



Minutes – NSW AFI Conference Call

Tuesday, 3 March, 2020

Time

From: 18:03 hours **To:** 19:28 hours

Attendees

Michael Forbes, Alex Visotin, Barry Sutherland, Bob McKay, Taylor Pallaton, Mark Pellegrino, Sonia Scott, Vicky Thavapalan, Wayne Schweickle, Steve Apps,

Apologies

Mark Hamilton

Bob McKay said Steve Apps asked if Item 10 of the Agenda could be dealt with first, as he may need to leave the meeting early.

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

A motion was moved to accept the previous Minutes

Moved: Michael Forbes

Second: Taylor Pallaton

Vote: Carried

2. Correspondence In

Email from Greg Kelly 20 February, 2020 re EWT

Email from Greg Kelly 24 February, 2020 re EWT

Email from Greg Kelly 27 February, 2020 re EWT

Email from Greg Kelly to Bob McKay to clarify position 28 February, 2020

ATO News Letter

Auskey to My Gov

Moved: Michael Forbes to accept

Second: Sonia Scott

Vote: Carried

3. Correspondence Out

Email to Greg Kelly from Michael Forbes 24 February, 2020 in reply EWT

Email (Second) to Greg Kelly from Michael Forbes 24 February, 2020 in reply EWT

Email (Third) to Greg Kelly from Michael Forbes 27 February, 2020 in further reply EWT

Email to Greg Kelly from Bob McKay acknowledging receipt 28 February, 2020

Invoice to RFE and FRNSW for Membership Renewal

Moved: Taylor Pallaton

Second: Mark Pellegrino
Vote: CARRIED

4. President's Report

Michael Forbes said that he has been asked to speak at the AAFI 28 to 29 October, 2020, and as there is no registration fees for speakers, Michael suggested his registration, which the NSWAFI had agreed to pay, should be used to fund a second Ross Brogan Scholarship to the AAFI 2020.

The Motion is to put Michaels Registration cost be converted to fund a second Ross Brogan Scholarship to the AAFI 2020.

Moved: Bob McKay
Second: Michael Forbes
Vote: CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report

Taylor Pallaton reported the cash on hand is \$34,282.30.

A cost breakdown for the December 2019 Education Night is expenses were \$1308.20, whilst income was \$365.00, and therefore a loss of \$943.20 was incurred. Michael Forbes said that whilst a loss was not ideal, but the NSWAFI had sufficient funds to cover the loss, and there is an anticipation that the forthcoming EWTC would generate more income.

Mark Pellegrino wanted to know how he should pay his IAAI Membership and what evidence the Treasurer required for a refund. Taylor Pallaton suggested a snap shop of the part of Mark's Bank Statement showing the amount paid.

Moved: Mark Pellegrino
Second: Michael Forbes
Vote: CARRIED

6. Educations Officer's Report

Sonia Scott reported that she has been speaking with a Metallurgist about presenting at the April education Night and would provide details later. This was not a sales pitch, but a discussion on what services can be provided by a metallurgist to a fire investigator.

A motion was put that Alex Visotin is to look into paid speaker and topics and that Education Nights are to eb reviewed later this year.

Moved: Michael Forbes
Second: Taylor
Vote: CARRIED

7. Webmaster's Report

Alex Visotin asked if everyone had looked at the membership data base and if anyone had any other suggestions. Alex said he has reproduced this from the spread sheet and members can check their membership. Alex said that this new data base now means the membership to the NSWAFI is from the date paid for 12 months. Alex said that if a member joins for multiple years the new system accommodates this as well.

Alex did also do an update of the software.

Moved: Michael Forbes
Second: Sonia Scott
Vote: CARRIED

8. Merchandising Report

Nothing to Report

9. Membership Report

Michael Stansell – Trident Services Australia RFS Volunteer ref: David Cook who is not a member. Michael Forbes asked Alex Visotin to email details to himself and Bob McKay so that further enquiries can be made.

Guy Tomlinson National Forensic Investigation Consulting – No referee. Michael Forbes said that Mr. Tomlinson is an IAAI Member and therefore membership to NSWAFI is granted.

166 Members currently

Moved: Bob McKay
Second: Michael Forbes
Vote: CARRIED

10. Business Arising

Running and continuance of the EWT Course. Michael Forbes has indicated that he has had discussions with Rick Jones, the incoming IAAI President. Rick wants to come to Australia in the week before the AAFI to run an initial EWT Course. Rick has suggested he train Michael Forbes to run at least a subsequent EWT Course so that Australia can running their own EWT courses.

Moved: Bob McKay put a motion that each Committee Member should vote as to whether the NSWAFI should run an Expert Witness Testimony Course (EWTC)

The Vote: Steve Apps - Yea
Michael Forbes - Yea
Alex Visotin – Yes as long as it is tailored to Australia
Taylor Pallaton – Yes
Mark Pellegrino - Yes
Sonia Scott - Yes
Vicky Thavapalan – Yes
Mark Hamilton – Yes in absentia
Bob McKay - Yes

Vote: CARRIED – The NSWAFI will an EWTC

Michael Forbes said that he has been speaking with Rick Jones about if and when an EWTC could be run in Australia and how it was going to be run. Michael said that Rick Jones told him that he, Rick Jones, went to South Africa and ran a EWTC on the fly and established a South African syllabus as the course was delivered. Rick Jones said that all IAAI course must be delivered by a Certified Instructor (CI) and that if Michael Forbes went through the course, Rick Jones would sign Michael Forbes off as a CI, so that NSWAFI could run EWTC in the future. Michael told Rick Jones that we may have enough people to run two EWTC. Rick said that would be

perfect as he would run the first EWTC. Then Michael Forbes would run the second EWTC. Rick Jones said that the IAAI would fund the first course and then NSWAFI would fund the second EWTC and obtain any profit from the second EWTC.

Michael said there was a lot of discussion as to when the EWTC would be run. Michael said he spoke to Steve Kelly, an Advocate Sergeant at the Coroner's Court and he was supportive of the EWTC being run at the Coroner's Court and would provide two Advocates to put the Australian content. Rick Jones said that he was going to attend the AAFI and suggested that the EWTC be run the week before the AAFI, which would allow Rick Jones to come to Australia, run the EWTC and then continue to New Zealand for the AAFI. Michael Forbes said he had been able to book the Coroner's Court for five days.

Michael Forbes said to gauge numbers for the EWTC an email was sent to all members and the other Associations. This email prompted Greg Kelly to respond, indicating he was concerned with the way the CI would be selected and wanted a Committee, made up of members of each of the AAFI member associations to call for nominations from people wanting to be CI and the Committee would select the best person to be trained as a CI. Michael said he disagreed with this suggestion as it would take too long.

Bob McKay pointed out that if a Committee was established to 'vet and select' CI candidates, the person/s selected would still need to meet IAAI CI suitability requirements, which Bob believes is putting another selection process in place, when it is not required. Bob also pointed out that NSWAFI is a Chapter of IAAI and the NSWAFI is bound by IAAI rules and regulations.

Steve Apps said that he would support Michael Forbes being made CI as he believes that to have a second committee selecting CI candidates would take too long and the EWTC would drown in bureaucracy.

Bob McKay said that the important thing is that we (NSWAFI) need CI's in Australia because we currently do not have any CI's. Sonia Scott asked if the proposal by Michael Forbes and Rick Jones would prevent anyone in the future from becoming a CI. Michael said it would not.

Moved: Bob McKay put a motion that NSWAFI will post to the membership asking if that member wishes to become CI, then the member should do the EWTC in October, subject to the approval of IAAI.

Second: Steve Apps – Yes
Michael Forbes - Yes
Alex Visotin – Yes
Taylor Pallaton – Yes
Mark Pellegrino - Yes
Sonia Scott - Yes
Vicky Thavapalan – Yes
Bob McKay - Yes

Vote: CARRIED

11. New Business

Michael wanted to know if everyone was happy for the NSWAFI to book two spots at the AAFI for the Ross Brogan Scholarship. If all happy, Michael would pay for the two registrations from his own pocket and seek reimbursement later.

Ross Brogan Scholarship Application was from Steve Apps

It has been raised by Alex Visotin and Taylor Pallaton that the qualifying period of 10 years for sub-committee member be reduced to possibly five (5) years. This has been fixed on the web site and no further action is

required.

As Michael Forbes has been invited by the AAFI Organising Committee to present at the AAFI 2020 Conference, which includes conference registration, Michael wants the Committee to consider the cost of Michaels registration, which the Committee agreed to fund, be diverted into a second Ross Brogan Scholarship for 2020.

Steve Apps has asked the Committee to consider reducing Education Nights to four (4) per year. There was a discussion about the number of Education Night run each year and whether or not the number should be reduced. Michael Forbes said that if any Education Night were to be dropped, he would prefer the February Education night be dropped. If the number was to be dropped to four education nights, then the other to go would have to be December.

Bob McKay reported that he has been invited to speak on heavy vehicle fires at the AAFI 2020 Conference.

Moved: Michael Forbes
Second: Bob McKay
Vote: Carried

Meeting concluded at 19:28 hours

Next Meeting Thursday, 7 May, 2020 at 18:00 hours

Bob McKay, Secretary NSWAFI