



DRYSDALE RSL SUB BRANCH

Monthly Meeting
14 November 2024

Open

President Denis Hyland opened the meeting at 1400 hrs on 14 November 2024.

The Ode was recited by all members. Denis welcomed new members Joe Gati, Bill Ritchie (transferring from Portarlington/St Leonards) and Robert Atkinson (transferring from RSL Headquarters).

Attendance

Bob Atkinson, Roger Atkinson, Tony Bright, John Brown, David Clark, Des Connor, Kevin Davis, Pam Davis, Narawee and Peter Elton, Margaret Everett, Geoff Fifer, Joe Gati, Derek Haayema, Tony Holton, Denis Hyland, Greg Irwin, Colleen Lincoln, Andrea Nisbet, Harry Paterson, Mike Pitcher, Bruce Richards, Bill Ritchie, Fran Rowell, Richard Safstrom, Tony and Maria Toll, Laurie Ward, Peter Wood, Geoff Zanker.

Apologies

Lance Barley, Alan Bliss, George Browney, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Bernice Goodwin, Sally Haayema, Gary Holt, Ronald Kingsbury, John Poole, Neil Remeus, Paul and Janis Taylor, Keith Thompson, Kaye Ward.

Guest Speaker



Vice President Derek Haayema introduced Owen McCoughtry and his mother Janine Penfold. Owen was a winner of the Victorian Premier's "Spirit of Anzac" literary award. Owen read his prize-winning poem and gave an interesting talk about his trip to Türkiye, including Istanbul, Troy and Gallipoli, accompanied by a slide show. President Denis Hyland thanked Owen and presented him with a small gift. The poem is at Annex A.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The October minutes were circulated on-line to members or posted out. Tony Bright moved, seconded John Brown that the October minutes be accepted. **Carried unanimously**

Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes

Nil.

Correspondence

Harry spoke about three items of inwards correspondence (see Annex B for full list).

- 81 was our insurance quote from Marsh, the company arranged by Anzac House for all RSL sub-branches. We are covered for \$300,000 building and \$30,000 contents. The Committee is making arrangements about the adequacy of those amounts. Harry said that he had asked other clubs about their arrangements. Colac for example occupies a heritage-listed cinema building.

Their insurance is based on \$10,000,000 replacement value with an annual premium in excess of \$50K per annum.

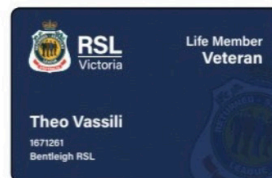
- 85 was an invitation from Libby Coker for a meeting with the Federal Minister for Veteran Affairs, Matt Keogh at the Ocean Grove RSL premises. The topic was the Veterans and Families Hub proposal. The Geelong hub is likely to open mid-2025, run by RSL Victoria. The meeting was attended by Denis Hyland, Derek Haayema and Harry Paterson.
- 88 included information about a new membership card, which should be available for distribution by the end of this month. (See samples below).



Outwards correspondence - all to do with arrangements for Remembrance Day and Golf Day.

Moved Harry Paterson, seconded Geoff Fifer that the correspondence be accepted.

Carried unanimously



Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer being absent, Harry reported verbally. Term Deposit #2 is due to mature this week. The Committee recently decided to roll over the full amount for a further six months. Our Term Deposit #1 will mature in Feb/March 2025. As there are no current planned projects, the committee will decide early next year what to do with that account.

Moved Geoff Zanker, seconded Peter Elton that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Wellbeing Report

Pam Davis reported - see Annex B.

Moved Pam Davis, seconded Geoff Zanker that the Wellbeing report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

General Business

Remembrance Day - President Denis Hyland said that he thought the service conducted at our clubrooms on Monday 11 November was a great success, attended by about 200 members of the public in fine weather. He particularly thanked all the club members who contributed with the setting up and putting away of chairs and tables and other paraphernalia.

Golf Day 18 November - Geoff Fifer said the support from the local community and businesses has been brilliant. The four-ball stableford event will start at 8:30 for a 9am shotgun start, and will conclude with lunch in the members' lounge. He encouraged members who are not playing golf to have a lunch in the main dining area, and then come to the members' lounge for a major raffle.

Geoff said one of our Golf Day major sponsors, Bellarine Springs Retirement village, will be conducting a wine tasting 1-3pm on Tuesday 26 November at their premises 101 Central Rd, Drysdale. All are welcome to attend, but rsvp is required for catering purposes.

Membership Renewals - Harry Paterson explained that memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. Subs paid directly to RSL Victoria Headquarters Anzac House will not be returned to us until mid-2025, and the funds come in a lump sum, so we will not know who has paid. On the other hand, subs paid to our sub are immediately available to us, and we have a record of who has paid. In any case, all renewals received by mid-December will be in a raffle for a new Mazda CX-3. Subs of \$40 can be paid to our Bendigo Bank account:

BSB 633000
Account Number: 155347628
Account Name: Drysdale RSL

Raffle

A raffle organised by Kevin Davis was won by Pui Elton and Roger Atkinson.

Close

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 1505 hours. The next get-together will be at the End of Year Thank You lunch on 12 December.

There is no meeting planned for January, so our next meeting will be the on Thursday 13 February 2025, to be followed by the Annual General Meeting. If anyone wants to nominate for a position on the Committee, Harry Paterson has nomination forms.

.....
Denis Hyland
President

.....
Harry Paterson
Secretary

The Drysdale Cenotaph - Honouring Mateship, Honouring Community
by Owen Mc Coughtry

Stony finger, full of names, memories and granite,
Furnished with rings of green beauty one day a year,
Pointing to the sky showing a rising sun,
Unveiled in 1919 after the end of the "great war".
Found where justice was once upheld,
Representing town's residents who become part of something much larger,
A memento for the ones that remember,
Created for ones that will be remembered,
To display the courage endurance, mateship of our soldiers.
Celebrating the names Anderson, F. Benham, R. Benham, Carlson, Clarke, Davis, Foster,
Lyons, Mathews, Moffatt, Thompson, L. Turner, S. Turner, Waterson, Wiffen,
Who left in 1914,
Commemorating the names Baglin, Knight, McIlwraith, Martin, Peel, Wold, Anderson,
Who left in 1939,
Recalling the support, resourcefulness, friendship of the community who laboured,
Making sure all knew about ones who never returned.
What about the ones who did return?
One would think with two sides covered none would be unrecognised.
But no.
Where is the name Gladys Patricia Bishop?
One girl born and raised in Drysdale,
Who served in 3 different hospitals,
On the west coast of India.
Daughter of George Bishop,
Who spoke the prayer when our memorial was raised.
The memorial with a 1:21 ratio of women to men.
The memorial where the names of any women who served as nurses cannot be found,
Women who left and are forgotten by all except family,
During neither the first nor second bloodshed.
No boards nor honour rolls recognise their names or efforts.
Names are overlooked, unglorified, when nurses, signal people, drivers as well as soldiers all
witnessed the horrors,
Then were forced to live with the fate.
There are bound to be others, the unknown, the unrecognised,
Men and women whose families are to wield their only recognition.
Our Anzac men and women wouldn't have been discouraged,
They fought or worked with unmatched strength and dedication.
Fuelled by their mates and family,
Channelled their feelings and their hope into what we call Anzac spirit.
Not to get their names on a block of stone,
That is not reason enough to serve their country,
They served to build their country,
Creating Australia's history through every piece of grit,
Every sacrifice,
Shaping who and what Australia would become.
And for that I am eternally grateful.

Every member of our community,
 Each honoured and local Anzac that left their home,
 Unknowingly sharing a bond built stronger than any granite.
 Mateship,
 Camaraderie,
 It is what helped
 Each squadron
 Each hospital,
 Each wartime godmother,
 Continue through hard times.
 The knowledge that someone else was there.
 A brother of a sister,
 Holding a shared respect,
 Supporting unconditionally.
 My memorial, our memorial,
 That so many go to each year,
 Allows our Drysdale community to dedicate and remember,
 To honour those who served and are serving,
 To show all what our community contributed to the war.
 Our town recalls our past,
 Acknowledging all who gave up their regular lives to peace-keeping and safeguard our future.
 So this year, like the year before,
 I stand before a cold obelisk showing names though I am filled with warmth
 I stand beside the next generation whose past carries them,
 I stand in the present of my family whose ancestors served so that I could continue their legacy
 Our families who displayed mateship, bravery, kindness built by Anzac spirit if nothing else.

In memory of Drysdale soldiers.



Incoming Correspondence Oct-Nov 2024

78	Post	8 Oct 2024	Origin Energy	Electricity bill	Treasurer
79	Email	16 Oct 2024	Brendan Lloyd	Hub meeting agenda	Committee
80	Email	16 Oct 2024	Denis Hyland	Owen McCoughy invite	
81	Email	18 Oct 2024	Marsh Insurances	Renewal notice	Treasurer
82	Email	22 Oct 2024	Liquor Control Victoria	Newsletter	
83	Email	23 Oct 2024	Dept of Veteran Affairs	Heart Health	Members
84	Email	24 Oct 2024	Bellarine Police	Newsletter	Members
85	Email	24 Oct 2024	Libby Coker	Invite Marles/Keogh	Committee
86	Email	28 Oct 2024	Kristin Chapman	Maree Jane invite	Members
87	Email	1 Nov 2024	Anzac House	Volunteer hours	
88	Email	1 Nov 2024	Anzac House	Membership cards	
89	Email	5 Nov 2024	Energy Australia	Gas bill	Treasurer
90	Email	7 Nov 2024	Anzac House	Financial - Newsletter	Treasurer

Wellbeing Officer Report

Firstly, I want to thank all our wonderful volunteers who gave their time to support this year's Poppy appeal. I am pleased to report on our Treasurer's behalf that once we count the schools, Drysdale Grove and the Leopold Lifestyle Village tomorrow that we will have raised in excess of \$11,000. (This announcement was met with great applause from the members).

Thanks to President Denis, Maurie Dean and Carol Browney for conducting the Remembrance Day Service for the residents at Drysdale Grove last Friday.

It has been a busy week or two. Thanks to Geoff Zanker for delivering and collecting Poppies from the schools, thanks also to the many members who worked hard to make this year's Remembrance Day a memorable one.

An "End of Year Thank You" lunch will be held on 12th December starting at noon at Clifton Springs Golf club. Please indicate to Pam your intention to come along: we cannot take names after 6th December.

Get well wishes to any of our members who have been or are unwell. We wish you a speedy recovery. Birthday Greetings for November: Pearl Webster, Laretta Webster, Ron Kingsbury, Robert Selby, Ross Brown, Allan Bliss, Paul Taylor and Roger Atkinson.