



# MINUTES OF DAVISTOWN RSL SUB-BRANCH

## GENERAL MEETING

### Tuesday – 14 January 2025

1. **WELCOME** - The Chair opened the meeting at 1102 with the Ode.

*- The Chair advised that the meeting will be recorded -*

**Attendance:** 24 / 1 (members/aux) present, 6 apologies, with 0 guest/visitor(s) as per attendance book.

2. **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING** held 7 Jan 25 made available to all in attendance.

**BUSINESS ARISING** – Nil

**Moved:** Steph Pucek      **Seconded:** Mal Brian      'that the minutes be received and adopted'  
**CARRIED**

3. **MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING** held 8 Dec 24 made available to all in attendance.

**BUSINESS ARISING** – Nil

**Moved:** Ray Bale      **Seconded:** Frank Latham      'that the minutes be received and adopted'  
**CARRIED**

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of correspondence was tabled, and members invited to peruse and ask questions.

**BUSINESS ARISING** – Nil

**Moved:** Mick Allen      **Seconded:** Ron Derley      'that the correspondence be received'  
**CARRIED**

5. **NEW MEMBER(S)**

Paul O called on Jo-Ann Edwards, welcoming her to the sub-Branch and presented an RSL NSW membership card and welcome pack. The members welcomed Jo-Ann with a round of applause.

6. **REPORTS**

- a. **TREASURER** – Kerry H tabled a report on accounts for the period ending 31 Dec 24.

A copy of the Davistown sub-Branch Periodical Financial Report was tabled and is available on request to the Secretary.

This month's collection (door donation) was \$80.80

- b. **WELFARE** – Paul O advised:

- John Shaw is currently having leg issues but hopes to be fit enough to attend to his Anzac Dawn Service duties.

- c. **CCDC** – Steve L advised that the next meeting is being held at Gosford on 10 Feb.

- d. **BOWLS** – Mike F had nothing further to add to the committee minutes.

- e. **DISPLAY** – Chris S had nothing further to the committee minutes, other than to remind members that the Wyong Hub advocate will attend the club this Fri 17 Jan commencing at 1000 to assist members with the DVA process, especially the acquisition of a White Card.

- f. **President** – Paul O welcomed everyone back and wished them all a Happy New Year! Paul will be doing an RSL tribute at the memorial service of an ex-RAAF pilot who passed away at the age of 104.

**Moved:** David Harris      **Seconded:** Steve Laing      'that the reports be received & accounts paid.'  
**CARRIED**

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Gun Safe** – Chris S spoke on the need to obtain a gun safe for installation in the sub-Branch office, to remove the need for stowing weapons in The Davo's safe, which is not the best solution with respect to the firearms control under our permit requirements. **Moved** Chris Salakas, **Seconded** Dave Targett "that a gun safe be procured for installation into the sub-Branch office, with an approx. cost of \$300."  
**CARRIED**

- **Navy History Cruise (East Sydney Harbour)** – Steve L advised that this cruise is fully booked for 2025. We will investigate making a booking for early 2026. It is a 3hr cruise, includes lunch and the following POI: **Dawes Point.** The story of the observatory built by Lt William Dawes and the construction of the gun battery. **Sydney Cove.** The story of Fort Macquarie and the Navy activities to protect ships and the colony after the arrival of the first fleet. **Garden Island.** The first use of Garden Island as a garden and its later development. The construction of the Captain Cook Graving Dock was second largest project after the Snowy Mountain Scheme and larger than the construction of the Harbour bridge. The story of the hammerhead crane and the role of HMAS *KUTTABUL*. The decision in 1987 to establish two Navy bases – Fleet Base East and Fleet Base West to cover both the Pacific and Indian oceans. **HMAS RUSHCUTTER.** One of the oldest RAN shore bases, commissioned in 1920. A Naval Reserve training facility for anti-submarine warfare, diving, and radar. **Clark Island.** The storage of gun barrels during WW II. The Japanese midget submarines were also brought here after they were salvaged. **Rose Bay.** The story of HMAS *TINGIRA* that trained over 3,000 sailors from 1912 to 1927. **Watson's Bay.** HMAS *WATSON* the training centre for maritime warfare. Watson's Bay was the home base for pilot boats and the lifeboat over the years. **Georges Head.** The location of the western end of the anti-submarine boom net during WW II. **Chowder Bay.** The base to protect the Harbour with mines during the 1880's. Now a fuel installation for the RAN. **Bradley's Head.** Ships were degaussed here during WW II to protect them against magnetic mines. The story of our first battle and first victory involving HMAS *SYDNEY I* and the SMS *EMDEN*. **Neutral Bay – Sub Base (ex-HMAS *PLATYPUS*).** Home of the six OBERON class submarines for 30 years and the torpedo factory established during WW2. The current COLLINS class submarines are based at Garden Island off Rockingham in Western Australia. A comprehensive commentary is provided supported by information and photos on TVs to bring the commentary to life. A complementary booklet with lots of information and photos is provided as a souvenir. **N.B.:** The above itinerary is an addendum post meeting.
  - **Donation Motions** – Steve L spoke to moving several motions relating to donations to the Veterans and Families Hub Wyong (\$5000 for Central Coast veteran support, and \$2000 for discretionary use), and Kincumber High School (\$2000 towards Kokoda Track costs for selected student on a yearly basis). After much discussion, the motions were withdrawn pending further investigation and clarification on how to proceed, and how it affects the current commitments that were agreed to by members in 2023 covering both institutions. Paul O advised that the motions would be considered at the next committee meeting, with a view to presenting it to the members at the February meeting. Kerry H advised that insufficient funds are held in the operating account to meet these donations at this stage. It was agreed that the donations (if approved) would not be put in place for a few months.
  - **Anzac Day Appeal** – Kerry H spoke to the sites that would be used this year for the appeal which will be held on Wed 23 Apr. Kerry requested members advise whether they are available to staff the tables, with a morning (0900-1200), and arvo (1200-1500) shifts.
  - **Xmas Luncheon Tables** – To the frustration of a certain member, Paul O suggested members start to think about compiling names for their Xmas Luncheon tables, to avoid the confusion that was encountered last year.
  - **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** – Pete G advised that the AGM will be held in conjunction with the March General Meeting. This meeting does not involve a change in office bearers, as the current tenure lapses in 2026. It is hoped that a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be tabled for approval either at the GM or the AGM. The SOPs will replace the By-Laws of the sub-Branch.
- Addendum to the minutes: Should any members wish to submit any motions for discussion at the AGM, please seek further advice on the timing of such motions.
- **2025 RSL Diary** – Pete G advised there is one spare diary avail at the cost of \$5. This is a bargain as this year they cost us \$9.84.

**Next meeting will be at 1100 on TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2025**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1133.



**P. Osborn**  
President  
Chair



**P. Grothen**  
Secretary