



**Minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the New Zealand Branch of the RMA  
Held at  
Point Chevalier RSA, Auckland  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

**Attendees:**

Ticker Ayling	Max & Kath Beare	Colin Campbell
Gill Collins	Peter Collins (President)	Dave Glen
Bill Houston	Mick McMahon (Vice President)	Gordon & Gloria Moore
Rob Morrice (Treasurer)	Harold Robinson	Jim Roots
Joe Simms	Joann Steel (Secretary)	Pip Townend

**Apologies:**

Phil Ayling	Bob Battersby	Allen Coates
Vince Harris	Pusser Hill	Vanessa Jones
Jacqui Mellamphy		

Meeting opened at 14.05

- Loyal Toast to Her Majesty the Queen
- Royal Marines Prayer recited by Max Beare
- A moments silence for fallen comrades was observed.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Matters Arising**

Dave Glen noted that his apologies had not been noted for the last 3 meetings whilst he was in Australia. He gave them at the April meeting. Joann and Peter apologised for the oversight in the minutes.

Proposer and a seconder that the previous minutes be accepted as a true record – vote

Proposed	Gordon Moore	Seconder	Rob Morrice
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All voted in favour

**President's Report**

Royal Marines Band Plymouth performed several concerts in New Zealand between the 27th of September and the 3rd of October. The 2 Auckland concerts were well attended by our members who also had the opportunity to chat to the guys and girls. There were 6 outstanding performances as we would expect and all getting excellent feedback. At the Blenheim concert on the 29th of September our member, Will Trollope (NO25825W) found himself sitting next to a 95 year old ex Royal who was as sharp as a button. Sid Cooper (CH X 1160) joined the Corps in 1935 and served for 12 years, spanning the Second World War



years, before moving to New Zealand in 1957. His father and grandfather were also both ex-Royals.

Peter spoke to Len Cox who reluctantly tendered his resignation recently but said that he was having difficulty reading correspondence and he lived too far away. However, he did pass on his best wishes to everyone in the RMA. Brian Burgess, ChCh based, has also tendered his resignation as he will be mostly UK based going forward.

Peter phoned our member Bill Hinde whose e-mails were bouncing back undeliverable. He is no longer on e-mail and Peter will send him hard copy documentation. He is coming up for 90 but he asked Peter to pass onto our members that he is in good health and has very fond memories of his time with the Association.

Peter received an e-mail yesterday from Barbara Lawrence in Kent. She is the niece of Fred Cope who was a Second World War commando sergeant. He moved to NZ in 1953 and stayed for the rest of his life. He passed away on the 7th of October in Tauranga at the age of 92. His funeral is on Monday the 14th of October and we are desperately trying to get some representation. His wife is in a rest home in Tauranga. Barbara has requested some RMA representation. **Post meeting note:** David & Heather Bailey and George Wooton attended the funeral and David said a few words on behalf of the Royal Marines and the Association. David has since e-mailed Barbara with a summary and Barbara and her 10 cousins in the UK were very appreciative.

Peter received an e-mail from the Secretary of the Devonport RSA enquiring about a Royal Marine who served in HMS Gambia during the Second World War and stayed in NZ afterwards. His name was Elliot Walter Russell with a Service Number of 20623. He was born in Portsmouth in 1904. Peter sought advice from Major Mark Bentinck the Corps Historian, but very little information was forthcoming. Major Bentinck has contacted the Devonport RSA to say we have tried our best, but could not find very much.

Dave Vaudrey (ex RM Sigs) arrives in Auckland next Thursday, the 17th of October, and hopes to be at the Corps Birthday

Nathan Jones (ex Royal Marine) is a recent arrival in Blenheim where he has family ties. PO42693C he joined in 1982 with 169 Troop and transferred to the Army in 1998, where he served for a total of 31 years. He eventually left as a Captain and is joining the NZDF - details to follow. Our member, Chalky Carr, helped him with the immigration process and entry into the NZDF and has regular communication with him. Chalky is also in communication with Dave Workman who has recently moved from Auckland to Ashburton. Dave was at our last meeting, and Chalky is supporting him in Ashburton.



Peter has had a mail from John (Windy) Windibank who served from 1958 to 1982 as a DL. He was hoping to be visiting NZ in January or February of next year but it is not now looking likely.

Peter has also had a mail from Paul (Brad) Bradshaw who left the Corps in 1999 and now works and lives in Indonesia as an Occupational Health & Safety and Risk Management Manager. He will be visiting NZ sometime in November/December and will be in touch, hopefully to have a few beers together.

Peter got an e-mail from the daughter of a guy who is a carer for a 94 year old former Royal who lives in Tauranga. She was enquiring whether any of our members might be able to pay him a visit – George Francis. Peter thought of Spyder Webb and Gibby who are two guys from Te Awamutu, and they are going to visit him. Rob asked to be kept in the loop as he often goes to Tauranga and would be happy to call in on him.

We have been advised that several guys from Hasler Company (rehab company for injured guys) will be on a sailing leg from Australia to New Zealand in the next few weeks. Peter has emailed CSgt Marty Wilkin and is awaiting a reply. It was thought they may be arriving with the tall ships that dock in to Auckland later this month.

We had some communications in 2012 with an ex-Royal, Pincher Martyn, who was the father of another ex-Royal, David Martyn, who was shot in the leg in Afghanistan and medically discharged. David was going through the immigration process for a work visa to visit New Zealand. We were looking to offer him some support when he arrived here. Peter sought an update recently and was advised that David had gone into the Maritime Security Business and is working with a company that is headed up by another ex-Bootneck. Both Pincher and David expressed their thanks for our offer of support. Pip had also offered to do some work for him at the time, but that is not necessary.

Due to increasing work commitments Philip Ayling will not be able to chase up donations for our Corps Birthday raffle this year. Therefore we all need to rally round to seek or provide donations - no donation too small. Peter has received an email from our member, Maria Harvey at Watties and they are providing prizes again. Maria had to work very hard to get them this year. Peter always does thank you letters and emails, and will also be extending thanks to Alice Small at Watties.

Gordon and Gloria undertook to provide a small cake for the Corps Birthday celebration. They have got the cake 12 x 15 cm and cost \$80. They have yet to get the icing and marzipan, which will probably cost another \$80.

Mick McMahon has been investigating the provision of Pussers Rum for the Corps Birthday and the cost would come in close to \$200.00. As we have already voted in \$300.00 for toasting wine can we justify this or should we replace wine next year with a tot? Mick said



the cheapest rum is \$60 and we would need 3 or 4 bottles. Do we want to spend that much money and will it get drunk? For this year Peter felt we should go for wine or rum, as the cost of both would be \$600 and that is a bit excessive. Proposition to stay with wine for this year and look at either or both for next year (350th birthday). Could even go with half and half next year.

The decision was to go with wine only this year as previously agreed.

Peter sent a mail on the 10th of September to all those who had not yet paid their subs – can Rob provide Peter with an updated list of defaulters please? 27 people had not paid their subs. Peter received the Exeter Branch newsletter. They had 103 paid up members (lost 15) as they ceased the membership for guys who would not pay. Peter has sent some stiff letters out saying their membership will be suspended or ended if they do not pay soon. Dave Glen offered to ring them up.

Peter received the Summer 2013 edition of The Blue Band Magazine and forwarded it onto Jim Roots. It is a quite outstanding publication, and has a new section called 'Sticks' which is for bugles. Jim passed it on to Max. Max is to give a copy to Joe.

#### **Inward Correspondence:**

Various emails received have been covered in the President's report above.

#### **Outward Correspondence**

Peter has written to Heinz Watties seeking raffle prize donations.

#### **New Members**

Nathan Jones (Blenheim). Peter said he has a very impressive service history. He has paid his subs. Peter asked if there was any reason why he could not be a member. All voted in favour.

#### **Vice President's Report**

Mick said it was nice to see so many people at the Band concert. There maybe some RMA people coming over from 1 Assault Group and they maybe here for the Corps Birthday. Mick introduced more of the Corps history. He found a 'friendship cup' or quaich cup. He wanted to donate it as he felt it would be nice to be held by the association and to be used for visitors. However, the cup needs a bottle of Pussers Rum for sharing in the cup. Mick said he would donate the cup to the RMA if the RMA donates the rum.



### **Treasurer's Report**

Cheque Account	\$5,406.61
Ready Saver Account	\$2,753.49
Term Deposit Account	\$6,724.82
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$14,884.92</u></b>

**Incoming** since last meeting (from 10<sup>th</sup> August to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013):

✓	\$120 Subs
✓	\$252 for Corps Birthday (with additional \$21 not yet banked)
✓	\$104 donation
✓	\$20.32 interest from the bank (\$16.87 interest current account/\$3.45 ready account)

### **Outgoing**

- \$75 flowers for a member who has been undergoing chemotherapy

### **Secretary's Report**

Joann said that Auckland Museum was commemorating the Anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele.

### **Entertainments Rep's Report**

Not heard from Marty. It was indicated that he is going for a commission and Peter has every confidence in him.

### **Standard Bearer's Report**

Gordon said it will next be paraded at Armistice Day in November. Will not be going to St. Matthews church as it has become less appropriate for the RMA. The Standard will now be paraded at the Domain. Peter will do the appropriate correspondence.

### **Sick Visitor's Report**

We sent flowers to our member, Vanessa Jones, following her initial and ongoing administrations of chemotherapy. Vanessa sent a lovely thank you e-mail and Peter sent this on to members. Dave Glen has not got cardiac issues as was first diagnosed but will still not be able to make the Corps Birthday due to other commitments.

### **Globe & Laurel Report:**



Submission sent 1<sup>st</sup> September - e-mail and hard copies were sent out - copies were available at the meeting.

**Webmaster's Report:**

N/A

**Propositions:**

The tickets for our Guest of Honour, Padre and his wife and Commander Turner and his wife be paid for from our funds - \$105.00 (5 x \$21)

**Approved by:** Max Beare      Seconded by: Bill Houston  
Carried unanimously

That a sum not to exceed \$60.00 is made available to Mick to purchase toasting rum for the quach cup. Mick is to keep the quach cup and the rum as they go together as one item.

**Approved by:** Mick McMahon      Seconded by: Dave Glen  
Carried unanimously

**General Business**

Peter is in possession of the book Nothing Impossible – effectively a colourful history of the Corps from 1664 to current date. If anyone wants to borrow it please contact Peter.

Dave had quite a few RMA books as he used to look after the Corps regalia. He suggested that the Quartermaster now look after them and Ticker took them on for Phil.

Harold said we used to have a list of phone numbers and addresses and could we have another one. This was discussed at a previous meeting that Harold missed. However, Rob said he could do a Contact list with name, region, email and phone number only so people who are travelling could visit other members.

**IF YOU WOULD RATHER NOT BE ON THE CONTACT LIST PLEASE ADVISE PETER ASAP.**

Max has made more CDs. Cost \$6.00 – that only covers his cost, no profit.

**Next Meeting**

- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 1400 at Pt Chevalier RSA
- The meeting closed at 15.17.