution, section 36), that it, for example, is to “assist the Treasurer in all matters pertaining to Division Finances.” Formation of a **Governance** sub-committee is overdue. Although we conform in most respects to regulations and guidelines expected of us by both the ACNC and the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs, we need to be more certain of that conformity. We also need a privacy policy. That policy, and governance policy documents, among other matters might then be incorporated into By-Laws that are now expected (sections 22 and 69 refer), but not yet written. Thus, we will need to form a **By-Laws** subcommittee. Apart from the above it might wish to include such things as: the time restraints on submitting reports or notices of motion to Council, criteria for nomination of awards, guidelines on conduct of meetings, criteria and timing of donations, engagement of Associate or Corporate members and their annual subscription etc. In appointing members to the above sub-committees, we may consider the inclusion of members outside Council. But I would like you all to consider which, if any, you might wish to join.

Motions re Subcommittees.

1. That a Finance sub-committee be formed, with delegation from the Council to assist the Treasurer in any matter concerned with Division finances;
2. That a Governance Committee be formed to produce documents and guidelines for the assistance of the Council in its policy on privacy, procedures and all matters concerning governance, in accordance with any relevant Acts of Parliament;
3. That a sub-committee be formed to prepare By-laws, for the guidance of members and to which members are bound, that are not covered elsewhere, for example within the Constitution.

Sir Richard Williams street Sculpture, Moonta. A more optimistic view may be taken in view of discussions between Greg, Robyn Knight, myself and the National Board and Catherine Walsh. See AF 2021 report.

Funeral arrangements, and death notices may be difficult to manage if families of association members are unaware of support or involvement available from the AFA, eg Chaplain, RAAF Ensign, Ode. The Mount Gambier service for Charlie Miller highlighted such problems. The Victor Harbor one was different. Branch secretaries or membership officers appear at present to have a close working relationship with Annette.

Employment Agreement. Two suggested drafts were made available to Councillors at last meeting: one from FSC (Stapleton, Raymont, Helman) the other from Arthur Jeeves with supporting documents. A further draft is presented for discussion, and approval if accepted. Treasurer Lawrence Ng with WR and DH have prepared it after clarification of certain matters, eg location; ordinary hours, normal hours, overtime etc.



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Remembrance Day Services; see list above; Centennial Park Service was cancelled. The RGH service that I attended was expected to be splendid, as usual.

Robert Black. President, Air Force Association SA, 16th of November 2020.