



ABA NEWSLETTER 27 FEBRUARY 2013

RESULTS OF AGM – HELD 10 FEB 2013

1. All members joined to conduct the one AGM, that which was called by James Long, at the Novotel in Canberra at 9am on Sunday the 10 Feb 2013.
2. Great Interest was expressed by members and the AGM was well attended with 45 people present and 71 proxy votes given to members. There were 46 apologies.
3. At the AGM Phil Mahoney and Les Gilroy were voted in as Public Officer and ACT Vice President. Unfortunately they have since had to resign as Phil has won some major contracts and has advised he will under too much work pressure to give the role the time it needs. We wish Phil and Les well in their future endeavours.
4. The National Executive (NX) held its first Communication on Tuesday 26 Feb 2013 to nominate replacements to fill those positions temporarily and to appoint Ex-Officio members to advise the NX. As a result of that meeting the NX for 2013 are:-

President: John Thurgar

Deputy President: Andrew Kendall

Secretary: Melanie Warburton

Membership Secretary: Melanie Warburton

Treasurer: Hedonna Thurgar

Public Officer: Melanie Warburton

NVPs

WA: Vic Boreham

SA/NT: Bill Lowther

VIC/TAS: Coralee Lever

NSW: Brian Harland

ACT: Mindy Sutherland

QUEENSLAND: Sally Gregory

5. A number of requests for action in relation to: amendments to the Constitution; the changing of the insignia to the CBC; entitlements for CV recipients; developing new and strong governance procedures within the ABA; to name but a few, were made of the NX at the AGM. These matters will be discussed and an update given in the next Newsletter which will be issued prior to the June long weekend activities in Mildura this year.

6. It is envisaged that the State NVP's will concentrate on issues of high priority within their bailiwick namely: social functions; welfare; and moral and physical assistance to their members.

7. This will allow the other members of the NX time to concentrate on national issues and those issues which impact upon the bravery/gallantry system as a whole and the welfare of recipients in particular.

SUMMARY OF WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

An informal gathering/reception was held in the City on Friday Evening (8 Feb 13) at the Labor Club and it was a casual affair which allowed members to mix and discuss past events within the ABA and their lives in general. The venue was surrounded by the Multicultural Festival and this provided much variety and free entertainment after the gathering.

Saturday morning at Government House provided members with the opportunity for quiet reflection in the Australian Bravery Garden. It is anticipated that the service of remembrance will again be instituted next year.

The highlight – social wise – was the Black Tie Dinner at RMC-A Duntroon in the Officers Mess. A fabulous selection of canapés preceded the sumptuous three course Dinner accompanied with high quality Australian and New Zealand wines. There were two Guests of Honour, the first was our Brave Youth of the Year Awardee – Daniel Grulke; and the second was Mr Ron Cahill OAM, the former Chief Magistrate of the ACT.



On Sunday morning members gathered early at the Novotel for the AGM. It was a long event, six hours without a break, but much ground was covered and a full report will come out once the tape recordings of the meeting have been transcribed and follow-up action taken in relation to the many issues raised.