

Record of Meeting - W3 Company 40th Anniversary Reunion 2010

Taken at Papanui RSA, Christchurch 21st November 2010
Chairman: Bruce Young, Minutes: Jill Dunlea

Meeting commenced 11.35am.

Financial Report:

The organising committee had covered the reunion expenses, and expected to have a surplus of \$280.00 for the company funds.

Agenda:

1. **Next Reunion:** The chairman expressed his personal view that the Officer Commanding should make the decision on the location and date of the next reunion, this was accepted. The chairman further suggested Auckland for the next reunion to allow members to visit the grave of John Gurnick, the final grave to be visited by the Company following the recent visits to Tom Cooper and Dave Wright. The general feeling was to have reunions every 2-3 years in November, with the next venue suggested for the Auckland area or Picton. A suggestion that W3 might look at combining with another sub unit, such as W1, W2, V4 or V5 as numbers attending decreased was treated with caution as most members enjoyed the company of their own colleagues without other distraction.
2. **Web Site:** The W3 website is proving a popular site with average 1000 unique visitors monthly with over 40,000 hits from worldwide readers, peaking prior to the reunion at 1600 unique visitors. The website hosting costs are \$169.00 annually. The chairman advised that to keep the site relevant and on-line required two things: [1] fresh news and personal stories. [2] That was the hosting fee not paid the website would just disappear, unlike a book which might lie around gathering dust but still be available at a later date. The chairman suggested to a RSA welfare officer and a member of the EVSA executive among members that their organisations look to provide funding to preserve historical sites, the members agreed to raise the matter internally. It was further suggested the Ministry of Culture & Heritage could be a possible organization to preserve the history of W3.
3. **Historical Archives:** Bob Upton & Bruce Young have established a historical archive for W3 company, & currently have in archive the records & information collated by the late Gary Brooker and donated by his family. The message was 'we must preserve our archives'; please contact Bob or Bruce should you have any company books, photos, letters etc.
4. **Registration of Veterans:** Veterans were reminded that they need to register & ensure that their wife, children & grandchildren were also registered. Veteran cards are being issued to all veterans, children & grandchildren. Application forms for registration are available from Veteran Affairs. Veterans were also advised to take up the offer from Veteran Affairs of the annual free medical check available to all veterans on the register.

General Business: Bill Compton on the EVSA board advised that he is available should anyone have welfare problems. John Nicolle advised veterans that funding of up to \$2,000.00 is available from Veteran Affairs to assist individual veterans with travel expenses should they wish to attend overseas commemorations or revisit battlefield sites.

The meeting closed 12.10pm