

THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION – NZ BRANCH

Minutes of the regular meeting (bi-monthly) held on Saturday 13 February 2010
@ 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 Vince Harris reciting 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, E. Barton, D. Glen, V. Harris, M. McMahon, J. Mellamphy, Les Goodger, C. Campbell, M. Hine, B. Johnson, B. Battersby, J. Roots.

Visitors in attendance: C. McRae, D. Roots, S. Hine, B. Harris, K. Gilbert (Tavistock RMA)

Apologies: D. Bailey, P. Townend, J. Roberts, H. Robinson, D. Bailey, Jock Munro, M. Kavanagh, J. Pace, J. Roberts, Bill Hinde.

Minutes of the previous meeting December 12th, 2009. The President discussed some matters arising from the previous minutes and moved that the Minutes should be accepted. Proposed/Seconded – G. Moore/B. Reay. Carried unanimously

Sick Bay : Harold Robinson is still unwell but was in great spirits when Colleen talked with him today. Hopefully Ted Downes has had his surgery and is on the mend – we'll keep members informed. Colin Campbell advised that Bill Hinde has been in hospital and will try to get to the next meeting.

Welfare Visitor Report: Ticker Ayling reports he's been busy... he's phoned Ted Downes in Christchurch, and a number of Auckland members whom we have not seen for a while to check they are ok and if they require transport to the meetings. Ticker has also made personal visits where required. Keep up the great work Ticker.

Standard Bearer Report: Gordon Moore presented the standard at the Pt Chev. RSA, Battle of the River Plate ceremony on 13 December 2009 which he attended with Ticker Ayling. The Standard Bearer also commented that the Standard cannot travel (e.g. posted) without a member accompanying it.

Globe & Laurel Report: Peter Collins has submitted a report for the next issue, a copy of which is in the Jan/Feb newsletter. The current G & L was available at the meeting for anyone to browse or borrow.

We need a volunteer to take over the position of G & L Reporter, as Peter, has more than enough to do as President. Dave Glen suggested John Glaze. Everyone agreed this was a great idea, especially as John was not there to defend himself. Peter will investigate this "upwards delegation" and report back. Good luck Peter !

New Members & Visitors: We officially welcomed Kim Gilbert, a visitor from Tavistock RMA and presented him with our very first, newly designed, hot off the press, wall hanger. An official welcome was also extended to our new member James Roots & his wife Dee who attended their first meeting today.

Incoming Mail:

Peter received... An email from Gordon Mitchell the son of the late Ted Mitchell requesting his name & service no to be placed on our website which has been attended to. He also received a letter advising us our member Jules Jacobs passed away on 21 June 2009. We received a special email from Gwen Hale, thanking us for keeping Bill up to date with the RM info from NZ and overseas via the emails.

Outgoing Mail.

Peter sent a thank you letter to the Birkenhead RSA for their donation of \$250.00 towards our Taupo Reunion, it was very much appreciated. There is also consistently a huge amount of informal correspondence by e-mail.

Matters Arising.

The new Association Banners have arrived and prior to their production, Peter had it approved by RMA Central Office. The Web site photo album is up (see Vice Presidents report)

Dave Glen asked about the honourable membership of our Association by the President of the Pt Chev RSA –it will be investigated by Peter Collins.

Colleen will email Steve Ritson to see if he is willing to take on the role of Corps Birthday Assistant with Bob Reay. Bob advised that it would be good practice to introduce Steve to all the key players involved with the administration of the Corps Birthday events.

President's Report:

We thank George McLeod, George Wooton and Jock Munro who proudly represented our Association at the funeral of our member William (Bill) Hale. Bill's son in law (Garry Cooley), who happens to be the Secretary/Manager of the Birkenhead RSA, is going to get a copy of the eulogy Bill wrote himself for our Association. We can feel an obituary coming on John!!

Jeff Trails visit to NZ went well, apart from the speeding ticket he got in the South Island and the lack of sun he experienced there!!!!

Jock & Maureen Munro took great care of them in Taupo with a private tour, wine, beer and dinner. Colleen & Colin looked after them well in Auckland at the plaque handover ceremony they had at the Waterfront Café and then onto dinner till nearly midnight.

The Taupo Reunion is looking good with 47 attendees – we can accommodate more, please contact Jock or Colleen urgently, especially if you have not paid your deposit. Peter asked for someone to step forward as the Association's Quartermaster – we have Standards, documents, books etc which need to be stored as at the moment, there are items all over the place. Do you have a small area, dry and safe in your home that could accommodate our items?? Please contact Colleen or Peter about this – URGENT !!

*****The AGM 2010** as stated previously our 2010 AGM will be held on 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. A couple of housekeeping suggestions - **Please ensure that the person you are nominating is prepared to step into the position you are putting their name forward**

for and also the forms must be posted back to Colleen before the 24th of April or bring them to the meeting personally.

Vice President's Report

Philip produced the finished Banners, which have a very professional look and feel about them. Colleen will get a photo for the newsletter. A well deserved round of applause was given to Phil for his great accomplishment.

Philip and Tony Smith advise there are more photos on the album to view and, in addition, a separate historical page . Please be aware we share the space with the Australian RMA's and space is finite. All photos submitted may not get on the site but those selected need the date, names of the people/object etc and the event/place it was taken. Philip sent the membership drive photo/poster to the RSA HQ who were going to include it with a mail out - a great way to spread the word !

The order of service for Taupo has been completed by Jacqui Mellamphy.

Treasurer's Report:

The bank balances are: Current A/c \$5415.30 Ready Saver A/c \$2659.36

The term deposit of \$6,000.00 has been reinvested to 15.12.2010 @ 4.8%.

ANNUAL SUBS are due on 1st of April. There is no problem paying now/ for 2 years etc – a receipt will be given for the payment. Contact Noel for the bank account number or post a cheque to him. It is intended that subscriptions will remain at \$20.00 for Auckland based members and \$15.00 for out of area members. This will be proposed and voted on at the AGM.

A reminder : when members are placing money into the RMA account, please advise Noel so he can credit the money to your name, otherwise it will end up as a donation !!!

Secretary's Report:

Email from an ex RM in the UK re catching up with some of the members on our website and phone calls and emails have ensued from the initial look through our website.

Email from Bill Hartland, President of the Gambia Association re updated info for the front page of our website. Phil Ayling has sorted this and we appreciate any information or comments that make the website info accurate and interesting. Our welfare visitor, Ticker has been providing a great service to our members but we need more volunteers willing to phone/call in on members in their local area. Vince Harris promptly offered assistance and this was gratefully taken up - Vince will look after the North Shore and Rodney welfare calls from now on.

General Business.

Dave Glen thanked the Committee for all their efforts which was much appreciated. Brendon Johnson asked for an email of the recruiting poster to be sent so he can get it into the Coffee News and some other places he has access to. Philip Ayling will see to this. Brendon was very proud that he was able to visit Anzac Cove while overseas. Brendon aka "most generous one" paid for all the attendees refreshments from the bar after the meeting. A huge thanks to Brendon, it was very much appreciated.

Les Goodger read a letter from his friend in the UK who visited the beautiful Boston War Memorial Gardens. A few photos of the Gardens were handed around the attendees. The RMA Committee may look at purchasing a lockable cabinet for the memorabilia unless a safe area can be found but will still require a safe storage area in someones home/garage to house the cabinet. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m and Philip Ayling put a projector on for all to see the website, photos etc whilst supping their beverages.

*******The next meeting & AGM will be at the Pt
Chevalier RSA @ 1400 hrs on 24th April 2010 *******