

Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday, 3 October 2024, 16.10pm – 17.15pm (AWST)
Venue	Sir Langlois Lefroy meeting Room, 110 Goderich Street, East Perth, Western Australia and MS Teams
Division Members Present	Steve Joske (Chair) and Governance Members
Apologies	
Other Attendees	WA State Director, Craig Stewart (Returning Officer); and Guests as per attached Attendance List

1 Opening and Welcome
1.1 Chair's Welcome

Mr Steve Joske (WA Divisional Advisory Board Chair) thanked everyone for attending, in person and online, the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Australian Red Cross WA Division, including Andrew Colvin (Australian Red Cross CEO) and Jennifer Currie (Society Secretary). Steve spoke of the celebration of Australian Red Cross in 110 years of service to communities around Australia and the 50th Anniversary of our Soup Patrol coming up. Steve then asked Mr David Downing (former Australian Red Cross WA Staff member and current ES volunteer) to provide a reflection on his past experiences with Red Cross. David spoke of his time as a staff member and the great work of the Tracing Department, and the work undertaken in the retail area. He also spoke when he first joined Australian Red Cross staff were required to volunteer across Australian Red Cross WA programs gaining a good understanding of the programs operated in WA – he has many fond memories of his Red Cross family.

Steve then asked Ms Barbara Balinski a member of the Fremantle Unit to say a few words about her time with Australian Red Cross WA. Barbara spoke of her time when she started in the Australian Red Cross WA Emergency Services program and then became aware of Unit activities and has since been an active member of the Fremantle Unit.

Steve also acknowledged Mr Steve Martin from Lifeblood, and asked if he would provide a brief update. Steve Martin advised it had been a big year at the Wellington Street production centre. This had been a time of catch-up post COVID-19 with delays to procedures and hospitals catching up. The Winter appeal had been launched and the marketing caption was 'Life is the Reason'. Steve Martin encouraged people to make blood donations.

Chair declared the meeting officially opened at 16.10pm sharp.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

Murray Yarran provided the Welcome to Country. This is the third year that Murray has undertaken the welcome and stated that he feels part of Australian Red Cross. Murray talked about the importance of the land and connection with Noongar people and his country. Murray thanked Australian Red Cross for their support and in particular the WA Divisional Advisory Board and WA State Director.

1.3 Red Cross Pledge

The Red Cross Pledge was read by Honorary Life Member Margot Stretch who has been a member of Australian Red Cross since 1948. Margot briefly talked through her experiences

of being a member at Red Cross with Mr Steve Joske highlighting Margot's long and distinguished career and thanking her for her contributions.

1.4 Apologies and Quorum

The Chair acknowledged apologies were received from a number of people and particularly mentioned:

- Bill Stretch

Audrey Poole and that the full list of apologies is held separately as too many to list. (Apologies received at the meeting are separately recorded and attached)

The Chair noted he was advised that there was a sufficient Quorum to conduct the 110th Annual General Meeting of Australian Red Cross WA Division (ARC WA),

1.5 Reading of the Fundamental Principles

WA Divisional Advisory Board (**WADAB**) member Lara Pratt, read the 7 Fundamental Principles and their meaning – Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary service, Unity and Universality.

2 Minutes

2.1 Minutes of the 2023 Western Australian Division Annual General Meeting

Mr Steve Joske provided a summary overview of Minutes from the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Australian Red Cross' WA Division, which were moved by Dianne Buckles and Seconded by Evelyn Barrett

The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting were confirmed and accepted as an accurate record of that meeting without objection.

3 Reports

3.1 WA Divisional Advisory Board Chair Report

Mr Joske once again acknowledged Murray Yarran for his Welcome to Country and particularly for speaking in language which was much appreciated and also acknowledged members of our executive who are attending online today. as well as his fellow members of the Divisional Advisory Board.

Steve noted the transformation process and acknowledged that the Australian Red Cross has been through a challenging period as we work to transform our organisation. These changes, while difficult, are necessary to ensure that we remain financially sustainable and relevant in the future. Steve acknowledged the impacts and acknowledged this and thanked everyone for their continued dedication and commitment during these transformative times.

Steve acknowledged the dedication of Karyn Collins who was concluding her time on the WA DAB after 8 years. Karyn remains at the President of the Gingin unit.

Steve reflected on our past, acknowledging 110 years of the Australian Red Cross. To still be standing strong today, in a world so different from the one we faced in 1914, is a testament to the dedication and resilience of those who came before us. It is now our responsibility to ensure we leave behind a lasting legacy for future generations.

In addition to celebrating 110 years, Steve noted that we are also about to mark 50 years of the Soup Patrol and referenced the report made available on the programs being delivered in WA noting that whilst it may seem that we have significantly reduced our program offerings, Red Cross in Western Australia as noted continues to deliver a broad portfolio of services that are more aligned to the Red Cross strategy.

Steve highlighted a few standout programs for example, over 5,000 people have participated in In Search of Safety, a program that helps foster understanding and empathy among our younger generations toward those who have fled conflicts, famine, and persecution. This work is foundational to the Red Cross and helps build a more inclusive society.

The Safety Net and Family and Domestic Violence program has supported nearly 8,000 people on temporary visas, many of whom do not have the right to work or receive benefits. Without the support of the Red Cross, these individuals would face incredibly dire situations. This is humanity in action.

The Emergency Services team has been tireless in its efforts throughout the year, providing workshops and planning activities to help communities become more resilient in the face of increasing natural disasters. And, of course, we continue to support these communities long after the immediate crisis has passed, assisting with recovery in ways that allow for dignity and care.

Steve noted that the impact of the Red Cross in Western Australia is vast, positive, and deeply meaningful. Each of you, in some way, has helped make these achievements possible. Whether as a member, volunteer, or staff member, we must never forget that we are all part of one Red Cross, united by our guiding principles.

Steve thanked everyone for being here today, and for your continued support in the years ahead.

The WADAB Chair's report was accepted and moved by Margot Stretch and seconded by Lara Pratt.

Mandurah Peel Red Cross Unit.

Ron Withnell President of the Mandurah Peel Unit provided a report on Australian Red Cross in action and meeting local needs. A PowerPoint Presentation (attached was delivered). In summary Ron described how the Mandurah Peel unit supported people impacted by housing and food insecurity. He talked through examples of the unit

fundraising and using funds to support local people with food, paying essential bills though to a haircut to improve self-esteem, or helping someone fix a car to ensure they could continue to work and other such examples.

Ron and the Mandurah Peel Unit have a high profile in the region and are supported by local business to hold stalls in local shopping centre or receive donations. Ron has strong connections with local members of parliament including MLA for Dawesville Lisa Munday who is also a Australian Red Cross Mandurah Peel member.

Steve Joske thanked Ron for his presentation and the obvious hard work and dedication of the Mandurah Peel Australian Red Cross Unit ably led by Ron.

3.2 WA State Director report

Craig spoke of the inspiring work Staff, Members and Volunteers had undertaken in WA in supporting vulnerability and encouraged people to view the 'Australin Red Cross 'Acting for humanity for 110 years' document that had been distributed, which provided details on our WA programs and the impact of our work. He noted that we continue to learn from the past and look to the future. Craig was pleased Australian Red Cross had undertaken a program overview with significant work being done with a strong strategic focus. In closing, Craig reflected that 'in every aspect of our work we are united by a common goal, to provide meaningful support to those suffering from vulnerability'

Craig informed those present the opportunity to participate in a world café expo tour of our building and hear directly from our teams about their programs. This is also an opportunity to ask any question of the team. This will take place post the conclusion of formalities

The Division NOTED the State Director's report.

4 Election of Members to the Divisional Advisory Board

4.1 Announcement of Results

Craig Stewart as the Returning Officer advised the meeting three nominations for five vacancies had been received for the Western Australian Division Advisory Board:

- Kristy Bizzaca
- Dianne Buckles
- Edward Obi

The Returning Officer declared all three nominees elected to the Western Australia Divisional Advisory Board for a two-year term from the conclusion of the 2024 Western Australian Division Annual General Meeting to the 2026 Western Australian Division Annual General Meeting.

Returning Officer Craig Stewart announced Members of the WA DAB from the conclusion of the 2024 Western Australian Division Annual General Meeting were:

- Steve Joske
- Kristy Bizzaca
- Dianne Buckles

- Lara Pratt (Appointed)
- Kapila Karunaratna
- Renuka Bandaranayake
- Edward Obi

Craig welcomed Edward Obi to the WADAB noting that Edward had a long association with Australian Red Cross and was a previous Australian Red Cross Tasmanian DAB member. Craig and Dianne Buckles had met with Edward who spoke of his first interaction with Red Cross when he was a child in Nigeria and Red Cross had flown in under fire to provide food security for his community.

It was noted that Karyn Collins had now completed her 8 years on the WADAB and was acknowledged with a bouquet of flowers for her contributions on the Board and as President of the Gingin unit. Karyn informed the meeting that the Gingin Unit were celebrating 85 years as an Australian Red Cross Unit and were hosting a Supper Dinner Dance on the 19th of October in acknowledgement of Margaret Vallentine (former WADAB Member, Regional Representative and Gingin President).

5 Awards

5.1 Award Presentations

It was noted by Steve Joske that Pauline Sait had received a National Certificate of Commendation for her outstanding contribution as a member of the Bindaring Unit. This certificate would be forwarded to Bindaring Unit President Althea Mahon to present to Pauline.

6 Other Business

6.1 Other Business

The Chair gave thanks to the WADAB for their support throughout the year.

It was noted that throughout the year the division had seen the passing of several members and volunteers, including Ian Anson. The chair paid special tribute to Ian, who had served for many decades on the WADAB, the national board, and various sub committees supporting the work of Red Cross.

There being no business raised, the Chair invited all to participate in a WA Division Expo with guests visiting program areas to gain an insight into the work within the Division.

7 Meeting close

7.1 Meeting Close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 17.15pm (AWST).

Signed as a true and correct record of the proceedings:

Dianne Buckles
Western Australia Division Council Chair

Date