



## DRYSDALE SUB BRANCH RSL

Annual General Meeting  
Minutes  
13 February 2025

### Open

The 2025 Annual General meeting of the Drysdale Sub Branch RSL was called to order at 1400 hrs on 13 February 2025 by President Denis Hyland.

### Attendance

Robert Atkinson, Roger Atkinson, Tony Bright, John Brown, Ross Brown, George Browney, Des Connor, Kevin Davis, Pam Davis, Maurice Dean, Margaret Everett, Geoff Fifer, Joe Gati, Derek Haayema, Tony Holton, Shane Hurley, Denis Hyland, Greg Irwin, Colleen Lincoln, Andrea Nisbet, Harry Paterson, Mike Pitcher, Neil Remeus, Bruce Richards, Bill Ritchie, Fran Rowell, Richard Safstrom, Kevin Sedgmen, Jan Taylor, Paul Taylor, Maria Tol, Tony Tol, Kaye Ward, Laurie Ward, Peter Wood, Geoff Zanker.

### Apologies

Lance Barley, Allan Bliss, Terry Bridges, David Clark, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Bernice Goodwin, Sally Haayema, Gary Holt, Ronald Kingsbury, Ross McRae, Robert Partridge, Keith Thompson, Les Watts.

### President's Report

The President welcomed all to the AGM and summaries the events of the past twelve months. His report is at Annex A. Denis also read an excerpt from "Digger" magazine relating to local soldiers who fell during WWI.

### Correspondence

The Secretary reported more than 100 items of interest were received and dealt with during 2024. All items are in hard copy and available for perusal.

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reserved some comments on recent discussions with RSL Victoria regarding the use of funds for the regular monthly meeting.

The committee is considering what action to take when our term deposits with the Bendigo Bank mature. The term deposits are now attracting about 4% interest, and Term Deposit #1 is to mature in 17 days time. It will be rolled over. Term Deposit #2 matures in May.

The membership has previously voted an annual \$200 honorarium for the main office bearers (President Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Officer) to recognise the hours spent on behalf of the club. The amount needs to be ratified at each AGM. **Passed** on a show of hands

Moved George Browney, seconded Maurie Dean, that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

**Carried unanimously**

### Wellbeing Officer

Pam Davis presented the Wellbeing Officer's report (See Annex B). She thanked those who have helped along the way, especially Carol Browney and Maurie Dean.

The work of the volunteers who make the Anzac and Poppy Appeals such a success every year were much appreciated. Pam's full report is at Annex C to these Minutes.

Moved Pam Davis, seconded Colleen Lincoln that the Wellbeing Officer's report be accepted.

**Carried unanimously**

### **Spill of Committee**

The President invited Bruce Richards to spill the current committee positions and continue the meeting with the election of new office bearers. Most positions were elected unopposed. A secret ballot was held only for the position of Vice President. The two candidates, Geoff Fifer and Derek Haayema, each made a short speech in support of their nominations. The results are below.

### **Election of Office Bearers**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Nominated</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
President	Denis Hyland	Harry Paterson	Geoff Fifer
V/President	Geoff Fifer	Geoff Zanker	Pam Davis
Secretary	Harry Paterson	Geoff Fifer	Denis Hyland
Assistant Secretary	Laurie Ward	Geoff Zanker	Harry Paterson
Treasurer	George Browney	Harry Paterson	Pam Davis
Welfare Officer	Pam Davis	Harry Paterson	Geoff Zanker
Appeals Officer	Geoff Zanker	Harry Paterson	Pam Davis
Committee 1 (Bar)	Kevin Davis	Harry Paterson	Geoff Zanker
Committee 2	John Brown	Harry Paterson	Denis Hyland
Committee 3	Colleen Lincoln	Harry Paterson	Pam Davis
Committee 4 (Memorabilia)	David Clark	Harry Paterson	Geoff Fifer

Denis Hyland resumed his seat as President and thanked Bruce for conducting the election.

**Carried Unanimously**

### **Motions**

Harry moved Motion #1, seconded by Pam Davis: A proposal to increase the annual subscriptions from \$40 to \$60, starting in 2026. Tony Bright moved an amended motion to increase the annual subs to \$50 and this was **carried on a show of hands**

Harry introduced Motion #2a seconded by Pam Davis: A proposal for Service members over the age of 80 as at the date of an AGM to have the option to not pay subs.

**Carried Unanimously**

Harry introduced Motion #2b seconded by Tony Bright: A proposal for all members over the age of 90 as at the date of an AGM to have the option to not pay subs.

**Carried Unanimously**

Denis then thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 14:57 hours.

---

Denis Hyland  
President

---

Harry Paterson  
Secretary

## **President's Report 2024**

Our Annual General Meeting places a pause at our Drysdale RSL Sub-Branch Inc, where we stop momentarily allowing the Club to reflect on the past twelve months.

During the year, I commenced looking into my family's history and discovered that my maternal grandfather was the founding Club President of the San Remo Newhaven RSL. This finding has made me feel prouder of my Pop. With that, I have felt very privileged and humbled to lead our Club in 2024.

My year started with a holiday, missing our March meeting and feeling nervous about my first Committee meeting in April, where ANZAC Day would be the primary focus. I had nothing to be nervous about, as our wonderful committee had just gone ahead, putting the Club's plans into place. From organising ANZAC badges and rosters, traffic management, to invitations to our local schools for them to participate in the day, the customary sausages and our lunch, the floral tributes, to Kev's Bar, plus more and more. All was well in hand. A big thank you to all concerned.

Throughout the year, various Regional meetings, committee sessions, and other necessary responsibilities were conducted as required.

One Regional meeting was held at Torquay RSL Inc where we were advised that the new Veterans Hub was going to be located at the Geelong RSL Inc. There was little to no consultation within the region as to this decision. For various reasons, many veterans and RSLs in our region are not pleased with this decision, our Club included. The Veterans Hub has been in discussion (confusion) for the past eighteen months with no horizon in sight – to be continued.

We had our mid-year break, returning in August. Our August Committee meeting's primary focus was Remembrance Day. Once again, our committee just cranked up, and before I knew it, all was in place for 11.00am, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. Owen McCoughtry was our guest speaker, a St Ignatius student, who was a recipient of The Premier's Award 2024. Owen had written about our Cenotaph in his submission.

We had a wonderful Golf Day at the Clifton Springs Golf Club (thanks Geoff Fifer and Geoff Zanker). The sun shone, the players were happy, an enjoyable lunch was had by all, and we had wonderful support from the local business community. A massive fifty-four raffle prizes, which took nearly as long as a round of golf to draw.

Our Christmas luncheon followed in December, also at the Clifton Springs Golf Club. I was fortunate enough to win again one of Colleen's Christmas cakes. This was the fourth (who's counting) Christmas Cake I have won.

Regarding our no cost Christmas function, the meals have been paid for with General Funds and, along with a most generous contribution from our Ladies Auxiliary. The cost for the luncheon was \$50.00pp, a figure that we may have to look at later this year.

I would like to thank our Ladies Auxiliary (under the leadership of Margaret Everett) on your behalf, for their untiring support of our Club during 2024. Afternoon teas come to mind ...

Welfare is a big job, and I thank Pam Davis for all her efforts there. I also thank Pam for all the effort that she makes around the Club on your behalf.

Another thanks to our Treasurer George Browney, who keeps our finances on track. Plus, his (enjoyable or not) dealings with RSL Vic. Thank you George.

Harry Paterson, our Club Secretary, has been very constructive and supportive of me these past twelve months. Thank you very much Harry for all that you do.

I would like to thank those that have served on our committee in 2024. All had a role, and those roles were carried out faithfully. Maurie Dean has decided to call it a day on the Committee. I thank Maurie for his service.

Out of Remembrance Day last year, I became aware that eighteen of the Drysdale Boys that were killed in action during WWI, but their names do not appear on our Cenotaph. Since then, I have started looking into this, and I have found out that the Cenotaph is under the care of the City of Greater Geelong. I have since had a meeting with two representatives from the CoGG at the Cenotaph. A positive outcome was reached, with Council to commence researching the matter. I am hopeful that the names will be placed on the Cenotaph for Remembrance Day 2025.

To all Drysdale RSL Inc members, thank you for your participation during the year, especially during the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day weeks. Successful badge sales come from your willingness to support.

Please have a think about joining our committee thus extending your service. The committee is open to all members of the RSL, and you have about five minutes to think about putting your hand up. We are in the middle of the AGM.

I look forward to serving you all during this coming year.

## **Wellbeing Officer Report 2024**

Report for 2024 Wellbeing team's efforts in visiting Veterans at home and in Hospital, and in Aged Care.

Many thanks to Maurie Dean who at the start of the year offered his time to visit those veterans in care and in hospital and in their own homes. I am extremely grateful for all he has done, his visits were very much appreciated. Maurie has kindly offered to continue this task again this year. Thanks Maurie.

Carol Browney has been an amazing support, spending many hours visiting Drysdale Grove on behalf of our Sub-Branch.

A huge thank you to the wonderful volunteers we have within our club and the Women's Auxiliary who give their time during the weeks of ANZAC and the Poppy Appeals to raise funds. The funds raised from these Appeals have been used to support the Veterans and their families throughout the year. Sadly things might be changing.