



DRYSDALE SUB BRANCH RSL

Annual General Meeting
Minutes
12 February 2026

Open

The 2025 Annual General meeting of the Drysdale Sub Branch RSL was called to order at 1430 hrs on 12 February 2026 by President Denis Hyland.

Attendance

Mick Arnott, Joanne Atkinson, Robert Atkinson, John Brown, George Browney, David Clark, Kevin Davis, Pam Davis, Maurie Dean, Margaret Everett, Travis Gullidge, Derek Haayema, Gary Holt, Tony Holton, Di and John Hopwood, Denis Hyland, Greg Irwin, Colleen Lincoln, Andrea Nisbet, Harry Paterson, Mike Pitcher, Neil Remeus, Bill Ritchie, Fran Rowell, Janis and Paul Taylor, Maria and Tony Tol, Kaye and Laurie Ward, Geoff Zanker.

Apologies

Roger Atkinson, Lance Barley, Alan Bliss, Ross Brown, Des Connor, Darren Davis, Gregory Davis, Glen Ferguson-Thomas, Geoff Fifer, Bernice Goodwin, Sally Haayema, Shane Hurley, Ronald Kingsbury, Nik Kitching, Bruce Richards.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The February 2025 AGM minutes had been circulated on-line to members or posted out, and copies were available today.

Moved Harry Paterson, seconded Tony Tol that the minutes be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes

Nil.

President's Report

The President welcomed all to the AGM and summarised the events of the past twelve months. His report is at Annex A.

Correspondence

The Secretary reported more than 100 items of interest were received and dealt with during 2025. All items are in hard copy and available for perusal.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report is at Annex B to these minutes. It shows the Assets, Receipts and Expenditures for 2025.

He said thanks were due to Kevin Brown who replaced the gas hot water system with an electrical unit at considerable saving to the club.

The membership has previously voted an annual \$200 honorarium for the main office bearers (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Officer) to recognise the hours spent on behalf of the club. The amount needs to be ratified at each AGM.

Approved unanimously

Moved George Browney, seconded Derek Haayema, that the Treasurer's final report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Wellbeing Officer

Fran Rowell presented the Wellbeing Officer's report during the monthly meeting.

Spill of Committee

A new committee needs to be elected every year. Therefore the President spilled the current committee positions. He asked Harry to conduct the election of new office bearers. The results are below.

Election of Office Bearers

Position	Elected	Nominated	Seconded
President	Denis Hyland	Harry Paterson	Maurie Dean
Vice President	Derek Haayema	Harry Paterson	Maurie Dean
Secretary	Harry Paterson	John Brown	David Clark
Assistant Secretary	Laurie Ward	Harry Paterson	Geoff Zanker
Treasurer	John Brown	Harry Paterson	Geoff Zanker
Welfare Officer	Fran Rowell	Harry Paterson	Colleen Lincoln
Appeals Officer	Geoff Zanker	Harry Paterson	Pam Davis
Memorabilia Officer	David Clark	Harry Paterson	Geoff Zanker
Bar Officer	Kevin Davis	Harry Paterson	Geoff Zanker
Committee 1	Maurie Dean	Harry Paterson	Denis Hyland
Committee 2	Colleen Lincoln	Harry Paterson	Andrea Nisbet
Committee 3	Andrea Nisbet	Harry Paterson	Colleen Lincoln
Committee 4	Robert Atkinson	Harry Paterson	Derek Haayema

Denis Hyland resumed his seat as President and thanked Harry for conducting the election.

Closure

Denis Hyland closed the meeting at 3pm and resumed the normal monthly meeting.

Denis Hyland
President

Harry Paterson
Secretary

President's Report 2026

Good afternoon members and guests. Welcome to our Annual General Meeting.

Our Annual General Meeting places a pause at our Drysdale RSL Sub-Branch Inc where we stop momentarily, allowing the Club to reflect on the past twelve months.

The year started and having a better understanding of the runnings of the Club and your committee, the words ANZAC Day come to mind, our wonderful committee, led very capably by our Secretary Harry Paterson, swung into action from a fly-past to road closures and anything in-between. Pam Davis and Geoff Zanker looking after the ANZAC badges, Laurie and Andrea looking after publicity, our treasurer George always hovering (or should that be hoovering dollars, when and wherever he can). Colleen and John looking after the flowers on the day with the rest of the committee pitching in and helping when needed. If you had a thirst, Kev's bar was open, and then there was me just wandering around (because all had been done with such great attention to detail). The Rotary Club of Bellarine North once again took care of the cooking with their sausages and bread. A big thank you to all the committee for your hard work and dedication to your club, making ANZAC Day successful. Our 2025 ANZAC Day service at the Cenotaph was an outstanding success. Our connection with our Drysdale Schools was again a wonderful inclusion. The Christian College Bellarine junior school choir appeared for their first time and blew the roof off (that is if we had a roof), with their singing. The choir will again be involved in our 2026 ANZAC Day Service. Attendance at our service by the community, estimated at around 2000 (your committee has accepted a figure of around 1500), not only enhances the day, but it also means the preservation of ANZAC Day in our community well into the future. Throughout the year, I attended various regional meetings, attended ANZAC house on several occasions, and attended to any other necessary responsibilities, and were conducted as required.

One thing I would like to do in 2026, is organise a tour of ANZAC House. The history on its walls is fascinating and worth seeing.

I advised last year that the new Veterans and Families Hub was going to be located at the Geelong RSL Inc and that there was little to no consultation within the region as to this decision and I quote "For various reasons, many veterans and RSLs in our region are not pleased with this decision, our Club included. The Veterans and Families Hub has been in discussion (confusion) for the past eighteen months with no horizon in sight – to be continued". Since that decision, it is still going to be at the Geelong RSL and there is an end in sight, which in my estimation will be another 12 months away. Funding was promised before the election of the first Albanese Government, and with CPI and seasonally adjusted figures, that money is dwindling away. So again, I say – to be continued ... It will of course be of great value to all veterans within our community and beyond when open.

We had a wonderful Golf Day at the Clifton Springs Golf Club (thanks Geoff and Geoff), the sun shone, the players were happy, an enjoyable lunch was had by all, and again we had wonderful

support from the local business community. A massive number of raffle prizes, which took nearly as long as a round of golf to draw. The highlight draw of the day, was the first prize of a \$1000 travel voucher. This \$1000 was provided by our Club as an incentive to encourage more golfers to participate in our Golf Day. Whether this prize increased the field or not, there was a field of around 100 players, a much improvement on our previous few years. The winner of the travel voucher was in attendance when drawn, and the lady concerned was very happy. Our 11th Golf Day will be held on Monday, November 16.

We had our mid-year break, returning in August. Our August Committee meeting's primary focus was Remembrance Day. Once again, our committee just cranked up, and before I knew it, all was in place for 11.00am, on the 11th day of the 11th month. The local schools were once again an integral part of the service. Our own weather bureau made the call to hold the Service at our Clubrooms which was well attended on the day (needless to say: their forecast was wrong). As per usual, Remembrance Day was a success.

Our Christmas luncheon followed in December; this year being held at the SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre in Drysdale. A wonderful afternoon was had by all. A big thank you to SpringDale's Anne Brackley and her team of volunteers for making the day special, serving hot meals to eighty of us. I was again fortunate enough to win again one of Colleen's Christmas cakes. This was the fifth (who's counting) Christmas Cake I have won.

Our meals have been paid for with General Funds along with contribution from our Ladies Auxiliary. Having our luncheon at SpringDale has saved your Club a considerable amount of money. Payment along with a donation has been made.

The Ladies Auxiliary led by Margaret Everett, has again done an outstanding job with all their efforts over the past year (afternoon teas come to mind). Thank you, ladies.

Welfare is a big job, and I thank Fran Rowell for all her efforts sending cards here and there (I sneezed once and received a card the next day), the phone calls, and for all the nursing home, and home visits she has done this past year. Maurie Dean and Carol Browney also assist in visiting our veterans.

Harry Paterson our Club Secretary has again been very supportive of me these past twelve months. Harry is a tireless worker for your Club. Thank you very much Harry for all that you do.

Committee meetings are now at 10.30am, a change from 2.00pm and I would like to thank those that have served on our committee in 2025. All had a role, and those roles were carried out faithfully.

Out of Remembrance Day 2024 (as you may remember), I became aware of another eighteen Drysdale boys who were killed in action during WW1, but whose names do not appear on our Cenotaph. Since then, I have been in contact with Paul Garry (City of Greater Geelong) and the matter is now with Heritage Victoria. Some names have been deleted from the list, as their names appear on other Cenotaphs or Memorials. The outstanding names will be added to our Cenotaph in due course.

To all Drysdale RSL Inc members, thank you for your participation during the year, especially during the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day weeks getting the message out there. Successful badge sales come from your willingness to support. Please have a think about joining our committee thus extending your service. The committee is open to all members of the RSL, and you have about five minutes to think about putting your hand up, as we are in the middle of the AGM.

And finally, a big thanks to our Treasurer George Browney, who keeps our finances on track plus, his (enjoyable or not) dealings with RSL Victoria. George has been doing this job for ten years now and is retiring from his Treasurer's role in about 10 minutes time. On behalf of you all, thank you George for the great job that you have done serving your club. And I personally thank you George for being my treasurer.

I look forward to serving you all during this coming year. Let's all have a great 2026 ...

Treasurer's Report 2026

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