**OTU Association National Report 2024 – 25**

Association Wind Up

The bulk of the National Executive’s attention throughout the twelve months was taken up with the National body’s 2026 wind up.

At the National AGM held in September 2024, the counting of votes on a motion presented by a group wishing to extend the time to wind up took place. The July 2026 date was endorsed by well above the majority required by the constitution.

Deep consideration is being paid to the dispersion of funds by the time of wind up.

One consequence has been the decision that all those members (including widows and life members) who are financial for the current year, will retain their status over the last and final twelve months. Accordingly, their access to the Website and other privileges will be retained during that time. These benefits will be extended to all Scheyvillians after the wind up.

Change of Webmaster

We were pleased to welcome Colin Walker (3/70) onto the Executive body following the retirement of Ian Kelly (2/67). Our thanks go to Ian for his splendid job in this role over many years.

Official opening of Scheyville Veterans and Family Hub Stage 1

One of the highlights of the last year has been the 22 February official opening of the Scheyville Veterans’ and Family Hub on the Scheyville site itself. Under the efforts of the Hunter ANZAC Memorial Limited (HAML) group, the old Cadets’ Mess, Gymnasium and surrounding areas have been fully restored. A display of Army Vehicles has been mounted. The former kitchen is to become a workshop run along the lines of a Men’s Shed. They have done a first-class job which will make it a wonderful site for Scheyvillians to visit and remember their times there so long ago.

National Servicemen’s Association of Australia

As an affiliate member, the OTU Association is part of the NSAA National Council. In this capacity I have attended two meetings each year. Their close relationship with the DVA has proven informative – especially with their insight onto the Government benefits available to those who served in the first and second post war NS schemes.

Also of great interest has been the fact that they are also going through a form of wind up in the near future.

Deputy Chairman

Since its inception Brian Cooper has taken on the full management of the wind-up programme. His dedication and drive in this role has been exemplary and we very much appreciate his work. I also wish to thank Brian for his help and advice given me over the year.

Treasurer

Thanks go to Treasurer Harry Moyle for his, once more, diligent work in this most important, especially with the imminent closure, portfolio.

Secretary

Chris Grigsby (01/73) has made a strong contribution in this role since taking over earlier in the twelve months. We are grateful for all he has done.

Membership

With the upcoming wind up and the ageing of Scheyvillians, the number of financial members decreased marginally from the previous year. Our thanks go to Graeme Chester (2/67) for his diligent work in this portfolio.

The Scheyvillian - Memorabilia

Again, as a result of Neil Leckie’s energy, three issues of the Scheyvillian have been issued. Neil’s enthusiasm for all things related to OTU is noteworthy. The Scheyvillian has been of particularly high standard and has become well known even outside the Association. It is always a good “read” covering some much on Scheyville, Military History and, “what ever happened to” items on members.

Neil is also to be thanked for his close and fruitful relationship with the HAML Group on the refurbishment of the Scheyville site and with the people at RMC.

Quartermaster

Peter Don, as QM, has done an excellent job in running down stocks in preparation for the wind up. Thanks very much Peter.

Executive

I would also like to express my gratitude to Executive members Robin Hunt, Gary Vial, Alistair Pope and Rob Youl for their valued support and input over the year. It has been very much appreciated.

Frank Miller

Chairman.