



MINUTES OF DAVISTOWN RSL SUB-BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT DAVISTOWN RSL CLUB LIMITED

Sunday – 8 March 2026

1. **Welcome:** Paul Osborn opened the meeting at 1129 with the 'Pledge of Allegiance' to His Royal Highness King Charles the Third

Attendance: 22 / 2 members/aux, 7 apologies, 1 visitor as per the attendance book

2. **Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes** held 9 March 2025 were made available

3. **Business Arising from AGM Minutes:** Nil

Moved: Mal Brian **Seconded:** Steve Laing "that the Minutes be taken as received and adopted"
CARRIED

4. **President's Annual Report:** President, Paul Osborn, delivered the President's Report on sub-Branch activities during 2025 (copy attached)

5. **Annual Audit Report:** Treasurer, Mac McLarty, advised that the books have been returned from the auditor and that 'all is good'. Mac provided a report on the figures, with the 2025 Financial Report and books available for perusal during and/or on completion of the meeting. Bruce Phillips (our 2025 auditor) spoke briefly on the report and asked if there was any clarification required from the members. It was with regret and due to ill health Bruce had to excuse himself from continuing as our auditor and wished the sub-Branch well into the future.

The report along with the sub-Branch Annual (SBA) Returns will be forwarded to RSL NSW by 31 May 26.

Moved: Steve Laing **Seconded:** Chris Salakas "that the Annual and Auditor's Report be adopted."
CARRIED

6. **Election of Office Bearer(s)**

President invited Mal Brian to act as the **Returning Officer**. It was determined that there would be no requirement for Scrutineers. Before continuing with the elections, Mal offered thanks to the outgoing officers. The Returning Officer declared all positions vacant, and the following members were elected for the period 2026/2029:

President	Michael Allen (unopposed) - Accepted
Vice President	Chris Salakas (unopposed) - Accepted Paul Osborn (unopposed) - Accepted
Hon. Treasurer	Alfred McLarty (unopposed) - Accepted
Hon. Secretary	Peter Grothen – nominated from the floor Moved: Chris Salakas Seconded: Mick Allen. Accepted with condition that the position will be for 12mths only or sooner if possible. Members were advised that there shall be no expectation that an Asst Secretary would take over this position when it is vacated
Asst. Secretary	Nil nominations
Asst. Treasurer	Nil nominations
Committee (x5)	Steve Laing - Accepted Don Molloy - Accepted Stephan Pucek - Accepted Ray Bale – nominated from the floor Moved: Steve Laing Seconded: Mick Allen. Nomination accepted Dave Halliwell – nominated from the floor Moved: Ray Bale Seconded: Chris Salakas. Nomination accepted (it was moved by Chris Salakas, seconded by Mick Allen that all five (5) nominees be elected to the Management Committee) CARRIED

7. **Appointment of Pension/Welfare Support Officer**

Compensation Advocate Nil nominees/volunteers – Remains vacant hopefully only until April
Wellbeing Advocate Nil nominees/volunteers – Remains vacant hopefully only until April
Wellbeing Support Officer (WSO) Paul Osborn, Mick Allen and Peter Grothen

Moved: Ray Bale **Seconded:** Chris Salakas "nominations for the above to the WSO position"
CARRIED

8. **Appointment of Central Coast District Council (CCDC) and RSL State Congress Delegate and Alternate Delegate(s)**

Delegate Steve Laing

Moved: Ray Bale **Seconded:** Dave Halliwell "nomination for Steve Laing to the position of Delegate."
CARRIED

Alternate Delegate Chris Salakas

Moved: Peter Grothen **Seconded:** Steve Laing "nomination for Chris Salakas to the position of
Alternate Delegate."
CARRIED

9. **Auditor for 2026** – No nomination was available, with incoming committee to investigate a suitable replacement for Bruce Phillips. Bruce will also canvas for someone to assist.

10. **President's State of the Union Address**

The President, Mick Allen, assumed the Chair and thanked the Returning Officer. Mick A thanked the outgoing committee and welcomed the incoming Management Committee and congratulated the members in either retaining their positions, and those taking on new positions.

The Executive and Committee for the next three years is:

Executive: Michael Allen (President); Chris Salakas (Vice-President); Paul Osborn (Vice-President);
Alfred 'Mac' M^cLarty (Treasurer); and Peter Grothen (Secretary – only until March 2027)

Committee: Steven Laing, Donald Molloy, Raymond Bale. Stephan Pucek, and Dave Halliwell

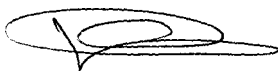
Trustees: Steve Laing, Don Molloy, and Raymond Bale

11. **General Business (relating to the AGM)**

Thank you – Joan Brian thanked all members of the sub-Branch for their assistance to the Auxiliary over many years, and especially thanked Kerry Hutchison for her work within the Auxiliary

There being no further business the President declared the AGM closed at 1202 to a round of applause

**NEXT AGM WILL BE HELD AT DAVISTOWN RSL CLUB LTD
ON COMPLETION OF THE GENERAL MEETING
14 March 2027**



M. Allen
President
Chair



P. Grothen
Secretary



THE RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA DAVISTOWN, N.S.W. SUB-BRANCH

The price of liberty is eternal vigilance

8/3/26

Good morning ladies and gentlemen as this will be my last President's report, I would like to thank you the members for all your support for the past eleven years as President and twenty five years as welfare officer, It has been a real honour and a privilege to represent you all.

A big thanks to Mal Brian and Don Blackmore who were vice Presidents when I took over, with the books in disarray. Now with a new treasurer Ray Eddy and new secretary Fred Douse the Sub Branch were able to fix the problems. Mal has been a great mate and mentor who helped me immensely as he had been attached to the Sub branch for many years.

I would like to take the time to thank the Secretaries, starting with Fred Douse who prosecuted a good case to state Headquarters to fix a couple of the problems at the Sub Branch, thanks Fred. Then we had John Green who did a great job and then stood down due to ill health. Now we come to Peter Grothen, a big thanks to Pete who has done an amazing job even getting everything done when on leave overseas with the help of Steph. Secretary is the hardest of all jobs on the committee so thank you very much Pete and much appreciated.

Treasurer Ray Eddy came to me and asked if we had two lots of account books to which I replied no! Ray then set about getting the books back in order to which he did a great job. Ray then succumbed to cancer and kept the books in order until his passing. Thanks Ray may you rest in peace Lest We Forget.

Then came Bob Gaze who stood in the position briefly and did it his way.

When Kerry Hutchison took over the books she had a big job at hand, which she did with due diligence with everything in triplicate as is the Service way. A huge thanks Kerry for handing the books over to Alfred McLarty in excellent shape.

Mac has carried on where Kerry left off and you're doing a great job thanks Mac.

I would like to thank all the Trustee's for a job well done, starting with John Collins who resigned and moved to Newcastle, Mike Fletcher who resigned due to other commitments with R.S.L bowls as a player and treasurer. Our current trustee's Steve Lang, Don Malloy, and Ray Bale thank you all, your efforts have been greatly appreciated.

The executive of Peter Grothen, Chris Salakas, Mick Allen, Alfred McLarty.

Committee of Stephen Pucek, Mike Fletcher, Don Molloy, Steve Laing, Ray Bale.

A very big heart felt thank to you all for a job well done.

Now we come to the Woman's Auxiliary. At one time we had at least twenty eight ladies who did a lot of fund raising for the Sub Branch. Starting with the lamington drives, Mal and Joan would travel to Sydney to collect the slab cakes and bring them back to the club to be cut and iced for sale to the public. On the weekend of our Sub Branch monthly meetings the women would set up a table in the foyer to sell jams, pickles and cakes that the women had made themselves for sale to members and the public.

When Kerry and Joan took over the running of the auxiliary the women would cook up fantastic meals for us to enjoy on our meeting days for a small charge. They also ran the bingo on a roster basis each week at the club to which the club would pay them for their time. Also ordering of badges and bagging for sale to the public, for the women and us to sell. Kerry would liaise with the businesses for permission to sell badges at their premises. A big job. The women organised the gunfire breakfast for Anzac Day buttering all the bread and serving our members and the public on the day. All monies raised by the women for all these tasks would be returned to the Sub Branch each year at Christmas, sometimes between \$10,000 to \$15,000 dollars. With the coming of a new NSW RSL President at congress who had no idea what the auxiliary did, and didn't see they were warranted. It was at about this time most of the women left and it was a very sad day for our Sub Branch. We really only have only six active fulltime members now being Kerry Hutchison, Joan Brian, Cheryl Jones, Quyen Kent, Caroline Thomas and Leonie Osborn, all of whom will be retiring after Anzac Day.

Thank you very much for your time and dedication to the Sub Branch, we will truly miss you all thank you. I would especially like to thank all the members who have been more than helpful with their time at our memorial services, and selling badges during my term of President. I am more than grateful to all of you.

This brings me to the end of my report and it has been a great journey. I have enjoyed all the help, friendship and comradery throughout my Presidency, and hope that the Sub Branch is in a better place for the incoming President and Committee.

Thank you all



Paul Osborn
Davistown Sub Branch
President