



**Minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the New Zealand Branch of the RMA
Held at
Point Chevalier RSA, Auckland
15th February 2014**

Attendees:

Ticker Ayling	Philip Ayling	Colin Campbell
Steve & Tina Campbell	Gill Collins	Peter Collins (President)
Dave Glen	Noel & Barbara Harker	Vince & Beryl Harris
Bill Houston	Pusser Hill	Mick McMahon (Vice President)
Gordon & Gloria Moore	Rob Morrice (Treasurer)	Dee & Jim Roots
Joann Steel (Secretary)	Pip Townend	Dave Vaudrey

Apologies:

Bob Battersby	Max & Kath Beare	David & Heather Bailey
Nathan Jones	Vanessa Jones	Marty Kavanagh
Jacqui Mellamphy	Lev Leatherland	Ken Weldon

Meeting opened at 14.10

- Loyal Toast to Her Majesty the Queen
- Royal Marines Prayer recited by Steve Campbell
- A moment's silence for fallen comrades was observed.
- Welcome to Steve & Tina Campbell who have been members for some time, but today made the trip down from Wellsford. Steve has taken on our website (more details further in the minutes).

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Matters Arising

The subject of a full membership list being available for all members had been discussed and Rob said he could do a contact list with name, region, e-mail and phone number only so people could visit or contact other members. However, Rob said some members had concerns in respect of the security aspect of it being on the web.

Rob said that only name, email and Service Number would be included and if members want their phone number on they should contact Rob directly and he will include that.

Peter and Rob will send out an APB to all members to see if they want their details to go on or not, and Rob will co-ordinate it from there.

If you really do NOT WANT your details on this list please contact Rob asap.

Peter thanked Rob (and Sally) for their efforts.



Peter stated that no business case has been presented to propose an alternative venue for this year's Corps Birthday celebration, so it is assumed that everyone is happy to stay with the Birkenhead RSA. However, there did follow some discussion around possible alternative venues, but Peter re-iterated that no member had put forward a business case for an alternative venue, even though it had been noted in the previous minutes.

Peter asked for a volunteer to Project Manage any business case review. In the end it was agreed that it should be led by Marty as Entertainments Member, with Dave Glen assisting and Peter to help as required.

The issue that members had with the Birkenhead RSA was the noise from the upstairs bar area. Peter said he would take this up with Garry Cooley, the RSA Manager, to request that no noise conflicts with our celebration this year.

Dave Vaudrey offered to go into Auckland to see what deals he could get on a hotel for a venue, with entertainment and possibly cheap rooms for staying overnight. He will do it as soon as possible and then email Peter with his findings.

Peter said that Birkenhead have always looked after us extremely well at every Corps Birthday, and we should think very carefully about letting them down by not having it there this year. Rob suggested maybe we could have a meet and greet there on the Friday night, and then have the main function in the city. Peter thought this a good idea, but people may not be able to afford both events.

The Corps Birthday date for this year was agreed as Sunday the 26th of October. Peter will write formally to the Governor General in the next week to invite him to be our Guest of Honour. Garry Cooley at the Birkenhead RSA has confirmed availability and Peter will write to the caterer in the next week **(once venue confirmed)** If the Governor General accepts the invitation to speak this year, then getting some media attention would be sought.

Vince asked if we had sufficient funds to help out of area members attend the birthday this year. Peter said we had and that is something that will be looked in to.

By the time of the next meeting we should have all the facts and information available so that we can make a **FIRM** decision for the Corps birthday venue.

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

Proposed

Vince Harris

Secunder

Gordon Moore

All voted in favour



President's Report

Steve Campbell (web manager) has recently taken responsibility for updating and seriously enhancing our web site as Darren Wood has maintained a low profile. Steve gave a brief update of the new website:

The old version lived on the back of Tony Smith's site from Australia. This meant Tony had to change anything on our behalf, which was not ideal. Steve said he wanted a website that looked similar and people could click on photos etc for more information.

The CMS (Contact Manager Site) makes it easier to change items and to keep information updated in the longer term. Members emails will be added to the site via a link as this will stop spam being sent to them. Steve's current ideas include photos of the committee, small biographies and to have Peter do a video welcome. Steve has also updated our Absent Friends (previously Crossed the Bar) page.

Darren had created a FaceBook Page – we can either use the one we have got, or create a new one. We look to Steve's advice on that one please.

Peter thanked Steve for his great effort in taking our web site to a new level.

Here is the link to the new RMA website:

<http://www.royal-marines-association-new-zealand.org>

Peter recently received the latest quarterly edition of the Blue Band magazine and passed it onto Jim Roots for further circulation amongst our Band Service members. It is an excellent publication and it contains an article on the Plymouth Band visit to New Zealand and a letter from our member Max Beare, on that same subject.

The previous minutes told of a former Royal Marine by the name of Ted Cox who now lives in Christchurch. Ted served in World War 2 with 40 Commando – he is now aged 90 and suffers from Parkinson's disease. His daughter, Jacqui, is now on Peter's e-mail distribution list and has asked if she can remain on that list after Ted's passing (Update from Chalky Carr – he e-mailed her recently but has had no response to date).

Peter received an e-mail from ex Royal Brad Bradshaw who lives and works in Indonesia – he will be arriving in Christchurch on the 29th of April and would like to meet up with any other ex Royals for a beer or 2. He served in a GD and Sigs capacity from 1992 to 1999 with a Service Number of PO53280B. Peter sent an APB out to the members inviting ChCh based members to respond.

Former WO2 (S) Ted Palmer and his wife, Gill will be visiting NZ from the 27th of March to the 14th of April. Ted is hoping to attend our bi-monthly meeting on the 12th of April. A



number of us met up with them in O'Hagans on the Viaduct when they visited a couple of years ago. They are going through the immigration process and hope to be NZ residents fairly soon, and then hopefully a new RMA member.

Phil is categorising all the remaining memorabilia and Dave would like to put some history and story behind the items. The contents of our memorabilia cabinet have been scanned and photographed for tracking and tracing purposes in the event that any are stolen – many thanks to Phil Ayling, our Quartermaster for taking on this project.

Phil said he had created an asset register for all our items. These are either in the cabinet or held by either Phil or Peter. The asset register contains information to identify them should they be stolen. Unfortunately there is no history to a lot of them. Phil has photos of them all and he will arrange for them to go on the website. If you see anything on the website and you know the history, please let Steve C know and he can update the website. Phil is also going to print out a list for the next meeting and if anyone sees anything that they know the history on, please fill out the information or let Phil know.

At the last meeting there were discussions in respect of a special edition of the NZ Branch of the RMA polo shirt to be made to commemorate the 350th Corps Birthday next year. Peter asked for a volunteer to take this project on. Phil Ayling agreed to do it, BUT on the condition that if he is given a size and colour of a shirt HE CANNOT CHANGE IT if the size is incorrect or the colour wrong. Phil only orders what is required. He is happy for suggestions for types of shirt. Dave Glen offered to help Phil and will get some quotes.

Inward Correspondence:

A Christmas card and donation of 200 pounds to our funds has been received from Frank Atkins – he was the best mate of a former RM Jock Fraser who died in NZ 3 or 4 years ago. Frank was so impressed with how the RMA looked after Jock that he has never forgotten it. Peter did have trouble cashing the cheque and ended up using his own UK bank account. \$400 has now been added to the RMA funds. Peter reiterated that all the transactions are transparent and fully auditable.

Outward Correspondence

Various e-mail responses covered off as above.

New Members

None this period.

Vice President's Report

Mick added that the quake cup and the two Standards need to be added to the asset register.



Treasurer's Report

Cheque Account	\$5,234.66
Ready Saver Account	\$2,760.46
Term Deposit Account	\$6,775.12
Total	<u>\$14,770.24</u>

Incoming since last meeting

\$400.00 donation from Frank Atkins

Outgoing

\$70 paid to reimburse Peter for the Globe and Laurel payment that he had made in Sterling.

It was stated that there was a lot of money in our current account – could some of it be moved to an interest account. There are various types of accounts around that pay interest but have no penalty for withdrawals. Mick stated that it had been looked at previously, but there was an issue around it as the RMA is a non-profit organisation. Rob is going to check this out with Ian Pallas, our auditor. Ian will be doing our annual audit in April/May for our AGM in June.

Secretary's Report - Nothing to report

Entertainments Rep's Report - Not in attendance

Standard Bearer's Report -

The standard was last paraded at Waiuku for Armistice Day in November. There was a low turnout. The next parade will be on ANZAC Day at the Point Chevalier RSA.

Sick Visitor's Report

Ken Weldon sent an email to Peter

"I enjoyed a brief stay on Christmas Eve to New Years Day in ward 2 of Hamilton Hospital after an operation on my bowel which needed straightening out. And it wasn't through drinkies etc. My current condition is that I'm fit and healthy and so far no problems. When I get the call-up to go and see the result at the Waikato Hospital shortly I'll then know, officially, what the urgency was to have an immediate operation on Christmas Eve. All the very best at the meeting"

Max was not well today either and unfortunately was not able to attend with Kath and Joe Simms.



Vanessa Jones is terminally ill with cancer and has been fighting it for 5 years. She has just completed another round of chemo, but her results have been very good. Very best of luck Vanessa

Post Meeting Note: Harold Robinson is currently in Auckland Hospital and his daughter Diane advises: “Essentially it’s the prostate cancer that is causing pain and plumbing issues on top of all his other ailments”.

Post Meeting Note: Gill Collins underwent a hip replacement operation on Wednesday and is recovering well. Peter is re-discovering the joys of domestic chores!!

We wish Ken, Max, Vanessa, Harold and Gill all the very best and send our regards.

Globe & Laurel Report:

A submission was sent on the 1st of January - e-mail and hard copies were sent out. A further submission will be made before the 28th of this month. - Copies were available at the meeting.

Webmaster’s Report:

Darren Wood is still officially our elected Webmaster so Steve Campbell has assumed the Web Manager’s role and title.

Propositions:

None

General Business

Peter will send out an APB in respect of the ANZAC day parade and wreath laying at the Point Chevalier RSA.

Phil mentioned the noise at Pt Chev sometimes causes issues during the meetings. There is not a lot we can do as it is for the RSA members and it is their club. However, when Joann approaches them about a meeting she will ask if it conflicts with anything overly noisy, and, if so, possibly look at moving the meeting to the week before or the week after. Another suggestion was to move the meeting time to make it earlier before the RSA gets busy e.g. Noon.

Ticker is going to Australia to visit his sister. He will be going to the Queensland Association and will pass on our best wishes, and give them a pennant.



Next Meeting: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO START TIME

- Saturday the **12th April at NOON** at Pt Chevalier RSA
- The meeting closed at 15.15

Post Meeting

The question arose at the meeting re the whereabouts of the book "Nothing Impossible" and Peter sent out an APB. Phil Turner is in possession and will bring it along to the next meeting.