



Brig Brett Chaloner CSC – Patron

**Minutes of the Harbord RSL sub-Branch general meeting.
Wednesday 25th September, 2024 (6pm for 6:30 start)**

Meeting opened: The President COL John Platt, CSC (Retd) opened the Meeting at 6:32 pm and thanked all present with a special welcome to Guests Roslyn & Jessie Jan & Ian & Josephine Edwards

Attendees: COL John Platt CSC (Retd), COL Jacqueline Costello, Karl Delaney, Pam Hansen, Claire Hall, Chris Hall, Kimble Taylor, Don Williams, Capt Cameron Wise, Kieran Toohey, Chris Frith, Wendy Machon, Peter Harley, Robert Low, Ken Covey, Sean Rout, John Wackett, Peter Rawlings.

Guests: Roslyn & Jessie Jan, Ian & Josephine Edwards

Quorum: Achieved.

Apologies: BRIG Brett Chaloner CSC, COL Ian Lynch, LTCOL Geoff Costello, Anne Trimble, Joan Tucker, Tom Gleeson, Jordan Thorncroft, Alex Trima, Mick Covey, Scott West, Peter Erickson, Nick Misko, Frances Chaloner.

- There was one (2) new members present, Claire Hall & Kimble Taylor

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 26th June, 2024 Meeting as circulated, be accepted, and signed as a true and accurate record.

Correspondence: Hon Secretary

Correspondence Inwards: Was tabled and read. Note: all correspondence & Circulars are from RSL NSW and are on the RSL NSW website. There was no outgoing correspondence.

PRESENTATION OF SECOND WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLIONS (75TH ANNIVERSARY)

- GILBERT JAN - Accepted by Roslyn Jan (daughter)
- WAL EDWARDS - Accepted by his son Ian Edwards

- **Douglas Wackett – Accepted by his son John Wackett**

President: COL John Platt, CSC (Retd) (includes Goal 3 Commemorate and Pay Respect)

Harbord Sub-Br Executive Meeting Summary: Discussed the agreed vision, mission, and values; along with the goals which were reviewed at the Executive Meeting held on the 5th September, 2024.

The sub-Branch goals are:

- Strategic Plan 2023-24
- Discuss & Review
- Budget 2023-24 (Reviewed)
- RSL Northern Beaches Council Updated (Ongoing)
- Review of Anzac Day Service & Rugby Game (Reviewed & complete)
- Vietnam Veterans' Service – Sunday 18th August (Complete)
- Veterans' Health Week – Saturday 12th October (Planning)
- Local Legends' Luncheon – Friday 18th October (Planning)
- NSW State Congress – Sunday 27th Oct – Tues 29th Oct (Planning & Approved)
- Remembrance Day – Monday 11th Nov & Poppy Sales (Planning)
- Christmas Function – Wednesday 4th December (Planning)

GOAL 1. Colonel Jacqueline Costello presented her vision re Supporting Veterans & Families:-

Veterans Health Week is on Saturday 12th October here at Harbord Diggers commencing at 9.30am and will finish at approx. 2 pm with a yummy lunch from Bau Truongs provided for attendees.

Building on from last year's Veterans Health week's theme 'Get Connected' with this year's theme Being 'Keep Connected'. We will be conducting sessions with our very own Kieran Toohey presenting 'SAFE TALK' and after lunch we will have a Speaker from GOTCHA4LIFE which promises to be very Inspiring.

Please RSVP your interest to our Secretary Pam Hansen – email nannyplum25@gmail.com as soon as possible so we can organise catering etc....

GOAL 2. Grow Membership (Lead VP Karl Delaney)

Attracting young people to join the RSL (Returned Services League) in Australia requires a modern approach that aligns with their values and interests. Here are five strategies that could help draw them in:

1. ****Highlight Mental Health and Support Services****: Many younger veterans are concerned about mental health and well-being. By emphasizing the RSL's support networks, such as counseling and resources for PTSD, depression, and transitioning back into civilian life, the organization can become a place where younger veterans feel understood and supported.
2. ****Promote Social Events and Community Engagement****: Younger generations often look for social connections and community involvement. RSL could attract younger members by hosting casual social

events like sports tournaments, barbecues, and networking opportunities. This way, the RSL is seen not only as a veterans' organization but also as a community hub.

3. **Offer Professional Development and Networking**: Veterans often face career challenges after service. By providing career counseling, mentorship programs, and job placement services, the RSL can attract younger veterans who are looking to transition into civilian careers or advance in their professions.

4. **Modernize and Digitize Engagement**: Having an active online presence with social media, podcasts, and webinars can resonate with younger audiences. Creating platforms where veterans can engage virtually, share experiences, and access resources easily will help make the RSL more accessible to tech-savvy generations.

5. **Create Volunteer and Advocacy Opportunities**: Many younger people are passionate about giving back and making a difference. By offering opportunities to get involved in volunteer work, community outreach, and advocacy for veterans' rights, the RSL can appeal to those who want to have a tangible impact on their communities.

Focusing on these areas can help modernize the RSL's image and make it a more attractive option for young veterans and the broader youth community.

There are several reasons why young people might be hesitant to join the RSL (Returned Services League) in Australia:

1. **Perceived Age Gap and Traditional Image**: The RSL is often seen as a place for older veterans, and younger veterans or those currently serving may feel out of place or believe the organization is outdated or irrelevant to their experiences. The traditional image of the RSL may not resonate with younger generations who seek more dynamic or modern environments.

2. **Lack of Awareness or Engagement**: Many younger veterans may not be fully aware of the services and benefits the RSL offers or how it can support them. If the RSL doesn't actively promote its programs and services in a way that connects with younger audiences, they may overlook it as a resource or community.

3. **Different Social and Cultural Expectations**: Younger generations often have different social preferences and may prioritize digital or casual networking spaces over more formal or traditional clubs like the RSL. If the organization doesn't adapt to these changing preferences, it may struggle to attract younger members.

4. **Perception of Exclusivity**: The RSL may be perceived as focusing too heavily on specific groups, like older veterans from earlier conflicts (e.g., WWII, Vietnam), which might make younger veterans feel like their more recent service (e.g., Iraq, Afghanistan) is not as well-represented or understood.

5. **Mental Health Stigma**: While the RSL offers mental health services, younger veterans may worry about the stigma of seeking help within an organization that has historically been seen as more focused on traditional ideas of toughness and resilience. They might seek support elsewhere if they feel the environment isn't as open to mental health discussions as they'd like.

Addressing these concerns could help the RSL evolve and create a more inclusive environment for younger generations of veterans.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

In the absence of John Oliver President Col John Platt presented the Treasurer's report and outlined the following:-

Savings Account	\$ 9,827
Term Deposit	\$55,000
NETT ASSETS	\$64,827

Moved by: Sean Rout and Seconded by Capt Cameron Wise that the Treasurers Report be adopted.

GENERAL BUSINESS

COL John Platt outlined the 2024 Diary Dates as follows:-

- ANZAC DAY & RUGBY GAME – THURSDAY 25TH APRIL – COMPLETE
- VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK – SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER
- ANZAC LOCAL LEGENDS LUNCHEON – SQNLDR JOHN WILLIAMS, DFC – FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER
- REMEMBRANCE DAY – MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER & POPPY SALES
- CHRISTMAS FUNCTION – WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER

No other business was presented for discussion.

Next meeting **Wednesday, 20TH NOVEMBER, 2024 (6:00 FOR 6.30 PM)**

The President recited the ODE. Meeting closed at 1930 hrs.