THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION – NZ BRANCH

Minutes of the regular meeting (bi-monthly) held on Saturday 10 October 2009 @ 1400 hrs at Pt Chevalier R.S.A., 1136 Great North Road, Pt Chevalier, Auckland.

Meeting Commenced at 1400 with the President, Peter Collins, proposing the Loyal Toast and asked Gloria Moore to recite the Royal Marines Prayer.
A minute of silence was held for fallen comrades and absent friends.
Members in attendance : P. Collins, P. Ayling. C. Ellis, B. Reay, D.Ayling(Ticker), G & G Moore, B. Battersby, J. Mellamphy, B (Max). Beare, R, Morrice, D. Bailey, B Harker, **Visitors in attendance** : J. Simms, Michael(Mick) McMahon
Apologies: N. Harker, M. Kavanagh, S. Ritson, E. Barton, Pip Townend, H. Robinson, C. Campbell, R Morrice.
Minutes of the previous meeting August 8th, 2009. The President moved the minutes be adopted. Proposed and seconded – M. Beare/G. Moore
Sick Bay : Edwin Barton has been in sick bay and is now on the mend and Harold Robinson is in sick bay at the moment. We look forward to seeing them both ship shape, at the next meeting – Get Well soon, that's an order !!!
Celia Lashmar has a broken ankle which will no doubt make it very difficult to get around, our thoughts are with you.
Welfare Visitor Report: Ticker Ayling reports he's visited The Lashmars and Celia is on the mend. He will keep us advised.
Standard Bearer Report: Gordon Moore has not presented the standard recently but will be doing so at the Corps Birthday – 1st Nov and the Armistice Day Parade – 8th Nov.
Globe & Laurel Report: The submission Peter Collins sent in will be in the August/ September edition and all G & L submissions are in the newsletters. Max Beare asked if the G & L could be brought to the meetings for members to view. Ticker will make it available at the meetings from now on or can be posted out if the member sends a self addressed envelope and returns it for others to view. It was suggested to check whether your local library subscribes to it.
New Members & Visitors: We officially welcome 2 new members, John Roberts from Picton & Jack Murray to our throng. As Jack lives in Auckland we hope to see him at our bi monthly meetings. Michael (Mick) McMahon spoke briefly to our meeting about his history as a Royal and is going to join our Association. We look forward to seeing him at our meetings.
Incoming Mail: A huge thank you from Jack Murray for the contribution our branch made at his Father's funeral at Purewa. Jack has joined the association now.
An email from an ex Marine, Rob Rowe PO53224N who is interested in joining the RMA. A final supply of Xmas cards from Dennis Emerton.
An email, on behalf of Charlie Hobson, the Chief Executive of the RMA; the Poole Branch co-ordinate the RMA Repratriation Route Network sending out all details of forthcoming repatriations whether Royal Marines or not, then follow up with a post repatriation report. The UK Defence Academy and many senior officers on it's list also get it circulated to the Battle Groups out in Theatre. Tony Smith, the Australian Webmaster has been asked by Derek aka Blondie of the Poole Branch of the RMA, to be the Multiplier for the UK RMA such as fund-raisers for the Royal Marines who have

returned wounded and who wish to compete in the Paralympic winter games in 2010 and the the Paralympic London 2012 games. We have willingly agreed to a link on our homepage for this.

Outgoing Mail. Cheque to Dennis Emerton for the postage of the Xmas cards and a small token of our appreciation for all his assistance to our branch with the cards and centre piece for our Corps Birthday Cake.

Colleen sent an application to NZ Post requesting our branch to receive some of the Community Freepost envelopes. This is an annual event by NZ Post and will be very valuable, saving us postage costs and envelopes if we are successful. We will be advised by 31st October.

We have sold 127 Xmas cards to date so we have made a small profit so far.

There are more available, please contact Colleen for your supply even if it's 3 or so.

Matters Arising.

The Corps Birthday – **1st NOVEMBER 2009 at 11am** – cost $20.00 per person, Birkenhead RSA – see previous minutes/newsletters for order of service etc.

Final day for reservations, 28th October. Max Beare asked about the protocol for attendees and it was advised that all are welcome, one does not need to be a member to attend this function, as long as the guest is invited and accompanied by a member.

Colleen has made the fruit cake and Gloria Moore will ice it. The marvellous Centre piece was made by Dennis Emerton from the NSW branch. A sword will be used to cut the cake.

Bob Reay suggested some of the raffle prizes be kept aside to enable us to hold another raffle at the Taupo Reunion in February 2010. This was unamimously carried as it was agreed the prizes are valuable and there were a good number last year.

Philip Ayling, who always provides a number of very valuable prizes from sponsors he approaches, did point out that, perhaps the recession has hit us too this year in that there were not as many prizes available. It was also agreed that the raffle ticket cost needs to be addressed and perhaps the prizes can be graded more this year. Philip will attend to this.

The Pt Chev RSA requested a Green Beret for our cabinet which was kindly donated by Dennis (Ticker) Ayling. Our cabinet has been moved into a more central position on the Navy wall and definitely stands out now.

In regards to a guest speaker for the Taupo Reunion, Peter suggested it would be unlikely they could get someone to travel from Auckland for this. Peter will contact Jock Munro and see if he's got any ideas for a "local" speaker.

President's Report:

Edwin Barton has taken on the difficult task of making an inventory of the contents of our cabinet and assisted further by proposing some costings of them. A list has been prepared and more information will follow shortly. A big thank you to Edwin.

Chalky Carr has organized a small Corps Birthday celebration in Christchurch, meeting at HMNZS PEGASUS in the Senior Ratings Mess at 18.00. They will then travel into town for a curry meal. Up Spirits to all. It was discussed briefly about the widows of members becoming life members. It was agreed this would be offered to each widow individually initially by Colleen and then followed up by Peter Collins as President.

The subject of unpaid subs has reared it's ugly head again, there are a small number who have not paid their subs, due on 1st of April 2009. There have been a number of requests from Colleen for the subs to be brought up to date but have fallen on deaf ears.
This will be addressed after the Corps birthday with a "final letter" from the President.
An email has been circulating about the unveiling of the Memorial Wall at CTCRM on 27 September 2009 during the RMA renunion weekend. This wall lists the names of all those fallen Royal Marines since 2000. The dedication of "The Wall" was by the CGRM Maj. Gen. Andy Salmon. CMG, OBE and the 45 names on the Roll of Honour were read out by the Corps RSM, WO1 B Dawe RM. A well deserved symbol of recognition to our fallen comrades.
In discussion with Colleen & Peter it's been decided to attempt to send the newsletter monthly with the proviso that only if there's enough information available to do so.
Watch that space - Colleen will email the link when it's up on the website. Please submit any articles to Colleen, it's all very welcome.
The Corps Birthday Service Sheet will be changed this year and contain, on the back page, the Roll of Honour of Afganistan fatalities 2008-2009.
The Committee has approved, as a gesture of goodwill, inviting ex RM Jock Fraser's Widow, Daughter and their 2 close friends as our guests to the Corps Luncheon.
Proposed/Seconded D Ayling/B Battersby
We have 38 attendees for the Taupo reunion but would like 45 to make it viable.
Can you have a look at your calendar and let Jock Munro know. We are keen to get a costing out and need to know either way.
After consultation and approval with the Chief Executive of the Royal Marines in the UK, we will deem the Birkenhead RSA dining room as our "Mess" and will remain seated for the Loyal Toast. This matter was explained to the meeting and agreed upon.
Proposed/Seconded: D Ayling/ B Beare

Vice President's Report

Philip has made further progress on the banners and managed to source a printer in Christchurch. The proposed cost is 100 banners printed at a cost of $11.49 each. It was agreed this is a great quote, Peter has asked Philip to get a firm quote in writing for the next meeting. This quote covers 4 colours, the tassle and stick holding them. Philip also advised that the initial set up costs of creating the dye and artwork will be a one off so the next lot we order should be even less.
The Webmaster, Tony Smith, is still in discussions with the Australian RMAs in respect of the joint Photo Album on the website. Philip will give us an update at the next meeting. Philip has a small booklet available (with black & white photos) from the Royal Marines Historical Society titled "Royal Marines in East Devon" (A History of Lympstone and Dalditch Company) Special Pub. No 9. It can be posted to whomever would like to read it ; please contact Philip.
Philip has again produced the Order of Service and the Place Mats for the Corps Birthday. We will attempt to put them in the next newsletter or email/post it out to all members.

Treasurer's Report:
The bank balances are: Current A/c $3323.04, Ready Saver A/c $2650.42, Term Deposit of $6000.00 which is invested for 90 days from 15.9.09 @ 3.5% matures on 14.12.09. Proposed/Seconded: B Reay/B Battersby.
There are still subs overdue by a small number of members.
**** Important note : when members are placing money into the RMA account it's essential you advise Noel so he can credit the money to your name, otherwise it will end up as a donation !!!

Secretary's Report:
There are dozens of emails each month with so much interesting information. We're never lost for reading material, keep sending them through.The internet gives us instant access to a wealth of up to date information. Thank you again to the contributors. The website is still generating interest from near and far and bringing "mates" back in touch with each other. The most recent is contact between 2 Bootnecks spanning a loss of contact 39 years ago!!
The Xmas card designs were tabled at the meeting and it was agreed I would email the members and overseas RMAs looking for orders. It was agreed we would sell them for $1.50 each (including envelope). This would assist our funds. A copy will be sent out with the next newsletter for those who have not seen them on email. Thanks again to Dennis Emerton for the card designs, his new one is a secret until it's unveiling soon.
We've been very lucky in that the Pt Chevalier RSA have agreed to supply the paper and the use of their photocopier in the meantime for our newsletter mailings. This is very valuable and saves our branch a lot of money in stationery & copy charges. A huge thank you to them.

General Business.
Bob Reay thanked Philip Ayling, " we're indebted to him for his ongoing efforts to the Association with the organisating of the Order of Service and Placemats again and by no means least, the prizes he manages to get sponsors to donate for our raffle."
Ticker Ayling asked for support for the Armistice/Remembrance Day celebrations. He needs a better turn out from our members please. Details are in the newsletter or Phone St Matthews Church in Hobson St, who organize it. Colleen will do an all point bulletin to the email list prior to the event.
If you know anyone interested in joining please contact Colleen or any Committee member as there is a letter we send initially which briefly outlines the NZ RMA.

The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.

The next meeting will be at the Pt Chevalier RSA @ 1400 hrs on 12th December 2009.

Please mark your calendar or diary.