



Brig Brett Chaloner CSC – Patron

Minutes of the Harbord RSL sub-Branch general meeting.

Wednesday 27th September, 2023 @ 6.30 pm.

Meeting opened: The President COL John Platt, CEC (Retd) opened the Meeting at 6:30 pm and thanked all present with a special welcome to our guest from Balgowlah/Seaforth RSL sub Branch Mr Grant Tucker.

Attendees: COL John Platt CSC (Retd), LTCOL Jacqueline Costello, LTCOL Nick Misko, Pam Hansen, Chris Frith, Wendy Machon, Scott West, Denis Lynch, Ken Covey, Peter Watson, Sean Rout, John Wackett, Peter Rawling, Don Williams, Karl Delaney, Robert Dodds, Greg Kennelly, Merri Mack

Quorum: Achieved.

Apologies: BRIG Brett Chaloner CSC, LTCOL Geoff Costello, Anne Trimble, Joan Tucker, Victoria Felsman, Brodie Felsman, Peter Harley, Tom Gleeson, Karl Delaney, Lloyd Keen, Barry Artup, David Guthrie, Jordan Thorncroft, Alex Trima, Michael Covey, John Oliver, Greg Robertson,

- There were no new members.

Declare any Conflict of Interest. None declared.

Minutes of the previous meeting: President for Hon. Secretary

The President advised that the Hon. Secretary had circulated the minutes to the membership.

Business arising: Nil.

Adoption of the Minutes. Moved by: Sean Rout Seconded: Ken Covey

Resolved: That the Minutes of the 28th June, 2023 Meeting as circulated, be accepted, and signed as a true and accurate record.

Executive Reports

1. President Col John Platt, CSC (Retired)

The Strategic Plan 2023-2024 is unchanged:-

Vision	Local Veterans know what Harbord RSL sub Branch stands for, what it does and wants to be Involved as a member.
Mission	Supportive and co-ordinated programs and activities for veterans and families
Our Motto	Working together, delivering locally
Our Values	Remembrance, Compassion, Patriotism, Mateship

Discussion & Review

Vietnam Veteran Service held on the 18th August was extremely successful and thanks to those Vietnam Veterans who attended the event up at the War Vets Collaroy and Service at Jacka Park.

Private Joseph Saunders Medal Ceremony held on 14th September - The service held at Jacka Park was extremely moving and the 2 John's from Kedron Wavell RSL sub Branch were really appreciative of the hospitality shown and the handing over of the Medals and Memorabilia to Harbord RSL sub Branch was professionally handled and in line with RSL protocol. As custodians of Private Joseph Saunders medals and memorabilia we can now apply for the 'Gallipoli Anzac Commemorative Medallion' which is missing from the collection. Photos of the Medal Ceremony will be followed up by Col John Platt to be added to the story which is being compiled by Wendy Machon.

Veterans Health Week - Will take place on Monday 16th Oct. Lt Col Jacqueline Costello will talk to this

Remembrance Day – 11th Nov. A service will take place at Jacka Park organised by Sean Rout with custodians Ken Covey & Scott West. Sean Rout advised we will now also be placing a plaque for 'Arthur Hughes' along with 'Gilbert Jan' on the day. After the ceremony the normal Remembrance Day Service will take place at Harbord Diggers.

Christmas Function - The date of Sat 2nd Dec had been suggested with holding a Family day at Manly Bowling Club. Pam Hansen advised that Manly Bowling Club hold 'Barefoot Bowls' at this time and the bowling green would not be available. It is suggested that we hold the function at Harbord Diggers. TBC.

RSL NSW Northern Beaches District Council - Meeting held on 19th September attended by Lt Col Nick Misko

NSW State Congress to be held Sun 22nd Oct to Tues 24th Oct - Our Delegate will be Lt Col Nick Misko

2. Lt Col Jacqueline Costello - Veterans Health Week – 'Mental Health Matters'

'Veterans Health Week is locked in for Monday 16th October with a start of 8.30 am.

The format is set as follows:-

- Start off with a Guided meditation/mindfulness session on Freshwater Beach with Kiernan Toohey
- Morning Tea supported by top tips – "Nutrition for Mental Health" by Rebound Health
- Top Tips – "Physical resilience for Mental Health" by G Fitness
- Top tips – "Cognitive resilience for Mental Health" presented by Lt Col Samantha Hodges
- Buffet Lunch – Supplied by Bau Truong Restaurant
- Facilitated panel discussion – "Social connection and contribution for Mental Health"
- Guided reflection activity with Lt Col Samantha Hodges

All sessions are low key and look forward to as many Veterans supporting the program as possible.

Invitation will be sent out to ALL NB sub Branches who have also been advised at District Council level by Col John Platt.

Please RSVP your attendance to Hon Secy Pam Hansen @ nannyplum25@gmail.com

3. Lt Col Nick Misko – Grow Membership

Working on a couple of new Memberships and networking opportunities. Will have some of the Navy Clearance Divers doing a Session at G Fitness which I will also be doing so will be encouraging those guys to join the sub Branch. Will network with other sub Branches up at the Congress in Oct and gain some insight into some of their member acquisition programs on ways to attract new members. Did take a look at the RSL NSW Marketing material re acquiring new members.

4. Correspondence - Hon Secy Pam Hansen

1. Registrations for State Congress completed with Col John Platt & Lt Col Nick Misko attending.
2. Election of President and Elected Directors RSL NSW - Opened on 12 Sept & closes on 9th Oct.
3. Advocacy accreditation for RSL NSW Advocates – N/A for Harbord RSL sub Branch
4. Ceremonial Support Anzac Day 2024 - Requests to be submitted by 30th Nov. Harbord RSL sub Branch requests submitted and acknowledged 1 Aug 2023.

RSL DAY CLUB - Members were taken on a trip to the Palm Beach Club on 13th Sept and a Ferry trip around Pittwater and apart from nearly loosing ONE lady all thoroughly enjoyed the day.

5. Treasurer’s Report - John Oliver (tabled by Col John Platt)

As at 19th September, 2023

Net Assets	\$66,223
Income 24 June – 19 th Sept	\$ 441 (Bank Interest)
Expenses “ “	\$ 1,528 (Wreaths, Vietnam Vets Day, Website, Accom)
Net Surplus from 24 June – 19 th Sept	\$ 3,323

General Business

Lt Col John Platt outlined the Commemorate and Events coming up:-

Remembrance Day – Saturday 11th Nov

We will hold an event at Jacka Park & will lay a plaque for past Service Member Gilbert Jan & Arthur Hughes And then conduct a Service @ Harbord Diggers with Harbord Public School & St John’s in attendance. Sean Rout will take the lead on this together with Scott West and Ken Covey. Denis Lynch will drive the Bus on the day from Harbord Diggers to Jacka Park & return. Agenda & timings will be sent out to all once formalities are completed.

Christmas Function - Saturday 2nd December

To be held at Harbord Diggers (Pam Hansen to follow up with Harbord Diggers)

War Animals Day – 24th February, 2024

Ken Covey advised that his nephew Michael Covey has a Retired War Dog and will follow up with Michael re having him attend a Service at Harbord Diggers. Details to be finalized.

Local Legends Luncheon - SQNLDR John Williams, DFC. Will be our Hero this year and we will have Louise Williams present the story of **SQNLDR John Williams, DFC** on the day. Pam Hansen will negotiate a price for the luncheon with Teddy Larkins Restaurant which will hold 100 guests. Presentations in the restaurant will be challenging but we will discuss with the Owners on the best way to approach same.

Congress – It was raised by Peter Watson that the members should be advised of the Motions that are being presented at Congress prior the Congress.

A motion was then put forward by Sean Rout that Members give their authority to allow our Delegate Lt Col Nick Misko to vote on motions put forward at Congress in the best interest of the members of the sub Branch. It was agreed that the 'Motions and Agenda of the Congress' be circulated out to ALL members and if they had any feedback it was to be forwarded to the Hon Secy by Fri 6th Oct.

Scott West - Scott West put forward a motion to nominate Mr Sean Rout for Life Membership. The motion was unanimously agreed by the membership and a NOTICE of intention to nominate Mr Sean Rout for Life Membership is being sent out to ALL members prior to the next sub Branch meeting on the 22nd November, 2023.

Peter Watson - Peter advised that RSL Lifecare Hub in Dee Why which is a full Service Hub including Advocacy, Mental Health etc is now fully operational so anyone who needs support you are now able to contact the RSL Lifecare Centre in Dee Why. Peter also advised that the Veteran Support Fund whereby you can nominate any charity to support is almost closing.

Peter Rawling - Peter advised that Channel 7 honoured their Vietnam Veteran who worked at Channel 7 "Gordon Sharpe" who was killed in Vietnam on 23rd Sept with Peter Cosgrove, Kerry Stokes in attendance and it was a fitting memorial to Gordon.

Lt Col John Platt asked for any suggestions for Presentations at meetings to please put forward.

No other business was presented for discussion.

Next meeting Wednesday, 22nd November, 2023

The President recited the ODE. Meeting closed at 1945 hrs.