



**Minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the New Zealand Branch of the RMA
Held at Point Chevalier RSA, Auckland 10th October 2015**

Attendees

Peter & Gill Collins	Mick McMahon	Rob Morrice
Gordon & Gloria Moore	Marty Kavanagh	Ticker Ayling
Bob Garrett	Pusser Hill	Phil Turner
David & Heather Bailey	Martin James	Phil Ayling
Jacqui Mellamphy		

Apologies

Bruce Cain	Nathan Jones,	Noel Harker
Dave Vaudrey		

The Loyal Toast – “Ladies and Gentlemen the Queen”

Royal Marines Prayer recited by: Bob Garrett

A moment’s silence for Fallen Comrades

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Peter received no follow up re the Red Badge Security issue and no follow up re the letter received from Ken Gibson. No further matters arising from the previous minutes. Proposed by Marty Kavanagh and seconded by Pusser Hill that the previous minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried unanimously.

New Business

President’s Report:

An internal review was completed and reported on by Brigadier Ian Huntley into the Sergeant Alexander Blackman circumstances but only a redacted version was made public. Peter sent it out by an APB under cover of a RMA Rep Net Supplemental. We had a good response in respect of making donations to the fund that was set up to support him and his family. Proposition to follow.

The most recent RMA Reporting Network issue stated that “One possible element of the re-examination of the Sgt Blackman case is to consider his state of mind at the time of the killing.” This is routinely done in civilian murder cases. His legal team is keen to hear from anyone who, from their own direct personal experience, might be able to comment on this. A protest will be held in Parliament square on the Corps Birthday.

Peter received an e-mail from our member, Mac Hine in respect of our funds and long term deposits and basically asking the question “What are we saving for?” Peter sent a detailed reply advising that all our events are currently Auckland based. We need someone from out of the Auckland area to grab the bull by the horns and get something organized – just as Jock Munro did twice in Taupo. There would be money available to subsidize any such event. We do have a number of members in the Christchurch area so maybe one of them could start planning something. And any other suggestions would be more than welcome. Mac also said that he wouldn’t be attending the Corps Birthday this year as \$50.00 is “way over the top for what is provided”. He suggested subsidizing All Blacks games and socials but again that is only really Auckland



based – unless Christchurch take it up also. He suggested travel expenses to attend the Corps Birthday – we offered that last time round and got 2 takers. Mac does have a good point however and we should have a collective head scratching session. The committee is open to suggestions.

There is a possibility we could be having a Landing Craft Officer from the UK working with the NZDF and who has received Mick's invite to attend the Corps Birthday – Major Leon Marshall. **Post meeting note – he is not able to make it.**

Peter, Mick, Mac Hine, Vince and Beryl Harris attended a UK Armed Forces Day lunch and reception at the RNZAF Whenuapai Air Base on the 17th of September hosted by the UK Defence Advisor out of the High Commission. This is the third year this event has been held and it would be a shame not to fill the six allocated slots at next year's event.

Inward Correspondence:

Peter received a very nice e-mail from our member, Pip Townend, expressing his sincere thanks for the flowers we sent him.

Peter received an e-mail from ex RMBS member, Bill Hartland enquiring about his buddy, Max Beare. Bill phoned Max from the UK and Peter followed up with a call also. Vince Harris lives fairly close to Max and keeps an eye out for him.

Outward Correspondence:

Nil

Vice President's Report:

NTR

Treasurer's Report:

- Current Statement as of 8/10/2015
 - Current Account \$4,951.29
 - Ready Saver \$2,801.88
 - Term Deposit \$7,015.93
- \$14,769.10
- Ingoing since last meeting (from 13th August to 8th October 2015)
 - \$60 Subs, \$100 donation (P Ayling) and \$47.29 total interest payments.
 - \$1,650 Corps Birthday
 - \$750 donation to the Sgt Blackman Family Support Fund

Outgoing

- \$80 for flowers for Pip.
- \$87.12 for Globe and Laurel Subscription
- Other notes:
- Richard Fletcher paid last year but never attended his refund cheque (\$40) was never used asked if his if it could be carried over .



Other notes:

Not had time to coordinate with Peter around organizing time for restructuring of bank accounts

Secretary's Report:

Nothing to report

Standard Bearer's Report:

Gordon and Gloria have re-located to Rotorua – we need a volunteer to take over as our Standard Bearer. Gordon would like it to be recorded that he came to the decision of relinquishing the role with much difficulty as he had greatly enjoyed it and had taken great pleasure in representing the branch. He kindly volunteered to continue in the role until such time as a volunteer could be found. The President acknowledged Gordon's input and the members thanked him with a round of applause. Should he be required to undertake the role until a successor is in place our funds would cover his travelling expenses. Ticker kindly offered to provide any drill instruction required by the new volunteer.

Entertainment Member's Report:

It was tabled that the Auckland members be contacted to enquire as to whether they would be willing to provide accommodation for outlying members should they visit the city. Pusser agreed to send out an APB email.

Sick Visitor's Report:

Kathe Beare had a fall and broke her hip. She also suffered a stroke and was admitted to North Shore Hospital. Jackie Turner visited her and took some flowers on our behalf, but unfortunately she was asleep during both visits. Kim Kavanagh is well on the road to recovery

Globe & Laurel Report:

Our Branch submission was sent on the 28th of August and by way of an APB. Our next submission will be sent at the end of this month.

Webmaster's Report

Nothing to report

Any Other Committee Members Report

- none

Propositions

That the sum of \$500.00 be sent to RMA Head Office as a donation towards the Sergeant Blackman family support fund

Proposed by: David Bailey

Seconded by: Marty Kavanagh

Carried unanimously



Corps Birthday

Mick – This year we will be using the Senior Rates Fleet Mess at HMNZS PHILOMEL, the same venue as last year,

The GOH is the Commanding Officer of HMNZS PHILOMEL, Capt Maxine Lawes RNZN

11:30 onwards - arrive ready for the church service.

12:00 Church service – Chaplain Peter Olds

Bugler for Last Post and Reveille as arranged by Marty.

Lunch 13:30 – same company as last year, Last Spit Roast- will not be quite as formal as last year

Raffle – Phil has agreed to run it in Brendon’s absence. It was decided the proceeds should continue to be donated to the RMCTF.

Any other Business

Gloria & Gordon would like to say a big thank you to Rob and his son for all the help they provided for their move to Rotorua.

Phil Ayling raised his concerns over the lack of maintenance being carried out on the website and asked when it would be updated. Peter confirmed Steve Campbell was still in the UK but would report on it at the next meeting.

Phil Ayling raised his concerns and disappointment over the lack of volunteers for the Standard Bearer position. Peter will send out an ABP e-mail asking for volunteers.

Date of Next Meeting – Saturday the 12th of December at 1200 at the Point Chevalier RSA.