



DRYSDALE RSL SUB BRANCH

Monthly Meeting
13 November 2025

Open

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

Before the meeting proper began, Denis introduced Joe Ellis from Drysdale Repco Automotive Centre. Joe is a Drysdale resident and he explained his connection with the ADF and Drysdale stems from his father being an Army man. He went on to explain his Drysdale connections are due to the death of his father on the night of 12 June 1996 in the Black Hawk collision incident which occurred during night training in the Townsville Training Area. 18 fatalities resulted from the accident, 15 were from the SAS, one was Joe's father. Joe explained that his grandparents, the Drysdale community and Legacy were instrumental in his upbringing.

Fran Rowell added that Legacy also helped her following the death of her husband, and Denis Hyland said his mother was another who greatly benefitted from the assistance provided by Legacy and the RSL. These stories highlight why such organisations exist.

Attendance

Roger Atkinson, Joanne Atkinson, Robert Atkinson, John Brown, George Browney, David Clark, Kevin Davis, Pam Davis, Maurie Dean, Margaret Everett, Derek Haayema, Diana and John Hopwood, Denis Hyland, Greg Irwin, Harry Paterson, Mike Pitcher, Bruce Richards, Bill Ritchie, Fran Rowell, Janis and Paul Taylor, Maria and Tony Tol, Kaye and Laurie Ward, Peter Wood, Geoff Zanker.

Apologies

Lance Barley, Alan Bliss, Ross Brown, Des Connor, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Geoff Fifer, Bernice Goodwin, Sally Haayema, Tony Holton, Ronald Kingsbury, Nik Kitching, Colleen Lincoln, Andrea Nisbet, Bruce Richards, Kevin Sedgmen, Les Watts.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The October minutes had been circulated on-line to members or posted out.

Moved Harry Paterson, seconded David Clark that the minutes be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes

Nil.

Correspondence

The summary is at Annex A. The only item of note was the formation of a project office within RSL Victoria to manage the Transformation Project. The CEO Sue Cattermole will temporarily assume the role of Executive Project Director. Expect quarterly reports in 2026 as the project implements the recommendations of the governance review, including sub-branch viability and regional organisations.

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

Carried unanimously

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer George Browney has had to query our insurance premium with Marsh Insurances, but we have now insured the building for \$550,000.

There was some irregularity with our latest gas bill, which shows much more usage recently. He will need to contact the gas company and check for leaks. He added that we only use gas for heating water for cups of tea, so the committee is looking at replacing gas entirely. We have a quote for about \$500 plus labour to install a 25 litre electric system. One of our term deposits is due to mature next week, so the plan is to transfer some of the proceeds to the general account to cover this cost, and the cost of our Christmas function. His report is at Annex A to these minutes.

Moved George Browney, seconded Greg Irwin that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Wellbeing Report

Fran Rowell noted that Carol Browney and Maurie Dean visited Drysdale Grove for a Remembrance Day service, with about 30 in attendance. There was some poetry reading and everyone seemed to be in good spirits. She added that Drysdale Grove has been sold but the new owners are on-board with RSL activities.

Geoff Fifer is not well, and our thoughts are with him.

Moved Fran Rowell, seconded Pam Davis that the report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

General Business

Remembrance Day. Denis Hyland thanked the committee and MC Derek Haayema for a successful Remembrance Day activity. About 150 members of the public attended. The weather was not great but the rain kept away. Unfortunately the Mustang aircraft flypast was cancelled. School captains from Drysdale and Clifton Primary Schools participated and the guest speaker Taylan Black is a Year 11 student from Bellarine Secondary College. The bugler Isaac and the soloist Lily added to a memorable service.

Poppy Appeal. Denis thanked Geoff Zanker and Pam Davis for organising the Poppy Appeal again. Geoff Zanker said the Poppy Appeal at Curlewis Safeway and at Coles in Drysdale and at the local schools has raised about \$10,000. This money will all be sent to RSL Victoria (and then we get 50% back into our Welfare Account). Geoff said that RSL Vic was only able to supply half the stock that we requested, so the amount we were able to sell was done on previous years. Also we need more members to volunteer to man the selling tables, otherwise we might have to consider only manning one site.

Drysdale Primary School 150th. Denis said the event was very well organised, and the displays in the hall were brilliant. Denis and Harry manned an RSL booth and participated with other members in a couple of laps of the oval.

Kokoda Challenge update. This challenge covers 96km through the You Yangs reserve and the Lara district and takes place over two days. Harry Paterson was the oldest of 140 walkers. Small groups from 8/7 RVR Geelong and HMAS Cerberus completed the 96 km walk in the You Yangs and Lara area. Other notable participants were the mayor of Geelong, RSL Vic CEO Sue Cattermole and local State member Ella George. The event has now raised over \$90,000 and Harry thanked the Drysdale RSL for their contribution.

Lighting the Honour Board. The new lighting for the honour board has been completed. and George has already paid the invoice.

Golf Day. Geoff Zanker said we have 90 entrants for the annual Golf Day on 17 November. It will be the 10th anniversary of this event. He has tickets for sale before the event (\$5 for a strip of six tickets, and \$10 for three strips - 18 tickets).

Firearms. Firearms/Weapons security compliance are now complete. Our .303 rifle is cabled and labelled and complies with RSL and VicPol requirements. David Clark explained the requirements for a sub-branch “responsible” officer to be tasked as custodian, that nominally is the secretary, but David will undertake that role. All sub-branches can expect to be audited by VicPol and RSL Vic in the coming year. David also explained that the Sub-branch has an account with “Collections Victoria” and the memorabilia in the club will be added to that database.

Winchelsea RSL. Denis Hyland is invited to attend a service of rededication of the memorial and grandstand at Winchelsea on 14 November.

Christmas Function. This year’s Christmas function on 11 December will be in the Springdale Neighbour Centre. The full cost of \$20 a head for members and partners will be borne by our RSL. The function is BYO, as the centre does not have a liquor licence.

Raffle

Kevin Davis’s raffle was won by Mike Pitcher and Kaye Ward. A special raffle prize of a Dept of Vet Affairs 2026 calendar featuring National Servicemen was won by Paul Taylor.

Close

The President closed the meeting at 3pm. Next meeting will be the AGM on 12 February 2026, starting at 2pm. At the AGM, all positions will be spilled. Any of our members wishing put their name forward for a position on committee should see the Secretary.

Denis Hyland
President

Harry Paterson
Secretary

**Annex A to
Meeting Minutes of
13 November 2025**

Incoming Correspondence Oct/Nov 2025

142	Email	15/10	Libby Coker	Grants bulletin	
143	Email	15/10	RSL Vic president	Poppy appeal	
144	Email	28/10	Bellarine Police	Newsletter	Members
145	Email	30/10	Dept of Vet Affairs	Heart Health program	Members
146	Email	31/10	Clifton Springs Primary	Captains for Remembrance Day	
147	Email	31/10	100 Squadron RAAF	Flypast Remembrance Day	
148	Email	6/11	Marsh	Building insurance	Treasurer
149	Email	7/11	Energy Australia	Gas bill	Treasurer/Cttee

Treasurer's Report

MEMBERS ONLY