



**Minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the New Zealand Branch of the RMA
Held at Point Chevalier RSA, 13th of April 2019**

Attendees

Mick McMahon Rob Morrice Phil & Jackie Turner Peter Collins Noel and Barbara Harker
Ticker Ayling Phil Ayling Jacqui Mellamphy Steve Hall Martin Kavanagh Dave Glen

Apologies

David & Heather Bailey Gordon & Gloria Moore Ted Palmer Cuong Huynh Pip
Townend Bruce Cain, Nathan Jones Peter Coombe Bob Garrett Gill Collins
Richard Wilson (new member)

The Loyal Toast was proposed and drunk to her Majesty the Queen.

The Royal Marines Prayer was recited by Rob Morrice.

A moment's silence was observed in respect of Fallen Comrades. Our special thoughts and prayers went out to our member, John Weth, who crossed the bar recently, and his family and friends.

There were no new members in attendance.

There were no visitors in attendance.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising from the 9th of February minutes. It was proposed by Mick McMahon and seconded by Dave Glen that the previous minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried unanimously.

New Business

President's Report:

Our member John Weth who lived in the Fielding area passed away recently. Peter only found out when he read his obituary in the Globe and Laurel. Peter has since received an e-mail from his widow apologizing for not having been in touch earlier.

Peter has not yet received an invitation to attend and lay a wreath on behalf of the Royal Marines and the Association at this year's ANZAC Day Parade and Service. ANZAC Day is now only 12 days away so Peter will chase it up. It is the only event we commemorate collectively so we should be looking for a healthy turn out. Our Vice President, Ted, has suggested that if the parade is cancelled it may still be an opportunity for us to come together at the RSA to observe the minutes silence and for a few wets and lamp swinging. It could be an opportunity to include family and friends to pay

respects and enjoy each other's company. To make this a viable proposal we would need an indication of the kind of support we should expect and Peter has sought feedback by way of an APB.

Post meeting note: Peter spoke to the RSA President on Saturday and he confirmed categorically that we were invited and a wreath would be provided for us.

Ex Royal, Lee Spencer has just become the first physically disabled person to row the Atlantic solo and unsupported. Not only that but he beat the existing record for able bodied rowers by 36 days – an incredible achievement!! Peter sent out the full story by APB on the 12th of March. He also sent out some photos showing how his wife had used his lovat jacket to decorate an easy chair at their home.

2 Ex Royals, Tony Pearce and Paul Stevenson visited New Zealand recently and had sought some kind of a meet up with members in the Auckland area for some beers and lamp-swinging. Peter sent out an APB with proposed dates, times and venues but, to the best of his knowledge there was no such get together. Going forward we must look to do better. If guys take the time and effort to contact us we owe it to them to make an effort ourselves. We are all ex Bootnecks!!

Outward Correspondence:

Peter sent an invitation to the Governor-General to be our Guest of Honour at the Corps Birthday. It was declined on the grounds of conflicting commitments. Peter has now sent an invitation to All Black Sam Whitelock who was a great friend of our passed member, Chalky Carr. No response to date.

Peter sent out a 56 page report produced in 2018 by a House of Commons Defence Committee forum, entitled "Sunset for the Royal Marines? The Royal Marines and UK amphibious capability." It was obviously reviewing what the future held for the Corps and actually contained a good number of very positive statements including:

"Given the disproportionate contribution the Royal Marines make to Defence and the sheer range and versatility of their military skills, both they and the country's security would be significantly undermined."

"The world is changing and the Royal Navy and Royal Marines need to change with it. However, if the price of such change is the sacrifice of this country's amphibious capability, we can only conclude this to be a short-sighted, militarily illiterate manoeuvre totally at odds with strategic reality."

Thanks to Marty for sharing with us.

Inward Correspondence

Peter received an e-mail from Barbara and Noel Harker expressing their absolute gratitude for the flowers we sent them to mark their 60th wedding anniversary.

New Members

Richard Wilson PO34730L – served from July 1975 to July 1980 and then went on to serve in the RMR from 1983 to 1986. He had fully intended to be in attendance today but has just been offered a job which required his presence.

Vice President's Report

Ted is currently under the weather and sent his apologies.

Treasurer's Report:

Current Statement as at 12/04/2019

Current Account	\$3,815.54
Ready Saver	\$803.17
Term Deposit	\$7,523.13
	\$12, 141.84

Incoming since last meeting (from 8th Feb to 12th April 2019)

- \$65.00 Subs
- \$1.92 interest / \$36.51 from term deposit

Outgoing

- 2 cheque \$206.90 to Phil Turner for flowers to two members.

Secretary's Report.

All Blacks tickets are being firmed up for the game with Australia in August. Marty has a total of 20 takers.

Standard Bearer's Report

Apologies from Gordon – we are still looking for a volunteer to take on this role – see Sick Visitor Report below.

Entertainment Members Report

Darren was not in attendance. The social on the 2nd of March organized by Marty was a resounding success. The Escape Room was challenging and rewarding and the meal and company were superb. Topsy and Marty are working together re the All Blacks game against Australia in August.

Sick Visitor's Report

Pip Townend recently spent a few days in the North Shore Hospital but is currently recovering at Evelyn Page Hospital and is due to be released. Gordon & Gloria, Jackie and Phil visited them and reported Gordon is doing much better, up and about. It was good to see Dave Glen up and about and looking good.

Globe & Laurel Report

Our most recent Branch submission was made at the end of February and was sent out by way of an APB. Our next submission will be sent before the deadline of the 26th of April.

Quartermaster's Report

Phil met up with the RSA president to investigate cabinet re-location. Phil will investigate a replacement option and present at the next meeting.

Webmaster's Report

Steve and Ted will discuss ways to improve the website and will involve Chip re our Facebook page.

Any Other Committee Members Report – none

Corps Birthday

Hopefully ticket prices can be frozen at \$40.00. Once catering costs are finalized this should be confirmed.

General Business

Current Committee Members who are prepared to run for one more year, subject to election:

Ted Palmer
Phil Turner
Rob Morrice
Phil Ayling
Cuong Huynh
Steve Campbell
Jackie Turner

To date there does not appear to be any volunteers to take on the President's role which Peter will be relinquishing. Peter will be sending out voting forms etc to all members in the next week or so. **Post meeting note: forms sent out 17th of April.**

Date of next meeting – Saturday the 8th of June 2019 commencing at 1200 at the Point Chevalier RSA. The AGM will be held on completion of the meeting.