



Brig Brett Chaloner CSC – Patron

Minutes of the Harbord RSL sub-Branch general meeting.

Wednesday 22nd November, 2023 @ 6.30 pm.

Meeting opened: The President COL John Platt, CSC (Retd) opened the Meeting at 6:30 pm and thanked all present with a special welcome to our new members.

Attendees: COL John Platt CSC (Retd), COL Jacqueline Costello, LTCOL Nick Misko, Pam Hansen, Chris Frith, Wendy Machon, Scott West, Sean Rout, Peter Rawling, Don Williams, Peter Erickson, Robert Low, Barry Artup, James Donnell, Peter Taylor, Micaella Pryce, Geoff Costello, Matt Ryan, Dylan Hoskins, Alek Dunimagloski, Oscar Olsen, Jordan Thorncroft, Cameron Thomas, (23)

Quorum: Achieved.

Apologies: BRIG Brett Chaloner CSC, Anne Trimble, Joan Tucker, John Wackett, Victoria Felsman, Brodie Felsman, Peter Harley, Tom Gleeson, Karl Delaney, Lloyd Keen, David Guthrie, Ken Covey, Alex Trima, Michael Covey, Greg Robertson, Merri Mack, Denis Lynch, Tim Mooney, Leah Mooney (19)

- **WE HAD TEN NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST MEETING AND THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:-**
- Michael Sommer (on Deployment)
- James Donnell (in attendance)
- Micaella Pryce (in attendance)
- Dylan Hoskins (in attendance)
- Ryan Denholm (not present)
- Oscar Owen (in attendance)
- Peter Taylor (in attendance)
- Matthew Ryan (in attendance)

Declare any Conflict of Interest. None declared.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

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: Scott West

Resolved: That the Minutes of the 27th September, 2023 Meeting as circulated, be accepted, and signed as a true and accurate record.

Executive Reports

1. President COL John Platt, CSC (Retired)

Opening Notes

Col John Platt welcomed home LTCOL Geoffrey Costello and asked LTCOL Costello to give a brief overview of his deployment.

LTCOL Geoffrey Costello advised he was on deployment in Iraq for 6 months on a NATO Mission which was essentially working together with different Nations for a common cause. It is a non-combat Advisory Commission.

COL John Platt's Overview

Pam - Congratulations on the RSL Certificate of Merit & Mounties Director

NSW RSL Congress - Nick Misko attended

Promotion of Jacquie Costello from Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel

LTCOL Geoff Costello return from Deployment

Veterans' Health Week - Great Template for the future

Remembrance Day (Jacka Park & Diggers)

Poppy Sales - Dave Guthrie arranged with Local Surf Clubs. To continue next year.

Life Membership - Mr Sean Rout

Change of Bank & Budget – Treasurer John Oliver to discuss in his report

Peter Watson - transfer to Bowral RSL sub-Branch

2024 Meeting Dates to be discussed

Christmas Function – Thursday, 7 December @ 6pm Duke's Lounge Harbord Diggers

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

2. COL Jacqueline Costello - Veterans Health Week – ‘Mental Health Matters’

Veterans’ Health Week went well and overall the concept worked well and we will work on next year to improve and increase the attendance numbers.

Overarching theme is connection and self-care. TWO key initiatives for 2024:-

- Welfare Support Team
- Veteran’s Health Week

Looking for Volunteers sharing of responsibility across these areas. During the Summer break I will work on a timeline. Need support in the ‘Welfare area’ and if you are interested please email our Hon Secretary on Nannyplum25@gmail.com Seeking a 3-4 person team – mixed demographic for greater reach on rotation as necessary. Monthly coffee catch ups with light exercise – 2 hrs per ‘Saved Rounds’ sessions. Availability to support ‘Funeral and Bereavement duties as required’. Sponsors for welfare support guest speakers to meetings possibly 1 -2 per year.

Jacque is also interested in doing a ‘Veterans Round’ – Shute Shield at a ‘Marlins Game’ in 2024. Sean Rout is the Marlins Veterans Co-Ordinator and will support same. Jacque to contact The Marlins to arrange a meeting to discuss same and will involve Pam Hansen in her capacity as Director of Mounties who are the major sponsors of The Marlins

3. LTCOL Nick Misko – Grow Membership

- New Members
- RSL NSW Congress 22-24 Oct
- RSL Lifecare Dee Why Well-being Centre (POC) Craig Horner
- Royal Commission into Veterans Suicide
- Sport & Recreation Fund
- Veterans Support fund – Support to Local Charities (need to identify causes worthwhile)
- Sub-Branch Merchandise (suggested Hawaiian shirts?!?!) For further discussion.

Nick welcomed the New Members present and thanked them for their attendance.

Attended the **RSL NSW Congress** in October and was amazed at the size & scale of the operation. New President Mick Bainbridge with his experience will do a great job as President. The congress was a great opportunity to catch up with Veterans and get to network with other sub Branches.

There are 3 **RSL Lifecare Centres** now operating with NOWRA, NEWCASTLE & DEE WHY. Our local DEE WHY LIFECARE Centre is run by Craig Horner and supports all Veteran’s requirements.

The **Royal Commission into Veteran’s Suicide** – there will be a final report handed down in Aug 2024.

Sport & Recreation programs – Lots of sub Branches running these programs now with funding provided Nick’s main objective in 2024 is to set up a Harbord Diggers RSL sub Branch Sport & Recreation Program.

Nick requested to move a motion that we submit a request that Harbord RSL sub Branch sets up a ‘Sports & Recreation Program’

Motion was moved by Peter Rawling & Seconded by Sean Rout. ALL AGREED unanimously.

COMMEMORATE AND PAY RESPECT - COL John Platt (retired)

Items Completed:

- Vietnam Veterans Service (18 August)
- Private Joseph Saunders Medal Ceremony (14 September)
- Veterans' Health Week (Monday, 16 October)
- NSW State Congress (22 to 24 October 2023)
- Remembrance Day (Saturday, 11 November)

To be planned or considered over the next 6 months:

- War Animals Day (Saturday, 24 February 2024 - (TBC). It was suggested to get Ken Covey's (son) involved who has a retired War Dog, and also involve the local schools. Sean Rout also advised JACKA PARK would be a good venue to hold same.
- Local Legends Luncheon - SQNLDR John Williams, DFC (Friday, 19 April 2024). Planning and discussions to take place with Teddy Larkins as the venue in the New Year. (PH to follow up)

4. Correspondence - Hon Secretary Pam Hansen

The majority of the correspondence was re the RSL NSW Congress held on the 22-24th Oct and is available to read on the RSL NSW Website. LTCOL Nick Misko was in attendance and will give a brief update re same.

The RSL NSW 2021-2026 Strategic Plan is now available on line for those who wish to review same.

RSL DAY CLUB - All going well and members looking forward to the XMAS Lunch to be held on WED 6th DEC, 2023.

5. Treasurer's Report - John Oliver

Financials as at 20 Sep – 9 Nov 2023

Assets (CBA Account)		Liabilities	NET Assets
Cheque	\$ 15,468		
Term Dep	\$ 50,822		
Total Cash at Bank	\$ 66,290	NIL	\$ 66,290

Income, Expenses & Surplus

Income received – 20 Sep – 9 Nov 2023	\$ 997
Expenses Incurred – 20 Sep – 9 Nov 2023	\$ 928
Net surplus for period – 20 Sep – 9 Nov 2023	\$ 69
Net Surplus for period – Year to Date	\$ 3,392

Endorsement was sought from Members to change the current Bank Accounts from CBA to Bendigo Bank at Freshwater with 2 Signatures to operate by the Executive Team plus approved by the Trustees: Sean Rout, Peter Harley & Paul Jacks.

Motion was put forward by John Oliver (Treasurer) to change the Bank Account from CBA to Bendigo Bank.

Moved by: Sean Rout Seconded by: Wendy Machon

CARRIED BY ALL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE.

John Oliver then presented the 2024 Budget for approval:-

Income		Expenditure		Net Income	
Interest Rec'd Bank & Investments	\$ 1,800	Administration	\$ 4,300	Total Income	\$ 25,200
Poppy Appeal	\$ 400	Members	\$ 1,400	Total Expend	\$ 28,400
Reg Clubs	\$ 4,000	Functions	\$ 2,000	Net Income	-\$ 3,200
Fund Raising – Other	\$12,000	Appeals & Fund raising	\$ 8,800	B4 Donations	
Grants – DVA (GOV)	\$ 7,000	Commemorations	\$ 200	NET INCOME	-\$ 3,200
		Charitable purposes	\$11,400	after Donations	
		Other Expenses	\$ 300		
TOTAL INCOME	\$25,200	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$26,400		

Motion requested to approve the 2024 budget.

Moved by : Nick Misko Seconded by: Sean Rout

VOTING FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR MR SEAN ROUT

Sean Rout was escorted from the room by Scott West. Scrutineers - COL Jacque Costello, LTCOL Nick Misko, Mr John Oliver

Voting forms were handed out to ALL members in attendance. Voting was counted by the Scrutineers and advised outcome to President Col John Platt.

Sean Rout was bought back into the room whereby President COL John Platt advised that his endorsement for Life Membership of RSL NSW was voted unanimously by the Membership and it will now be processed through RSL NSW to be ratified.

General Business

MEETING DATES FOR 2024:

- 21st FEB
- 24TH MAR 70th ANNUAL AGM
- 25TH APR ANZAC DAY
- 15TH MAY
- 26TH JUN
- 25TH SEP
- 20TH NOV

Peter Erickson spoke about Veterans Welfare and suggested that everyone go to courses run by DVA to ensure that we look after each other as in peace time there are more injuries than at any other time.

LTCOL Nick Misko asked whether the JOSS request was put in for the FLYOVER for Anzac Day and was advised by the Hon Secretary that it had be submitted months ago and was confirmed.

No other business was presented for discussion.

REMINDER THE CHRISTMAS FUNCTION IS ON THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER @ 6PM IN THE DUKE'S LOUNGE AT HARBORD DIGGERS. PLEASE RSVP YOUR ATTENDANCE TO HON SECY – nannyplum25@gmail.com NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 1ST NOV, 2023.

Next meeting Wednesday, 21st FEB, 2024

The President recited the ODE. Meeting closed at 1922 hrs.