



**Minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the New Zealand Branch of the RMA
Held at Point Chevalier RSA, Auckland 11th of April 2015**

Attendees

Peter & Gill Collins	Mick McMahon	Rob Morrice
Gordon & Gloria Moore	Ticker Ayling	Phil Ayling
Jacqui Mellamphy	David & Heather Bailey	Vince & Beryl Harris
Martin James	Dave Vaudrey	Jim & Dee Roots
Phil & Jacqui Turner	Max & Kath Beare	Dave Glen
Pusser Hill	Pip Townend	

Apologies

Noel Harker	Joe Simms	Joann Steel
Vanessa Jones	Will Fielding	

Meeting opened at 12.10

Loyal Toast to Her Majesty the Queen.

Royal Marines Prayer recited by Jon Seward.

A moment's silence for Fallen Comrades with special thoughts to Steve Combe, his widow, family and friends.

New Members in Attendance - none this time round

Visitors – Jon (Peggy) Seward – ex CSgt PW who served for 23 years, and his partner Debs who are over from the UK visiting family.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Matters Arising

Corps Birthday – see below

Topsy met up with ex Royal Steve Heyworth who was visiting New Zealand recently.

Update on developments in respect of the Term Deposit Account – see Treasurer's Report

Proposed by Gordon Moore and seconded by Pusser Hill that the previous minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried unanimously.

President's Report

ANZAC Day Parade marches off at 1030 Saturday the 25th of April with the Church Service and wreath laying in the Point Chevalier RSA on completion. This year is the 100th anniversary of course.

Former Royal Marines pilot, Stephen Combe, was killed in a helicopter crash near Queenstown on the 19th of February. His funeral was held in Wanaka on Saturday the 28th of February. Our member, Ben Curry represented us and advised ***“I would guess that there were 300+ attendees, including uniformed representatives from the NZ Police, Fire Service and NZDF. As you can imagine it was an emotional service with many of Steve's and his wife Steph's family flying out from the UK to be present. I didn't***



know Steve but the personal tributes centred on his strong Christian faith and his desire to help others. His father wore his medals and spoke how much Steve enjoyed being in the Marines, but also how the war in Iraq was a turning point for him as he struggled to balance his faith with the tasks he was required to undertake, which led to him resigning his commission shortly after Op Telic. An honour guard for the recession of the coffin was made up of uniformed personnel, myself and 10 employees from Over the Top helicopters.” A Service of Thanksgiving will be held in the UK on the 23rd of May.

Peter met up with an ex Royal, Steve Hall at a recent family event; it was not arranged, rather it was a complete coincidence. Steve was a former PT & SO and served for 10 years in the 90s and early two thousands. He is now running his own business in Auckland called “FitForce”. Steve is a good friend of Chalky Carr’s and Peter is working on him joining up with us.

Ex WO2 (Sigs) Ted Palmer who has previously attended a couple of our meetings whilst visiting from the UK has been approved immigration status and hopes to be living in New Zealand by December.

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Guyer Royal Marines has recently passed away as a result of cancer. Simon was a Landing Craft Officer who was well known to Peter, Mick, Chalky and Will Trollope. A Thanksgiving Service is being held in the UK on Tuesday the 14th of April.

Our next meeting in June will double up as the AGM – Peter will be sending out voting documentation etc in the next few weeks.

Outward Correspondence:

Peter wrote to Steve Combe’s widow to express our condolences.

Inward Correspondence

Ben Curry received a very nice e-mail from the parents of Steve Combe. They commented that “It was good to have someone representing the Royal Marines, which, after all represented 1/5th of his life”. They will be organizing a memorial service in the UK in the next couple of months.

A letter from the office of the Governor-General seeking nominations for the ANZAC of the Year award.

Peter received an e-mail from Ray Wares who attended our December meeting whilst over from the UK. He will attend the Brighton RMA meeting in April and will join them then. He will also present our pennant to their Chairman.

Our member, Chalky Carr, had recently received an e-mail from a former Royal Marines Officer, Nick James, advertising the inaugural meeting of “Bootnecks in Business New Zealand” that is to be held on Thursday the 7th of May at 1900 in No 4 Bar in Merivale in Christchurch.

New Members – none since the last meeting

Vice President’s Report – nothing to report

Secretary’s Report Joann had made her apologies.



Treasurer's report

Current Statement as of 10/04/2015

Current Account	\$2,239.72
Ready Saver	\$2,790.77
Term Deposit	\$6,945.73
	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$11,976.22

Ingoing since last meeting (from 13th February to 10th April 2015)

- \$30.00 Subs and \$20.13 interest payments.

Outgoing

- \$52.82 to Pete for Blue Band Magazine
- \$150 MTA Vouchers for travel expenses

Other notes:

- Agreement from members for re-organising time with Pete for restructuring of bank accounts.
- Start collecting subs for new financial year. Some members have already paid. (Peter will send out an e-mail)

Entertainments Rep's Report - No member elected.

Standard Bearer's Report Gordon will take the Standard along to the Point Chevalier RSA but may not be medically fit enough to parade it. Ticker and Gordon will also have the Standard and White Ensign at St Matthew's Church on Sunday the 26th of April

Sick Visitor's Report - Joe Simms had a fall on Thursday and is in Ward 7 of the North Shore Hospital, suffering a broken hip. Dave Glen has been in and out of hospital lately but was looking fit and well.

Globe & Laurel Report:

Our Branch submission was sent on the 3rd of March - copies are always sent out to our members and were available at the meeting.

Webmaster's Report: Nothing raised this time round.

General Business

Rob had recently gone on a school visit to the New Naval Museum. He asked why the Royal Marines items were not on display and was given the answer because they were not a part of the RNZN. Rob raised the issue of Captain Cook in 1769 and that Royal Marines had served on RNZN ships until 1952 including taking part in some famous sea battles e.g. The River Plate. He also pointed out that the X Turret from HMS ACHILLES is in place at the Main Gate to Devonport Naval Base. He was then advised that there was insufficient room for the RM items.



Propositions - There were no propositions

Corps Birthday

Peter had previously sent out an APB seeking feedback in terms of preferred dates, times and venues. On the strength of that feedback the following actions in terms of go forwards were agreed. Subject to final confirmation this year's celebration will be held in Devonport Naval Base on Saturday the 31st of October commencing at 1200 and utilizing the Base Chapel and the Senior Rates Fleet Mess. Tickets would need to be in the region of \$40.00 per person. In respect of our Guest of Honour it was agreed that we would invite CO of HMNZS PHILOMEL (Capt Maxine Lawes RNZN) and her partner. Cdr David Turner RNZN, ex Royal Navy and CO of HMNZS CANTERBURY has now taken up the role of the Executive Officer of HMNZS PHILOMEL. It was agreed that we would also invite David and his wife.

Next Meeting: Saturday the 13th of June at NOON at Pt Chevalier RSA. We will hold our AGM on completion of the bi-monthly meeting.

The meeting closed at 13.10.

On completion of the meeting Jon Seward gave a very interesting summary of his Corps Service and post-Corps activities. John has been a very busy and active man!!

A surprise finger buffet was laid on with a cake for Gordon and Gloria in celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary that occurs on Friday the 17th of April.