



DRYSDALE RSL SUB BRANCH

Monthly Meeting
12 February 2026

Open

President Denis Hyland opened the meeting at 2pm. He noted our flag outside the clubrooms was at half mast to mark the sad passing of our ex-Navy member John Arnts last week. He invited Vice President Derek Haayema to recite a Navy poem. Then all present recited the Ode.

Denis introduced two new Service members, both ex-RAN: Travis Gullidge and Mick Arnott (accompanied by his service dog Harlow). Later, Jo Atkinson joined the sub-branch as an Affiliate member.

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 November 2025 minutes had been circulated on-line to members or posted out. Moved Harry Paterson, seconded Geoff Zanker that the minutes be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes

- Gas hot water system has been replaced with an electrical system, at a cost of about \$600. The gas has now been disconnected, saving the club \$100 each month.
- RSL Victoria's Transformation Project continues, and will make changes to sub-branch governance and consider reorganisation proposals. Also, office holders for board positions will need to have appropriate qualifications to fill the role.
- The Golf Day on 17 November attracted almost 100 players and netted \$2,500 for our club. That amount included \$900 from RSL Active.
- An excellent Christmas lunch was supplied and served by volunteers at Springdale Neighbourhood Centre. The cost was \$1,600 for 80 members and their guests, and we added a \$400 donation to the Centre.

Correspondence

The summary is at Annex A. Items of note:

- Item 160 - Mt Macedon Memorial Cross organisation has fallen into disrepair, and they have requested financial support for extra unexpected structural and engineering work and to ensure public safety. Last week, the committee decided to contribute \$1,000 to the project.
- Item 161 - We receive monthly "Anzac Portal" items from the Dept of Veteran Affairs, and the Secretary usually forwards them to our members. The latest issues have bios of two Army members awarded the VC in Afghanistan. The evacuation of Gallipoli was finished on 20 Dec 29156, Darwin was bombed in Feb 1942, it is National Servicemen's Day on 14 Feb and we are at the 35th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm in Iraq. These stories and more are on <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/>
- Item 167 concerned some vandalism of the Percy Cherry VC memorial in the Curlewis park named after him. Harry had some photos of the damage.

Moved Harry Paterson, seconded John Brown that the correspondence be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was held over until the Annual General Meeting.

Wellbeing Report

Fran Rowell has continued her series of visits. She met Max Harris who talked about the atomic bomb testing at Maralinga in the 1950s. He piloted aircraft through the fallout clouds. Fran is sourcing a copy of this book for our library and she will ask Max to sign it. She attended a Welfare Officers' Forum on 29 January 2026 - a new initiative organised by Brendan Lloyd of Ocean Grove/Barwon Heads RSL sub-branch. She said the meeting was more about Advocates networking and training, and the issues they deal with, including accommodation, drugs and alcohol, family issues including violence leading to therapy and workshops (she is not an Advocate, and she will continue her visits to our own veterans).

Ron Kingsbury is now in permanent care but doing well.

Moved Fran Rowell, seconded Pam Davis that the report be accepted.

Carried unanimously

General Business

- Anzac Day format will be unchanged, planning underway with City of Greater Geelong to close High St to traffic. Christian College Bellarine has again offered the services of their Junior Choir. RAAF flypast has been requested of 100 Squadron.
- Geoff Zanker sincerely thanked the club for his nomination for and granting of RSL Life Membership. He received a well-deserved round of applause.
- Denis Hyland presented Mike Pitcher with his medals, court-mounted and in a wooden presentation box.
- Denis Hyland attended a Region 8 Hub meeting on 17 December 2025 - The Veterans' and Families' Hub in the Geelong RSL premises is likely to be delayed by another 12 months. It was supposed to begin a six-month pilot program in February this year.

Break for Annual General Meeting

Raffle

Kevin Davis's raffle was won by Kevin Davis and Mike Pitcher.

Renovation Proposal

Denis gave Derek Haayema the floor to talk about his clubroom renovation project. The background story was to make the facility more attractive to younger veterans. He hopes to have our building renovated and made available during hours to suit ex-defence personnel and families who are still in full time civilian employment. He has sought donated materials from several local businesses.

Before getting into any specifics of a proposal, there was spirited discussion, especially on the implications of a kitchen renovation.

The upshot was that Derek needs to provide a written business case outlining what work would be done, what materials would be donated (and from whom), who would do the work, and what the costs to the club are likely to be. The committee will then consider the proposal, and might decide to present the case to the full membership.

Close

The President closed the meeting at 4pm, and the ladies provided an excellent afternoon tea.

The next meeting will be on 12 March, starting at 2pm.

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Denis Hyland
President

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Harry Paterson
Secretary

**Annex A to
Meeting Minutes of
12 February 2026**

Incoming Correspondence Nov/Dec 2025

149	Post	7/11	Origin Energy	Electricity bill	Treasurer
150	Email	7/11	Energy Australia	Gas bill	Treasurer/Cttee
151	Email	16/11	Bellarine Police	Neighbour Watch launch	Pres, Members
152	Email	18/11	Clifton Springs Golf Club	Invoice - Golf Day lunch	Treasurer
153	Email	19/11	Liquor Licencing Vic	Liquor Licence	Kev Davis
154	Email	22/11	Marsh insurance	Insurance	Treasurer
155	Email	24/11	Dept of Children Services	Working with children cert	Andrea
156	Email	24/11	Pam Davis	Hot water unit	Committee
157	Email	26/11	Alison Marchant	Grant opportunities	
158	Email	2/12	RSL Victoria	Affiliation invoice	Treasurer
159	Post	9/12	Barwon Water	Water bill	Treasurer
160	Email	9/12	Mt Macedon committee	Request for support	Committee
161	Email	3/12	Dept of Vet Affairs	Anzac Portal	Members
162	Email	13/12	Geelong Viet Vets	Newsletter	
163	Email	16/12	Brendan Lloyd	Region 8 Hub meeting agenda	President
164	Email	23/12	CFA	Request for email	
165	Email	17/12	RSL Victoria	Patriotic Fund refund	Committee
166	Email	19/12	Libby Coker	Grant opportunities	
167	Email	26/12	Bill Westhead	Percy Cherry memorial	President

Incoming Correspondence 2026

1	Email	7/1	Energy Australia	New plan	
2	Email	14/1	Dept of Vet Affairs	Anzac Portal	Members
3	Email	14/1	Energy Australia	Gas bill	Treasurer
4	Email	14/1	Ocean Grove BH RSL	Food and Mood invite	Members
5	Email	15/1	RSL Victoria	Presidents Forum	President
6	Post	16/1	Origin Energy	Electricity bill	Treasurer
7	Email	20/1	RSL Victoria	Flag protocol (Bondi Beach)	Kev Davis
8	Email	20/1	Dept of Vet Affairs	Heart Health program	Members
9	Email	23/1	Brendan Lloyd	Welfare officers get-together	Fran Rowell
10	Email	28/1	Vic Electoral Commission	Request for hall	
11	Email	29/1	Defence	receipt of flypast request	
12	Email	30/1	RSL Victoria	Invoice for badge	President
13	Email	30/1	Libby Coker	Grant opportunities	