



Brig Brett Chaloner CSC – Patron

Minutes of the Harbord RSL sub-Branch 71st AGM Sunday 23rd March 2025 at 1130hrs

1. **Meeting Opened:** At 11:37am by President Colonel John Platt, CSC (Retd)

1.1 **Quorum:** achieved.

2. **Declare any Conflict of Interest.** None declared.

3. Welcome guests to AGM; **Deborah Carter, Vice President of the NBDC who was warmly welcomed by members.**

3.1 Attendees: Pam Hansen, John Platt, Mark Rickard, Jacqui Costello, Geoff Costello, Sean Rout, Wendy Machon, Chris Frith, John Oliver, Peter Harley, Ian Lynch, Karl Delaney, Randall Jones, Robert Dodds, Peter Rawling, Kieran Toohey, Paul Jacks, Peter Erickson, Don Williams, Scott West, Ken Covey,

3.2 Apologies: – Nick Misko, Tom Gleeson, Denis Lynch, Aroha & Kimble Taylor, Jasmie Janes, Brad Trower, Anne Trimble, Joan Tucker, Bob Lunnon (President) NBDC.

- 3.3 **President Col John Platt, CSC (Retd) asked if there were any new members present.**

Hon Secretary advised that there were no new members present.

4. **Stand in Memory of Fallen Members** – one minute silence.

Pledge Allegiance:

I, [name of member] do hereby swear Allegiance to His Sovereign Majesty King Charles III, His Heirs and Successors, and the Commonwealth of Australia, and do hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Constitution of the Returned and Services League of Australia. "God Save The King.

- 4.1 **Minutes of the previous meeting: Hon Secretary – Pam Hansen**

Hon. Secretary advised that she had circulated the minutes to the membership.

- 4.2 **Business arising:** Nil.

Adoption of the Minutes:

Moved by: **Ken Covey** Seconded by: **Mark Rickard**

Resolved: That the minutes of the 70th AGM as circulated, be accepted, and signed as a true and accurate record.

5. **President's AGM Report was given by the President Colonel John Platt, CSC (Retd) as circulated in AGM packs.**

Key items from the President's report were:

Executives for 2024 were Vice Presidents Jacque Costello, Nick Misko, Pam Hansen as the Hon Secretary and John Oliver as Treasurer. Nick Misko stood down mid-year due to work and family commitments and **Karl Delaney** was elected as Vice President at our Meeting held on 24th June 2024.

In February **Ian Lynch** volunteered to be our 'Wellbeing Support Officer' (Welfare Officer).

Events and activities in 2024:

- Anzac Day Service
- Anzac Day Rugby Game
- Veterans' Health Week -12 October
- Anzac Sportsman of War (Local Legends) Luncheon - 18 October
- NSW State Congress - 27 to 29 October
- Remembrance Day - 11 November
- Christmas Function - 4th December
- Sub-Branch Meetings
- 'Day Club'

Sean Rout our immediate Past President was made a life member of RSL Australia with Bob Lunnon President of NBDC presenting Sean his Life Membership badge, certificate and tie.

75th Anniversary Medallion Second World War Commemorative Medallions were presented to relatives or descendants of our former WW2 members as follows:

- Fred & Wayne Raffo
- Gilbert Jan
- Wal Edwards
- Douglas Wackett
- Keith Tucker

2025 Australia Day Honours List: Colonel Jacqueline Costello awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) and Colonel Geoff Costello, awarded the Commendation for Distinguished Service. Congratulations from all the sub-Branch to both.

Membership grew over the last 12 months from 82 to 111.

Our **thanks** to the **Mounties Group** staff at Harbord Diggers especially Evan Minus and Karen Potts for their outstanding continued support of our sub-Branch.

2025 Events and activities planned:

- Anzac Day & Rugby Game - Friday, 25 April
- Veterans' Health Week - TBA October
- Anzac Local Legends' Luncheon - Friday, 7 November
- Remembrance Day (Jacka Park) - Tuesday, 11 November
- Christmas Function - Wednesday, 3 December
- Sub-Branch Meeting - Most meetings will include a guest speaker
- Dates for the remainder of 2025 are:
 - 21 May
 - 18 June
 - 17 September
 - 19 November

The President also thanked the Mounties Group staff at Harbord Diggers, especially Evan Minus and Karen Potts for their outstanding continued support to our sub-Branch through many activities. Also to Mounties Vice President Pam Hansen and Director Leon Hansen for all your support.

5.1 Adoption

5.2 Moved by: Sean Rout Seconded By: **Chris Frith**

6. Jacka Park Custodianship

Sean Rout spoke on the meaning of 'Custodian' which goes back to ancient times and the latin word 'custos' meaning Guardian. In ancient times the Custodians were often responsible for safeguarding valuable possessions, like treasures or important documents within temples, palaces or other significant structures.

Jacka Park is not quite a 'temple' but it is our sanctuary and an important to Harbord RSL sub Branch, Harbord Diggers Club & the Soldiers Avenue of Honour Committee who together have done a lot of work at Jacka Park to make it the Memorial it is today. Ken Covey who has been the Custodian for the past several years is now handing over the reins to a younger passionate member of the RSL sub-Branch Scott West who accepted the nomination. Sean presented Scott with the park keys, role and responsibility plus the Jacka Park Australian flag.

President John Platt congratulated Scott West on his appointment and thanked Ken Covey for his excellent work over the past few years.

7. Treasurer's Report – Balance Sheet presented by John Oliver for acceptance, as circulated.

7.1 Business arising: Nil

7.2 Adoption. Moved by: Ken Covey. Seconded by: Wendy Machon

8. Other Business – Northern Beaches RSL District Council (NBDC) Deborah Carter advised that there were 10 sub Branches in the NBDC and as such we should work more closely with each other. Deb outlined that there was an 'Anzac Village Renewal program' running and needs input from all interested parties and that currently it sits at 30% Veterans & 70% non-Veterans which shouldn't be the case. Deb also advised that the Veterans Expo is on 25th March and Veterans need to have their say. Another event on the calendar which should see all sub-Branches get involved is 'Victory in the Pacific' which is the 80th Anniversary and will be held at Avalon RSL this year on the 15th August.

9. General Business: Peter Harley advised that on the 25th April it is the Centenary of the planting of the Suggates tree in Soldiers Ave which should be acknowledged. He also advised that there was the Joe Saunders plaque that needed to be placed however is being held up due to building works on the site. Peter also advised we needed to start on WW2 plaques for upper Soldiers Ave and that the Committee of Soldiers Ave of Honour would start the process. President John Platt advised that the sub-Branch will also support the project.

10. No meeting in April next meeting is WED 21st May at 6pm

Being no further general business.

Life Member Sean Rout recited the ODE.

Meeting closed at 1238hrs, which was followed by refreshments.