

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** of the Rats of Tobruk WA Remembrance Association Inc., held on **Sunday, 27th October, 2024** at RAAFA Estate, Bullcreek.

Meeting opened at 1.35pm by Anne LeFevre, Chairperson

Present: Anne LeFevre, Rick France, Veronica & Robert Stratton, Glenda & Peter Wellman, Heather Davis, Margot Martin, Daryl Binning, Julie LeFevre, Gladys Glands, Joan Ashworth, Gerry Moss, David & Leona Ure, Pauline Basso, Brian Jenkins, Colin Watts, Jan & Richard Smith, Robin Middleton, Sue Edwards.

Apologies: Jodie Charlton, Deb Dickman, Maureen & Roland Daily, Ray Ryan, Ian Holthouse, Ross Woods, Diane Smales, Carol Bond, Natalie Mammoliti, Jenny LeFevre, Jacqui LeFevre, Jamie Wellman, Kevin Scott.

Anne LeFevre welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of previous 2023 AGM: *Veronica moved those minutes be accepted.*  
*Seconded by: Margot Martin*

Business Arising: Nil

**President's Report:** Anne LeFevre

This year has been one of consolidation, and I thank our Management Committee for their work in this regard. While everyone contributed, I mention in particular our hardworking Secretary Veronica Stratton for keeping us on the straight and narrow, and our Treasurer Glenda Wellman for her artistic drafting skills in the production of our very own Logo. It took some time for all the iterations to come to fruition – we hope you like the result.

This year saw 16 members and some of their families march on Anzac day under our distinctive ROTWARA banner. On Tobruk Sunday in March, we attended the Service in Kings Park and once again laid a wreath.

I thank Committee member Margot Martin for placing a wreath on our behalf at the Rats of Tobruk Memorial in Kings Park on 11th November, Remembrance Day.

We held two General Meetings this year. On 19th May we had as guest speaker our Patron the Hon Andrew Hastie who spoke on what he saw as the core values of the Rats: courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice.

Andrew's great uncle was a Rat, and other members of his family served in the Middle East in WW11.

On 18th August another General Meeting was enlivened by the guest speaker Captain Gary Lawton who as a submariner served in both the RN and the RAN. If you missed this meeting, you missed a treat.

Thanks to all Members who brought memorabilia to the meetings and who told us about their Rat.

Other work carried out by the Committee includes obtaining Public Liability Insurance for our Association through RSLWA.

We also obtained official recognition from the Australian War Memorial that they will honour the commitment made in July 1994 to the Federal Council of the Rats of Tobruk

Association to act as Trustee at the official opening in April 2041 of the Time Capsule buried beneath the Rats of Tobruk Memorial in Canberra. The time capsule buried under the Rats of Tobruk Memorial in Kings Park will be opened during 2041 and the arrangements for this event are in the capable hands of Roger Haynes.

Our Association is only as strong as our Membership, and we have a lot of work to do in future to bring to today's post-war generations the history of the Siege of Tobruk and the role our Rats played in WW11. Please enlist as many of your young relatives as you can in this endeavour.

**Treasurer's Report** was presented by Glenda Wellman

01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024

Treasurer Financial Reports were available to all in attendance.

c/f 2022/2023	\$ 145.50+	
Income	\$ 2,192.24	
Expenditure	\$ 1,399.88	
23/24 Net Profit	\$ 792.36	
Closing Balance	\$ 937.86	
	Cash at Bank	\$ 670.86
	Petty Cash	\$ 267.00
	Total	\$ 937.86

The Raffles we run at General Meetings definitely help with our bottom line. 2024 advertising we did through The West Australian for ANZAC Day was quite expensive which we will probably not do that again but look to Community Radio and other less expensive avenues. However, there was some response to the advertisement, with a few people joining us to march and a couple taking out Membership.

Memberships for the first year were 67, however only 35 have been renewed for the new year. Glenda will follow up.

Promotional memorabilia will be something the Committee will look at and organise, which will raise awareness and a little bit of money. T-Shirts will be available on an order basis once the ROTWARA Logo is finalised.

**Election of Office Bearers:**

Nominations received: Chairperson, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Members

Chairperson:	Anne LeFevre
Deputy Chair:	Rick France
Secretary:	Veronica Stratton
Treasurer:	Glenda Wellman
Committee Members:	Margot Martin
	Heather Davis
	Robert Stratton

Ian Holthouse asked to be renominated but no Nomination form was received at the time of the AGM.

As no further nominations were received from the floor, all nominations received were accepted (including Ian Holthouse) and Anne declared all Committee Members duly elected.

### **General Business:**

Veronica – The Committee would like to invite general members to help on Sub Committees for projects being looked at. The most important at this stage is getting awareness of the RATS out to the younger generation through Schools; maybe by developing talks to deliver to the children or by digital means. Daryl Binning thought Andrew Hastie (our Patron) may also be able to help in this regard.

Another project was trying to find all Memorials to the RATS or El Alamein in WA so the list is available to all members. Veronica is following up on this, but not had much luck at this stage.

Richard Smith (retired School teacher) would be interested to help with the school project. Also, as ex Deputy Mayor/Councillor at Rockingham City, he may be of help to us regarding Memorials in shires.

The AGM closed at 1.55pm.

A General Meeting was then opened.

Anne invited **Gerry Moss** to speak about his father who was in the Medical Corp at the General Hospital in Tobruk. Some time after his parents passed away the family recently came across handwritten diaries from his father's time during the war. His father wrote an entry nearly every day on things that were happening. Gerry has since worked hard to get the diaries into digital form and printed a small book for his family, also sourcing photos to go with his father's story. He kindly lent us one of the first drafts of the book for ROTWARA to look at. He relayed a couple of entries, eg, His father worked about 600 metres from Tobruk Harbour which was bombed every day and the noise was relentless and loud.

Gerry also has an original cigarette box and small photos from his father's time in Tobruk.

Anne then asked if anyone would like to talk about any RATS, show memorabilia, etc.

**Sue Edwards** representing the Rose brothers from the Brunswick Junction area. She read out an original document from a German (who was at Tobruk) who sent the letter to the brothers, giving congratulations and best wishes for the 50th Anniversary of RATS here in WA. Sue offered this letter to ROTWARA, but the Committee declined at the present time as Margot Martin said ROTWARA Committee are in the process of organising official records to receive this type of memorabilia. The Committee asked Sue to hold onto it for now. Daryl Binning said that the Battye Library would be very interested.

The Rose brothers served in Tobruk. Fred Rose was in security at Tobruk (decsd 2022), Charles Rose killed in Tobruk and is buried in Gaza, Tony Rose, Ted Rose. Fred, Arthur and Tony also went on to serve in PNG.

The Raffle was drawn and Veronica thanked all who contributed, either by way of prizes and/or purchase of tickets.

General Meeting closed at 14:08 and the afternoon concluded with afternoon tea, sharing of stories and fellowship