



DRYSDALE RSL SUB BRANCH

Monthly Meeting
8 May 2025

Open

President Denis Hyland opened the regular monthly meeting at 1400 hrs on 8 May 2025. He introduced new members: Michael (Mick) Penman and Nicholas (Nick) Kitching, both from the UK. The Ode was recited by all members.

Attendance

Roger Atkinson, Narawee Bamrung, John Brown, George Browney, David Clark, Des Conner, Kevin Davis, Pam Davis, Maurie Dean, Peter Elton, Denis Hyland, Greg Irwin, Nick Kitching, Colleen Lincoln, Andrea Nisbet, Harry Paterson, Mick Penman, Bill Ritchie, Fran Rowell, Richard Safstrom, Laurie Ward, Peter Wood, Geoff Zanker.

Apologies

Joanne Atkinson, Robert Atkinson, Lance Barley, Terry Bridges, Tony Bright, Ross Brown, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Margaret Everett, Geoff Fifer, Joe Gati, Bernice Goodwin, Derek Haayema, Sally Haayema, Gary Holt, Tony Holton, Shane Hurley, Ronald Kingsbury, Maria and Tony Tol, Kaye Ward, Les Watts.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The April 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

The Bowls Day schedule for Saturday 26 April was cancelled due to a downpour flooding the bowling green. The day is conducted by the Clifton Springs Bowls Club and is a fund-raiser for our RSL. Despite the day being cancelled, the club has donated \$500 to Drysdale RSL.

The President reported on the following activities in respect of Anzac Day:

- Drysdale Grove Anzac service - 23 April - Maurie Dean, Carol Browney and Denis Hyland
- Caulfield Grammar Anzac service 24 April - Denis Hyland. The school was founded 25 April 1881, and has conducted Anzac Day services since 1916.
- St Ignatius College Anzac Day eve service 24 April 11am - David Clark made a speech.
- Christian College Bellarine Anzac Day eve service 24 April 2pm - Pam Davis and Harry Paterson
- St Ignatius College Anzac Day eve wreath-making 6pm - Denis Hyland and Geoff Fifer (who made a speech) - the students made 15 wreaths on the night and the wreaths were laid at various Bellarine services on Anzac Day. The diocese loved the activity and want to expand the project.
- Drysdale Football/Netball Club Anzac Day eve 7 pm - Harry Paterson made a speech.
- Drysdale Football/Netball Club Anzac Day service and traditional football game - Denis Hyland represented the RSL. A couple of days later at a dinner at the clubrooms, Denis was presented with a cheque for \$1,974 being the gate takings at the traditional football game.

Correspondence

Apart from numerous email exchanges with schools, politicians, councillors and other community groups to do with arrangements for Anzac Day, 17 pieces of correspondence have been received and dealt with since our last meeting. Copies of the summary have been distributed at today's meeting and that summary is at Annex A. The interesting items are expanded as follows:

Item 47. The Department of Veterans Affairs has suddenly changed the process for making claims. Previously advocates made on-line claims through a DVA application. Now advocates are required to log-on to their personal MyGov accounts and submit the claim that way. There are issues of privacy and insufficient visibility of claims, as well as leading to more stress on the advocates as well as on the veteran seeking to make a claim. RSL Victoria is taking up this issue with DVA.

Item 51. *Mufti*, the quarterly magazine posted to veterans is to cease publication in its present form. Each issue costs about \$50,000 and the RSL believes the money can be better spent elsewhere. The information in the magazine will be able to be accessed via the RSL website.

Item 55. There was disruption at the Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance, by a small group who objected to the Welcome to Country ceremony being included in the order of service. We also had one person at the Drysdale service criticising the Acknowledgement of Country aspect of our proceedings. Harry explained that the governing body of the Shrine added the Welcome to the official program about ten years ago. It is not a requirement for sub-branches to include it for Anzac Day or Remembrance Day - it is up to ourselves. There followed some discussion on the historical background, and the members will decide before Remembrance Day if they wish to continue to include the Acknowledgement in our service.

Item 57. The police newsletter advised of traffic disruption at the Grubb Road/Shell Road roundabout in Ocean Grove for two months, while new pedestrian crossings are constructed.

Item 62. A regular meeting of the ten RSL sub-branches in the Geelong area (Region 8) occurs about every four months. The next get-together will be in our clubrooms on 20 May. We expect RSL Vic CEO Sue Cattermole to attend, as well as Ben Webb, the project manager of the Veterans and Families Hub proposal. Our Treasurer is hoping to get some answers about the use of funds in the Patriotic Accounts and some clarity around "benevolent" veterans.

Outward correspondence items include a letter of condolence to Clifton Springs Bowls Club on the passing of Graham Boxall, and letters of thanks to the schools who participated in our Anzac Day activities.

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

Carried unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report is at Annex B.

George has already paid the current year's insurance premium to cover a building and contents policy - \$400,000 building, \$30,000 contents (1 October to 30 September annually). To increase our cover to \$500,000 from now to the end of September would be an extra \$214 on top of what

has already been paid, and for \$550,000 it would be an extra \$316. Come the end of September this year, the premium is likely to be about \$2,000 for \$550,000 cover. Committee to decide.

Our Anzac Appeal was conducted over 2.5 days this year, in the brief window between Easter Monday and Anzac Day eve. Despite this shortened collection period, we still received \$9,500 from our generous community. The money will be passed on to RSL HQ.

Our Term Deposit 32 is due to mature on 18 May. After some discussion, it was decided to roll-over the full amount for another 6 months, probably at an interest rate of 3.8%. George to arrange this with the Bendigo Bank.

Moved George Browney, seconded Peter Elton that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Wellbeing Report

Pam Davis - see Annex B.

Moved Pam Davis, seconded Colleen Lincoln that the Wellbeing report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

General Business

Anzac Day Report. Several members commented on our successful Anzac Day service, particularly on the involvement of school children in the program. Denis said the Christian College Bellarine junior choir sang the national anthem with gusto, and the three Year 9 girls who were the guest speakers were wonderful. Thanks for the assistance from the Women's Auxiliary for catering, and all the people who helped set up tables and chairs, and the CFA for the use of their premises. Denis estimated we had a crowd of 1,800 who enjoyed the event.

Cenotaph Update. Denis said that Paul Gray of the City of Greater Geelong council has been going through lists of WWI soldiers, comparing his list of names already on Bellarine cenotaphs to ensure there would be no duplication of names. Denis will provide an update at our August meeting.

Visit to Anzac House. Denis said that he visited Anzac House for a meeting of sub-branch Presidents on Sunday 4 May. The CEO Sue Cattermole was in attendance and she said the Branch sends out 100,000 emails each year. The cost of stock for the Anzac and Poppy Appeals is more than 30% of the income received. Andrew Whitaker added that RSL Vic is a \$400 million business, with 267 sub-branches. He also noted that despite the Collingwood v Essendon traditional football match at the MCG is billed as an Anzac Appeal event, but the only money the RSL receives is from sale of badges etc at the ground.

Financial Status of Members. Harry explained that he is required to notify Anzac House of the financial status of our members. Lapsed members don't have their membership cards accepted when visiting other RSL venues in Victoria. Because he gets advice from the Treasurer as members renew their memberships in a necessarily piecemeal fashion, some notifications slipped

through the cracks. Harry has now reconciled our membership list with the Anzac House database and all financial members should now have their cards accepted.

Treasurer's Position. George notified the President that after ten years in the post of Treasurer, he will not seek re-election next year. Denis asked members to consider coming onto the committee as Assistant Treasurer with a view to becoming Treasurer at our next Annual General Meeting.

Raffle

Kevin Davis's raffle was won by Nick Kitching (new member) and Harry Paterson.

Close

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 3:10pm. The next meeting will be on 12 Jun 2025, starting at 2pm.

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Denis Hyland
President

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Harry Paterson
Secretary

**Annex A to
Meeting Minutes of
8 May 2025**

Incoming Correspondence 2025

46	Post	14/4	Barwon Water	Bill	Treasurer
47	Email	11/4	RSL HQ	DVA changes to claims	Members
48	Email	14/4	Hawthorn RSL	Sub-branch meeting	
49	Email	15/4	RSL HQ	Comms with sub-branches	
50	Email	16/4	Geelong council	Anzac Day permit	Committee
51	Email	16/4	RSL HQ	Last Mufti print edition	
52	Email	17/4	Vasey House	Anzac Day message	
53	Email	23/4	Anam Cara	Anzac Day message	
54	Email	29/4	Liquor Licencing Vic	Newsletter	
55	Email	29/4	RSL HQ	Anzac Day disruption	
56	Email	1/5	RSL HQ	By-law 15 - (firearms)	Pres, David Clark
57	Email	1/5	Bellarine Police	Newsletter	
58	Email	2/5	Clifton Springs Bowls	Tks for condolences, donation	Committee
59	Email	5/5	RSL HQ	Committee members after AGM	
60	Email	6/5	RSL HQ	Anzac Appeal	GB, PD, GZ
61	Email	6/5	RSL HQ	Anzac Appeal forms	GB, PD, GZ
62	Email	5/5	Brendan Lloyd	Region 8 Hub	

Treasurer's Report

**Available to members
only**

Wellbeing Report

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to Denis Hyland, Maurie Dean and Carol Browney for conducting the Anzac Service at Drysdale Grove. The Residents and Staff appreciate what the Sub-Branch do for them.

Thanks also to the many wonderful volunteers who gave their time to sell Anzac badges this year, even though we only had two and a half days at the sites and Anzac Day, by George's report we did very well.

Thank you letters have been sent to the Schools and Leopold Lifestyle Village.

On behalf of the R.S.L. we send get well wishes to Lance Barley. He has been in hospital after having a heart attack and Margaret Everett who has had a hip replacement. Any other members who are unwell, take care.

Be sure to get your Flu shots.

Birthday Greetings to Charlie Sedgmen, Maria Tol, Greg Ryan, John Poole and Peter Wood