

# Royal Marines Association Victoria Australia

President Albert Boyer (03) 5987 1394  
Vice President Fred Davies  
Secretary: Michael Tucker (03) 9439 7577  
Treasurer: Mark Bremner (03) 9870 9357



## Newsletter No. 10 November 2010

The last meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> November at ' Ringwood RSL. The meeting opened with a minute silence for 'Fallen Comrades.

Attending: Bert Attwood, Bert Love, Reverend Hugh Cartney, Ron Readings, Mike Welton, Vic Rich, Ron Readings, Alec Smith, Cyril Handoll, Mo Gorham, Harry Tear, Taff Boyer.

Apologies : Ralph Potter, George Fowler, Tony Webster, Michael Tucker, John Wilkinson, Toby Hunter. Lt Col.

Minutes. With no subject arising from the minutes they were taken as true and read.

Carried – Mo Gorham Alec. Smith

### Correspondence In:

Mike Welton spoke of the BAFA lunch held in the city to which the RMA were invited. (2) Memo from RSL Anzac March Committee Re: transport available for those unable to march the distance. (3) Discussion with Ron Reading at the meeting about using his Vehicle for RMA members, a permit will be requested from Anzac House. (4) Newsletter stating the rejection of the appeal by the court In Brussels by one vote, re... to get UK Pensions - Index linked.

Carried – Harry Tear – Vic Rich.

No Social Secretary Report:

Treasurer's Report: Mark Bremner explained the state of the bank account. Mark also provided each member with a well documented report. Member will agree with me, Mark can be well complemented for producing an excellent report.

Carried - Ron Readings - Mike Welton.

### General Business:

Bert Love commented on the communication with the Ringwood RSL committee re the flag stand and plaque, as yet he had heard nothing. Mark Bremner stated he would take time to check with the club committee and will let Bert know what eventuates.

Alec Smith raised the subject about the future of the RMA and the meetings. It was agreed that the subject would have to be discussed at the AGM, as nothing could be decided without a full organized discussion. We have to abide by what was decided at the last AGM and also regard any proposals proposed regarding what is decided for meetings and the future of the association. It was good to see George Romans at the soiree after the meeting gadding about on his zimmer frame he is stiil going strong.

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I have had to render an apology to all members. I was not able to send out a newsletter out over the Xmas period. And I sincerely hope you all had an enjoyable time with your families over the Xmas period. Michael Tucker returned from the UK in December he was not able to assist with any scribing, Michael was attending hospitals for tests the results of which Michael will relate to members at the next meet. I was unfortunate to contract a bad bout of Bronchitis and Pleurisy. I was on the mend and was taken into hospital with 'Acute Angina, I am awaiting an 'angiogram. I've been told I will definitely need surgery of some kind, probably a stent inserted, with the most drastic consequence being a by-pass.

It has been a very sad time, first with the passing of Clarice O'Reilly then our member Bert Love which really knocked us for six. Bert died on the Monday morning and was buried on the Saturday. With illness and travel problems members were not able to drive the distance which also meant negotiating flooded road areas to attend his funeral, we were not able to give Bert the RM send off he well deserved. I sent a special message and apologies to Bert's son Robert on behalf of the RMA. The RSL conducted the main part at the funeral, and the eulogy I wrote for Bert was read by Robert at the graveside. Our sincere thanks go to our member Kathleen Woolford who travelled from Wodonga to attend the funeral service held in the Cobram Church, thank you Kathy. Also attending Bert's funeral on behalf of the RMA was Bill Weber. Bill has been a long term friend of the association for over 40 years. He and his wife Jan were personal friends of Eric and Mike O'Reilly they and attended every Corps Birthday Dinner Dance that I can recall since 1980. It was a special effort by Bill, on the Friday the day before Bert's funeral he buried his wife Jan at Yarrawonga. It was a wonderful gesture by Bill. The members will be extremely grateful for his selfless act under such personal pressure.

I am very distressed at the passing of Tony Webster Lt RM. Tony was a personal friend we met up almost every week, but because of illness Tony was unable to drive he was not a well man, besides our weekly shopping we ventured around the subjects on which he was well versed. He was in Beluera Hospital for two weeks, he passed away only seconds after I last spoke with him. The most distressing part of his demise, I was informed by his wife only an hour before his funeral that the family would be too upset if we carried out the normal RM procedure we carry out at all comrades funerals. The RM Prayer, laying a sprig of Rosemary on the casket, saluting and walking away. The family refused to have a flag, or his beret and medals on the coffin. It was miserable sad sight with just a small floral tribute. Not what Tony wanted, we had discussed over the years what we both wanted, a proper RM send off. I commented the fact to the family and got a flat refusal.

I am very grateful for Alec Smith and Vic Rich travelling the distance from Croydon to Dromana and having to suffer the great disappointment after I related to them the family had refused to let us pay our respects. It has never been known as Alec stated over 60 plus years in his experience. Toby Hunter Lt Col and his wife Claire were in attendance. Toby also expressed his disappointment to me remarking on the fact we were not able to give Tony a proper RM send off. Toby and Claire I'm sure felt as we did very deflated. It was however good to catch up with them and know the children are all well especially 'Poppy who had leukaemia she is now in university, the other children are well and are good athletes.

I will end this short letter we can discuss the outcome of the sad events at the next meeting. I will also write a special letter outlining to be included with the next newsletter that will included the profiles of the three members we have recently lost. Their profiles make very interesting reading and make worthy scribing, stalwart members sorely missed.

Finger food and drinks has been laid on for after the next meeting that should conclude at about 1415 after a 1300- 1315 start. Hoping as many members as possible can turn up.

**Sunday 27th February 2011. Ringwood RSL**

**Time of meeting 1300 hours (rig smart casual)**

**Safe Travel**

**Albert Boyer (Taff)**

**President RMA Victoria.**