



DRYSDALE RSL SUB BRANCH

Monthly Meeting
11 September 2025

Open

President Denis Hyland opened the regular monthly meeting at 1400 hrs on 11 September 2025. He apologised on behalf of Riley Stevens from Geelong Rehab Centre who was unable to attend today, but he will be invited back for our next meeting to talk more about Heart Health. The Ode was recited by all members.

Attendance

Roger Atkinson, Joanne Atkinson, Robert Atkinson, John Brown, Ross Brown, George Browney, David Clark, Kevin Davis, Pam Davis, Maurie Dean, Margaret Everett, Geoff Fifer, Diana and John Hopwood, Denis Hyland, Greg Irwin, Colleen Lincoln, Andrea Nisbet, Harry Paterson, Bruce Richards, Fran Rowell, Kevin Sedgmen, Janis and Paul Taylor, Maria and Tony Tol, Kaye and Laurie Ward, Les Watts, Peter Wood, Geoff Zanker.

Apologies

Lance Barley, Allan Bliss, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Bernice Goodwin, Derek Haayema, Sally Haayema, Gary Holt, Tony Holton, Shane Hurley, Ronald Kingsbury, Bill Ritchie, Nik Kitching.

Peter Elton and Narawee Bamrung have relocated permanently to the Sunshine Coast.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The August minutes had been circulated on-line to members or posted out. Harry Paterson moved, seconded John Brown that those minutes be accepted. **Carried unanimously**

Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes

Firearms obligations - Harry spoke to the RSL's Firearms Officer. Vaughan Atherton is a serving policeman and an Upway RSL member. The police are only really concerned with firearms. Not so worried about swords, old ammo, body armour etc. Bottom line - no gun safes are required, but we need a steel cable through the wrist of rifle stock. David Clark is working on this now.

Correspondence

Copies of the summary have been distributed at today's meeting and that summary is at Annex A. We had three invitations:

Item 114 open invitation to any veterans to a Barefoot Bowls afternoon on Sunday 14 Sep

Item 115 for the President to a soldier info night and BBQ at the Geelong Army depot

Item 119 open invitation to past pupils and interested persons to the 150th anniversary of Drysdale Primary School. To be held on their oval on 18 October. A show of hands indicated at least 6 former pupils in our clubrooms. Noting our close ties with the school particularly around Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, Denis suggested we participate in the march as an RSL unit.

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

Carried unanimously

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that we have funds in our general account surplus to our immediate needs, so the committee decided to transfer \$8,000 to a new Term Deposit account, The Women's Auxiliary added \$5,000 to the account as well. Major expenses were \$900 for repairs to our clubroom ceiling and \$300 donation to the Lara RSL Kokoda fund raiser.

Moved George Browney, seconded David Clark that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Wellbeing Report

Fran Rowell has been visiting Drysdale Grove residents and others to introduce herself as our Wellbeing Officer.

She and Heather Joseph have sold badges on behalf of Legacy. She, Denis Hyland and Geoff Zanker attended a Geelong city hall function to recognise the 100th anniversary of Legacy.

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

Carried unanimously

General Business

Hub Meeting. Harry Paterson clarified that there is a Regional Hub meeting every three months bringing together representatives from about 10 RSL Sub-branches in the larger Geelong/Bellarine/Surf Coast. Not to be confused with the proposed Veterans and Families Hub promised at the last State election. The Regional Hub meeting did hear about progress with the Vet/Fam Hub, which is now going to be established in what was the ground floor conference room in the Geelong RSL premises, but with a separate entrance. The plan is for the Vet/Fam hub to begin a pilot run from February to May next year before starting a wider operation.

The Regional Hub meeting was attended by Jack Crawford, the Chief Financial Officer for RSL Victoria. He explained the State Branch is registered as a charity and needs to comply with obligations from the Tax Office and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission in order to retain its charitable status. Therefore compliance with expenditure rules by the sub-branches in accordance with By-law 8 is essential. The sub-branches must only expend money from the Patriotic Welfare Account for the relief of "benevolent" veterans. Quizzed on the meaning of "benevolent", he agreed it was not well defined. He added that the funds might be used for the prevention of veterans becoming needy due to social isolation and homelessness as well as poverty. He added that By-law 8 was originally written many years ago and has been added to ad hoc and may no longer be fit for purpose. He promised a re-written version in the near future.

A discussion on these issues was led by Maurie Dean, Bob Atkinson and George Browney.

Remembrance Day Plans. Harry circulated a draft of the public program for Remembrance Day service at the Drysdale cenotaph. We have engaged a bugler Isaac Jamal for Last Post and Rouse, and a guest speaker from Bellarine Secondary College Taylan Black. Our soloist for the national anthems is Lily Petterwood. Harry added that Lily is to appear in a punk rock musical adaption of the Lizzy Borden story at the Old Geelong Goal in January.

“My War” is a gift from Ross Brown. It is a collection of newspaper articles concerning World War II, compiled by Jack Cannon. It is now permanently available for reading in our clubrooms.

Lara RSL Kokoda Challenge. The second annual walk to raise funds for the RSL and PTSD and mental awareness will take place on 25 and 26 October. Lara RSL aims to raise \$100,000 with a two-day 96km walk in the area of the You Yangs, with an overnight camp. The walk is broken up into 9 legs each of about 10 km. Harry has volunteered to walk a couple of the segments and Drysdale RSL has donated \$250 to the cause. Other donations from our members would be most welcome. The link to the challenge is:

<https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/larakokodachallenge>

Golf Day. Geoff Fifer showed the flyer advertising our Golf Day on 17 November. Andrea Nisbet did a great job on the design, and it will appear in the next edition of the Springdale Messenger. The entrance fee has been set at \$30 per player and includes 18 holes of golf and a two course sit down meal. A raffle will be conducted after the meal in the Clifton Springs clubrooms, and the major prize is a \$1000 travel voucher with Hello World. Geoff Zanker has tickets for sale before the event (\$5 for a strip of six tickets, and \$10 for three strips - 18 tickets).

Harry said we will be supported by RSL Active, but we need 20 of our veterans to sign on. If you are a veteran, please help us by signing on. You will need your PMKeys or Service number and follow this process:

Go to this link <https://rslvic.com.au/events/golf-day-drysdale-rsl-sub/>

On the new page, press the "Register Here" button.

On the top right of the trybooking page enter the password DrysdaleGOLF and press ENTER.

On the next page, select 1 ticket and then be prepared to enter your details, including your service number or PM Keys number.

Once 20 vets have signed on, RSL Active can release the funds for us.

Raffle

Kevin Davis's raffle was won by Greg Irwin and Roger Atkinson.

Close

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 3:105pm. The next meeting will be on 9 October 2025, starting at 2pm. However, **it will be preceded by a BBQ** starting at 12:30, to celebrate Veterans Health Week,

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Denis Hyland
President

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Harry Paterson
Secretary

Incoming Correspondence 2025-August/September

109	Email	14/8	Brendan Lloyd	Hub Agenda	
110	Email	20/8	Brendan Lloyd	Hub Minutes	
111	Email	28/8	Dept of Vet Affairs	Heart Health	Members
112	Email	29/8	Marsh Insurance	Request for information	Treasurer
113	Email	1/9	Libby Coker	Grants bulletin	
114	Email	1/9	Bellarine Young Vets	Barefoot bowls	Members
115	Email	2/9	Royal Victorian Regiment	Invitation - Soldiers info night	President
116	Email	2/9	City of Greater Geelong	Rates notice	Treasurer
117	Email	3/9	Dept of Vet Affairs	Anzac portal	Members
118	Email	3/9	RSL Victoria	Invoice Police Check	Treasurer
119	Email	5/9	Drysdale Primary School	150th Anniversary	Members
120	Email	5/9	Energy Australia	Gas bill	Treasurer