



## DRYSDALE RSL SUB BRANCH

Meeting Minutes  
14 May 2026

**Open:** President Denis Hyland asked for us to remember WOFF Class 2 Lachlan Muddle, deceased 11 May 2026 in a training accident. All members recited the ode.

### **Attendance:**

Joanne Atkinson, Robert Atkinson, Ross Brown, George Browney, David Clark, Des Connor, Kevin Davis, Pam Davis, Maurie Dean, Margret Everett, Tony Holton, Denis Hyland, Colleen Lincoln, Ross McRae, Andrea Nisbet, Harry Paterson, Mike Pitcher, Neil Remeus, Bill Ritchie, Fran Rowell, Charlie Sedgman, Janis and Paul Taylor, Maria and Tony Tol, Kaye and Laurie Ward, Les Watts.

### **Apologies:**

Mick Arnott, Lance Barley, John Brown, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Glen Ferguson-Thomas, Geoff Fifer, Bernice Goodwin, Gary Holt, Di and John Hopwood, Shane Hurley, Greg Irwin, Ronald Kingsbury, Bruce Richards, Geoff Zanker.

New membership applications: Graham McKibbin, Cliff Benson and Greg Coad.

### **Previous Minutes:**

The April minutes have been circulated on-line to members or posted out. Moved that the minutes be accepted: Harry Paterson Seconded: Pam Davis. **Carried unanimously**

### **Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Flagpole update - later

Clubroom proposal - later

Social Media document discussion - Denis introduced the Drysdale RSL Social Media protocol and administration document (tabled by Harry and available in the clubrooms). The committee has voted to adopt both of these documents.

Structural Engineering update - David Clark advised that Raworth architects carried out an external assessment of our premises and recommended that a building engineer with specialist heritage credentials be appointed to carry out further internal and external inspections. Approved by the committee. David said he has been in touch with such an engineer and is endeavouring to set up an appointment. Until the engineering inspection is carried out, there is nothing further to report. A building sub committee has been set up ( David Clark, Bob and Jo Atkinson, Greg Irwin, Margaret Everett, Paul Taylor and Laurie Ward) and these members were invited to see David at the end of the meeting for further information.

### **Correspondence:**

There has been much to and fro correspondence relating to Anzac Day. A list of other inwards correspondence received since the last meeting has been tabled and is at Annex A to these minutes.

Items of interest:

Item 52 – Explanation from 100 Squadron RAAF why no flypast on Anzac Day. 100 SQN will set in place a method to inform people of cancellations in future.

New Item – CWA offered to donate a park bench with plaque to honour women and children who undertook military service or were affected by deployments. The committee is considering options.

Moved that correspondence be accepted: Harry Paterson. Seconded: Des Connor

**Carried unanimously**

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

In John Brown's absence, Harry delivered a Treasurer's report. He said the Anzac Appeal raised \$13,700, which will go in full to RSL Vic, with half of that to be returned to our Patriotic Fund account.

Pam Davis added that with the schools participation over \$1,100 was raised. She thanked all of the volunteers who assisted with this year's appeal.

Moved that the report be accepted: Harry Paterson Seconded: Bob Atkinson

**Carried unanimously**

### **Wellbeing Report:**

Fran Rowell reports that John & Diana Hopgood are coping well following many medical appointments and John receiving radiation therapy.

The Anzac service at Regis was attended by three members of the Sub-Branch - Denis, Fran and Maurie. It was greatly appreciated by residents, staff and visitors. The residents were particularly delighted to each receive an Australian flag.

Maurie enthusiastically recited The Brown Slouch Hat poem which was well received and several wreaths were laid, with thanks to Carol, Maurie, Denis and Max for making the day a bit special for the attendees. Denis found his third year at Regis pleasing and noted the change in hymn from *Abide With Me* to *Onward Christian Soldiers* uplifting, though he hoped they could find a better sound track.

Moved that the report be accepted: Fran Rowell. Seconded: Kevin Davis

**Carried unanimously**

### **General Business:**

Denis opened general business by informing membership that though acting, for the first time a female person is President of RSL Victoria (Lyn Mizen). Harry later added that the President Dr Mark Schröffel is representing RSL Australia in the international research arena by presenting the results of the [Middle East Area of Operations \(MEAO\) Scoping Study](#) at the 2026 *Veterans Mental Health Conference* in London next week. The conference is being hosted through the Centre for Evidence for the Armed Forces Community and associated with the Forces in Mind Trust and King's College London. The focus is on military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

**Anzac Day report:** Anzac Day was a great success with the participation of the schools and other entities. Denis suspects there was larger attendance than any previous year, and noted the crowd seemed to swell more onto the roadside than in previous years. Pam spoke of the Anzac Appeal. It was noted we now have just Coles as a major sales point with the bowls club, golf club and basketball points contributing to sales as well.

A ladies golf day raised/donated \$260. These funds will be used as fuel vouchers to assist veterans (with John Hopgood as an example) to defray fuel costs whilst undergoing medical hardships.

Thanks to Andrea for Anzac day photos and slide show. Denis thanked Jo and Bob Atkinson and David Clark for the work done on the arrangements in the display cabinets in time for Anzac Day.

Denis attended Saint Ignatius school assembly and was pleased to have the opportunity to speak of Anzac values and qualities. He and Bob Atkinson also attended a wreath making workshop at St Ignatius on Anzac eve. This workshop is in its third year and again provides an opportunity to speak to the students. Bob gave a brief talk on ADF Cadets, drawing on his 9-generational military ancestry. Drysdale Cemetery Flags looked wonderful, a credit to Taylan Black's determination. The cemetery with the flags looked magnificent during the day and also at night with the solar lights.

**Veteran Assistance:** Pam raised a request to assist Ron Kingsbury who is now permanently in care at Regis following his serious health issues. Ron is a keen follower of sports and only has access to free to air television. Pam hopes the sub-branch will assist Ron's well being by funding a subscription to Foxtel to enable him to retain that part of life that is quite important to him. She moved a motion in that regard. Maurie seconded the motion and addressed the room as to Ron's condition. Though limited by his condition he still is able to

communicate and would have his spirits lifted by the entertainment Foxtel would provide. **Carried by a show of hands.**

**Proposal for the Incorporation of Drysdale Sub-branch:** Drysdale RSL is not presently incorporated. Denis has communicated with RSL Victoria, but they request we wait until they finish their transformation project before submitting any request to change in status but in the meantime we may undertake steps at sub-branch level to notify members of the need to incorporate and ensure members are aware of reasons, benefits and any drawbacks of incorporation before they are asked to vote on a motion to incorporate. There is a 21 day requirement of notice to pursue incorporation, so members will be able to vote on proceeding with incorporation at the June meeting.

Denis quoted a Victorian Government document defining club incorporation, which is available here <https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/clubs-and-fundraising/incorporated-associations/what-is-an-incorporated-association> and further information here

<https://www.nfplaw.org.au/free-resources/getting-started/incorporation>.

George Browney is researching costs associated with incorporation. George delved into status of Geelong/Bellarine RSLs and most are already incorporated. Harry said costs will be assessed by the committee and brought to notice in a general meeting when known. Bob indicates incorporation will add some reporting requirements requiring a person perhaps elected as a “Responsible” person to do annual reports and make the application to incorporate. Responsible in this instance is in reference to age, experience and reputation. David Clark alerted the room of a basic definition of three RSL Victoria club types.

10A = Incorporated, sells liquor and has gaming.

10B = Incorporated, sells liquor and doesn't have gaming.

10C = Not Incorporated, doesn't sell liquor and doesn't have gaming.

With our limited liquor licence, Drysdale currently unincorporated doesn't fit any of those categories, so needs to incorporate as a 10B to fit the RSL Victoria model. David added that it is inevitable that we will be required to be incorporated and therefore operate under the By-laws of 10B clubs.

**Volunteers Week BBQ** on Thursday 23 May at the club, all Drysdale RSL volunteers welcome.

**Clubroom Development Proposal:** Denis introduced this issue (Harry tabled the details of the proposal). The project aims to provide a new, modern, sustainable community facility to support veterans centred around the heritage precinct. The present clubrooms occupy an 1852 church. This building would become a military museum with emphasis on local people who undertook service and supported the nation during conflict. The intent is to provide support to service people past and present, and their families and also the wider Bellarine community. Further discussions were sought with Nicole from RSL Victoria Property, who has yet to respond, with results from the tabling of the proposal at the recent April trustees meeting at RSL Victoria HQ. Denis will continue to correspond with Nicole to find out the results of that meeting.

**Fundraising Initiative – Challenge Coins:** Jo Atkinson outlined her proposal to purchase 100 medallions with a bespoke design featuring Drysdale RSL and local scenes/activities (see Annex B). She asked for comments and suggestions about the final design. The medallions could be the first of a series of three, with the possibility of raising \$2,000 for the sub-branch.

**Korean Visit:** Maurie Dean spoke of Ron Green and his recent trip to Korea. Ron was in the Navy and served on the escorts HMAS Anzac and HMAS Tobruk during the Korean campaign in the early 1950s. Newspaper reports covered the event and Maurie left copies for display given Ron occupies Crimea House which is part of Drysdale's military history. At 97 years of age, Remarkable Ron is still driving.

**RSL News:** Harry said that the new application “RSL Sub-branch Connect” posts news items. Recent articles concerned fires at Sunshine and Waverley RSLs. The Waverley RSL has been acquired as part of State Govt's Suburban Rail Loop. The sub-branch has bought an Ibis hotel in Glen Waverley. Warrnambool RSL has gone into voluntary administration and Pascoe Vale RSL has been bought by the Melbourne Racing Club as part of the development of Moonee Valley race course.

There is little new information on the Geelong veterans and families hub. The last federal budget reduces funding for these hubs from \$25m this year to zero in 2029/30. That means the hubs will have to be self-supporting after the date.

**Raffle:** Kev Davis conducted a raffle: the winners were Ross Brown and Tony Tol.

**Close:** The President closed the meeting at 15:05.

The Women's Auxiliary served an excellent afternoon tea with very very tasty curried egg sandwiches, and of course the scones and cream which is why Laurie Ward continues to attend meetings.

Next meeting: 11 June 2026

**Incoming Correspondence April/May2026-1**

<b>38</b>	<b>Email</b>	27/3	Denis Hyland	New clubroom proposal	
<b>39</b>	<b>Email</b>	2/4	David Clark	Building survey	
<b>40</b>	<b>Email</b>	6/4	Taylan Black	Flags at Drysdale cemetery	President
<b>41</b>	<b>Email</b>	6/4	Denis Hyland	Flags at Drysdale cemetery	
<b>42</b>	<b>Email</b>	6/4	Bryce Raworth	Building Inspection	Committee
<b>43</b>	<b>Email</b>	16/4	Libby Coker	Grant opportunities	
<b>44</b>	<b>Email</b>	14/4	Victorian Government	Title Deed 13 Princess St	Committee
<b>45</b>	<b>Email</b>	21/4	Dept of Veteran Affairs	Heart Health program	Members
<b>46</b>	<b>Email</b>	21/4	Liquor Control Victoria	Newsletter	
<b>47</b>	<b>Email</b>	22/4	Clifton Springs Bowls Club	Fundraising day	Members
<b>48</b>	<b>Email</b>	23/4	Marsh Insurance	Certificate of Currency	
<b>49</b>	<b>Email</b>	26/4	Tegwen Vella	Missing flag at cemetery	President
<b>50</b>	<b>Email</b>	29/4	Bellarine Police	Newsletter	
<b>51</b>	<b>Email</b>	3/5	Christian College Geelong	Anzac Day	Committee
<b>52</b>	<b>Email</b>	5/5	!00 Squadron RAAF	Anzac Day flypast	Committee
<b>53</b>	<b>Email</b>	6/5	Dept of Veteran Affairs	Anzac Portal	Members

Fwd: Jo Atkinson (Drysdale RSL)

The finishes are important, that's the antique look with a rope border, you can make it shiny silver, dull silver, gold or whatever you like.

