



**Brigadier Brett Chaloner, CSC – Patron**

**Minutes of the Harbord RSL sub-Branch 70<sup>th</sup> AGM  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 1130hrs**

1. **Meeting opened:** At 1130am by President Colonel John Platt, CSC (Retd)  
**1.1 Quorum:** achieved.
2. **Declare any Conflict of Interest.** None declared.
3. Welcome guests to AGM; **Bob Lunnon, President of RSL Northern Beaches District Council and President of Forestville sub-Branch who was warmly welcomed by members.**

**3.1 Attendees:** Sean Rout, Pam Hansen, John Platt, Wendy Machon, Chris Frith, John Oliver, Merri Mack, Denis Lynch Peter Harley, Ian Lynch, Karl Delaney, Peter Rawling, Nick Misko, Paul Jacks, Rob Low, Ken Covey, Alex Trimcevski, Tom Gleeson.

**Apologies:** BRIG Brett Chaloner, Joan Tucker, Anne Trimble, Scott West, Lt Col Geoff Costello, COL Jacqueline Costello, Frances Chaloner, Mike Covey, Steve Dunn.

**Guest:** Bob Lunnon, President Forestville & NDBC.

**President COL John Platt, CSC (Retd) asked if there were any new members present.**

Ian Lynch a transfer from DY RSL sub-Branch was welcomed by the President & Members.

4. **Stand in Memory of Fallen Members:** one minute silence.  
**4.1 Pledge Allegiance** was given to the Commonwealth of Australia and to the constitution of RSL Australia.
5. **Minutes of the previous meeting: Hon Secretary – Pam Hansen**  
Hon. Secretary advised that she had circulated the minutes to the membership.  
**5.1 Business arising:** Nil.  
**Adoption of the Minutes**  
Moved by: **Ken Covey** Seconded by: **Sean Rout**  
**Resolved:** That the minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> AGM as circulated, be accepted, and signed as a true and accurate record.
6. **President's AGM Report was given by the President COL John Platt, CSC (Retd) as circulated in AGM packs.**

**Main points of the President's Annual report were as follows:**

**Strategic Plan for 2023/24** with Executive members taking the lead on the goals we set. For the Strategic Plan we focused on answering the following questions:

- **What is our purpose?**
- **What do we need to achieve?**
- **What do we have to do to be successful?**
- **What resources do we need to manage?**

## **In very simple terms this is the Plan 2023-24:**

- **Vision:** Local veterans know what Harbord RSL sub-Branch stands for, what it does, and wants to be involved as a member
- **Mission:** Supportive and co-ordinated programs and activities for veterans and families
- **Our Motto:** Working together, delivering locally
- **Our Values:** Remembrance, Compassion, Patriotism, Mateship

### **Goals:**

1. **Support Veterans & Families** (Lead: Vice President Jacquie Costello & Team)
2. **Grow Membership** (Lead: Vice President Nick Misko, Karl Delaney & Team)
3. **Commemorate and Pay Respect** (Lead: President John Platt, Karl Delaney, Sean Rout, Scott West, Wendy Machon [History], Ken Covey)
4. **Good Governance & Accountability** (Lead: Pam Hansen, John Oliver, Peter Watson)

### **Key Events during 2023:**

- **Anzac Sportsman's Lunch on 14 April.** Presented on local War hero Sir Roden Cutler, VC; and the Governor of NSW Margaret Beazley, AC, KC attended.
- **Our June sub-Branch Meeting** included guest speaker Mr Ian Wilson, Advocate for RSL LifeCare.
- **50th Anniversary of Australia's end to the Vietnam War** on 18 August was attended by our Vietnam Veterans' and members.
- **Private Joseph Saunders Medal Ceremony on 14 September.** Kedron-Wavell RSL sub-Branch from Queensland presented the medals back to Harbord RSL sub-Branch.
- **Veterans' Health Week on 16 October.** Jacquie Costello led the program which was themed 'Mental Wellness Matters' and included Army psychologist LTCOL Samantha Hodges, member Kieran Toohey as guest speakers and supported by Rebound Health and GFitnes.
- **NSW State Congress from Sunday, 22 to Tuesday, 24 October 2023.** Attended by Nick Misko, and at the Congress Pam Hansen received the RSL Certificate of Merit presented by the Governor of NSW.
- **Remembrance Day on 11 November at Jacka Park.** Two names were added to the Wall of Remembrance. Private Arthur E. Hughes, 13th Battalion 1st AIF who was killed at Gallipoli, and sub-Branch member Leading Aircraftman Gilbert Jan, OAM who served with the RAAF on Catalina Flying Boats in the Pacific during WW2. Gilbert sadly passed away in February 2023. Later at the Harbord Diggers the Remembrance Day Service was conducted. Also on the day our local Surf Life Saving Clubs conducted 'red poppy sales' with money raised going to our Veterans' wellbeing.
- **Our 'Day Club'** also successfully continues thanks to Pam Hansen.
- **Christmas Function on 7 December** was well attended at Harbord Diggers. A good way to thank our members and close a busy year.

### **Also during the year:**

- We also moved our banking to the Bendigo Bank at Harbord as we felt it will provide a better service for our needs. Many thanks to John Oliver for arranging.
- Over the last 12 months our membership grew from 82 to 109. Thanks to Nick Misko's analyses and planning, along with the fee discount incentive from the sub-Branch and GFitnes Gym support there was a significant increase of 22 Service Members. Most new Service Members are currently serving in the ADF.
- A thanks to the Mounties Group staff at Harbord Diggers. Especially Evan Minus and Karen Potts for their outstanding continued support to our sub-Branch through many activities such as Anzac and Remembrance Day Services, Veterans Health Week, meeting venues and so much more. Also to former Mounties Director Leon Hansen and current Director Pam Hansen for all your support.

- **Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Costello** went on operational deployment from April to November 2023.
- **Pam Hansen** was elected as a Director of the Mounties Group.
- **Jacquie Costello** was promoted to Colonel.
- **LTCOL Nick Misko** was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) in the Australia Day 2024 Honours List. Nick was also the winner of the RSL NSW Sport & Recreation Program prize draw earlier this year for the sub-Branch.
- **CAPT Cameron Wise** appointed Honorary ADC to the Governor of NSW in Feb 2024.
- **Kieran Toohey** was appointed as Community Support Adviser (NSW/ACT), Mental & Social Health Programs Branch, Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- **The sub-Branch has submitted a proposal for RSL Life Membership** for Sean Rout. It is currently being considered by RSL Australia.
- **RSL Northern Beaches Council Meetings.** We have aligned with our sub-Branch Meetings so our members receive timely information of activities and events.

**Looking ahead at events and activities in 2024 we have planned:**

- **Anzac Day at Harbord Diggers & Rugby at Manly Oval (Thursday, 25 April).** For the rugby game entry is free for all veterans and current ADF members wearing medals. They will also receive a BBQ food voucher. Fundraising from poppy sales and donations will go to support Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Program.
- **Veterans' Health Week (TBA October).**
- **RSL NSW State Congress (TBA October).**
- **Local Legends Luncheon is on Friday, 1 November.** The presentation will be about Squadron Leader John Williams, DFC.
- **Christmas Function (TBA November/December).**
- **A Review the sub-Branch web site will also occur in 2024.**

**6.1 Adoption**

**6.2 Mover by: Wendy Machon Seconded By: Paul Jacks**

**7. Treasurer's Report – Balance Sheet presented by John Oliver for acceptance, as circulated.**

**7.1 Business arising: Nil**

**7.2 Adoption. Moved by: Ken Covey . Seconded by: Denis Lynch**

**8. Other Business – Northern Beaches RSL District Council (NBDC) President Bob Lunnon.**

Bob spoke about the outstanding work done by the Harbord RSL sub Branch and the professionalism shown in the presentation of the AGM packs. Bob reinforced the role of NBDC and the RSL NSW Board under the leadership of the new President Mick Bainbridge & Board. He advised that lots of work was being done leading into the District Rationalisation which has currently 23 Districts which is not workable so they are looking to reduce that number to a more reasonable and manageable number.

**9. General Business:** President John Platt CSC, addressed the meeting and gave Brigadier Brett Chaloner's warm regards to the Membership.

**10. Lt Col Nick Misko** - Nick spoke about the need for a more modern Web Site similar to Bondi and Wollongong RSL which are more aligned with RSL NSW. The costs of a new Web site range from \$7500+ with a monthly cost of approx. \$50. Nick will present a more detailed review and cost structure at our May meeting.

**11.** No meeting in April **next meeting is WED 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 6pm**

**Being no further general business.**

**The President recited the ODE.**

**Meeting closed at 1230hrs, which was followed by refreshments.**