



## DRYSDALE RSL SUB BRANCH

Monthly Meeting  
12 September 2024

### Open

President Denis Hyland opened the meeting at 1400 hrs on 12 September 2024.

The Ode was recited by all members. Denis introduced guest speaker Darcy Dunstan.

### Attendance

Roger Atkinson, Lance Barley, Terry Bridges, Tony Bright, John Brown, Ross Brown, George Browney, David Clark, Des Connor, Kevin Davis, Darcy Dunstan (guest), Pam Davis, Maurice Dean, Narawee and Peter Elton, Margaret Everett, Geoff Fifer, Derek Haayema, Tony Holton, Denis Hyland, Greg Irwin, Colleen Lincoln, Ross McRae, Andrea Nisbet, Darren Nisbet (guest), Mick O'Brien, Harry Paterson, Mike Pitcher, Neil Remeus, Bruce Richards, Fran Rowell, Richard Safstrom, Paul Taylor, Tony and Maria Toll, Laurie and Kaye Ward, Peter Wood, Geoff Zanker.

### Apologies

Alan Bliss, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Bernice Goodwin, Sally Haayema, Gary Holt, Shane Hurley, Ronald Kingsbury, Janis Taylor, Keith Thompson, Les Watts.

### Previous Meeting Minutes

The August minutes were written by David Clark and circulated on-line to members. Tony Bright moved, seconded Tony Tol that the August minutes be accepted. **Carried unanimously**

### Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes

Mick O'Brien volunteered to look at the clubroom doors. He has now taken on this task.

### Correspondence

Harry circulated a list of inwards correspondence for May to September 2024 to date (see Annex A) and spoke about three items.

- 65 - A commemorative service for Timor-Leste 25 years ago will be held in Canberra on 20 September.
- 68 - RSL Newsletter
  - A Japan-Australia exchange program will offer 3 descendants of WWII POWs a 7 day all-expenses paid trip to Japan in February 2025. Anyone interested see Harry for details.
  - Victorian State RSL Annual Conference was held in July:
    - The Annual Report was tabled.
    - Membership is up by 5,000 members compared to previous year.
    - 10 RSL Sub-branches closed, more seeking to amalgamate.
    - A motion to offer free RSL membership to current serving ADF personnel approved.
    - A motion to offer free RSL membership to ex-Service personnel was defeated.
- 69 - A member of the Army Band in Melbourne (Bailey Lake) offered his service as a bugler for our Remembrance Day and Anzac Day services. He would use Reserve Days for the activity (so no cost to us) and would appear in full dress uniform. Harry has formally requested his services.

Outwards correspondence

- Letter of thanks to the CWA for a \$400 donation

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

**Carried unanimously**

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's full report is at Annex B. He mentioned that our insurance premium is likely to be increased over last year.

Moved George Browney, seconded Geoff Fifer 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**

### **Guest Speaker**

Darcy Dunstan gave an interesting talk covering his Army service with the SAS, post-Service activities with geologists in the Arctic, saving the black rhino in South Africa, the Sydney to Hobart yacht race with a crew of zero experience of sailing, and involvement with his local football club. He often speaks to schools on the topic of Resilience.

### **General Business**

**Vietnam Veterans Day** 18 August - Denis Hyland, Kevin and Pam Davis and Derek Haayama attended an event in Geelong commemorating the battle of Long Tan in 1966. The event was well organised and respectful.

**Remembrance Day** 11 November - Harry said we need to be thinking about a schedule for Remembrance Day. The Committee will meet separately on 3 October to discuss this issue.

**Victorian Premier's Anzac Prize** The Geelong Advertiser noted that a local St Ignatius student Owen McCoughtry was one of 12 winners to the Victorian Premier's Anzac Prize for his entry of a poem set around Drysdale's cenotaph. The prize includes a visit to Türkiye (previously known as Turkey) and Gallipoli. Denis Hyland offered congratulations to Owen on behalf of the Drysdale RSL. We hope to invite Owen to recite his poem at our Remembrance Day service.

**Golf Day** 18 November - Geoff Fifer said applications for entry into this competition can be handled directly by the Clifton Springs Golf Club pro shop. He will run a meeting at 10am on Thursday 19 September in our clubrooms to discuss sponsorship and other exciting topics. Volunteers who want to help are encouraged to attend this meeting.

**Vice President Report** Derek Haayema noted this was RUOK? Day.

He mentioned his recent attendance at a veteran's health forum organised by the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs in the Brighton hotel (so right next to pokies and bar services) near Footscray, spoke about the amalgamation of the three acts, VEA, DRCA & MRCA into MRCA 2.0.

Many different entities were there including Federal minister for DVA Matt Keogh, media and several veterans and advocates and RSL members. The minister and his DVA staff struggled to answer most questions, except for plenty of apologies and "they are looking into it".

The Royal Commission's report into Veterans Suicide has now been delivered and the recommendations will be addressed by Government.

The Brererton report (of 3,000 pages) into actions of Australian special forces soldiers in Afghanistan was released in 2020. It had 140 recommendations. The Minister of Defence reported to Parliament that all but two recommendations had been accepted in a bi-partisan way by both sides of Government. The final two recommendations relate to a special investigation into potential war crimes that is underway but not yet complete. The Minister meanwhile has stripped commendation medals from about 9 senior commanders, with two to four further possibly to be announced. The Brererton report was acknowledged on R U OK Day and two days after the Royal Commission for veteran suicides and Defence showing little care or consideration for the feelings of the veterans and their families.

Derek advised of working with Ocean Grove RSL. Discussions over having satellite advocacy centres at all RSLs on the Bellarine, or to lease or buy a three-office space in the area of all medical services and bring the vets to the help. This will help train medical practitioners, staff about DVA entitlements and reports and multiple veterans can be assisted properly by the advocate, it's close to the new mental health centre, vets from outlying areas can be put in accommodation overnight if needed and not the responsibility of the RSLs exclusively and not near alcohol and gambling.

Derek presented a framed photograph of our Patron, King Charles III to replace the photo of the late Queen Elizabeth II. It was decided that the photo of our late Queen would remain with our memorabilia.

Should any member need advice or help with any of these issues as they are all difficult, please seek help from the President, myself or any of our wonderful committee.

**Raffle**

A raffle organised by Kevin Davis was won by Harry Paterson and Tony Bright.

**Close**

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 1520 hours.

The next monthly meeting will be held in the clubrooms on 10 October 2024 starting at 2pm. It will probably be preceded by a bbq lunch for members and partners.

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Denis Hyland  
President

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Harry Paterson  
Secretary

**Annex A to  
Meeting Minutes of  
12 September 2024**

**Incoming Correspondence 2024 May to September**

<b>52</b>	<b>Email</b>	20 May 2024	Daryl Brown	Invoice for electrical work	Treasurer
<b>53</b>	<b>Email</b>	25 May 2024	Energy Australia	Gas bill	Treasurer
<b>54</b>	<b>Email</b>	6 Jun 2024	Gary Holt	Anzac Day suggestions	Committee
<b>55</b>	<b>Email</b>	6 Jun 2024	Bellarine North Rotary	Invitation to handover	Committee
<b>56</b>	<b>Email</b>	11 Jun 2024	Bellarine Police	Newsletter	Members
<b>57</b>	<b>Email</b>	12 Jul 2024	Anzac House	Fundraising	Committee
<b>58</b>	<b>Email</b>	10 Jul 2024	Energy Australia	Gas bill	Treasurer
<b>59</b>	<b>Email</b>	27 Jul 2024	Brendan Lloyd	Hub meeting	Committee
<b>60</b>	<b>Email</b>	7 Aug 2024	Geelong Vietnam Vets	Invitation to service	Members
<b>61</b>	<b>Email</b>	23 May 2024	CWA	Donation to RSL	Treasurer
<b>62</b>	<b>Email</b>	3 Sep 2024	Dept of Veteran Affairs	Heart Health	Members
<b>63</b>	<b>Email</b>	6 Sep 2024	Energy Australia	Gas bill	Treasurer
<b>64</b>	<b>Email</b>	8 Jul 2024	Origin Energy	Electricity Bill	Treasurer
<b>65</b>	<b>Email</b>	6 Sep 2024	Dept of Veteran Affairs	Timor-Leste service	Treasurer
<b>66</b>	<b>Email</b>	28 Aug 2024	CFA Drysdale	Bill	Members
<b>67</b>	<b>Email</b>	24 Aug 2024	Greater Geelong Council	Rates	Treasurer
<b>68</b>	<b>Email</b>	9 Sep 2024	Anzac House	Newsletter	
<b>69</b>	<b>Email</b>	11 Sep 2024	Bailey Lake	Bugler offer	Committee

### Treasurer's Report

<b>DRYSDALE RSL</b>	11/09/2024	
Assets	2024	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		
General Account	9,107.75	
Welfare Account	6,264.03	
Building Account	1,646.23	
Term Deposit 1	60,254.09	
Term Deposit 2	26,253.64	
<b>Total Accounts</b>	<b>103,525.74</b>	
Petty Cash Bar	200.00	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>103,725.74</b>	
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Furniture at Costs	5,000.00	
Building	650,000.00	
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>655,000.00</b>	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>758,725.74</b>	
President D. Hyland ..... Secretary H. Paterson ..... <i>HP</i>		

### Wellbeing Officer Report

Firstly thank you to those who helped with the 2024 Legacy Appeal. The weather was not very kind to us this year.

Most of our voucher packs were delivered to our Service Members, I know they were appreciated.

Poppy order for this year's appeal have been ordered. The committee will discuss dates for selling poppies and we will have the rosters at the October meeting. If you have not been able to help before please consider giving a couple of hours helping to sell these small items. The task is not onerous and we raise a lot of money each year so we can continue to assist our veterans.

Veterans Health Week will be held in the week of 13th to the 20th of October. This year's theme is Keeping Connected. The aim is to promote good health. Further details available after committee meeting, but we are likely to have a bbq lunch for members and partners at 1pm before our regular monthly meeting on 10 October.

Birthday Greetings for September.

Neil Remeus, Noel Kerlin, Peter Elton, Shane Hurley.