



**Minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the New Zealand Branch of the RMA**

**Held at**

**Point Chevalier RSA, Auckland**

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**Attendees:**

Ticker Ayling	Philip Ayling	David & Heather Bailey
Gill Collins	Peter Collins (President)	Dave Glen
Peter Griffin	Marty Kavanagh	Lev Leatherland
Mick McMahon (Vice President)	Jacqui Mellamphy	Gordon & Gloria Moore
Rob Morrice (Treasurer)	Jim Roots	Pip Townend
Phil & Jackie Turner		

**Apologies:**

Max Beare	Colin Campbell	Steve Campbell
Noel Harker	Vince & Beryl Harris	Pusser Hill
Bill Houston	Vanessa Jones	Harold Robinson
Joe Simms	Joann Steel (Secretary)	Dave Vaudrey

Meeting opened at 12.10

Loyal Toast to Her Majesty the Queen

- Royal Marines Prayer recited by Peter Griffin
- A moment's silence for fallen comrades was observed.
- Welcome to Ted Palmer ex WO2 Signals who is currently in New Zealand on holiday.

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

There is an abbreviated members' contact list for our web site. Rob gave an update on this issue and it was agreed that a members' directory could be promulgated to include e-mail addresses and telephone numbers. The message from the previous minutes was repeated i.e. If you really do not want your details to go on this list please contact Rob ASAP. It was agreed that if Rob didn't hear from members in the next couple of weeks or so the assumption would be that they were quite happy with their details being loaded.

350th Corps Birthday – it was proposed that this subject would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

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

Proposed	Gordon Moore	Secunder	Dave Glen
	Carried Unanimously		



## **President's Report**

Phil Ayling has submitted our completed Asset Register to the Point Chevalier RSA and it is now on our web site. Many thanks to Phil for all your hard work. It came out that Jacqui has also put a lot of work into this venture and thanks were given to her. Phil made a plea that if anyone had any further details of any of the items that they should contact him – donors, circumstances etc.

Our member, Peter Griffin, will be giving a presentation to the 3rd Auckland and Northland Regimental Association on his experience during the Falklands War. The presentation will be at 1900 on Friday the 30th of May at the Auckland Army Centre, Arch Hill in Grey Lynn, Auckland. All are welcome to attend.

Donnie McLeod, an RMA member in Scotland, who served with RMR Scotland is looking to work in New Zealand for a period of time fairly soon. He sent an email seeking help with accommodation and has received 5 offers; in terms of locality and convenience etc Pusser Hill would probably be best placed to offer him support. A great effort and we can work it out once his full details are confirmed.

Our member, Steve Campbell, has a mate (Ex WO2 Signals), Keith Talbot who has stickers made up and he sells them, with all the proceeds going to the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund. Peter recently sent out an APB canvassing demand and he had some samples available at the meeting. They are also available on our website @ <http://www.royal-marines-association-new-zealand.org/rm-stickers/4583574970>  
Anyone interested please advise Steve direct.

Graeme Poole from the Point Chevalier RSA contacted Peter recently. The RSA is putting together an information booklet on all RSA business and associates. Peter has sent him the document "A brief history of the Royal Marines in New Zealand" and also the official Corps and Unit Memorable Dates listings. If there are any other suggestions please send them to Peter.

Graeme Poole also told us that any of our members would be most welcome to the regular meetings/outings/functions etc hosted by the 3rd Auckland and Northland Regimental Association – there web site is [www.lemonsqueezer.com](http://www.lemonsqueezer.com)

Our member, Chalky Carr, had dinner with the daughter of ex Royal, Ted Cox, in Christchurch on Wednesday. Ted's son-in-law is the President of the Canterbury Club and he made mention of the Corps' 350th birthday this year. Ted is doing OK, but sadly it seems it is only a matter of time. We wish him all the very best and Chalky will keep us updated.



The current editor of the G & L, Captain John Hillyer, is retiring and they are advertising that role as of August this year. John is a personal friend of our President and he has provided outstanding service to our branch. Peter will send a formal thank you to John.

The annual ANZAC Day Parade will be held at the Point Chevalier RSA on Friday the 25th of April. At the time of the meeting Peter is awaiting detailed instructions/timings etc and on receipt he will send out an APB. It is believed that muster time at the RSA is 1000 hrs but the APB will confirm this. **Post meeting note – APB sent out 22<sup>nd</sup> of April**

### **Inward Correspondence:**

Various E-mails received have been covered off as above.

Peter received a very nice letter from our member, Peter Coombe thanking him for the bi-monthly mail packages that he sends out to our none-email members. He also sent a 1995 branch newsletter, and if anyone is interested speak to Peter. A second package also arrived with a selection of dated minutes and newsletters that are available for anyone who is interested.

### **Outward Correspondence**

- Peter has sent an Invitation to the Governor-General to be our Guest of Honour at the Corps Birthday. **Post meeting note – he has had to decline due to a conflicting engagement. Peter will now write to the Chief of Navy.**
- Peter responded to Peter Coombe above.
- Various E-mails received have been covered off as above

### **New Members**

- Chris Reid (CO36684M) Naval Medical Officer – served with 40 Cdo RM, RM Poole, SBS and RNH Haslar – welcome on board Chris and hopefully we will see you at the Corps Birthday celebration, if not before.

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

Mick had nothing to report at this stage but was preparing to be a lead player in the Corps Birthday discussions to follow.

### **Treasurer's Report as of 10/04/2014**

Current Account	\$5,165.83
Ready Saver	\$2,763.81
Term Deposit	\$6,808.53
	<hr/> <hr/>
	<b>\$14,738.17</b>



**Incoming** since last meeting (from 12th Feb to 10th April 2014)

- \$125 Subs
- \$22.68 bank interest

**Outgoing**

- \$144.67 for RMA Website
- \$68.49 for Pussers Rum for cup of  
friendship

**Secretary's Report** - Not present

**Entertainments Rep's Report** -

Marty is still working on the social for the 7th of June when England will play the All Blacks at Eden Park. It is likely that only the tickets costs will be up front and that members will pay individually for the Indian meal and drinks. Marty will send out an admin order with further details – good on you Marty and many thanks.

**Standard Bearer's Report** -

As above re ANZAC Day Parade at the Point Chevalier RSA on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Sick Visitor's Report**

- Harold Robinson spent some time recently in Auckland hospital. His daughter, Diane, advised "Essentially it's the prostate cancer that is causing pain and plumbing issues on top of all his other ailments". Harold left hospital on the 24th of March and is doing OK.
- Gill Collins has made a very good recovery from her hip replacement operation and thanked all the members for the lovely flowers that she received.
- Joann Steel has also undergone hernia surgery recently and is recovering well.

**Globe & Laurel Report:**

Submission sent 28th of February. Copies are always sent out to our members and were available at the meeting. A further submission will be made before the 28th of this month. Peter will make thanks on behalf of the branch to the retiring editor, John Hillyer, in that submission.

**Webmaster's Report:**

Apologies were received from Steve. Many thanks for your continued efforts Steve, they are very much appreciated.



**Propositions:** None

**General Business**

Ticker explained that he had spent some time in Queensland recently and had met up with the RMAQ members. He passed on the best wishes from all of our members and they reciprocated.

David Bailey gave a resume of his recent visit to the UK. He and Heather attended the Mountbatten Festival of Music at the Royal Albert Hall. It seems there is a swing from the more traditional music to “alternative” music and it also seems that the Commandant General remained anonymous as the presenter made no mention of his being in attendance!! David and Heather also attended the 40 Commando Association’s 350th Gala Anniversary Dinner “oop North”. They brought along glossy brochures for both events for the members to peruse.

Ted Palmer was a most welcome guest once again. The last time he was in NZ and attended our meeting he gave us a summary of his Corps career. This time around he gave us an update on the current status of his and Gill’s quest to achieve immigration status. We wish them all the very best in that respect and look forward to seeing Ted more regularly going forward.

**350<sup>th</sup> Corps Birthday issues:**

The Corps Birthday date for this year was agreed as Sunday the 26th of October. Peter has written formally to the Governor General to invite him to be our Guest of Honour. In the likely event that may not be successful we will look to the Chief of Navy.

In respect of the venue, 3 avenues have been reviewed:

1. An enhanced version of the celebration that we have annually at the Birkenhead RSA. This would include champagne, a commemorative glass embossed with a suitable logo, enhanced decoration of the room and potentially some live music.
2. An Auckland hotel celebration – Dave Vaudrey has done extensive research but this is an expensive option and we would be totally in the hands of the hotel management and staff and they would not understand just how special the occasion is to us? It could become quite impersonal? The consensus was that options 1 and 3 are more favoured.
3. A celebration at the Devonport Naval Base in Auckland – this would be pretty much dependent on the approval of the XO of HMNS PHILOMEL to use the Wardroom and Peter will write to her in the next week if this is the preferred option, however Mick advises that she will need some serious persuasion to swing it our way. This option



would be quite pricey but potentially could be a brilliant celebration. Mick McMahon drilled down into detail; the proposal is for a dinner more aligned to a Regimental Dinner, with silver service (stewards) in a military environment and with musical accompaniment provided by the Royal New Zealand Navy Band. Some protocols would be observed but would be as relaxed as possible. If this was the preferred option the intention would be to invite the Presidents of both the Point Chevalier and Birkenhead RSAs together with their partners. Also the manager of the Birkenhead RSA, Garry Cooley and his wife. Garry's father was a member of our branch before he passed away a few years ago. The dress code would have to be agreed but Peter advised that he would expect either black ties or neck ties and no jeans and jandals!! We would also be seeking the use of the Naval Base Chapel for our Church Service. It was agreed that Peter would prepare his draft submission letter to the XO and share it with a selection of our members prior to submission. If our request was to be unsuccessful the Warrant Officers and Senior Rates Mess may be an alternative but will not offer the same advantages as the Wardroom. **Post meeting note: submission letter sent 17<sup>th</sup> of April.**

Phil spoke in detail about the special edition of the NZ Branch of the RMA polo shirt to be made to commemorate the 350th Corps Birthday – a sample was provided by Phil. It was agreed that a Navy Blue version would be preferred to the black one available. Provision would be on an order and pay individual basis but Phil did cover it off with a caveat that he “didn't want to be mucked around”. A fair call Phil. The cost would be approximately \$28.00 with a wee bit more on the top for the embroidery. That would be considered a serious bargain. Phil will follow up.

The provision of 350th birthday commemorative glassware for all attendees was discussed. If option 1 above is the chosen venue these items could be at no cost to individuals. If options 2 & 3 above are chosen we would probably have to do these on an order and pay individual basis. Phil again demonstrated examples. The logo for the Polo shirts and the glassware was discussed and a show of hands came down heavily in favour of the “Timeless Distinction” example that is most prevalent in the UK.

The provision of champagne was discussed but would probably only be an option if the Birkenhead RSA is the chosen venue? Port would be the preference if the Wardroom or hotel venue is taken up.

It was agreed that a contribution of \$100.00 per member should be given to any long distance travelers to attend the Corps Birthday – primarily air travellers. This will need to be proposed and accepted at a subsequent meeting.



RMA NSW Sydney is seeking any attendees travelling from New Zealand to their celebration. Peter had sent out an APB to members to respond directly if they intended to attend that celebration.

**Next Meeting: PLEASE NOTE MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY STARTING AT 1200HRS**

- Saturday the **14<sup>th</sup> June at NOON** at Pt Chevalier RSA; the bi-monthly meeting will be followed immediately by our AGM
- The meeting closed at 13.40