

2025 AGM MINUTES

Meeting commenced at 1000hrs on Saturday the 15th of March, 2025.

ODE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APOLOGIES:

Ken & Hiedi Hill	Peter & Dianne Collyer	Ernest Horth
Hurtle Upton	Steve Burrows	Graeme Speedie
Cheryl Isle	Rodney Kemp	Carl Sorrensen
Billy & Anuisha Schroeder	Geoff Copolov	Cheryl Thomaidis
Shannon & Scott Berryman		

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

As most of you will already be aware, today ends my final term of twenty proud years as President of our fantastic traditional Sub Branch. So please bear with me as I have so many wonderful people to thank and indulge in a little history from my tenure.

Firstly, I will begin with speaking about the last twelve months where our membership grew to over 400members, this is a first.....at least in my time here, and may be the first ever. Bob Menzies has put a lot of effort into this. He also took over the Secretaries position from Carl, who needed to stand down due to health reasons. You will hear from Bob shortly with his Secretaries Report.

Last year we also had the passing of our Treasurer, Frank Lineen, and we were very fortunate to acquire the services of Vince Thornton who has done a superb job, he will give you a lot more details in his Treasurers Report.

I would like to make special mention of our retiring Secretary Carl Sorrensen, he had been our Secretary for thirty years since 1996 (apart from a short break due to ill health). He has done a magnificent job and leaves VERY big shoes to fill. Carl was the backbone of this Sub Branch during the tough times, and he has also been a huge help to me over the past couple of decades.

For a period during his time, Carl was also our Welfare Officer and Pensions Officer also Appeals Officer while still serving us as Secretary. An incredible journey to this Sub Branch.

Sincere thanks Carl for your unwavering support throughout the many years we've served together at Boronia RSL.

It should also be noted, that a huge thank you goes to Warren Vardy who supplies all our musicians for Friday nights, and runs our monthly open mics, amongst other music events as a volunteer.....Yes, another volunteer.

Here is something I know we ALL will agree on.....what a fantastic job Walter does for us on meal nights, we are so blessed to have him as our chef....thank you very much, Walter.

Now I'm sure some of you may be wondering what is going on at the Dorset Road front wall of the Sub Branch. Let me assure you that it is not graffiti.....it happens to be a mural being done for us by the Boronia K12 art students. They will be working on it over the next five weeks on a Wednesday from 1pm until 3pm. I am very sure the finished product will be a delight, and a great advertisement for our Sub Branch.

Now for some history....When I first joined here, some twenty five years ago, it was just a basic old fashioned RSL to be involved in, yes it was a busy place on Friday nights, but we needed to grow and move with the times to survive. We had a very small old bar, which desperately needed updating.....so we built a larger, new beautiful one that you all enjoy today. Would you believe we had the most uninviting entrance you could ever imagine?...this is one of my funniest recollections of the early days – It consisted of a wooden sliding trap door....about 30cmsx30cms.....bit like a confession box.... You had to ring the outside entrance bell and wait for someone from the inside to check and see if you were allowed in as a visitor.....very uninviting!!!!

No Friday night meal or music, all this had to change....so as a committee we set out on a mission to change all of that, needless to say, I am extremely proud of what we have today, meals on Thursday with snooker teams and dart competition – Friday night meals with live entertainment and our membership draw, plus numerous events and private functions.../just to name a few.

WE also purchased the two properties next door – an investment which has completely been paid off and provided our Sub Branch with long term financial security. We've upgraded the kitchen, sealed the car park, put in the stage for entertainment, got rid of those heavy timber folding doors.....which then opened up the whole Sub Branch to what it is today. Our membership has steadily increased each year, and of course, there was always ongoing upkeep of our old building here. This is ongoing. As everyone would probably know, all of this into the capable hands of our long serving building officer Rex Berryman. Again, my sincere thanks to for your immense support and invaluable hard work over many, many years.

Now for the future, and I ask all members, please get behind your new President and Committee.....give them the support and respect that they deserve, it's not an easy job, and there are not many people putting their hands up to take it on.....yet there is always some members who are very happy to sit and criticize, please do not forget these committee members are volunteers as well.

In closing, I extend a huge, warm thank you to every single committee member who has served during my time as President, sadly some of those members are no longer with us.

WE have sat in long meetings, debated, argued, loved and laughed, agreed and disagreed between ourselves – but above all – worked extraordinarily hard.....with passion in our hearts.....TOTALLY as a team.....together for the benefit and prosperity of this fabulous Sub Branch.

AS we all know, we are a traditional Sub Branch, meaning totally run by volunteers, therefore it is impossible to name each one individually.....so I can only say a heartfelt, collective `THANK YOU` to every one of the wonderful volunteers who`ve stepped up and contribute their help over my years here. You were the ones who have made this Sub Branch the number one traditional Sub Branch in Victoria, without you there probably would be no Boronia RSL.

Members, Committee, friends, family and anyone I may have missed, thank you for the honor of serving as your President for the past twenty years – the road hasn`t always been easy, bit it has been bloody rewarding, meeting and working together with many terrific people. I may not have always got it right, but I can assure you that I ALWAYS gave everything I possibly could to, hopefully, leave this wonderful establishment in great stead for the future.

Both Donna and I are extremely grateful for the lifelong friends and connections we have made through this RSL family.

Speaking of Donna..... I would like to sincerely thank my wife for her tremendous support and patience over the past twenty years - her love and commitment to the RSL OH, and to me I suppose??? But it has allowed for me to continue doing this job that I have enjoyed so much for so long. Thank you.

Moved: Rod Canobie

Seconded: John Sanger

Carried

SECRETARIES REPORT:

MEMBERSHIP.

At last year`s AGM we had 344 financial members.

At the finish of the year on 31st of December 2024 we had 402 financial members.

As of today`s date we have approximately 340 financial members with a lot of members not renewing their subs as yet. I intend to ring each non-financial member in the coming weeks to, again, get us over the 400 mark.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

For the last 12 months I have enjoyed being your Secretary but this year I have decided to step away from that job and take on the Senior Vice Presidents role.

In this role my portfolio will be as Membership Officer for the club which is a position I look forward to as it eases the pressure on the incoming Secretary and allows me to continue doing the job of attracting new members to the club.

Part of my portfolio will be assisting Anne Thornton as she dives into the Secretaries role. This includes helping her with day to day operations of the club as well as Anzac Day activities, Memorial March for 2026 and Remembrance Day Services.

When I was thrown into the deep end of this job a year ago I had a Lot to learn in a very short time and with that in mind I feel that I owe a debt a gratitude to the following people who helped me along the way:

Thank you Ian Roberts and Rex Berryman.

In closing I look forward to working with the new committee and the members to make this year to a prosperous year of growth.

Moved: Bob Menzies

Seconded: Howard Rourke

Carried

TREASURERS REPORT

1. Financial Reports

This year the financial reports for Trading, Building & Appeals were uploaded to the Boronia RSL Sub Branch website and a link sent to members to allow perusal prior to the AGM. There were limited printed copies available on the day.

Members were invited to ask questions of the Treasurer before it was proposed that the financial reports be accepted.

Moved: Vince Thornton

Seconded: Gordon Lewer

Carried

2. Honorariums

It was proposed that payment of honorariums remain at \$500 per quarter and be paid to President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Officer.

Moved: Vince Thornton

Seconded: Rex Berryman

Carried

3. Appointment of Auditors.

It was proposed and accepted that McPhail & Partners be appointed as Boronia RSL Sub Branch auditors for the 2025 financial year.

Moved: Vince Thornton

Seconded: John Sanger

Carried

APPEALS REPORT:

"I want to make two points about the ANZAC Appeal; PoS Terminals and the chronology of this year's ANZAC Appeal.

- A call for volunteers was sent to Fairhills U3A. Seven responses plus an offer of advertising on community FM were received. I expect that integrating the welcome U3A volunteers into sales teams will not be easy because they can only sit with an experienced Sub-Branch member.
- Emails advertising ANZAC Appeal '25 were sent to schools – nine replies were received – all very positive.
- All schools trays have been filled and delivered.
- The sign-up sheets have been printed and will be displayed this morning. I need volunteers from the Sub-Branch members.
- The business and large trays will be filled as soon as sales teams and points have been settled. I want the selling to start on Monday 7 April – I expect the longer selling period to account for disruptions c\laced by Easter and Term 1 school holidays otherwise this Appeal may end up with light takings
- NB1. ANZAC House has requested that all Sub-Branches conduct much tighter inventory control so that they end the Appeal with minimal left over inventory. Boronia Sub-Branch is very keen to help out because we recognise that running down current inventory is going to be the fastest way new designs can be introduced.
- NB2. I expect the POS Terminals will be fully utilised this year because they are fitted with 5G SIMs – turn on the Terminal and it should automatically connect for sales.
- All post-Appeal processing will be conducted by the usual suspects."

Moved: Steve Everett

Seconded: Rex Berryman

Carried

BUILDING REPORT;

With shortage of funds available to us we will endeavour to achieve positive results in the building side of things through the use of grants.

Several items that are on the wish list are:

1. Install asphalt on the car parks at 194 and 196 Dorset Road. Whether we do a full surface cover or a narrow concrete strip up the middle is yet to be decided. With a full cover we eliminate any tripping hazards that may occur to any of the patrons visiting any of the three sites.
2. Fencing to be repaired or removed at rear of 196 opposite the garage. It does not serve any purpose as there is little fencing along the east side of the train track anyway.
3. Fence along driveway at 194 needs replacing.
4. It appears that the dishwasher in the kitchen is in its death throes and time is coming to replace it. The unit is 14 years old with a replacement cost of approx. \$4,500.

5. Still on the drawing board is the kitchen upgrade which should be placed high on the agenda. With the kitchen now being used every Thursday and Friday night it must be maintained in a first class condition. Cupboards need replacing as the floor coverings.
6. At last, the fire damaged shed and carport have been replaced with a steel double garage. Half of the garage is for tenants use while the remainder is for our use.
7. Refrigeration is a huge cost to us with the glycol system and cool room our major costs units. The cool room does have an issue and it requires constant monitoring to ensure correct operation. All the parts and lines we can access have been checked and rechecked for leaks. Unfortunately a lot of the gas lines equipment we need to check have been built into the building and are inaccessible.
8. Another cost is air conditioning. We try to maintain a temperature of around a comfortable 21c – 23c with the units. Unfortunately on a hot night and with a large crowd the system struggles. Lowering the temperature raises the cost and secondly the units are then left on the new settings until they are altered again. NO wonder we have such a huge power bill.
9. At present we are replacing or repairing our emergency lighting units that failed their test sequence to bring them into line with the AS2239 standard.
10. As well as the larger items from the wish list we still have the numerous maintenance jobs on the 3 properties that need fixing.

On behalf of the Sub Branch I thank those who have assisted with the maintenance of the Sub Branch.

Moved: Rex Berryman

Seconded: Ian Roberts

Carried

SPORTS REPORT:

Snooker and billiards season is up and going strong with two sides on Monday nights, two sides on Tuesday nights, one on Thursday nights. We would like to welcome all new players this season and also the return of others.

Congratulations to last season`s billiards winning both the zone grand final and also going on to win the Melbourne zone grand final.

Congrats. To John, Lex, Julie, Pete, Mick and Michael.

I would like to thank the RSL Committee for their help with special thanks going to Rod and Donna for the many years they have given to the club and wish them all the best.

Darts start back on the 3rd of April. Also we had Julie Watson play in the World Championships overseas. She came third so a huge `congratulations` to Julie.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Social Sub Committee was formed in Jun 2024 with the purpose of helping plan and create events for the Boronia RSL Sub Branch. All events the Sub Committee organise must be approved by the RSL Committee.

The Main goals of the Social Sub-Committee are to organise additional events to

- Engage Members
- Draw new members.
- Raise revenue.

The Sub Committee meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm at the Boronia Sub Branch. The Sub Committee member are myself (Michael Rumney), Alfred Schreiber, Anne Thornton, Chris Young, Kelly Vermeer, Debra Paull, and Julie Watson.

We welcome new members that are enthusiastic to make a difference to attend the meetings.

Events the Sub Committee have help organise include a Melbourne Cup Day event, Valentines' day, and BBQs.

Chris Young has secured use regularly of a variable message sign To be place at the front of the RSL to promote Events and the RSL generally. Australian Traffic Control have offered to provide the variable message sign when operationally possible free to the RSL.

We would like to thank Australian Traffic Control for this generous donation.

We have had some good success with these events, and also taken note of areas we can improve for upcoming events.

We are looking at planning the upcoming events over the next year.

- Trivia night
- Winery tour bus day out
- Bush dance
- Saturday night bands scattered throughout the year
- Food Van event
- Halloween themed night
- Seafood night
- BBQs throughout the year
- Theme dinner with appropriate dress theme
- Beetles tribute night
- Comedy Night
- Christmas in July Event

If you have any suggestions you are welcome to come along to a meeting or talk with a member of the Social Sub Committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

There was no general business raised

SUSPEND GERNERAL ORDERS

There was no voting as all positions that had been nominated had been filled.

RESUME GERNERAL ORDERS

The new President closed the meeting with a special thanks to the outgoing President.