



DRYSDALE RSL SUB BRANCH

Meeting Minutes
9 April 2026

Open: President Denis Hyland opened the meeting at 2pm. All members present recited the Ode.

Attendance:

Mick Arnott, Joanne Atkinson, Robert Atkinson, Roger Atkinson, Lance Barley, Terry Bridges, John Brown, David Clark, Des Connor, Kevin Davis, Pam Davis, Maurie Dean, Gary Holt, Anthony Holton, Di and John Hopwood, Denis Hyland, Greg Irwin, Colleen Lincoln, Andrea Nisbet, Sophie Nisbet, Alan Pitcher, Neil Remeus, Bruce Richards, Bill Ritchie, Fran Rowell, Janis and Paul Taylor, Tony Tol, Kaye Ward, Laurie Ward.

Apologies:

Ross Brown, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Margret Everett, Glen Ferguson-Thomas, Geoff Fifer, Bernice Goodwin, Shane Hurley, Ronald Kingsbury, Ross McRae, Harry Paterson, Maria Toll.

Flagpole Project: Denis introduced the guests - Taylan Black from Bellarine Secondary College (who was guest speaker at our 2025 Remembrance Day service), along with his mother Damask, sister Charlie, and father Paul. Taylan spoke about the project he has undertaken to install Australian National Flags on the graves of veterans identified within Drysdale Cemetery. He expressed his gratitude for the support he has received and confirmed that the flags are scheduled to be mounted on 22 April. Taylan also outlined his intention to continue researching and identifying any graves that do not currently indicate military service. His goal is to update cemetery records and establish this initiative as an ongoing tribute for both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day each year. He presented a sample of the flag and pole, consisting of a 2-metre stainless steel pole with the flag secured using cable ties through rust-proofed holes. Each pole will be installed 45 cm into augured holes, as the Cemetery Trust does not permit the installation of permanent sleeves.

At present, the workforce includes Taylan and his family, two teachers, and four students. A call for additional volunteers was made, with interested individuals asked to coordinate through Denis. Tasks on 22 April will include auguring holes, attaching flags to poles, and installing the poles, with the work expected to be completed within the morning. The Women's Auxiliary will provide morning tea, while Springdale will supply lunch. The Auxiliary has also contributed 24 cans of soft drink and donated \$120 towards refreshments.

The flags will be removed after ANZAC Day and stored at the school. Volunteers to assist with the dismantling are also encouraged to coordinate through Denis.

Denis then formally commenced the meeting, noting apologies from Harry and Glenn. He encouraged members to remain proactive about their health, specifically urging men to request a PSA test at their next medical appointment. Denis also extended his best wishes to Harry for a speedy recovery.

Previous Minutes:

The March minutes have been circulated on-line to members or posted out. Moved that the minutes be accepted: Fran Rowell Seconded: Robert Atkinson.

Carried unanimously

Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes:

All members in attendance were wearing their badges, but the fines for not wearing name badges will continue into the future.

Building Subcommittee and Structural Engineering Report:

David Clarke was invited to address members regarding the response received from Bryce Raworth Heritage Architects concerning costings and an initial assessment inspection.

The current Building Subcommittee consists of David, Bob, Jo, and Margaret, and remains open to any members willing to volunteer their time. It was noted that, given the building's history and significance to the community, it is important for current members, as custodians, to ensure its preservation for future generations.

Bryce Raworth has provided a quote of \$2,500 for the initial assessment. Any further costs will depend on the findings of this inspection and the level of additional work required. As the building is owned by RSL Victoria, it was acknowledged that funding for repair works should ultimately be their responsibility.

David moved a motion that the Drysdale RSL engage Bryce Raworth Heritage Architects and approve payment of \$2,500 for the initial assessment. Seconded: Des Connor. **Carried unanimously**

Correspondence:

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting was distributed to the tables and is at Annex A to these minutes.

Items of interest:

Item 29 – Grants Bulletin from Libby Coker

Item 30 – Geelong Council agrees to the plans in the cemetery

Item 31 - Water Bill passed to the treasurer

Item 33 – Bellarine Storm need someone to read the Ode at their AnzacDay match

Moved correspondence be accepted: Laurie Ward. Seconded: Kaye Ward **Carried unanimously**

Treasurer's Report:

Delivered by John Brown is at Annex B to these minutes.

Moved to be accepted by John Brown. Seconded: Colleen Lincoln **Carried unanimously**

Wellbeing Report:

Fran Rowell reports that John Hopgood is coping well following his recent diagnosis. John and his family are grateful for the support of Mark from Geelong RSL, who is acting as his advocate and assisting with pension and treatment-related matters. John was introduced to Mark through the Bellarine Veterans Group.

Ron Kingsbury is currently in care at Regis in Drysdale. Following a fall, he is recovering well, with bruising beginning to subside. He remains unable to walk and would greatly appreciate visits. John Poole has undergone a skin graft to his scalp and is awaiting further surgery.

Denis, Harry, and Fran attended a Region 8 meeting at Geelong RSL, where Harry presented a report on the Drysdale Club. Tom from CoreLogic in Grovedale spoke about achieving well being through gentle exercise. Fran also shared her experience attending bi-weekly weight training sessions at Geelong Rehab in Belmont, highlighting the benefits of working one-on-one with exercise physiologists to address individual needs.

During April, Fran visited 12 veterans, both in care facilities and in their homes. Drysdale RSL will distribute small Australian flags to veterans in aged care, as well as to residents and those visited in their homes. April birthday cards have also been sent.

Members were reminded of the importance of wearing name badges, as they assist newer members in learning names and help foster connection within the club.

Moved that the report be accepted: Fran Rowell. Seconded: Robert Atkinson **Carried unanimously**

General Business:

The Social Media Protocol document will be made available for discussion, with a motion to adopt it to be tabled at the club meeting on 14 May 2026.

Anzac Day:

David Clark will act as Marshal and Bob Atkinson as MC. National Servicemen will lead the march as it is the

75th anniversary of the National Service scheme introduced in 1951. Members are encouraged to share this information and invite any “Nashos” they know to take their place at the front of the march.

Anzac Appeal:

Pam and Geoff Z are still seeking volunteers to staff the public collection site at Coles. Although the roster sheet has been circulated, several time slots remain unfilled. Members are encouraged to assist in manning this location, not only to support the appeal but also to maintain public awareness of Drysdale RSL. Engaging with the public often provides a meaningful opportunity for community members to express their gratitude.

A collection box and table will also be positioned at the golf club, and all volunteer positions for this site have been filled.

RSL Sub-Branch Status:

Information from RSL Sub-Branch Connect web interface indicates that Drysdale RSL is not currently incorporated. Denis has written to RSL Victoria seeking clarification and is awaiting a response.

Clubroom Development Proposal:

Denis had a conversation with Bob Atkinson, future development plans was one topic and the possibility of constructing new club rooms on the current car park site was a thought. The existing building could then be re-purposed as a military museum, highlighting the contributions of Drysdale and the Bellarine region during wartime. Denis has contacted City of Greater Geelong Council, which confirmed that construction on the site is permissible, subject to council regulations.

Further discussions were held with Nicole from RSL Victoria Property, who expressed support for the concept. Denis provided council feedback along with a preliminary proposal suggesting grant funding, with the possibility of additional support from the Patriotic Fund. The proposal will be presented at the next RSL Victoria Property meeting on 16 April.

The initial concept includes a two-storey building with lift access, an underground car park, and an EV charging station.

Fundraising Initiative – Challenge Coins:

Jo Atkinson proposed a fundraising initiative involving the sale of “challenge coin” style medallions. She presented an example purchased from Geelong RSL, noting they retail for \$25 and cost approximately \$6 to produce. Jo moved that the club investigate producing customised Drysdale RSL medallions for fundraising purposes.

Moved: Jo Atkinson. Seconded: Maurie Dean

Carried unanimously

Jo will continue researching this initiative.

Household Insurance:

David Clark alerted members that having just renewed his house insurance he was pleasantly surprised to find it went up by only \$3.00 compared to last year, David recommends members seek a quote from Defence Service Home Insurance when renewing. Link online to: <https://www.dsh.gov.au/insurance>

Denis thanked Taylan and family for the flag project they have undertaken.

Raffle: Kev Davis conducted the Raffle, the winners were Peter Wood and David Clark.

Close: The President closed the meeting at 14:50 and the Women’s Auxiliary served a most excellent afternoon tea followed by slices of the rather tasty Women’s Auxiliary 74th Anniversary cake.

Next meeting: 14 May 2026

Incoming Correspondence March-April 2026

29	Email	12/3	Libby Coker	Grants bulletin	
30	Email	13/3	Geelong Council	Approval for flags in cemetery	
31	Post	17/3	Barwon Water	Water bill	
32	Email	17/3	Libby Coker	Grants bulletin	
33	Email	19/3	Bellarine Storm	Someone to read Ode	
34	Email	26/3	Dept of Vet Affairs	Heart Health Program	
35	Email	26/3	Geelong Police	Anzac Day arrangements	
36	Email	27/3	Bellarine Police	Newsletter	
37	Email	1/4	Dept of Vet Affairs	Anzac Portal	

Treasurer's Report April 2026

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