

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION VICTORIA – AUSTRALIA

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Social Secretary Danny Allen 9768 3839



Newsletter No. 5 — May 2009

The last meeting was held on Sunday 26th April 2009 at Ringwood RSL. The President opened the meeting at 13.20 hours with a minute silence for 'Fallen Comrades'.

Attending — D. Allen, B. Attwood, Capt. D. Bergman, T. Boyle, F. Davies, Maj. P. Dunlevie, M. Gorham, K. Harrex, A. Hewitt, B. Love, Surgeon Lieut. D. Mansie, W. Polkinghorne, R. Readings, V. Rich, G. Roman, A. Smith, H. Tear, M. Tucker, D. Wilcox, B. Youngs. (Total: 20) Mesdames: Mrs. V. Hewitt and Mrs P. Wilcox. (Total 2)

Apologies — A. Boyer, G. Fowler, C. Handoll, T. Kerry, Rev. H. McCartney, A. Redman, D. Shearwood, (Total: 7)

The President gave a warm welcome to new member Surgeon Lieutenant Duncan Mansie, and also welcomed back Billie Polkinghorn, since his recent leg amputation and hospitalizations. In our admiration he stood proudly in the minute silence!

Minutes — these were taken as being read. There were no matters arising. Alec Smith Harry Tear: Carried.

Correspondance: In: RMA Newsletter NSW
Mr. Robert Winther, Heidelberg Repat.

Correspondance Out: None

Bert Love and Alfred Hewitt Carried.

Treasurer's Report — Keith Harrex gave a detailed account of the Association's financial position which resulted in a healthy balance in the Bank. The Treasurer moved that his report be accepted.

Fred Davies and Harry Tear: Carried.

Expenses — The Treasurer was reimbursed for postage and the Secretary was reimbursed for postage of the last Newsletter, printer ink cartridges and travelling expenses to Moe on 13th May 2009.

Billy Polkinghorne and Pam Wilcox: Carried

Social Report — It was with some regret that Danny Allen had to resign from the Committee due to other outside commitments, but he would still continue as a member. Mo Gorham announced that he would take on the position of Social Secretary until the next election at the AGM. He went on to say that the Corps Luncheon had been booked for Sunday 25th October 2009 at the RSL, Ringwood and that the Swing Masters Band had also been booked for the occasion. The Menu is being prepared and the full traditional Cake Party will be held. Those participating in the Cake Party are requested to wear their berets, blazers, ties and shoes highly polished! There will be a raffle and door prizes. More details are to be announced.

General Business — On 28th May 2009 Alec and Ada Smith celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary. Once again, we send them our heartiest congratulations on reaching this wonderful milestone in their married life together. They very

graciously invited us to have a drink on them in the Members Bar directly after the meeting to celebrate their Platinum Wedding.

Congratulations are also conveyed to Tony Kerry and his wife, Louise, who celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on Friday the 29th May 2009. Once again, it is a notable milestone in married life to celebrate their Ruby Wedding.

The President was very pleased to announce and show the members the new Bugle lanyard to be fitted to the bugle presented to young Nicholas Elliott who will be playing at the Falklands Commemoration – Sunday 14th June 2009. This bugle lanyard was kindly forwarded to us by the New South Wales Corps of Drums, which has now disbanded. A letter of thanks will now be sent for this piece of Memorabilia.

Vic Rich announced that the book *Blood on the Sea* by Stuart Gill, British Consul in Melbourne, is available in the Municipal Libraries, even though borrowers might have to order it. He enjoyed reading so much and urged others to read it. Thanks for that Victor.

Michael Tucker mentioned that in the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital Newsletter, Robert Winther, Veterans' Liaison Officer, asks for people to take time to have a look at the Heritage Bell Tower in the Remembrance Garden. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs unveiled it on Friday 22nd May 2009. It is symbolic of the heritage and care for veterans at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital and the artist who developed it was Simon Normand. The Department of Veteran Affairs operated the Hospital from 19th May 1947 to 31st December 1994 and has provided funding towards the cost of the Tower.

Forthcoming Events — The Falklands War Commemoration on 14th June 2009 at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.
The Annual General Meeting of the RMA Victoria - Sunday 26th July 2009.

Sick Parade — Rev. Hugh McCartney telephoned the Secretary to say that he had recently visited Arthur Redman. He found him reasonably comfortable, but he does become very tired. Taff Boyer and his wife have been nursing each other – they are both suffering from influenza, but fortunately not the Swine type we all know about. We wish them all a speedy recovery. From his sick bed, Taff is kindly producing a Falklands Commemorative Service sheet in colour. Well done, Taff!

The Meeting closed at 14.10 hours.

The Next Meeting will be held on Sunday 28th June 2009.

Fortunately, it was quite a mild day on Sunday 14 June when a total of 25 attended the Commemoration of the Falklands War at the Garden of Remembrance, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. Whilst that figure was more than last year, we had hoped for more! The Service was opened by the President, Dave Wilcox, and the Prayers and hymn, *Guide me O thou Great Jehaovah*, were led by our Honourary Padre, Rev. Hugh McCartney. The Lesson was read by Mike Welton, President of the British Airborne Forces Assn. Then, for the first time, the newly dedicated Heritage Bell was rung by Robert Winther at the beginning and end of the long list of Fallen Comrades in many services announced by Michael Tucker. At the Laying of Tributes, Alec Smith laid flowers on behalf of the Royal Marines. He was followed by Ian Charters, President of the Brigade of Guards Household Division and Mike Welton, British Airborne Forces. The Act of Remembrance Ode was recited by Michael Tucker. That was followed by the sounding of the Last Post — Minute Silence — Revielle, played by young Nicholas Elliott who gave his very best. The service was concluded with the most inspiring hymn, *Jerusalem*, the Lord's Prayer and the Blessing by the Rev. Hugh McCartney. At the close of the Ceremony, Michael Tucker, on behalf of the Royal Marines Association Victoria and other Kindred Associations, thanked everyone for their support in attending this very important Commemorative Service. In particular, grateful thanks were extended to Robert Winther, Veterans Affairs Liaison Officer and Staff, for making the ceremony possible, also for organizing the refreshments provided. Special thanks went to Nicholas Elliott for his great effort and he received a round of applause. Four members of his family were there to support him. Our grateful thanks went to Albert Boyer for producing excellent Service sheets, even though he was unable to attend. Following the two Anthems, *God Save the Queen* and *Advance Australia Fair*, everyone retired to the Acacia Room for refreshments. Before we departed, Robert Winther kindly gave us an up-date on the progress of the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. We wish it well with all its noble work and developments in the future.