

# ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION VICTORIA – AUSTRALIA

President David Wilcox (03) 9870 5360  
Vice President Mo Gorham 9511 8669  
Treasurer Keith Harrex 9796 1148  
Secretary Michael Tucker 9439 7577  
Social Secretary Danny Allen 9768 3839



## Newsletter No. 2 — March 2009

The last meeting was held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009 at Ringwood RSL. The President opened the meeting at 13.18 hours with a minute silence for 'Fallen Comrades' and those who perished in the recent bush fires in Victoria.

**Attending** — B. Attwood, Maj. P. Dunlevie, B. Drummond, C. Handoll, K. Harrex, A. Hewitt, D. Jones, T. Kerry, P. Lynch, Rev. H. McCartney, R. Readings, V. Rich, G. Roman, A. Smith, H. Tear, M. Tucker, D. Wilcox, B. Youngs. (Total: 18)

**Apologies** — D. Allen, A. Boyer, G. Fowler, M. Gorham, B. Love, G. Loveridge, T. Ludbrook, K. Moore, R. Potter, A. Redman, D. Shearwood, I. Townsley, D. Walteers, T. Webster, J. Wilkinson. (Total: 15)

**Minutes** — these were taken as being read. There were no matters arising. Harry Tear and Keith Harrex: Carried.

**Correspondance: In & Out** — None.

**Treasurer's Report** — Keith Harrex gave a detailed account of the Association's financial position which resulted in a healthy balance in the Bank. It was agreed by all that a donation of \$200.00 be sent to the Yarra Glen Station of the Country Fire Authority in recognition of the great work it did in the recent bush fires in Victoria.

Cyril Handoll and Alex Smith: Carried.

The Treasurer moved that his report be accepted. Seconded by David Jones. Carried.

**Expences** — The Secretary was reimbursed for postage and photocopying of the February Newsletter.

Alfred Hewitt and Alex Smith: Carried.

**Social Report** — None.

**General Business** — there was no doubt about it that the devastating effects of the bush fires in Victoria were foremost in the minds of us all. Our President, Dave Wilcox, described in more detail his earlier report which appeared in the February Newsletter, namely, Kathleen Woodford's daughter Liz was the only woman in King Lake who stayed to save her house. The Country Fire Authority highly commended her for her courage. The President has written a full report about her ordeal for the Globe & Laurel. As mentioned previously, Ted Ludbrook reported that if the wind had changed direction, he would have lost everything! How lucky can one be!

Members will be grateful to know that Danny Allen moved all the Association's memorabilia to Bert Attwood's residence. For the time and care in undertaking that task, it was agreed that he should be reimbursed for his driving expenses. It was also agreed that a donation of \$200.00 be sent to David Walters for kindly giving storage to all our memorabilia over the years.

Alec Smith and Harry Tear: Carried.

Then our President came up with a big surprise! He informed the members that an official at Anzac House had approached him recently with a collection of memorabilia which belonged to one of our deceased members, former President Chris Grant. How all this memorabilia found its way to Anzac House and remained there for about ten years, is an absolute mystery! Then Dave Wilcox displayed all the artifacts on the front of the table for everyone to view. He did this so

professionally, just like a conjurer would pull all sorts of objects out of a top hat! If anyone has any idea how those treasured pieces found their way to Anzac House a decade ago, we would be very interested to know. The important thing to know is that they were definitely in safe hands there, and now they are back safely in our collection for us to remember Chris Grant. Amazing, isn't it?

It was suggested that we should invite young Nicholas Elliott, to whom we presented a 1938 Military Bugle last year, to the Ringwood RSL one evening to play for us prior to the Anzac Service at Ringwood on the Sunday before Anzac Day. Harry Seymour recommended that a bugler from the Australian Army Band should be ready to deputize in the event of young Nicholas being unable to attend.

The meeting closed at 13.55 hours.

**The next Meeting will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009.**

---

It is good to know that on Sunday 22nd April, President Dave Wilcox, Harry Seymour and Pat Dunlevie have been invited to the Southwood Boys Grammar School to give a talk about Anzac Day, the meaning of Anzac and other issues. Later, on the same day, Dave Wilcox, Harry Seymour and Pat Dunlevie will be entertaining about 30 Cubs on how they were carefully taught to use small firearms. It is felt that the youngsters will find this subject very interesting and that, hopefully, they will come to realize the importance of safety procedures when handling firearms.

The management wishes to advise members that when they visit the Ringwood RSL at the next meeting, that all the memorabilia in the function room and the passage way has been removed temporarily, due to the interior of the whole building being redecorated. The memorabilia will be on show again at a later date.

A few days after our last meeting, President Dave Wilcox, together with Stan Exon, Colin Wilson and Joe Lowrie spent many hours carefully removing the memorabilia to safe temporary quarters. It is understood that it was carried out like a full scale military operation! Well done, lads! You'll get mentioned in dispatches!

Everyone will be interested to know that Lady Pamela Wilcox has recently been appointed Committee Member on the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ringwood RSL. Congratulations Pam!

Another great occasion is fast approaching when Dave and Pam Wilcox will be proudly celebrating their Diamond Wedding on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009. We offer our sincere congratulations and best wishes to them on reaching this great milestone in their married life. Sixty years is a long time, yet neither of them looks a day over seventy!

**Sick Parade** — In the past few days President Dave Wilcox received a telephone call from Bert Love informing him that Ralph Potter in Katunga, had collapsed on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March and was admitted to the Shepparton Base Hospital where he was undergoing tests. We send Ralph our very best wishes for his speedy recovery. Many thanks Bert for this information.

---



Since the last meeting, Harry Tear, on behalf of the RMA, kindly presented our cheque for \$200.00 to his son Steven, for the Black Saturday Appeal, at the Yarra Glen Country Fire Authority. Steven, who is a Senior Fire-fighter, has served with the Yarra Glen CFA for 30 years. Photographs were taken at the presentation, one of which will be sent to the Globe & Laurel. Many thanks, Harry!