

DRYSDALE RSL SUB-BRANCH Monthly Meeting; 9 June 2022

Open: Member No 1449166, standing in for Secretary Harry, standing in for VP John and, also standing in for President Geoff, opened the meeting at 1400hrs and recited the Ode.

Attendance:

Roger Atkinson, Ross Brown, George Browney, David Clark, Des Connor, Pam Davis, Maurice Dean, Peter Elton, Margaret Everett, Geoff Fifer, Denis Hyland, Trevor Joseph, Colleen Lincoln, Andrea Nisbet, Robert Partridge, Harry Paterson, Bruce Richards, Fran Rowell, Graham Sewart, Janis and Paul Taylor, Tony and Maria Toll, Peter Wood.

Apologies:

Lance Barley, Anthony Bright, John Brown, Andrew Cook, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Bernice Goodwin, Ron Kingsbury, John Milton, Harry Paterson, John Poole, Leonard Reed.

May Meeting Minutes:

The May minutes have been circulated on-line and handed out in hard copy.

Business Arising from May Meeting Minutes:

Moved: Graeme S, Seconded Des Connor. Carried unanimously

Correspondence:

The Secretary presented the Incoming Correspondence report.

Inwards: Fire Services Invoice; Springdale Services Directory and Bellarine North Rotary Club.

Information from the RSL tabled at meeting for distribution to interested parties.

Outwards:

Letter of thanks to the Clifton Springs Golf Club.

Letter to Christian College Geelong in support of grant application for flagpole.

Inwards:

Moved: member No 1449166, seconded Tony Tol that the correspondence be accepted. Carried unanimously

Treasurer's Report:

George Browney reported good collections, donations, and sales for the Anzac Appeal this year. The generosity of the local community is much appreciated.

Moved: George Browney, seconded Geoff Fifer that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Carried unanimously

Welfare and Appeals Report:

No report

General Business:

Golf Report:

Date set, 7 November 2022. Same format as previous years. Seek and invite sponsors. Members support is required to bring the event together and ensure success on the day. Offer your support to Geoff Fifer.

Bellarine RSL Clubs Group meeting:

Member No 1449166 and Secretary Harry, attended a meeting of the four Bellarine RSL clubs being, Queenscliff RSL, Portarlinton/St Leonards RSL, Ocean Grove/Barwon Heads RSL and Drysdale RSL re The Future of Bellarine RSL Clubs.

General discussion, and answers given, took place around the proposed Veterans Hub, and to a lesser degree, the Future of RSL Sub-branches on the Bellarine.

See attached to minutes, Secretary Harry's' summation of the meeting held at the Queenscliff RSL on 27 May 2022.

Close:

There being no further business, member 1449166 closed the meeting at 1454hrs. The next monthly meeting with no meeting in June, will be held on 11 August 2022 starting at 1400hrs.

Notes on Four Bellarine RSL Sub-branches Meeting - Queenscliff - 27 May 2022

Attended by:

- Queenscliff RSL - Alan Hunter and Rowan Martin
- Portarlington/St Leonards RSL - Barry Smith and Phil Walters
- Ocean Grove/Barwon Heads RSL - Richard Lewis and Brad Clarke
- Drysdale RSL - Harry Paterson and Denis Hyland

Background:

22 April 2022 - A \$5 million Veteran Wellbeing Centre has been promised for the Surf Coast and Geelong region should Labor win government at the upcoming federal election.

Proposed as a one-stop shop for veterans and their families to access a range of services such as transition, wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing assistance and social connection, the preferred location according to Corangamite federal member Libby Coker is at the Torquay Bowls Club.

While Torquay is the preferred site, Ms Coker acknowledges other veterans organisations like Geelong's RSL Sub-Branch may apply to host the hub, and the plan is still subject to a consultation process with other stakeholders such as the state RSL executive.

Agenda items:

1. **Veterans Hub.** The opportunity exists for our four RSL clubs to form a consensus and present a consolidated proposal for such a hub.
 - We talked about a location - near an existing RSL on the Bellarine (not Torquay) - Drysdale likely to be cheapest location for greenfield site. Queenscliff has an existing building 30 metres from the RSL on crown land. Joint tenancy with eg bowls club would not be supported.
 - Cost of acquiring land and construction of facility, or acquiring existing building
 - Ongoing maintenance costs, and ongoing staff costs
 - Existing hubs at Wodonga and Warrnambool to be consulted
 - Dislike by younger veterans for poker machines in such a facility
 - \$5m unlikely to be enough - Royal Commission into Veteran Suicides not yet finished, there could be more funding coming out of the Commission's recommendations.
2. **Future of RSL sub branches** on the Bellarine Peninsula
 - This was quickly discussed at the end of the meeting. All agreed that ageing membership affects us all and we need to connect with the younger veterans. The Bellarine Young Veterans has been going for three years, and they meet once a month in Queenscliff for morning coffee. We could use the Springdale Messenger, social media and local press to locate recently separated ex-servicemen and women.
 - OC/BH reps proposed the formation of a sub-committee with all four clubs represented to discuss a vision for 2025, looking at membership, engagement of younger veterans, and facilities. Other reps agreed to discuss this within their own clubs.

Action Items:

- Richard Lewis to write up notes of today's meeting
- Richard Lewis to contact Warrnambool RSL for lessons learned from their veterans hub
- Alan Hunter to contact Wodonga RSL for lessons learned from their veterans hub
- Rowan Martin to take a lead in formulating a business case for other clubs' consideration
- All reps to discuss issues with their own clubs and gain direction