



Volunteer Ambulance Officers Association of Tasmania Incorporated

A.B.N. - 49 452 275 349

Our aim: To enhance pre-hospital patient care, by providing representation and support for the well being of Volunteer Ambulance Officers in Tasmania.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CAMPBELL TOWN MPS ON SUNDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2007

PRESENT

Wayne Doran (Chair), Marg Dennis (Secretary), Dianne Coon, Mary Knowles, Shirley Squires, Sandi-Lee Squires, Helen Reynolds, Greg Kunkler, Louise Geale, Cheryl Wilson, George Hudson, Sue Kuter, Grant Lennox.

APOLOGIES

Jack Spinks, Collette Harrold, Angela Enright, Monica Kursawe, Michael Rundle, David Heath, Geoff Cadogen-Cowper, Narelle Ransley, Ted Preshaw, Michael Polley MHA.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Cheryl Wilson / Mary Knowles

That the Minutes of the AGM held on 19th November 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record. Carried

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ~ Wayne Doran

Twelve months ago I was elected as President of the VAOAT and I thought what a prestigious job – but after one month in the position it reality hit me, that I had accepted the responsibility of representing a large group of extremely dedicated volunteers.

People from with all types of backgrounds – employed, retired, unemployed and across all age groups, who are prepared to go out on the largest to the smallest job without question and put up with the dislocation of their families lives. These people – YOU – are the heroes of our association.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be President over the last twelve months, where all of us have provided an excellent service to many thousands of Tasmanians in their time of crisis and each of us has grown a little older.

Reflections of some achievements during the last twelve months:

- With the support of members we joined with HACSU and ACAP groups to establish 'Ambulance 2020' to inform the public and politicians of the problems that have been experienced in other states, operating a user charge pay system for ambulance services. The association's preference is a levy system where everyone pays a little, instead of a few paying a lot.
- Mary Knowles organised representation at Agfest with an excellent outcome by the group receiving the prize for 'Best Use of Central Arena for Agfest 2007'. Volunteers from various units worked together to complete a motor vehicle accident scenario. The excellent feedback was how vollies from different units worked together so proficiently. This demonstrates that the volunteer educators are providing consistent training which allows this cooperation between groups.

- Ted Preshaw successfully gained two financial grants, one for updating the VAO procedures manual and the other for developing recruitment and marketing material for volunteers. Dr Christine Stirling(Fahey) – author of 'More Than a Bandaid' and 'Stand Up and Be Counted' – will be leading the project. This allows Christine to continue her involvement and valuable work with ambulance volunteers.
- The executive committee of the association meet on a regular basis to discuss, determine and resolve matters affecting members and refer any decisions to the regular meetings.

Congratulations to members of Longford, Poatina and Port Sorell First Responder units becoming operational. The Port Sorell Lions Club and the VAOAT has assisted the Port Sorell unit with purchasing a suitable vehicle, so members don't use their own private cars for case work.

Leaders of groups are important, but without the determination of those working with you the system may be doomed to fail. As my term of President comes to an end, my appreciation and thanks are extended to those of the association and affiliated groups.

Volunteers – the backbone of the ambulance service – we work closely with our professional colleagues and their appreciation of our service is demonstrated by their greater understanding of our role as a volunteer ambulance officer.

Marg Dennis – Secretary – words are difficult to find to express my and the association's appreciation for an incredible job as secretary. Marg has been in this position since the days of our beginnings and Marg along with us, have seen the group become a leader for all volunteer ambulance officers. Marg not only compiles the minutes, correspondence etc, but is our web mistress. Marg's skills of web construction are amply demonstrated on our site – check it out.

Cheryl Wilson – Vice President- often people in this position are sitting waiting for the opportunity to become President or hope the President is sick so they can chair the meeting and demonstrate their skills. Cheryl has been one of the faces representing us at Ambulance 2020 and an original member who has an understanding of volunteer issues.

Dianne Coon – Publicity and Public Officer- a great supporter of the association goals and also an original association member. Di represents all volunteers on the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum and speaks up for us on particular issues. Di has been the media representative of the Ambulance 2020 campaign.

Greg Kunkler – Treasurer – being the keeper of monies may seem an easy task, but with our various sources of funding it takes time and care to ensure all funds are accounted for.

Jack Spinks, Collette Harrold, Mary Knowles, Shirley Squires, Louise Geale – Committee Members – who not only coordinate their own volunteer units, but have time to research and share information at meetings about topics affecting volunteers.

Area representatives and TAS committee reps – those participating on these forums do it for the benefit of all volunteers.

Coordinators – at times unsung heroes who organise rosters, training, uniforms, equipment and keep in contact with volunteers having problems regarding their ambulance and family situations.

Des Lane, Les Bain, Ian Moyle, Steve Moore, Emma Thornley – Volunteer Educators – they travel the state and islands at all times of the day / night, to assist us with completing assessments, providing knowledge and skills answering our questions on clinical care and general operations of TAS.

Grant Lennox - Chief Executive Officer - the support from TAS is enormous, not only financial, but the forthright support from Grant is a clear message to all VAOs that their efforts are truly appreciated by Tasmanian Ambulance Service.

Ted Preshaw, Wolfi Rechberger, Paul Templar - Superintendents – providing valuable support to their regions and the volunteer units under their supervision.

Phil Dennis – behind the scenes man – very few of us know exactly what Phil does for our association, he gives an incredible amount of time. Marg is extremely well aware of Phil's

involvement and be assured it's a tremendous effort he puts in. He assists with the production and is a contributor of First Response.

Families – an integral part of our lives both as a volunteer and part of our communities, because without their support and understanding we may not have such an efficient service for all Tasmanians.

The above people and many others are the volunteer ambulance service in Tasmania and I thank everyone for their input into this valuable service.

Thank you for your confidence in allowing me to be the President of the VAOAT, it has been an honour and I look forward to a positive future for all VAOs in Tasmania.

Wayne also added that there are so many people to thank for the success of the Association; he added that today's meeting is a milestone with Marg Dennis stepping down as Secretary, after holding the position from Day 1.

Presentation of Life Membership and a bouquet of flowers was made to Marg & Phil Dennis, with Grant adding that Marg has been the 'glue' holding the Association together.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Greg advised that the books are currently with the Auditor; he commented on the two donations made to the VAOAT during the past year: \$12,000.00 from Port Sorell Lions Club that was used to help purchase a vehicle for the local First Response Unit; and \$1,200.00 from Macquarie Builders that will be used to purchase a large banner and some polar fleece vests.

Dianne Coon / Wayne Doran

That the annual audited statements be presented for acceptance at the next meeting, which will accordingly be designated a Special Meeting. Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

All positions being declared vacant, Wayne invited Grant Lennox to take the chair for elections. On behalf of TAS, Grant thanked all members of the outgoing executive.

Nominations for 2007/08 were:

<u>President:</u>	Wayne Doran	elected
<u>Vice President</u>	Cheryl Wilson	elected
<u>Secretary</u>	Dianne Coon	elected
<u>Treasurer</u>	Marg Dennis	elected
Committee	Louise Geale, Collette Harrold, George Hudson, Mary Knowles, Helen Reynolds, Shirley Squires	

Wayne thanked Grant and resumed the position of Chair.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Islands:	David Reed (subject to acceptance)
East:	Sue Kuter
South:	Cheryl Wilson & Collette Harrold
Central:	Greg Kunkler
North:	Louise Geale
North West:	Monica Kursawe (subject to acceptance)
West:	Jack Van Dalen (subject to acceptance)

TAS COMMITTEES

Fleet:	George Hudson
Equipment:	George Hudson
Uniform:	Greg Kunkler
OH & S:	Greg Kunkler

Dianne Coon was re-elected to the positions of Publicity Officer & Public Officer.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Paul McShane of Ritchie & Parker Alfred Green & Co was re-appointed Auditor for 2007/08.

CLOSE

Wayne thanked everyone for their attendance and hard work, proposing a vote of thanks to Greg for his help; Wayne admitted that he could not offer any exciting surprises to attendees (such as a helicopter ride) but he did distribute lollies to everyone instead.

AGM declared closed at 11.00am.