

General Meeting Minutes

30 August 2026



SUBMARINES ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

(QUEENSLAND State Branch of SAA National)

(IA34458)

President: Brian Mateer Secretary: Tony Bernhagen

Correspondence to

Email : secretary@saaqld.org

Postal Address : 10 Kauri Street, Cooroy, Qld, 4563

Venue: Caloundra RSL, RSL Sub Branch Lounge

Meeting declared open @ 11.25

Attendees: (14)

Secretary Tony, Jeremy Hammond, Deeanne Sparkes, Paul Brennan, Ross Britton, Brian Mateer, Peter Wells, Adrian Sellars, John O'Beirne, Terry Shorrock, Lyndsay Peck, Sandy Freeleagus, Chris Unwin, Brian Mathews

Online (2)

Dave Perry (Treasurer), Ian Sinclair (Welfare Rep)

Apologies (10)

Ross Walters, Gary Davis, Don Currell, Wayne Ayres, Grahame Blackman, Michael White, Greville Knight, David Petherick, John Conlon, Cole Klease

Opening and Welcome: by Secretary Tony welcoming those in the attendance.

Submariners Prayer read by: Terry Shorrock

Minutes Silence for those who have crossed the bar

CPOMTPS/M Ian Taber, Commander Paul Meakin, LSCKS/M Polly Lloyd,

ABUCS/M Steve Nihill, WOMTPS/M Billy O'Brien, WOMTPS/M Robert Dunstan

Commander Jim Dennis, WOCOXNS/M Barry McKeown

Item 1- Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous meeting 06 June 2026

The secretary reported that the Minutes of the previous general meeting held on 06th June 2026 were delivered electronically and also available on the tables for your info.

Motion:“ That the minutes of the general meeting held on 06 June2026 be confirmed as correct and true copy.

Moved - Tony Bernhagen

Seconded - Peter Wells

Vote: Carried .

Business Arising from Previous Meeting

No Business arising from the previous minutes.

Management Committee Reports

Presidents Report - President Brian gave Nil Returns.

Vice President Report / New SWHT Chairperson

DeeAnne delivered her report on the Notice of Motion submitted for the AGM, also DeeAnne reported it has come to light that another may be able to be constructed below the existing wall replacing the garden with a new wall. If we have that wall for Australians only we should be able to get funding from DVA for the construction of the new wall at Tenerife.

Each state should organise their own wall if they so desire.The committee has a copy of the names of the persons who have purchased a plaque for the existing wall. It is suggested that those who have purchased a plaque should request a copy of their receipt for future reference as 50% of the business has been sold, as the association has nothing to do with the business side of the company manufacturing the plaques.

Queensland Heritage Masonry can be emailed on admin@qhm.com.au for a copy of your receipt.

Treasurer. Dave Perry via Zoom delivered his report for the fourth quarter of this financial year 25/26. General Account \$10,824.10 down to \$8623.34. SWHT Account \$6.138.57 down to 3938.87 being the cost of the PA system for Anzac Day Dawn Service. Spending in our 4th Quarter has been high.; Our website redesign cost \$2540 and we are down to \$5666.61 as of today. QVC grant submission is due midnight 31 August 2026 at this point we are requesting around \$14500.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted

Moved: Dave Perry

Seconded: Sammy Brennan

Vote: Carried

Secretary. Secretary Tony presented his report outlining all correspondence in and out for the period 06 June 2026 - 30 August 2026

Motion: That the Secretary's report be accepted

Moved: Tony Bernhagen

Seconded: Brian Mathews

Vote: Carried

Welfare Report: Ian delivered a verbal report outlining the changes to the Veteran Affairs system, he stated as of July this year all claims now come under MCRA which has replaced the Veterans Entitlements Act (VEA) and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation ACT (DRAC). There may be some adjustments in payments but will be sorted out in time. If you have an outstanding claim still in the process your claim will still be processed under the Act it was submitted under. If you want to increase a claim now, After July 1st 2026, you claim will be assessed under the new system, Ian stated that it may change what you are already receiving from DVA, if the member is going to be disadvantaged by the new claim they the department (DVA) will make contact through your advocate to discuss with you if you want to proceed. The new ACT MCRA will eventually speed the claims process up. Ian stated that some claims are quick and other claims can be slow under the VEA and DRCA. Ian also stated that he is not involved in the new ACT and nor is Ray Kemp. Ian was asked a question regarding the \$5000 cap on allied health, he answered that not as yet has he had many inquiries, he stated that people use the system, if you have a gold card its not going to effect you you will have to get another D904 when you have used up your allotted visits. Ian believes that there is a lot of hype and scare mongering by the media regarding the cap.

SWHT. No SWHT Report.- Nil Return

Before we continued the meeting I asked,

Commander Chris Unwin to introduce himself,

He thanked us for his Honorary membership and spoke of previous Commanding Officers at HMAS Moreton, those being Forbes Peters and more recently Lachan King.

Item 4 - SAA Qld Shirts

Jeremy gave an update on the shirts, all orders are online. I asked members if they had received the email with the portal for ordering. It would appear that I only sent it to myself so the email was resent to all on completion of the meeting. It's hoped that those who are attending Subcon your shirts will be available to be worn. John O'Breirne asked if it would be possible to have a pocket included on the shirts.

I investigated for our next shirt launch if it is possible to incorporate a pocket when ordering. I called Navy Uniforms and asked the question.... Yes, at our next shirt launch we will be able to include a breast pocket if you wish, it will be under the logo.

Item 5 - Functions

Sammy Brennan is our functions contact, he will liaise with Anne Wood (Patron) for a suitable date and time for our Christmas Function at Anne's residence at Bulimba. Secretary Tony will send out an EOI to all with regards to a Christmas in July function next year. It is our intention to find a venue holding an event and join in with them as a group booking.

Item 6 - Moreton Bay Council

DeeAnne and Jeremy attended the NAA meeting on behalf of the President, info back from the meeting NAA are now on month to month as the council are flexing their muscles with regards to the use of the rooms. AEI service 13 September at Ruth Whitfield Park and The Anchorage, 12 from the Association have indicated they are attending.

Item 7- Subcon 2026 update

Merchandise can be purchased online. Qld tables # 19 and #20 have been organised for those who have not already made their own groups.

Item 8 - QCV Budget

Treasurer Dave gave an update regarding the progress of the process, he stated that approx \$14500 has been requested for our budget for the year we have to make sure we spend our grant money.

Item 9 - Functions for the year

Incorporated into item 5

Item 10 - New Members - Jeff King from Wallangara

Brian is going to do another Qld road trip to connect with members

Item 11 - Website redesign and Maintenance

Our new Queensland website <https://saaqld.net> has been redesigned, I asked for feedback and criticism a couple of weeks ago on completion, had only 1 email commenting how easy it was to navigate around now and can be viewed on the phone not like the National website.

We had a vote on engaging our web designer to also maintain the site for \$1440 pa. It was unanimously voted for the maintenance package to be adopted. We will pay \$360 for the first quarter and the balance when we receive our grant. Our maintenance package will commence on 01 September 2026 until 31 August 2027.

Item 12 - Guest Speaker Required

I received an email from Don Currell.

Don had received an email from Alice Rawkins of the Anzac Square Gallery requesting a speaker next year to talk for 40 mins on their naval career with a 10 - 15 min Q &A on completion. This will be on a Sunday next year if anyone is interested send me an email secretary@saaqld.org I'll put you in contact with Alice Rawkins of the Anzac Square Gallery to organise a day and time for the event.

Item 13 - Kev Marengo Award.

Pete Sellars updated the meeting with regards to the Kev Marengo Award

As the navy has now changed it's not seen to be a good look presenting a beer tankard as an award, so now they present an engraved pen for the Kev Marengo Award. As there is no financial liability to us for the award the management committee will decide at the next meeting what will happen to the funds transferred from North Queensland. Treasurer Dave will check the banking transfers for when the money was transferred.

Item 14 - Tin Can Bay Donation update

Tin Can Bay School canceled the presentation day due to an outbreak of influenza throughout the school. Hopefully at the start of the third term the presentation will go ahead.

The donation to the school was \$500, Brian Mateer and Des Scanlan both donated \$250 each. Thank you Brian and Des for your contribution.

Dave asked if there were any Dolphins for the bus? I have a set of small dolphin stickers I will take up so they can go on the bus.

Item 15 Anzac Day Preparations

Anzac Day preparations to commence in January, first contact is the band commander at Moreton and then the cadet group. Secretary Tony has a timeline of events compiled by President Brian last for who is the organiser next year. Jerney Hammond has volunteered as Anzac Day coordinator next year. Jeremy also suggested we ask at the AGM each year for someone to be Anzac Day coordinator for 2028 and so on at each AGM.

Also next year we must lay a wreath at the Pine Rivers service after their march, not the dawn service. Hopefully this will help our cause with obtaining a room with the NAA.

Other Business

From the secretary ACT, for future subcons the work load will be spread to all other branches for assistance with the organising future Subcons

John O'Beirne mentioned that next Sunday was Seafarers Day, Pete Sellars mentioned that Barb would speak with Anne Wood, our patron, as Anne usually attends Seafarers Day.

Sandy Freeleagus asked, is the dolphin Badge going to change now the king is the monarch.

Short answer: From Dave there is a push to change but its not a priority at this point in time.

Peter Wells has suggested when Brian does his travels around Queensland that he will donate a Yeti cup with Dolphins engraved for every new member that joins the Association and the Association supplies the new member with a name tag, this is only for new Queensland members. This way the new member pays their \$60 for joining and they receive a gift to that value for joining as an incentive.

Speaking of Name Tags we are going to have another drive for Members Name Tags, contact me through the **Website Contact Us page**. (Bottom of the home page.)

We conducted a raffle during the away meeting.

The prizes were donated by President Brian - Bottle of Bundaberg Rum, Tony Bernhagen- Bottle of Tanduay Rum and Peter Wells - ½ gallon Yeti Flask and a Fishing Rod.

Winners -

1st - Brian Mateer - Fishing rod and Yeti flask

2nd - Deeanne Sparkes - Tanduay Rum

3rd - Brian Mathews - Bottle of Bundaberg Rum

We sold 150 tickets, raising \$150 for the association. Thank you to those who purchased tickets.

No other business meeting declared shut @ 12.25

Next meeting will be 30 August, Caloundra RSL commencing @11.00

Minutes compiled by

Tony Bernhagen

Secretary SAA QLD Inc

31 August 2026

Minutes Confirmed by

Brian Mateer

President SAA Qld Inc