**Minutes of the Ocean Grove Barwon Heads RSL Sub-Branch General Meeting**

**Held at the Ocean Grove Bowling Club**

**On 19 June 2017**

1. **Opening.** The Chairman declared the meeting open at 1430hrs.
2. **Silent Tribute.** The Chairman asked all present to stand to observe a minutes silence for those who had fallen in the service of their country or who had died since the last meeting. The Ode was also recited in accordance with tradition.
3. **Present.** G. Fisher (Chairman), D. Gilroy (Secretary), T. Wheal (Treasurer & Minute Secretary) six additional Committee members and 27 members.
4. **Apologies.** H. Deane, B. Clarke, R. Lewis K. Arnott and 18 members.
5. **Previous Minutes.** The previous minutes were read and carried on a motion proposed by R. Scott and seconded by K. Hankin.
6. **Business Arising from the Previous Minutes.** Nil.
7. **Treasurer’s Report.** The Treasurer circulated the report for May 2017. He pointed out the small amount of money banked in May from the ANZAC Day appeal, taking the total to just under $30,000. This had been remitted to the State Branch. Acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report was moved by D. Gilroy and seconded by D. Wilkinson. Carried.
8. **Correspondence.** The A/Chairman listed the correspondence:
9. **In.**

RSL Circular 15/17, RSL Active Program.

RSL State Conference, Agenda and Remits.

RSL Ballot Papers – State Branch.

RSL Circular 10/17, 75th Anniversary of Kokoda.

RSL Circular 9/17, 75th Anniversary of Milne Bay,

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Media Release – Mental Health.

Letter, VITA President.

Invitation Fire Brigade Dinner 15 Jan 18 – President to present RSL Award.

Christians Bus Lines – General information of tours available.

Request for Funding – Highton Rotary Club.

1. **Out.**

Nil.,

1. **Reports.**
2. **Welfare.** L. Fisher reported that S. Hartle, the Veterans Liaison Officer at the Epworth Hospital had passed away after a car accident. He would be sorely missed because he had agreed that he would distribute mobility aids to veterans requiring them. The Sub-Branch would now have to continue looking after this task, Lola also reported on the health and well-being of a number of members who had either been hospitalised or who had not been well. Hours and distance for May were:

Funerals: 4

Home & Hospital Visits: 161

Welfare Assistance: 52

Welfare Training: 9

Total: 226

Distance claimed was 156 km.

She concluded her report with information relating to a Chronic Pain Management Workshop to be conducted at the Geelong RSL Sub-Branch on 27 June 2017 commencing at 1900hrs. Supper would be included but RSVPs were required.

1. **Appeals.** D. Wilkinson advised that this time of year was traditionally quiet and the next high activity period would be the Remembrance Day Appeal between the 1st and 10th November 2017. He reported the ANZAC Day appeal stocktake had been completed and the return submitted to the State Branch. He asked that any member who had an idea how sales might be improved forward their idea to the committee.
2. **Publicity.** Nil report
3. **Memorabilia.** Nil report.
4. **Pensions.** R. Scott asked members to assist with dispelling the myth that the death of a veteran who was in receipt of Gold Card entitlements meant his/her surviving spouse would receive those entitlements. He stressed that this was only the case when it could be shown the veteran holding the Gold Card died as the result of an accepted disability.
5. **Ceremonial.** The next event on the Ceremonial calendar was Vietnam Veterans’ Day on 18 August 2017. The ceremony would commence at about 1540hrs.

Acceptance of the Reports was moved by R. Smith and seconded by J. Dickinson. Carried.

1. **General Business.**
2. **Situation with the National RSL & NSW and SA Branches.** D. Gilroy provided a summary of the situation existing in the National RSL and NAW and SA State Branches. He reported that Ian Callinan QC had been tasked with investigating the National and NSW situation involving some $980,000 paid as Consultancy Fees to elected members of those bodies. The SA Branch had been placed in administration and the future of it was not known. However, it was known the Victorian State Branch model was under consideration for adoption Australia wide.
3. **Christians Bus Lines.** Christians Bus Lines have produced and circulated a brochure outlining tours they have available. They appear to be reasonably priced and may be suitable for Sub-Branch members. If a volunteer to organise such tours, outings and functions can be identified, an appropriate tour could be arranged.
4. **Victorian State Conference**. The Sub-Branch Delegates for this year’s conference are: J. Dickenson, G. Fisher and L. Fisher. The meeting was advised the various elections and remits had been discussed in Committee and the Sub-Branch vote for each determined. K. Hankin asked how many Delegates attended the State Conference and was advised the number was about 170. This meant that not all regional centres would be able to accommodate a State Conference since they would not have the necessary infrastructure.
5. **Men’s Shed.** G. Fisher reported that a Certificate of Appreciation had been presented to the Ocean Grove Men’s Shed in recognition of the work they had completed on behalf of the Sub-Branch. Some of this work was the ramps used to facilitate entry to the War Memorial surrounds in Ocean Grove and the stock boxes used in ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day appeals.
6. **Raffle.** The raffle was drawn by K. Hankin and $64 forwarded to the winner who immediately donated $10 from the winnings.
7. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for 19 July 2017 and in response to a poll of members will in future commence at 1400hrs.
8. **Closure.** There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed 1505hrs.

J.A. (Tony) Wheal

Minute Secretary