

# West Australian Police Historical Society

## Minutes Member Meeting

10am Tuesday September 6, 2022

Water Corp meeting Room 57 Lincoln Street Highgate.

WAPHS Executive Chair Dave Lampard President. Vice President Russell Armstrong

Secretary (Vacant). Treasurer Carol Vernon (Minutes). General Committee Mike Dean.

Apologise: Mike Dean, Julie Rae, Tony Mott, Gwen Mott, Lena Wiggerman, Val Doherty (Hospital) Val Joynson, James McLaren, Ann Lampard.

Attendance. Don Wiggerman, Peter Skehan, Helen Skehan, Dave Mac Donald, Maree Mac Donald, Tony Lynch, Pauline Carmichael, Ben Bockholt, Dave Lampard, Russell Armstrong, Mike Bell, Carol Vernon.

### IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE Inwards Chair

Reply from Commissioner Col Blanch that he accepts the invitation to become Patron.

Invitation from the Academy to attend Remembrance Day Sept 29, 2022 Joondalup.

Resolved: Carol Vernon to attend and represent the WAPHS.

Still awaiting a photograph for the Commissioners Board.

Resolved Mike Bell to follow up.

Recipient of the Endeavour Award Gold Squad 1/2022 Matt Bowen 17972 thanking the WAPHS for the sponsorship.

### IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE Outwards Chair

Letter to the outgoing Commissioner and Incoming Governor Chris Dawson congratulating him on his appointment and the founder members would be pleased to receive an invitation to visit his new home on St Georges Terrace No reply as yet.

All other correspondence has been via email. There has been numerous email requests for research to be conducted from members and the general public. After brief details of whether or not the person was a police officer further research is not provided until a reasonable fee for research is paid. We currently have numerous items outstanding that only Carol and I can attend to.

Correspondence accepted Dave Mac Donald\_Moved Seconded Mike Bell Carried ~~Y/N~~

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### TREASURERS REPORT

Operating Account \$ \_15,807.77 Building and other Investment Accounts\$ 140,905

Finance Report acceptedMoved Helen Skehan Seconded Pauline Carmichael Carried ~~Y/N~~

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Significant Expenditure running the premises re organising storage. Significant Income sale of modern uniforms to ESA Productions.

Since the departure of the Secretary with have endured with P&N Bank.

Problems clarified by Carol and Dave. Now resolved.

OFF SITE EVENTS Vice President

Visit to RWHS Nedlands. Christmas in July Brisbane Hotel. Freshwater Bay Museum.

Dave's attendance at the Ukraine Independence Day Celebrations.

UPDATE WAPF-WAPHS Liaison Officer Commander Mike Bell

Visit by the Australian Policing Museum Team from all jurisdictions to tour the Police and other important Museums in Perth Wednesday October 19, 2022.

Service Level Agreement. Meeting of both parties to be arranged to establish the finer details. WAPF Ownership Andrea Muntz.

Appointment of a WAPF Paid Curator to run the Police Museum (As per Qld and Vic). Project ongoing. WAPF Ownership Andrea Muntz.

Request for a decommissioned van. Van has been deployed to the Kimberley, when returned consideration to be gifted to the WAPHS. WAPF Ownership Assets and Fleet management.

Request to have a Return to Work sworn officer on rehabilitation duties appointed to assist in acquiring SIMR and PHREMS personnel records for WAPHS records. Mike Bell to follow up. WAPF Ownership H&W Branch.

*Note: Post meeting Members expressed disappointed with the non-renewal of the SLA requested in March 2022 and subject to a site visit on July 21, 2022.*

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UP COMING EVENTS we have committed to assist with.

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Police Remembrance Day Flowers for the Fallen *Carol*.

City of Mandurah Museum Police Display *Dave*.

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PRESIDENT REPORT.

Well members. It would be easier to set fire to a paperbark tree than be a volunteer and oversee the WAPHS. The decision to put two huge sea containers on site which later brought the ire of the City of Vincent eventuating in a notification of the breach of the bye laws and removal direction was a disaster that the WAPHS volunteers are now faced with solving.

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The lack of financial support from the WAPF since April 2020 remains an unexplained mystery. Volunteers all of whom are senior citizens commit time and expenses to operate the Museum and run the objectives of the WAPHS. Volunteers have been knocked around by Covid and naturally they have other commitments that need attending to.

Next to the sea container disaster the second disaster has been the acceptance of modern uniforms from the WAPF, children-grandchildren of past officers.

The third pending disaster has been the near collapse of the ThinkCentre Computer even with two backup drives.

Whilst coping with these three difficult situations the Police Museum has remained open and all manner have visitors have been welcome and provided with a tour of the exhibits.

Thankfully you executive are resilient and have tapped into their experience as sworn police officers used to managing difficult situations in trying times. Jo Blow citizen would now be banging their heads in a nut house.

#### Sea Containers:

1/. 1.1 Documents. All 100 boxes amounting to an estimated 1,000 pieces of information have been reviewed by the WAPF Records Branch and myself. The WAPF have previously treated this issue with no regard for preservation of history. The WAPHS on the other hand have taken the opposite approach and kept everything. So a compromise that complied with the WAPF records retention policy, State Records legislation and WAPHS records preservation guidelines was needed. This is now almost completed and in addition to the re organisation the WAPHS have been able to obtain police officer service records stemming back to the 1890's in book form. 1920's-1970's In card form. We are still after the 1980's to 2000's written books that Personnel Services require. I cannot stress the importance of these records.

1.1.3 1.2 Photographs and Pictures. Multiple thousands. Carefully managed and appropriately stored we should be able to protect these items as it is vital that they kept in a condition that will enable them to be digitised and made available to the creation of the Australian Policing Museum in Canberra.

1.1.4 Books Anything from the era 1907 to mid 1930's can be accommodated in the Highgate Hill Police Station.

1.1.5 All items of no historical value have been disposed of. All items that are required to go back to the WAPF are being returned.

2/. Uniforms/Headwear.

Items that cover all periods have been retained in pairs. Other ones that are to be kept will be put in suit covers and vacuum bags and retained. Excessive modern ones have had the WAPF patches removed and sold to ESA Productions who make police movies and documentaries. No more modern uniforms will be accepted and should be dealt with in accordance with the WAPF Policies.

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### 3/. Computers.

WAPHS is moving into a modern era of Computer IT Qbit Computers have almost completed the task of installing a more secure system and Share Point (Cloud)for all document storage and use. Just need to collaborate with Mosaic to ensure the system can accommodate the system. Enabling all computers to be used at the same time.

The other major issue that has been difficult to resolve is the temporary warehousing of the four gifted vehicles. Whilst shed extensions occur. We were going well until the legal eagles at the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development at Kensington thru an insurance spanner into the works.

Numerous other thinks have been taking place. None of the recently retired sworn police officers have shown any interest in becoming involved as a volunteer.

Finally I must mention the great work Peter Thomas continues with the website. I am constantly receiving praise from members of the public about the quality and informative and interesting content that is available on the site. Thanks Peter.

Peter Skehan explained the critical storage facilities the WAPHS faced in the early 2000's hence the provision of sea containers and when it became clear that the WAPF were not able to build a large objects gallery they were a necessity and the issue was not picked up by the City of Vincent in later years.

Helen Skehan expressed was concern that the media documentaries rarely portrayed the police in a positive light. Discussion taken on by Mike Bell to see if the producers would be happy to liaise with the WAPF to ensure the finished product was accurate.

### PITMAN WALSH MEMORIAL

Dave Mac Donald presented his report regarding the relocation and involvement by the various partners. Project expected to be completed by April 2023.

### General Business

Pauline Carmichael reported on the Police Widows Guild function and presentation of a nice keep sake medal.

Ben Bockholt advised that the Armadale and Gosnells Rangers would like to visit the Museum again on an upcoming Saturday morning.

Pether Skehan was provided with a suitable WAPHS Emblem Badge to place in the sealed compartment on Brian Bulls Grave.

Don Wiggerman presented the meeting with an update of his research activities and offer to bring in his digital photo equipment to digitise suitable photographs.

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As Isobella from the Records Branch has arrived to conduct more records updates I consider it appropriate to end the meeting and invite members to enjoy a cuppa and tucker brought in by the members and provided by the WAPHS.



Meeting closed at 1140 am

Next meeting to be a Committee Meeting in early October.

*D J Lampard*

Dave Lampard

President.

September 6, 2022.

