

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION VICTORIA – AUSTRALIA

President David Wilcox (03) 9870 5360
Vice President Harry Teear 9730 1454
Treasurer Mark Bremner 0448 322 020
Assist. Treasurer Keith Harrex 9796 1148
Secretary Michael Tucker 9439 7577
Assist. Secretary Tony Boyle 9844 3656
Social Secretary Mo Gorham 9511 8669



Newsletter No. 5— June 2010

The fifth meeting for the year was held on Sunday 27th June 2010 at Ringwood RSL. Deputizing for our President, Keith Harrex opened the meeting at 13.24 hours with a minute silence for 'Fallen Comrades' and remembering the recent tragedy in Afghanistan where 5 Australian soldiers were killed and others seriously injured.

Attending — B. Attwood, F. Davies, K. Ekin, M. Gorham, K. Harrex, Rev. Hugh McCartney, A. Smith, M. Tucker. (Total:8)

Apologies — A. Boyer, C. Handoll, B. Love, R. Potter, V. Rich, H. Teeear, D. Wilcox, J. Wilkinson. (Total: 8).

Minutes — these were circulated in early June and were taken as being read.

Matters Arising — None

Correspondance: In — Invitation from Mike Bennett, Sub-Mariners Association, to attend the 65th Anniversary of VJ/VP on Sunday 15th August 2010 at 11.30 a.m. at 146 Toorak Road West, South Yarra.
Airborne Newsletter – June issue.

Out — Reply to Colleen Ellis. This was read out to the members present.

Treasurer's Report: — None.

Social Report: — None.

Sick Parade: Our President, Dave Wilcox, feels so much better since he has had a blood transfusion which took several hours to perform. We understand that Albert Boyer feels much better. John Wilkinson's medication has been changed — he is having breathing problems. Bill Youngs is now in respite care. For all those good people we convey our best wishes and hope that they will be cared for well and made as comfortable as possible.

General Business. The most important point presented in general business was when Alec Smith rose to his feet to address the few members present. He stressed the point that we should now seriously consider the future of the RMA in Victoria. He set out the facts quite simply that we were all getting much older, our numbers were diminishing, many are sick and others find it difficult to travel the distances to attend our meetings and other functions. There are about 60 full members and associates and up to several months ago we averaged about 20 members at a meeting. Last month 11 attended and

today only 8. We just about had enough for a quorum! Within the 8, one was an Hon. Member – Rev. Hugh McCartney and one associate member, Michael Tucker, Secretary. (At least 5 full members are required to form a quorum).

Next month we will have our Annual General Meeting and this will be a very critical occasion for us to consider the future of our Branch. None of us wish to see it disbanded, but we may have to re-think how we should continue to operate. The recognized committee positions are difficult to fill. Members, for various reasons, are reluctant to be nominated for these positions. We had to cancel the Falklands Commemorations Day Service at the Heidelberg Repat because of lack of response.

All members are urged to attend the **AGM together with the Gen.Meeting on Sunday 25th July 2010** to discuss the future and where we should go. Everyone, yes everyone, is invited to present their ideas. Some suggestions have already been made, like, having bi-monthly or quarterly meetings, or, just meeting to enjoy a social gathering. These are only suggestions. We need more so that we can discuss them amicably amongst ourselves in the largest group possible.

Our present President, Dave Wilcox, who has done a great job, has decided to step down for health reasons and this is quite understandable. Our former Treasurer, Keith Harrex, does not feel that he can stand for this position, as he too has health problems. Our Vice-President, Harry Teear, has indicated that he intends to take a leave of absence in order to tour Australia. Also, Mo Gorham, Social Secretary, is reluctant to stand for this position in the future. He doesn't feel that it is his cup of tea! As for us two Air Force police dog handlers, Mark Bremner and I, we are still fit and able to carry on! The big question is, are there any members interested in being nominated for the other positions? Remember to ensure that you are a current financial member in order to vote.

The Secretary read out all the names of those elected, their proposers and seconders at the last AGM 1009/10.

Vic Rich will be returning our Standard on the day of the AGM. He took it home ready for the Falklands Day which did not eventuate.

Ken Ekin expressed his thanks to President, Dave Wilcox, for lending him two extremely good DVDs. Ken made copies of others and placed them in a row on the main table and invited members to take what they wanted to view them at their leisure. They can then return them at the next meeting for others to borrow. Many thanks, Ken.

The meeting closed at 14.13 hours.

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting and General Meeting – Sunday 25th July 2010 at 13.15 hours Ringwood RSL.