



## DRYSDALE RSL SUB BRANCH

Monthly Meeting  
10 August 2023

### Open

The meeting was opened at 1400 hrs on 10 August 2023 by Stand-in President Denis Hyland. The Ode was recited. He asked members to take a few moments to remember our recently deceased member Frank Pickett. He introduced our new member Derek Haayema. Sally Haayema is a new Affiliate Member, but she was not able to join us today.

### Attendance

Roger Atkinson, John Brown, David Clark, Pam Davis, Gary Dean, Maurie Dean, Margaret Everett, Geoff Fifer, Derek Haayema, Gary Holt, Denis Hyland, Greg Irwin, Trevor Joseph, Colleen Lincoln, Andrea Nisbet, Harry Paterson, Neil Remeus, Bruce Richards, Fran Rowell, Richard Safstrom, Kevin Sedgmen, Robert Selby, Geoff Strachan, Paul Taylor, Tony Tol, and Peter Wood.

### Apologies

Lance Barley, Anthony Bright, Ross Brown, George Browney, Des Connor, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Kevin Davis, Peter and Narawee Elton, Bernice Goodwin, Sally Haayema, Tony Holton, Shane Hurley, Ron Kingsbury, Rob Partridge, Jan Taylor, Keith Thompson, Maria Tol, Kaye Ward, Laurie Ward, Les Watts and Geoff Zanker.

### Previous Meeting Minutes

The June minutes were circulated on-line or posted out to all members. Harry Paterson moved, seconded John Brown that the June minutes be accepted. **Carried unanimously**

### Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes

Harry said there were two items from the previous meeting: a Rotary Club handover dinner and the wall repair near our new honour boards. Denis Hyland gave a brief recap of the excellent dinner at the Portarlinton Golf Club, which he and Geoff Zanker attended.

Gary Holt said he would speak to Rod Taylor about the wall repair and the flagpole outside our premises.

### Correspondence

Harry Paterson circulated a list of correspondence received since our last meeting. The list is at Annex A. Items of interest:

- 78 - The Hub meeting of 14 RSL Sub-branches in the Geelong/Bellarine/Surf Coast area organised by the Geelong RSL was attended by Geoff Zanker and Harry Paterson. Sue Cattermole the State Branch CEO and Kristen Cosgrove from Open Arms addressed the Hub meeting.

### Sue Cattermole RSL Vic:

- The recent State Conference has received good feedback but there is definitely room for improvement and further reforms are needed.
- The new Strategic Plan is underway and open for feedback.
- Gaming reforms and what will that look like?

- Diversity away from Pokies and what that will mean and how that can be worked through away from Pokies and the drop in income from it.
- The Grant Funding for the business case for the new Veterans and Families Hub.
- The DVA Wellbeing uplift for Mornington Peninsula to Frankston is in early August.
- RSL provides a free advice service for Vets on claims. However there are several private businesses that are taking up to \$29M to date for the same services.
- The Royal Commission is coming to Melbourne as of 28 August 2023 with State Branch President Rob Webster possibly being called to respond.

#### **Kristen Cosgrove Open Arms:**

- Open Arms is an independent service to DVA.
  - Whilst Open Arms does work closely with DVA clients there is actually no cross over between the two and has advised that the file notes and all associated documentation does not flow between them and DVA.
  - Services provided include free face-to-face counselling and other outreach services.
  - Group training courses are also run through Open Arms such as Mental Health First Aid and other treatment programs.
  - They also offer Community Engagement & Peer Support through supporting as a lived experience of a Veteran.
  - Veterans Health Week has Mental Health as its topic and has a variety of services available including the ability to call 1800 011 046 for an intake process to gain access to all services or a Safe Zone number 1800 142 072 if required for a quick chat.
- 82 - Bellarine Young Veterans (BYV) input to the proposed Veterans and Families Hub. Harry explained that this proposed Hub should not be confused with the Geelong area RSL hub meetings. The Hub will be managed by the State RSL Branch with Ben Webb being the person in charge. At the moment, he has funding for developing the business case for the Hub, and a \$5million budget for establishing the Hub. The actual services to be provided and the future costs of operating the hub will be the subject of the business case. BYV argues for the Hub to be at Geelong rather than Torquay. They prefer it to be a safe one-stop shop place for veterans and not a mixed veterans/civilian enterprise. They are against poker machines and other potential addictive behaviours.

The Secretary also tabled the RSL Victoria State Branch annual report for all to read.

Moved Harry Paterson, seconded Pam Davis that the correspondence be accepted.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Harry said he had checked the bank accounts this morning, and George has paid the electricity, gas and water bills, and does not appear to have splurged RSL funds on his holiday.

Our building insurance expired on 1 August, because State Branch have not yet sent reminders to the sub-branches. But we are still covered until the reminders are sent out.

#### **Welfare and Appeals Report**

Pam Davis's welfare report is at Annex A to these minutes.

**General Business**

**Golf Day** - Geoff Fifer said it was early to start planning the annual Golf Day, but he would be grateful for volunteers to help him. Then he told a joke about three golfers on Christmas morning.

**Raffle**

A raffle organised by Margaret Everett was won by Bruce Richards and Derek Haayema.

**Close**

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 1425 hours. The next monthly meeting for all members is planned for 13 September 2023 in the clubrooms, starting at 2pm.

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D. Hyland  
Stand-in President

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Harry Paterson  
Secretary

**Incoming Correspondence July/August 2023**

<b>74</b>	<b>Email</b>	24 Jul 2023	Lara RSL	Kokoda Challenge	
<b>75</b>	<b>Email</b>	24 Jul 2023	Defence Legal	Royal Comm submissions	Members
<b>76</b>	<b>Email</b>	26 Jul 2023	Libby Coker	Volunteer grants	
<b>77</b>	<b>Email</b>	1 Aug 2023	Victoria Vet Affairs	Mental Health survey	
<b>78</b>	<b>Email</b>	2 Aug 2023	Geelong RSL	Hub meeting minutes	
<b>79</b>	<b>Email</b>	3 Aug 2023	Dept Vet Affairs	Health update	Members
<b>80</b>	<b>Email</b>	7 Aug 2023	Vasey RSL Care	newsletter	
<b>81</b>	<b>Email</b>	8 Aug 2023	Dept Vet Affairs	Health week grants	
<b>82</b>	<b>Email</b>	8 Aug 2023	Bellarine Young Vets	Comment re Vet/Fam hub	
<b>83</b>	<b>Email</b>	9 Aug 2023	Vasey RSL Care	newsletter	Members

**Wellbeing Report**

Spring is fast approaching and with that comes Legacy week, I received a request from the Geelong Legacy office for help with this year's appeal. We have a site at Coles Drysdale on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September the Roster is available today, if anyone can help I would appreciate it.

I am happy to report most of those who have had stays in hospital are home, we wish them a very speedy recovery and continued good health. As Denis mentioned at the start of the meeting we remember the passing of Frank Pickett. He was in Drysdale Grove and was visited regularly by Maurie Dean; I know Frank appreciated their chats. Frank was a financial member of the Returned Services League since 1945 he transferred here to Drysdale in 2004. He would have been 98 on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Vale Frank.

Pam brought everyone's attention to the new Victorian Government Veterans card. It is a digital card that takes only a few minutes to upload, and it is for active duty ADF personnel, veterans and reservists. Main benefits are \$100 off light vehicles registration, free trailer and caravan registration, free marine licence and fishing licence.

Birthdays Greetings for July = John Arnts, Gary Holt, Colleen Lincoln, Les Watts  
August = Bernice Goodwin, Geoff Fifer, Glen Ferguson-Thomas, Len Reed.