

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Conducted at the Hub 2 Brodie-Hall Drive Bentley WA

On

Tuesday 8th April 2025

1. This meeting was declared opened at 1000hrs with Mr Colin Benporath as Chair and 38 members in attendance as per register.

2. **Departed Comrades** – Francis Billing

Ode

*“They went with songs to the battle, they were young
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted
They fell with their faces to the foe
They shall grow not old
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.”
LEST WE FORGET!*

3. **Apologies and Welcome to members**

Apologies as per register

4. **Welcome to guests**

Ms Leonie Timms (Returning Officer) & Daniel Papaphotis (Auditor)

5. **Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting**

Motion: That the minutes of the AGM held on 9th April 2024 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Les Anderson

Seconded: Doug Williams

CARRIED

6. **Business arising from the Minutes** - Nil

7. **President’s Report** – Colin Benporath

In the 12 months from May 2024 to April 2025, we have had the pleasure of signing up 15 new members compared with 26 for the same period last year. Unfortunately, we have also had 41 members pass away compared to 38 for the same period last year.

Our membership as at 7th April 2025 was:

959	Annual Members
13	Life Members
<u>174</u>	Life Subscribers
<u>1146</u>	Total Financial Members

There are still 87 members that have not paid their subscriptions this year, Bernadette is in the process of chasing them up. A reminder renewal has been sent to these members, followed by a courtesy call. It is important that we try to keep these members current as this increases our membership base and gives both the Association and Federation a bigger voice when chasing our entitlements.

I would like to thank the Committee for the work they have done on your behalf throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge Bernadette and Chris, they do a terrific job in the office and ensures the office runs smoothly. In addition to this, thanks go to John (Shorty) Carreras for making sure the Battling On is produced in a professional manor and his dedication to the magazine and hopefully for many more years to come.

I would like to congratulate the Committee who were elected again, unopposed. I look forward to working with them again this year, however, we still have some vacancies on the Committee and it would be good to fill the vacant positions.

Since the termination of the lease of our Office Premises at RAAFA, we have moved into our new office here at Bentley Technology Park, and it is great to now have our own permanent home. I would like to thank Bruce, who was our second Director and welcome our new Director when ratified.

We have had discussions with the State Veterans Minister and now TPI Carers will be able to travel with TPI's on public transport. I have continued to attend the DCCF at DVA, at the last forum we were advised that Peter King has gone on leave prior to retirement and we now have a new Deputy Commissioner.

DVA are issuing better hearing aids. If you are having trouble accessing them, contact the office.

8. Auditor's Report and Financial Statements

Tabled and read by Daniel Papaphotis

Motion: That the auditor's report be accepted

Moved: Eric Aitkins

Seconded: Peter Knight

CARRIED

9. Remuneration of Auditor

Motion: That the auditors' fee of \$8,800.00 be accepted

Moved: Bob Poole

Seconded: Barry Anyang-Burling

CARRIED

10. Federal Business and appointment of Federal Directors

Colin Benporath – This year quite a bit has occurred federally. As Ms Pat McCabe OAM resigned as Federal President in February, we now have a new Interim President, Scott Jeffrey from TPI South Australia. An interim Vice President is to be elected at the April Congress that I will be attending in Canberra tomorrow. Bruce is unable to attend due to medical reasons.

The DVA Harmonisation Legislation has passed and is due to be implemented on 1st July 2026.

Changes have been made to the "Booked Car with Driver".

We continue to have a good relationship with DVA through our current Minister and the DVA Secretary and the Repatriation Commissioner, and following next month's Federal election we hope to continue this with the new Minister.

Since last year, after many years of intense lobbying, DVA is now providing far better hearing aids for Veterans.

The Government has accepted all but one of the Suicide Inquiry recommendations.

We continue to be advised of ESORT discussions, so that we can continue to keep Members up to date with Veterans issues.

Since the election of a new Interim Federation President, the TPI Federation now has a new Facebook site, "Federation of TPI's Australia"

Motion: That John Kelly be appointed as second Director.

Moved: Ray Carter

Seconded: Ian Bourne

CARRIED

11. Rules of Association Amendments - Nil

12. Emergency Business - Nil

13. General Business pertaining to the AGM - Nil

14. Appointment of Life Members, Patrons, Vice Patron and Solicitor

Motion: That the Governor His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM be accepted as Patron and Mr John Hughes be accepted as Vice Patron.

Moved: Rick Ryan

Seconded: Eric Aitkins

CARRIED

Motion: That M6:8 Legal be accepted as our Solicitor.

Moved: Graeme Purkiss

Seconded: Ross Fisher

CARRIED

15. Declaration of Election by the Returning Officer

Good Morning. For those I have not had the pleasure of meeting before, my name is Leonie Timms and I am the TPIWA Returning Officer for 2025.

This report on the process and results of the Management Committee Election for 2025 is presented in accordance with the requirements of Clause 12.11 of the current Constitution, Constitution 2018, as registered under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA), for The Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women West Australian Branch (Inc.) the "TPIWA Constitution"

Nominations (12.4 Nominations for Election)

On Friday 14th February 2025, the Ballot Box was closed for nominations at 12:30. I attended the TPIWA Office and cleared the locked box to obtain the nominations for positions available on the Management Committee.

Nominations received were:-

Vice President (2 years)

1. Raymond John Pearce

Secretary (2 years)

1. No Nominations received.

Treasurer (2 years)

1. Bruce Newton

Committee Member x 2 (2 years)

1. John Kelly
2. Ross Fisher

All nomination papers were handed to the TPIWA staff member to check the validity, confirming that all proposers, seconders and nominees were financial members of TPIWA and conformed to the requirements under the TPIWA Constitution. The nominations were all in order.

As there were only single nominations for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer and for each of the two vacant positions of Committee Member, those positions are deemed to have been filled unopposed. The nominees were contacted and accepted their respective positions. Congratulations go to Vice President Raymond Pearce, Treasurer Bruce Newton and Committee Members John Kelly and Ross Fisher.

12.12 Insufficient Candidates

There were no nominations received for the position of Secretary. In accordance with clause 12.12 of the TPIWA Constitution, nominations will be invited from the floor of the AGM from any financial member to take on that vacant position.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the TPIWA staff once again for their invaluable assistance and professionalism, which, as always, has been exemplary and very much appreciated.

Leonie Gwen Timms JP BA

WA JP#25601

Returning Officer

Colin Benporath – We have a couple of nominations to put forward.

Motion: To accept Jarrad Tierney as Secretary for a 2 year term.

Moved: Eric Aitkins

Seconded: Doug Williams

CARRIED

Motion: To accept William Fox as Committee Member for a 2 year term.

Moved: Les Anderson

Seconded: Ian Bourne

CARRIED

Motion: To accept Jarrad Tierney's resignation as Assistant Secretary.

Moved: Eric Aitkins

Seconded: Ian Bourne

CARRIED

Congratulations to Jarrad & Foxie for their successful nominations onto the Committee.

We still need the following:

Assistant Treasurer – Assist the Treasurer on Fridays

Assistant Secretary – Attend the office Wednesday & Friday

Committee Member x 1 – One day per week

All Committee are required to attend meetings on the 2nd Monday & Tuesday of the month (except January) Hours are 0900hrs to 1230hrs

16. Door Prize	Alan Hannah
Meat Raffle	Gary Dawson
Cash Prizes	
1 st \$50	Ross Fisher
2 nd \$40	Bill Sturgess
3 rd \$30	Tony Koch
4 th \$20	Ian Bourne
5 th \$20	Eric Aitkins
6 th \$20	Ian Bourne
7 th \$10	Les Anderson
8 th \$10	Bill Sturgess

17. Notice of next meeting Annual General Meeting Tuesday 14th April 2026 @ 1000hrs
 General Meeting Tuesday 13th May 2025 @ 1000hrs

18. Close of meeting

This meeting was declared closed at 1030hrs

Dated this 14th day of April 2026

Colin Benporath
 CHAIRPERSON