



Brig Brett Chaloner CSC – Patron

Minutes of the Harbord RSL sub-Branch general meeting. Wednesday 28th June (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 Mr Ian Wilson from RSL Lifecare and Kieran Toohey from Swiss 8.6

Attendees: COL John Platt CSC (Retd), LTCOL Jacqueline Costello, LTCOL Nick Misko, Pam Hansen, John Oliver, Chris Frith, Wendy Machon, Scott West, Robert Low, Denis Lynch, Ken Covey, Peter Watson, Sean Rout, Michael Covey, Lee Chaloner, Frances Chaloner, John Wackett. (17)

Quorum: Achieved.

Apologies: BRIG Brett Chaloner CSC, LTCOL Geoff Costello, Anne Trimble, Joan Tucker, Victoria Felsman, Brodie Felsman, Robert Dodds, Peter Harley, Tom Gleeson, Karl Delaney, Lloyd Keen, Barry Artup, Peter Rawlings, David Guthrie, Jordan Thorncroft, Alex Trima. (16)

- There was one (1) new members present, Michael Covey ex 6 RAR and currently a Paramedic at the Narrabeen Station. There were (2) two new Service Members who have been accepted but not present at the meeting. Matthew Walker & Major David Guthrie.

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: Wendy Machon Seconded: Scott West

Resolved: That the Minutes of the 23rd May 2023 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.

Email received from the daughter of a past member Gilbert Jann who was a member of the Harbord RSL sub Branch for many years and served as a Radio Operator in the Catalina Flying Boats. Gilbert's family would like to see a plaque put on the wall of Remembrance in Jacka Park.

Business arising: It was recommended that a plaque is organized by the Jacka Park Committee of Sean Rout, Scott West & Ken Covey to be placed on Remembrance Day this year with a Service including Family members.

Correspondence Outgoing: Nil

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

Presentation from Mr Ian Wilson RSL Lifecare

Ian advised that RSL Lifecare operates out of DY RSL Club in the same office as the previous Veterans Centre, they have a team of 11 who handle:-

- Well-Being Support
- Claims & Advocacy
- Employment Assistance
- Homelessness & Housing Support

He stated that they have handled 168 claims from Serving & Ex-Serving members with 103 being Liability, 50 Permanent impairment and 10 TPI. Claims take from 18 – 24 mths however Veterans can get access to treatment whilst their claim is in process with a Veteran payment of \$1092 per fortnight while claim is going through. Ian Suggested that the Welfare Officer of the sub Branch act as a go between for Veterans who are seeking support. John Platt will take the concern from the members of access to contact numbers for support for Veterans to call regardless of their situation. Lt Col Jacqueling Costello will also put together a list of Support Centres with contact details for Veterans.

Ian advised that Veterans should seek advice from RSL Lifecare before lodging any claims.

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. The sub-Branch goals are:

Goal 1. Support Veterans & Families (Lead: Jacquie Costello & Team). Includes the Veterans Wellbeing Program, Veterans Health Week. It was noted that a Welfare Officer appointment is needed.

Goal 2. Grow Membership (Lead: Nick Misko & Team). For ADF and Associate Members.

Goal 3. Commemorate and Pay Respect (Lead: John Platt, Karl Delaney, Sean Rout, Scott West, Wendy Machon [History], Ken Covey). Lead on ANZAC Day, Anzac Local Legends Lunch (formerly Sportsman's Lunch), 50th Anniversary of Australia's end in the Vietnam War, Remembrance Day and the Christmas Function.

Goal 4. Good Governance & Accountability (Lead: John Oliver, Pam Hansen, Peter Watson). To provide accountable to members, compliance, and communication

GOAL 1. Lt Col Jacquie Costello presented her vision re Supporting Veterans & Families:-

Jacquie outlined 2 things to concentrate on over the next 12 months:-

- **Connection**
- **Self Care**

Whilst building on Welfare function and focus on Veterans Health Week.

Key Activities:

Welfare Officer – (Need a team) Volunteer's please?

It's all about connection & self care so need to broaden Welfare so it's not limited to bereavement, sickness etc. Need to stay 'grounded' ie: meet at the Club, go for a walk, grab a coffee etc... it's all about connection and giving back to the Community.

Veterans Health Week - This is a DVA Sponsored event and is usually run in October over a week. Jacquie suggests we run it over 2 days but pack those days with activities – Live Activities Mind, Body, Team. Jacquie called for Volunteers or EOI with all ideas welcomed. Jacquie is particularly interested in having a 'Veterans Round' with Shute Shield with the Marlins.

GOAL 2. Grow Membership (Lead Lt Col Nick Misko & Team)

Nick referred to the ‘7 Generations’ and common to all generations, is an enduring commitment to those that have served and continue to serve.

Recognition that each generation has slightly different motivations to commit and join with the later generations (Gen X,Y,Z & Alpha) are a focus for growth.

The Way Ahead:

- Better understand what motivates various generations to join the sub-branch
- Understand the status of our non-active members
- What can we do or what can we offer and what are the costs?
- What does mission success look like, or rather, what are our targets for new membership??

Current incentive being the G-Fitness gym offer to current Veterans FREE for the first 12 mths with a cap of 10 free memberships per year. G-Fitness has a cap of a maximum of 50 Veteran Memberships. Nick & Sean Rout to meet with G-Fitness to confirm agreement going forward.

Nick also advised we need to look at our Branding and he is looking at Bondi RSL who are extremely successful and have great branding.

Nick introduced Kieran Toohey from Swiss 8 who served 14 yrs in the Defence Force and worked at Open Arms before joining Swiss 8. Kieran is currently a member of DY RSL sub Branch but will be transferring to Harbord RSL sub Branch asap.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

John Oliver presented the Treasurer’s report and outlined the following:-

Net Assets	\$67,340
Income 1 May 2023 – 23 June 2023	\$ 2,701 (Bank Interest plus Mounties Donation \$2,534)
Expenses “ “	\$ 1,652 (Insurance & Veterans Gym subsidy)
Net Surplus from 1 Jan – 23 Jun 23	\$ 4,446

Moved by: Scott West and Seconded by Wendy Machon that the Treasurers Report be adopted.

General Business

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

Vietnam Veterans Day (50th Anniversary) Services

18th August at War Veterans Narrabeen
20th August at Palm Beach (sub Branch)

Remembrance Day – Saturday 11th Nov

We will hold an event at Jacka Park & will lay a plaque for past Service Member Gilbert Jann
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.

Christmas Function - Saturday 2nd December

To be held at Manly Bowling Club (TBC) Pam Hansen to follow up.

War Animals Day – 24th February, 2024

COL John Platt will discuss this at the next District Council Meeting with potential to link in with Forestville RSL.

No other business was presented for discussion.

Next meeting Wednesday, 27th September, 2023

The President recited the ODE. Meeting closed at 2005 hrs.