

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION VICTORIA – AUSTRALIA

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Secretary Michael Tucker 9439 7577



Newsletter No. 6 — June 2009

The last meeting was held on Sunday 28th June 2009 at Ringwood RSL. The President opened the meeting at 13.15 hours with a minute silence for 'Fallen Comrades' and for Lieutenant Arthur Redman whose funeral many of us attended on Wednesday 24th June 2009.

Attending — D. Allen, B. Attwood, T. Boyle, W. Drummond, Maj. P. Dunlevie, M. Gorham, C. Handoll, K. Harrex, A. Hewitt, D. Jones, Surgeon Lieut. D. Mansie, Rev. Hugh McCartney, W. Polkingthorne, R. Readings, V. Rich, A. Smith, M. Tucker, D. Wilcox, B. Youngs. (Total: 19) Mesdames: Mrs. V. Hewitt and Mrs. P. Wilcox. (Total 2)

Apologies — A. Boyer, F. Davies, B. Love, K. Moore, G. Roman, D. Shearwood, H. Tear, D. Walters, J. Wilkinson (Total: 9)

Minutes — these were taken as being read. However, there was one small error. It was stated that our last meeting was recorded as being held on 26th April! That should have been 31st May of course. The Secretary apologized for this mistake. Actually, some thought he was doing a "Taff" in making a deliberate mistake for members to detect!! Ha! Ha!

Alec Smith, Alf red Hewitt: Carried.

Correspondance In: (1) Mike Bennet accepting our invitation to him and his wife as Guests of Honour at the RMA Corps Luncheon on 25th October 2009.

(2) His announcement regarding the Submariners Association Australia Commemorative Service on the 23rd August 2009.

(3) Airborne Forces Newsletter – Michael Tucker read from part of it, namely, an extract from the British *Daily Mail* newspaper which criticized the French for not inviting Queen Elizabeth II to the 65th Commemoration of the D-Day landings on the French coast.

Correspondance Out: (1) Reply to Mike Bennett's two letters.

(2) Invitation to Stuart Gill, British Consul General in Melbourne, and his wife to attend our Corps Luncheon as Honoured Guests. A "Get Well" card was also enclosed as he has been ill in hospital. We were informed about this from his father, Bill, in the UK.

Alec Smith, Danny Allen: Carried.

Treasurer's Report — Keith Harrex gave a detailed account of the Association's financial position which, once again, resulted in a healthy balance in the Bank. He also stated that he had decided to resign at next month's Annual General Meeting, having served as Treasurer for the last eighteen years. The President immediately thanked Keith for all his good work he had put in over all those years and asked the members to join him in expressing their thanks with great acclamation. The President asked if anyone would like to be nominated as Keith's successor. Regrettably, none was forthcoming, so the President said that he would seek someone in the Ringwood RSL to carry on this important task. After Expenses were paid, the Treasurer then moved that his report be accepted.

Alfred Hewitt, Victor Rich: Carried.

Social Report: Mo Gorham announced that Pam Wilcox had kindly approached a member of the staff at the Ringwood RSL who gladly agreed to make the cake for the Cake Party at the Corps Luncheon; Tony Boyle has kindly offered to arrange all the raffle prizes and the Swing Masters Band has been finalized. Nearer the date, people who require any special food items are requested to make their needs known to the management. Alec Smith proposed that the cost to Members should be \$30.00 with a subsidy of \$10.00 from the RMA. This was seconded by Pam Wilcox and Carried.

Sick Parade – Albert Boyer has not been at all well lately, but he made a valiant effort and gave a great eulogy without a note at the Funeral of Lt. Arthur Redman.

General Business – Danny Allen on behalf of us all thanked the Rev. Hugh McCartney for conducting Arthur Redman's Funeral so well. The President also said how pleased he was to see so many people attend the Funeral including twelve members of the RMA who formed a Guard of Honour through which mourners departed.

The President expressed his praise for the recent Falklands Commemoration Service at the Heidelberg Repat., and especially to Robert Winther AO, JP for making all the arrangements for the occasion. It was greatly appreciated. Also to young Nicholas Elliott for playing the Last Post and Reveille with his 1938 bugle complete with bugle cord. The Elliott Family is very musical and, at the buffet luncheon that followed, his sisters offered to accompany him with other instruments next time. What a most generous offer. Needless to say, this has been gratefully accepted.

Victor Rich announced that on behalf of the RMA he had recently attended the Funeral of Donald Parker, son of Captain Bruce Parker, Member of the 2nd Commando Association. Many thanks, Victor.

Victor Rich, Pam Wilcox: Carried.

.The Meeting closed at 14.04 hours.

The Next Meeting together with at the Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 26th July 2009.

Special Notice – Because the Victoria Cross Room at the Ringwood RSL will be used for a special function on the day of our next meeting, please note that the RMA will hold its above mentioned two meetings in the Members' Bar. Members are reminded that in order to vote they must be financial before the Annual General Meeting. They are respectfully requested to be properly dressed: blazers, ties and shoes highly polished! To wear "jockstrap and gaiters" is *verboden*!!!! Also, to be seated altogether at the tables and chairs positioned for the occasion.

A recent communication has been received from Mr. Terry Burns RM living in South Africa. During his visit to Australia he marched with our President, Dave Wilcox, up front at our last Anzac Day Parade. Terry wishes to be remembered to us all and thanks us for allowing him to march with us on Anzac Day. Naturally, we always welcome RMA Members from overseas, especially on such a Sacred Day in Australia.

Since the last General Meeting our President has been most fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Mark Bremner as Treasurer of the RMA Victoria, as from the next Annual General Meeting. Mark served with the Royal Australian Air Force. He is currently a Member and Treasurer for the Ringwood RSL. So, we welcome Mark into our ranks and convey our thanks to him for agreeing to step into this very important position in our Association.