

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION VICTORIA – AUSTRALIA

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Social Secretary Mo Gorham 9511 8669



Newsletter No. 8 — August 2009

The last meeting was held on Sunday 30th August 2009 at Ringwood RSL, our Vice President, Harry Tear, opened the meeting at 13.15 hours with a minute silence for 'Fallen Comrades. Harry, in his absence at the AGM, was elected Vice-President, provided he agreed to accept the position upon his return. We are pleased to say that he accepted the position.

Attending — B. Attwood, T. Boyle, M. Bremner, F. Davies, Maj. P. Dunlevie, K. Ekin, M. Gorham, C. Handoll, K. Harrex, Rev. Hugh McCartney, R. Readings, V. Rich, G. Roman, A. Smith, H. Tear, I. Townsley, M. Tucker, B. Youngs. (Total: 18).

Apologies — A. Boyer, G. Fowler, B. Love, T. Ludbrook, B. Polkingthorne, D. Wilcox. (Total: 6)

Minutes — these were taken as being read.

Alec Smith Iain Townsley: Carried.

Matters Arising — Alec Smith raised an objection to the report on the Annual General Meeting being squeezed in between the report of the last General Meeting and the Forthcoming Events in the last newsletter. He considered that the report on the AGM should have been sent out to all the members on a separate sheet, together with a list of all the vacant positions, the names of those elected, the proposers and those who seconded them. Although the forms were given to all those who attended the AGM so that they could write the names in as the elections took place, the secretary apologized for this omission and promised to include this list when sending out the next newsletter.

Alec Smith, Fred Davies: Carried.

Correspondance: In: None

Correspondance Out: 1. To the Royal Air Forces Association thanking it for its invitation to the Battle of Britain Parade and Service on Sunday 20th Sept 2009 at the Shrine of Remembrance.

Fred Davies, Bert Attwood: Carried.

Treasurer's Report — Mark Bremner was happy to report that the changeover of the financial affairs from our former Treasurer, Keith Harrex and himself was going quite smoothly. The money continues to come in!

Bill Youngs, Cyril Handoll: Carried.

Social Report: Mo Gorham announced that to date 19 had paid up for the Corps Luncheon on the 25th October 2009, and he expected more to pay immediately after the meeting, which they did. He was also very pleased to announce that our Association had received a donated prize from Mrs Elizabeth Woolford. Our thanks are conveyed to her for her generosity. Cyril Handoll has very kindly donated \$50.00 for our 345th Birthday Lunch. Many thanks, Cyril.
Tony Boyle has all the prizes in hand and has stated that he is happy to print more tickets if necessary. Members are reminded that they can only receive the \$10.00 discount provided they are financial members.

Sick Parade – As we all arrived at the Ringwood RSL today, we were extremely sorry to hear the news that Pam Wilcox had had a nasty fall in the carport of their home and had been conveyed by ambulance to hospital, hence the reason why Dave could not preside at the meeting. Poor Pam suffered a broken arm, a broken nose and much bruising. As Dave reported later it was all rather a bloody mess! It was not long before she arrived home and when I visited them the other day, Pam was in very good spirits, even though she looked as if she had emerged from a boxing tournament with one of our heavyweights!

General Business – It was good to have Ken Ekin with us today and he took the opportunity of giving his apologies for not attending the last few meetings. Poor Ken had not been at all well, and he explained at some length all the physical ailments he had had to endure. So we wish him well, and trust he won't get into any more trouble! However, he very kindly presented to our Association six volumes of the Second World War for our museum when it comes about. Ken and his wife are moving into Greenways Retirement Village, Frankston soon. So we thank him for his gift and wish them well in their new abode.

For all the good work that Vic Rich has done for the RMA, from being our Standard Bearer to collecting the raffle money at our meetings plus many other services, Alec Smith proposed that Vic should be made a Life Member. This was seconded by Ken Ekin and carried with acclamation. In reply, Vic expressed his sincere thanks to the RMA for graciously bestowing this honour on him as Life Member.

Alec Smith proposed that we should examine the Rules and Constitution as some of the items might need up-dating. For example, it should be proposed that all ex-service members should be made Associate Members.

Alec Smith, Pat Dunlevie: Carried.

After much discussion it was proposed that a sub-committee should look into everything and report back to the members at the next meeting.

Bert Attwood, Vic Rich: Carried.

Iain Townsley asked if the RMA would like to assist the SAS in raising funds for the Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation. He brought with him several copies of the book, *Weary – An Australian Hero*. The Foreword is written by General Peter Cosgrove AC MC, and signed by him. They are only \$20.00 each, so don't miss out. Buy now before it's too late!

Taff Boyer kept the flag flying by attending on behalf of us all the Commemoration of Operation Pedestal at Mornington recently. Good on you, Taff.

Ralph Potter and his wife Brenda, having sold their property at Katunga, are moving into a small unit. Ralph has recently had an operation to insert a pace maker, so we wish him well with that and trust they will be very happy in their new home.

Alec Smith's wife Ada will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on 17th September 2009, so we all wish her a very Happy Birthday and an enjoyable day with their huge family.

The Meeting closed at 14.02 hours.

The Next Meeting will be held on Sunday 27th September 2009 at 13.15 hours.

On Sunday 23rd August 2009, President Dave Wilcox, Bert Attwood and I attended the Commemorative Service for the Sub-Mariners Association of Australia in Toorak Road West, South Yarra. Mike Bennett did a marvelous job as Master of Ceremonies, and the Rev. Vernon Collins OAM lead us in the Prayers and Hymns. As in the past, the Service was well supported which included five of my fellow members of the RAFA. That is where I wear two caps! The Service was followed by the traditional buffet lunch during which time we chatted with many distinguished people who had come from far and wide. One of them was a charming lady, Amanda Fieldhouse. During our conversation she told us about her late father who had a most responsible post during the Falklands War. Some days later we looked him up on the Internet — and look what we found!

John David Elliott Fieldhouse was born on 12th February 1928 in Leeds, Yorkshire. He started his career in the Royal Navy in 1941. In 1956 he took command of his first submarine, *HMS Acheron*, and went on to command the submarines *HMS Tiptoe*, *HMS Walrus* and *HMS Dreadnought*. He subsequently commanded *HMS Diomedé*, a Frigate. He became Flag Officer Second Flotilla in 1974, Flag Officer Submarines in 1976, Controller of the Navy in 1979 and Commander in Chief Fleet in 1981. As Commander in Chief Fleet, he was the Commander of the Task Force (designated Task Force 317), given responsibility for "Operation Corporate", the mission to recover the Falklands Islands.

He served as First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff from 1982 to 1985 and Chief of Defence Staff from 1985 to 1988. He retired in 1988. He was made a life peer as Baron Fieldhouse of Gosport in the County of Hampshire in 1990. In retirement he became a consultant for Vosper Thornycroft plc. Sadly, he died on 17th February 1992 at the age of 64 having served a most distinguished career in Her Majesty's Royal Navy. In his time the Queen had bestowed upon him two of the most prestigious awards — Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath and Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire.

We felt highly honoured meet his daughter, Amanda, at that very special occasion and we look forward to sharing her company again in the future.

Forthcoming events. Medals to be worn at all three events, plus smart blazers, berets and shoes highly polished!

Airborne Forces Day to be held at the Heidelberg Repat. Hospital Memorial Garden on Sunday 13th Sept. 11.30 am 2009.

Battle of Britain Commemorative Parade and Service at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 20st Sept. 2009 at 2pm