



**MINUTES OF MEETING
TERRIGAL WAMBERAL RSL SUB-BRANCH
HELD AT THE BREAKERS COUNTRY CLUB
SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2021**

1. OPEN MEETING:

- 1.1. The meeting was opened by the President at 10:30am and recited the Ode of Remembrance. He called for silence to be observed in memory of departed comrades.

2. ATTENDANCE:

- 2.1. There were 28 members present with no apologies.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- 3.1. The Secretary emailed copies of the minutes of meeting of 12 December 2020 and made hard copies available to members before today's meeting. There were no questions or issues raised.

Motion 1/21: The Minutes as presented be accepted.

Moved: Michael Tabone **Seconded:** Peter White Motion Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 4.1. The following were matters arising from last month's meeting.
- a. **Potential Visit to RAAF Base Williamstown.** Following recent advice from the Base, a visit will occur on Monday 15 February for 10 members. Details were sent to members via email on Friday 12 February. Nine (9) members indicated they wished to attend.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1. Register of Correspondence was emailed and copies were made available to members at the meeting. There being no questions, the Secretary asked that the Register of Correspondence be accepted.

Motion 2/21: The Register of Correspondence as presented be accepted.

Moved: Michael Tabone **Seconded:** Bruce Grant Motion Carried

6. TREASURER REPORT

- 6.1. The Treasurer presented his report for the month ending January 2021. A copy of the report is attached. The Treasurer also briefed the meeting on the preliminary year-end financial results. There were no questions on the briefing.

Motion 3/21: The Treasurer's Report as presented be accepted, accounts in the Report be passed for payment.

Moved: Terry Saxby **Seconded:** David Ferry Motion Carried

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 7.1. For the last three years, the sub-Branch has subsidised membership fees, and been able to do that without compromising our financial position. The recent determination by the ACNC that a charity organisation cannot provide members with a direct financial benefit prevented us from doing the same this year. Requesting the total payment now is debatable as we are advised that there will be no membership fee from next year. We can still subsidise fees for a service member in genuine financial need. There is a process, and it will be kept confidential.
- 7.2. The sub-Branch is still permitted to cover the reasonable cost of our monthly meetings and events when promoting and facilitating social connection and camaraderie between members. It is deemed acceptable in these circumstances for the charity's members to be a beneficiary of the charity.

Motion 4/21: The President Report as presented be accepted.

Moved: Terry Saxby **Seconded:** Neil Mayer Motion Carried

8. OTHER REPORTS:

- 8.1. **Pensions.** Bill Forsbey reported that there is a backlog of claims with DVA going back to 2019 which was unacceptable. It was exacerbated by priority being given to members of the Defence Force exiting the Services. The Secretary attended a 'Round Table' hosted by Member for Robertson, Lucy Wicks, with the Minister for Veterans Affairs who was aware of the issue and the department was trying to address it.

Motion 5/21: The Pensions Report as presented be accepted.

Moved: Bill Forsbey **Seconded:** Diane Taylor Motion Carried

- 8.2. **Welfare.** John Wilton advised that he has been maintaining contact with several veterans and monitoring their wellbeing. He provided an update on their circumstances.

Motion 6/21: The Welfare Officer's Report as presented be accepted,

Moved: John Wilton **Seconded:** Henry Owczarek Motion Carried

- 8.3. **Central Coast District Council (CCDC).** Peter White gave a briefing on the outcomes of the last CCDC meeting including the attendance of Derek Lesley, President of the District Councils President Committee (DCPC). The three key matters covered were:

- a. **Maintenance of War Memorials in the District.** Raised the subject of War Memorial maintenance, given that CCC had advised us we were responsible for maintaining the Terrigal Foreshore Memorial. Sub Branches, Gosford, The Entrance, Ourimbah, and Woy Woy have had/are having difficulties. No motion was raised to approach CCC jointly.
- b. **ANZAC Day Services.** Some guidance had been provided by RSL NSW and need to comply with COVID restrictions. Nothing of significance was proposed.

- c. **Guest Speaker.** Derek Leslie, President DCPC, spoke on what was occurring. He emphasized that the views he raised were his own and did not reflect policy. He made the following points:
- Concerned that the Constitution allowed the Board too much power ie that they were able to make decisions without consultation. The DCPC was designed as an advisory group and was not being used properly as such;
 - Felt that our organisation should be more decentral. (It was too centralised.)
 - Spoken to the CDF at a personal level to express his concern at the results of Afghanistan investigation and the removal of the Meritorious Unit Citation. He has said that more senior commanders should accept responsibility.
 - RSL funding is inadequate. This is a major reason why the Hyde Park Inn has been sold. Funds from the sale are needed for the Strategic Plan to be implemented; and
 - Expressed his intent to run the President's Committee by consensus but that the Rockdale Group were making this difficult as they were very negative towards the objectives/organisation of the RSL in its present form.
 - Noted a proposed Bowls Day at Mooney Mooney Workers Club on 13 June pending a grant application. We will be advised.

Motion 7/21: The CCDC Report as presented be accepted,

Moved: Peter White **Seconded:** David Ferry Motion Carried

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 9.1. **State Branch Circulars.** The President briefed the meeting two matters:
- a. Sale of the Hyde Park Inn. The sale of HPI has been secured which will provide the RSL with the funding need to implement their Strategic Plan.
 - b. ACNC Letter (Managing Conflict of Interest/charitable purpose/Annual Information Statement) was sent out all members explaining the matter.
- 9.2. **Anzac Day –** The Secretary briefed the meeting on progress with planning our ANZAC Day Dawn Service. Based on recent guidance provided by the NSW Government and RSL NSW attendance will be limited to 500 to comply with current COVID restrictions. A COVID Safety Plan has been lodged and the sub-Branch and event is a registered COVID Safe Business with a QR Code. Further meeting is proposed with the Council and Police to coordinate the planning and management of the event. As COVID restrictions change with little notice, we propose three Plans to cater for any changes. More to follow.
- 9.3. **Round Table with Minister for Veterans Affairs.** The Secretary briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the virtual Round Table with the Minister for Veterans Affairs/ Defence Personnel. There was much discussion with Minister Chester on a variety of topics. of interest to this sub-Branch were the following key issues:
- a. **Backlog of Claims.** Concern was expressed at the significant delays

and backlog of claims. Some doubt was also expressed about the competency of personnel involved in managing and reviewing claims which may be attributable to the delays. The Minister acknowledged the issue and the Department had issues with the training and retention of its staff; some of whom were contractors. There has also been a significant increase in the number of claims being lodged. DVA will continue efforts to reduce the backlogs.

- b. **Joint Transition Authority (JTA).** Progress with the implementation of the JTA has been slow and is not yet fully established.
 - c. **Brereton Report.** The pre-emptive action by Defence to remove Meritorious Unit Citation was a cause for concern considering there has been no due process to determine guilt. The Minister stated that the presumption of innocence was a fundamental tenant and due process will need to be followed.
- 9.4. **Proposed Social Activities.** Members were asked to indicate interest in social activities for 2021. Apart from the AGM and Commemorative Events the only suggestion was a possible overnight trip to Katoomba or similar location.
- 9.5. **Annual General Meeting.** The AGM will be held at our next meeting on 13 March 2021. As the tenure of the committee has another 2 years and there are no vacancies, there will be no elections.

Next Meeting: The next Monthly Meeting and AGM will be held on 13 March 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.30am.

Michael Tabone
Secretary

Terry Saxby
President

Attachment: 1. Treasurer's Report for January 2021