

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION VICTORIA – AUSTRALIA

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Newsletter No. 2— February 2010

The second meeting for the year was held on Sunday 28th February 2010 at Ringwood RSL. Our President, Dave Wilcox, opened the meeting at 13.23 hours with a minute silence for 'Fallen Comrades.

Attending — B. Attwood, M. Bremner, K. Ekin, M. Gorham, C. Handoll, B. Love, R. Readings, V. Rich, A. Smith, M. Tucker, D. Wilcox, B. Youngs. (Total: 12.)

Apologies — A. Boyer, K. Harrex, Rev. Hugh McCartney, R. Potter, G. Roman, H. Teear, T. Webster, M. Welton, and J. Wilkinson. (Total: 9).

The President announced that it was with regret that Reginald Clarke in Hamilton recently passed away. His family notified us and said that, because Hamilton is such a great distance away, they did not expect any of us to undertake that long journey to Reginald's funeral. Naturally, our sympathy was conveyed.

Minutes — these were taken as being read.

Vic Rich, Alec Smith:- Carried.

Matters Arising — None

Correspondance: In and out: Newsletter of the Guards Association, kindly sent by Mrs Collins, wife of the Rev. Collins.

A note of thanks was returned with our RMA Newsletter.

An unexpected phone call from the UK to our Secretary, by Mr. Cyril Dixon, who will be coming to Australia on 22nd April, and wishes very much to attend our Anzac Day March in Melbourne. He was assured of a very warm welcome. At 85 years of age he indicated that he may not be able to do the March. It was explained that transport would be available. He is a Blue Beret man, served in the Royal Marines 1942-46, HO2 242 Squad, started on *HMS Illustrious* and finished on *HMS Duke of York*. Whilst in Melbourne, he'll be staying with his cousin, Shirley Dixon, and then he will travel to Sydney on 26th April 2010.

Mo Gorham, Ron Readings: – Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Our Treasurer, Mark Bremner, was very pleased to report that he had received three more annual subscriptions at this meeting. So one could say that the letter he sent out to various members a few weeks ago had the desired effect to remind people that their subscriptions were due. He went on to say that the funds were in good shape and the Secretary was reimbursed for photocopying and postage of the newsletters. Further discussion took place regarding subscriptions. The Association would like everyone to know that after a period of three months, if members fail to renew their membership, no further Newsletters will be sent to them.

Bert Love, Ken Ekin:- Carried

Sick Parade: Last month no one reported sick, but this month it was a different story: John Wilkinson has a few health problems; Taff Boyer seems to have multiple skin problems; Ralph Potter, being a diabetic, was shoeless at the time and unfortunately sustained a cut and ended up with a poisoned foot. His wife, Brenda, has been in hospital with irreversible health problems. She is at home now. Tony Webster has not been at all well lately. Our President, Dave Wilcox, is putting up an excellent fight against cancer. His positive approach to it is to be admired by us all. Sadly, two of our Associate Members have joined the sick list: Major Pat Dunlevie is in hospital after having an Aneurism, and in the next room to him is Billy Polkingthorne who is having more of his leg amputated. So, in supporting all those who are sick, both at home or in hospital, let us remember them in our thoughts and prayers and wish them well as they battle on!

Social Report. To follow the Anzac Day Parade and Service, lunch has been booked at the Elephant & Wheelbarrow, on the corner of Exhibition Street and Burke Street, in which members will be interested to know that a lift is available to carry them up and down!

General Business. Our President is not at all sure if he will be able to manage the Anzac Day March as it can be a very long tiring day. Therefore, he has appointed Harry Teear to lead the Royal Marines Association. All the necessary details for the television coverage have been made. With a little gentle persuasion, Vic Rich volunteered to wear his blue beret as our Association has very few of them now.

On the Sunday prior to Anzac Day, we will attend the traditional Parade and Service at the Clock Tower, Ringwood. The assembly point will be at Target Square where the March will begin at 14.00 hours. After the March and Service at the Clock Tower, refreshments will be served on our return to the RSL, Ringwood.

Members will be very pleased to hear that young Nicholas has agreed to play the *Last Post* and *Reveille* on his brass bugle at the next Falklands Commemorative Service at the Austin Repatriation Hospital's Memorial Garden on Sunday 20th June 2010. Further details will be announced in the next Newsletter.

It was with great pleasure that we received the good news that Keith Harrex has kindly put his name forward to be our next President, which is fully deserved after his long Service with the RMA. Many thanks, Keith.

Please note: Because Anzac Day falls on the last Sunday of the month this year, there will not be a General Meeting on the 25th April 2010.

Next Meeting: Sunday 28th March 2010 at 13.15 hours at Ringwood RSL. At this Meeting there will be some very special guests!

It is "top secret" as to who they are, not even the Secretary knows! Therefore, all members are requested to make every effort to look their best in blazers and ties, with shoes highly polished! Thank you one and all! Our Standards are to be displayed in the special double holder which Bert Love kindly made for us a few months ago. Once again, Bert, many thanks for this.

The Meeting closed at 14.10 hours.

Since our last meeting, President Dave Wilcox had a medical consultation on the 3rd March with his Oncologist. With great regret his prognosis on Dave's condition was most disappointing. In his professional opinion, he informed Dave that he would only have between six and twelve months to live, possibly a little more. Dave has naturally faced this final acceptance with great courage and fortitude and has decided to carry on doing the things he has always liked doing for as long as he can. He wishes to express his deep appreciation for all the help and support he has received from so many people in the recent past. In particular his thanks are extended to our Treasurer, Mark Bremner, for all his good work, like cutting the lawns plus other things, in and around Dave's and Pam's home. We can only pray that the prescribed medication will provide the best for Dave to keep him as comfortable as possible during the ensuing months.
