

THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION – NZ BRANCH

Minutes of the regular meeting (bi-monthly) held on Saturday 12 December 2009
@ 1400 hrs at Pt Chevalier R.S.A., 1136 Great North Road, Pt Chevalier, Auckland.

Meeting Commenced at 1400 with the President, Peter Collins, proposing the Loyal Toast and asked Mick McMahon to recite the Royal Marines Prayer.

A minute of silence was held for fallen comrades and absent friends.

Members in attendance : P. Collins, P. Ayling, C. Ellis, N. Harker, B. Reay, D. Ayling (Ticker), G & G Moore, B (Max). Beare, R, Morrice, D. Bailey, E. Barton, D. Glen, V. Harris, M. McMahon, S. Ritson, M. Kavanagh.

Visitors in attendance : G. Collins, J. Simms, B Harker, K. Beare, C. McRae, M & N Stigood, D. Wood, J. Pace, B. Harris, Jimbo McArthur, Mike Ward.

Apologies: The Padre & Mrs Withers, S. Grayland, R. Rowlands, D & M Harvey, B. Battersby, B Bayley, Mac Hines, S. Campbell, L Doran, J & M Glaze, I. Walton, Pip Townend, H. Robinson, C. Campbell, J. Roots, B. Curry, J. Roberts, P. Toner, J. Murray, D. Bailey, B. Hunter, R. Biggs, G. Wootten, Jock Munro.

Minutes of the previous meeting October 10th, 2009. The President moved the minutes be adopted. Proposed and seconded – G. Moore/M. McMahon.

Sick Bay : Harold Robinson is still unwell & we hope to get an updated report of his progress soon. Ted Downes is having much needed surgery on the 14th of December – all the best Ted, we're thinking of you and will be in touch. Len Doran is also off colour & awaiting a much needed knee replacement, we look forward to meeting Len in the future. All the best guys.

Welfare Visitor Report: Ticker Ayling reports he's been busy... with a visit to John Williams at Ranfurly War Veterans Home stating that John was in good spirits & very pleased to see him. John welcomes any visitors. Ticker also contacted Edwin Barton who is definitely much better and felt well enough to attend the meeting today. Two visits were made to see Harold Robinson who is not having a good run with a couple of trips to Hospital and still unwell but in good spirits.

Standard Bearer Report: Gordon Moore has not presented the standard recently but will be doing so at The Battle of the River Plate ceremony tomorrow.

Globe & Laurel Report: Due to heavy work commitments Peter Collins was unable to get a submission in for the Nov/Dec issue.

New Members & Visitors: We officially welcome 4 new members, Vince Harris from Orewa, Darren Woods from Rodney, James Roots from Auckland's North Shore & Jason Pace. Peter read out James' service history to the meeting and the other 3 new members, who were present, gave a brief service history to the meeting along with a prospective new member Mike Stigwood. Peter & Colleen have been in contact with another proposed member David Lee, from Wellington, whom we hope to welcome to the throng in the New Year

Incoming Mail:

Peter received.... a thank you card from the CO of the NZ SAS Group, a response from the Dept. of Int. Affairs, re the NZ RMA being represented when HRH Prince William visits stating that the visit is very short and busy leaving no opportunity for us on this occasion.

Thank you emails from the daughter and Widow of the late Jock Fraser RM thanking us for the wonderful Corps Birthday celebration which they enjoyed immensely.

We received emails from Frank Atkins, very close friend of the late Jock Fraser, thanking us for the assistance shown to Jock and also Frank gave the Association a 500 pound (**NZ\$1104.38**) donation which was very generous.

Colleen received an email from Jeff Trail, Secretary of Exmouth RMA who's coming to NZ on holiday with his wife and another couple. He is going to present us with a plaque on behalf of the Exmouth RMA.

We have received Xmas cards from; NSW RMA, Nottingham RMA, Victoria RMA, Plymouth RMA, Gold Coast RMA, The Governor Generals Office and Xmas email best wishes from Ken Bryant of Malta RMA, Jock Munro, Stan Grayland, The Padre, Roland Rowlands and Tony Noakes ex RM CHX4106 from the UK.

Colleen was successful in receiving 200 post paid envelopes from NZ Post after our application in August under their annual free community post scheme. We will apply again in 2010.

Colleen received 2 poster ideas from an ex RM for our membership drive, this was passed to Philip Ayling who taking care of producing the posters.

Ticker Ayling received the documentation/paperwork from the Central Office RMA July Trustees meeting which was given to Colleen.

Outgoing Mail.

Peter sent the following thank you letters to; the CO of the NZ SAS Group re our marvellous speaker, Chris Parsons, at the Corps Birthday and to all the Corporate raffle sponsors Philip Ayling manages to coerse into assisting us each year.

Another thank you letter was sent to the President of the Birkenhead RSA for allowing us to use their facilities for our Corps Birthday.

The Waiouru Army Camp are allowing us to lunch there on the 27th of February 2010 during our reunion, a letter has been sent thanking them for this privilege.

Letters have gone out to the members who have not paid their subs for 2009-10.

Colleen sent Xmas cards to the following RMA's – Victoria, Queensland, Gold Coast, NSW, Nottingham, Exmouth, Malta, City of London, Poole, Northhampton & District Commando Club, Plymouth, Wolverhampton, Ontatio, Chelmsford, Highlands and The RMA Central Office. Also – Our Local Patron, Ian Pallas, The Pt Chev & Birkenhead RSA's, Gambia Association, The Padre and Tony Smith.

Colleen has emailed Navy today to advertise our Association – the ad now runs in this magazine.

Matters Arising.

It was requested that the Globe & Laurel needs to be at the meeting for members to view. The unpaid subs letters have been sent and as there has been no response their names will be removed from our membership list and the website.

The Banner sourcing and resdesign are a work in progress for Philip Ayling and will be produced soon as possible. Web site photo album - another work in progress for Philip Ayling & Tony Smith, it's underway. (see Vice Presidents report)

A huge thanks to the Pt Chevalier RSA for allowing us to use their photocopier to produce our newsletter and addendums at no cost. This generous support saves the NZ RMA a considerable amount of money.

Presidents Report:

The Armistice/Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 8th November from St Matthews Church in Hobson St had a reasonable turn out. Thank you to all who attended. It's great to be a part of this very important celebration.

Peter commented that elements of the service, from the guest speaker were disappointing. It appeared that the speakers' own opinion was being aired.

We were also represented at the ceremony at the Pt Chevalier RSA.

Our Representatives reported being treated as VIPS – rightly so too. Ticker took the floor to give a brief account of proceedings at the events. Detailed reports of these 2 ceremonies will be in the December newsletter.

Jeff Trails visit is welcomed with Ben Curry and Chalky Carr making themselves available to them as required while in Christchurch and the South Island.

Jock Munro will look after them when they arrive in Taupo and Colleen will do the same in Auckland and receive the plaque on behalf of our Association.

I will be in the UK until the 14th of January so am unable to see Jeff whom I know from "the old days" .

It seems early to discuss the next Corps Birthday but I would like to ask Bob Reay to take charge of the organization of the catering at the Birkenhead RSA again.

It would also be a good idea to have a Committee member to learn the ins and outs of the process too. It was agreed that Steve Ritson would assist Bob.

**** The date will be 31st October 2010 this year.

It was agreed at the last meeting that the members who have not paid last years subs have a letter sent from the President . This has been done and as there has been no response their details will be removed from the membership list and the web site.

We've been asked to present a white ensign, Ticker has agreed to supply this for the Standard Bearer.

We welcomed The President and Secretary of the RSA to the meeting and offered our thanks for their ongoing assistance to our Association. Jimbo McArthur, the President took the floor and thanked Ticker for the photos supplied for Marine Corner display. Jimbo would like associate membership of our RMA – Peter Collins will investigate this.

Proposed/ Seconded Vince Harris/ Gordon Moore.

The Taupo Reunion is looking good with 45 attendees – we can accommodate more, please contact Jock or Colleen.

The AGM 2010 – as the Auditor needs to prepare our books, we are looking at the 24th of April. All documentation will be forwarded before the AGM and we ask for any nominations a.s.a.p. so the paper work can be prepared & posted/emailed well before the date.

Vice President's Report

Philip showed a mock up of the edited version of the banner and asked for feedback a.s.a.p. as we need to get them ordered from the printer. They will be available for sale but are mainly for RMA visitors from overseas and also for our members to take overseas to their comrades in other countries when they visit them. The Banners will be available to all paid up members of this Association.

The Webmaster, Tony Smith, will advise us when the Photo Album is ready to view

on our website and Philip will advise us by email. The link details to the photo album will also be put in the newsletter for members not on email who may be able to see it on a borrowed computer. It will be great for visitors to the website.

Philip has produced 2 photos for the membership drive (see December newsletter) and has produced a list of RSA's in NZ for posting purposes. These have been given to Colleen.

The RMA calendar dates for 2010 are on the website, please contact myself or any member of the committee with any further dates that need to be added.

Philip will produce a draft order of service for Taupo which will be sent to Peter for approval.

Treasurer's Report:

The bank Balances are: Current A/c \$5077.10 Ready Saver A/c \$2657.10

Term Deposit is \$6,000.00 which is suggested be rolled over on 15 December for 12 months with the interest rate being 4.8%.

Proposed/Seconded D Ayling/M Beare

A reminder : when members are placing money into the RMA account

It's essential you advise Noel so he can credit the money to your name, otherwise it will end up as a donation !!!

Secretary's Report:

The Xmas cards have sold well and thank you to all who have supported the Association. A final profit figure will be available at the next meeting once all monies are in.

There are a lot of emails coming through each week, sometimes over 200 !!!

I ask for your patience with my response – it may not happen over night but it will happen. I answer every enquiry as soon as I can.

General Business.

Dave Glen thanked the Committee for all their efforts in improving the NZ RMA.

There was such a good turnout for the meeting today and there being no further business to discuss, we moved to close the meeting so we could enjoy a bevvie and the wonderful food prepared by the RSA and paid for with the profit from the Xmas Card sales.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.

The next meeting will be at the Pt Chevalier RSA @ 1400 hrs on 13th February 2010 . Please mark your calendar or diary.