



Returned & Services League  
 Hawthorn Sub-Branch Inc.  
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## Hawthorn RSL Sub Branch Inc - Annual General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025.

**Time:** 10:3am for an 11:00am start.

**Place:** Meeting room - 605 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn 3122.

<b>Committee</b>	Drew Maddison (President) Eamon Hale (Vice President) Celia Hale (Secretary)	Stewart Middleton (Bar member)
<b>Attendees:</b>	Wing Chan (Treasurer) Marianne Gardener (Membership) Chris Wright (Appeals)	<b>General committee:</b> Marianne Doyle Sam Convey Greg Scarfe
<b>Apologies:</b>	Sam Doyle Christopher Cross Carole Zammit Stephen Zammit David Wyllie Jay Marriott Trevor Mitchell Jo Mitchell Steve Cotterill	Karin Maddison Chris Vanderstoel Adrian Crough David Brown Newell Richards Dean Caldwell Jordan Leather Nathan Crowe Michael Currie

Time	Action	Person
1030	Doors opened for admission and ballot allocation	Admissions – Eamon Hale, Celia Hale, Marianne Gardner
1102	Main Doors closed	
1104	Meeting opened - Lindsay Geurin introduced as Returning officer	Drew Maddison
1105	Ode to the Fallen recited	Drew Maddison
1106	Welcome and introductions	Drew Maddison

1109	Apologies – Approximately 20 apologies came through via secretary inbox along with an additional 20 ballot requests – apologies are listed in minutes.	Marianne Doyle
1108	Review of actions from previous Annual General Meeting	Drew Maddison
1109	Acceptance of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting  <i>Proposed resolution: That the minutes of the Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch Inc Annual General Meeting be accepted.</i>  <b>Moved: John Wilson</b> <b>Seconded: Pete Zimmerman</b> <b>Minutes accepted</b>	Drew Maddison
1110	Business arising from previous minutes – no business arising from previous minutes	Drew Maddison
1110	President's report See Attachment B – 2024-25 President's Report	Drew Maddison
1126	Vice President's report See Attachment C – 2024-25 Vice President's Report	Eamon Hale
1132	Secretary's report See Attachment D – 2024-25 Secretary's Report	Celia Hale
1135	Treasurer's report See Attachment E – 2024-25 Treasurer's Report  Financial Statements – ETA on 2024 Financial Statements is May 2025 due to the appointment of a new accounting firm.	Wing Chan
1142	<b>Question from the floor</b> \$5,000 was provided to an ex-committee member to be donated to Hawthorn RSL. Can you confirm if that donation was ever made to Hawthorn RSL?  <b>Answer:</b> Committee confirmed that this donation was not received.	John Wilson
1144	<b>Motion from the sub-branch President:</b> Hawthorn RSL to seek and appoint a new auditor  <b>Moved: Pete Zimmerman</b> <b>Seconded: Chris Wright</b>  <b>Motion carried</b>	Drew Maddison
1145	<b>Questions to directors</b> - No questions from the floor relating to the reports presented.	

1147	<p><b>Election of Executive position – Sub-Branch President</b></p> <p>Lindsay Guerin appointed as Returning Officer to conduct ballot count with Scrutineers present, Carl Schmid and Eamon Hale</p> <p><b>Result:</b> Drew Maddison elected as President of Hawthorn RSL Sub-branch</p>	Lindsay Guerin
1148	<p><b>Appointment of Office Bearers</b></p> <p><b>Election of Executive position – Treasurer</b> The position of Treasurer had only one nomination. Wing Chan was appointed to the position unopposed.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Election of non-executive position – Membership Officer</b> The position of Membership Officer had only one nomination. Marianne Gardner was appointed to the position unopposed.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Election of non-executive position – Appeals Officer</b> The position of Appeals Officer had no nominations. The position remains vacant.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Election of non-executive position – Bar Member</b> The position of Bar Member had only one nomination. Stewart Middleton was appointed to the position unopposed.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Election of non-executive position – General Committee</b> The position of General Committee Member had only one nomination. Greg Scarfe was appointed to the position unopposed.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Comment from the floor</b> – Pete Zimmerman volunteered his time to support anyone who steps into the Appeals Officer role and encouraged other to support also.</p>	
1149	<p>Membership Officer’s Report See Attachment F – 2024-25 Membership Officer Report</p>	Marianne Gardner
1150	<p><b>Question from the floor</b> Are membership costs covered for those over the age of 80?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Not that we are aware of at this stage. Decisions relating to this can be discussed by the committee.</p>	Pete Zimmerman
1200	<p><b>Grants Report</b> See Attachment G – 2024-25 Membership Officer Report</p>	Marianne Gardner

1202	<p><b>HRSL Remits Vic RSL State Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remit supporting the establishment of a National Memorial for those who have been killed or died in training.</li> </ul> <p>See Attachment H - State Conference - Remit supporting establishment of National Memorial</p> <p>Question from Geoff Parkes about what the parameters for inclusion would be.</p> <p>John Wilson clarified that the rules have changed around who is eligible to be on a memorial in the war memorial.</p> <p><b>Moved: Chris Wright</b> <b>Seconded: Hugh Sweeney-Smith</b></p> <p><b>Motion carried</b></p>	Eamon Hale
1209	<p><b>Topic for discussion:</b> <b>Pathways to further funding for renovation of the sub-branch building</b></p> <p>We have been working through funding options to complete the renovation of our building. We have been attracting small grants here and there and have had an offer of funding from two 10B sub-branches to further the renovation of our building including our solar / batteries and renewable energy.</p> <p>The committee has submitted a project proposal to Boroondara Council, seeking funding to complete the final phase of our renovations in 2025-26. This proposal is under consideration, and we are expecting an outcome in the near future. This funding would see the facility upgraded to a point where we could be self-sustaining.</p> <p>If this funding is not forthcoming, we will continue to apply for grants, however if we continue to rely on these income streams alone, it will likely be 5-10 years before our building upgrade is completed.</p> <p>Over the last six months, as we have continued to rebuild relationships with sub-branches throughout the state, we have had several 10A (Commercial Venues) sub-branches offer to support the Hawthorn RSL to complete our building renovations through the provision of donated funds.</p> <p>We would like to open a dialogue with the membership, seeking their views on whether or not we should be considering these offers of assistance.</p>	Drew Maddison

The funding would come from their bar or restaurant profits, not necessarily from their gaming revenue. 10A's are currently supporting football and netball clubs to meet their required percentage of funding to support the community

It is not, nor will it ever be, our intention to have gaming in Hawthorn RSL or for us to become a commercial venue. It is not who we are as a sub-branch or what we believe in as a committee. We want to be clear that we have not accepted any funding from 10As to date to support the running or upgrade of HRSL. It is a topic that the Committee feels needs to be endorsed by the membership if it were to occur.

Our challenge is in finding revenue streams that can provide us with the required funding to upgrade our building. It is an expensive exercise, and our options are currently limited to donations and grants, none of which are of the scale required to finalise the work that needs to be done.

The President opened the meeting to commentary from the floor. Comments included:

**John Wilson:** I would be supportive. I see this as a revenue source. It could be funding that is then spent to support Veteran welfare. Gambling is currently a legal activity. If 10As are prepared to support 10Bs to do some good with that funding, then we should let them know our feelings but welcome it. I don't make a moral decision about how people spend their money

**Anthony Tobschall:** Are there caveats to the provision of funding? Do the 10A's want something in return?

**Drew Maddison:** No. It would be made clear that we would not accept any caveats along with the provision of funding. It would have to be a donation to HRSL for us to use as we see fit.

**Shannon Brown:** I recently attended Rye RSL and spoke with the Duty Manager about what they do specifically for veterans. They are a 10A RSL and they don't fund or conduct any activities specifically for veterans. If 10As are prepared to fund other sub-branches to provide specific services to veterans then veterans will benefit.

**Laurence Quinn:** I am against it. While I appreciate John's point of view, we are not the Government, we are the RSL. If you start receiving pokies funds it becomes problematic as it is demonstrative of the benefit of pokies within the charitable space. You cannot justify unethical gaining of monies, no matter

how you spend it. Hawthorn has a history of strong moral stance against pokies, While I appreciate that morality doesn't always effect a good financial outcome, we need to show that we can run an ethical RSL without pokies funding. If that takes 12-18 months longer then so be it.

**Eamon Hale:** 10 years longer

**John Wilson:** raised that 17K was provided to HRSL by an anti-gambling organisation, however they were not able to verify if that came with strings attached as they were not able to trace the agreement that came with it. We have therefore received funds from another organisation with a vested interest. I know this as I was Treasurer at the time.

**Response from Drew Maddison:** The 10As who have made the offer have offered funding from the profits related to their bar / restaurant sales.

**Leigh Saly:** I strongly object, no hospitality venue makes that kind of money on their food. It must come from their bar.

**Arthur Merryweather:** I was the Treasurer of Box Hill RSL for 23 years. Box Hill averages between 200K-400K profit from their bar trade each year and they make close to 500K from meals / bistro profit.

Drew reinforced that we are not looking for a vote today.

**Bob Soutter:** In 2019, we stated then that we were not going to have pokies. We don't want that money and we don't want gaming in our RSL.

**Anthony:** Are you going to give us information and then put it to a vote at the next meeting?

**Drew:** Yes, this is not an issue for decision today, but a paper will be developed and put to the membership ahead of the OGM where there will be further discussion and a members vote.

**Jarryd Goundrey** suggested we needed to future proof it and put some guidelines around what we would accept and what it would be used for and when we would switch it off.





**Greg Scarfe:** We are talking about attracting funding over the next 10 years. Having read some of the engineering reports etc. this building may not have 10 years left in its current state.

**Jason Mackenzie:** It might be good for us to develop some clear statements around our stance on pokies etc.

	<p><b>Ben:</b> Why aren't we approaching ANZAC House? Why are they taking 50% of everything?</p> <p><b>Eamon Hale:</b> The funding raised by the appeals goes to ANZAC House to deliver front facing veteran support services.</p> <p><b>Annie</b> – on behalf of Smouch – We have an opportunity to have long term funding that will help you to create a space that is safe, welcoming and will support you for generations. Our Government is broke. Grants are not going to get money any other way. You can sit on your moral standing or look at it and turn the money that we don't agree with into some good. That money is not currently doing good. You can use it to do good.</p> <p><b>Drew:</b> In closing the committee has not taken any funding from 10As. We will not make a decision on this as a committee, we will put it to the membership at the OGM. If you have a view or want to put your view forward. then please attend the OGM.</p>	
1231	<p><b>Nomination for State Executive positions</b></p> <p>A position is available to join the General Committee of the State Executive.</p> <p>Drew Maddison has nominated Eamon Hale. Eamon Hale spoke to his position Eamon Hale accepted the nomination</p> <p><b>Moved: Dave Brown</b> <b>Seconded: Stewart Middleton</b></p> <p><b>Nomination carried</b></p>	Drew Maddison
1235	<p><b>Tribunal – Lucas Moon - OGM</b></p> <p>Last year at our OGM we tabled that we needed to deal with an issue with a previous member of our RSL sub-branch, Lucas Moon. To hold an unbiased hearing, we reached out to RSL Vic who took over the administration of the tribunal. He was handed a life ban on the back of 7 out of the 8 charges being found. He appealed this decision to RSL National and they lifted the lifetime ban due to procedural fairness issues. They upheld the finding that 7 of the 8 charges were found. RSL National has imposed a ban from Hawthorn RSL for 1 year. Following that, he can only be a member of the State Branch for 5 years before he is then able to reapply for sub-branch membership.</p>	Drew Maddison

	<p>He will not be welcome back into Hawthorn RSL for another six years and even then, he will need to reapply for membership.</p> <p>Lucas Moon sued John Wilson and James Donoghue for defamation in 2022-23.</p> <p>John Wilson settled with Lucas and provided an apology to Lucas and paid him \$5000 which was to be donated to HRSL.</p> <p>This money was paid by John Wilson but was not donated to HRSL.</p> <p>Apology letter from the HRSL Committee was read by D. Maddison</p>	
1242	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p><b>RSL Veterans Ball –</b> 19 July Aiming for 400, 240 already sold. Aiming for 80K in sponsorship 130 per ticket</p> <p>New range of T-Shirts coming out just before ANZAC Day</p> <p><b>Comedy Festival</b> Jarryd Goundrey is doing a gig on 17th April – We have 30 tickets. Let us know if you would like to go.</p> <p><b>401 Squadron – Air Force Cadets</b> Supporting us on ANZAC Day. Coming to cook BBQ and help us sell badges. They are looking for us to come and speak with them about service, so let us know if you're interested.</p> <p><b>Hawthorn West Scouts</b> Celia read a letter of thanks from Hawthorn West Scouts.</p>	Celia Hale
	<p>Geoff Parkes is in the room from Nasho Fair Go – Have a chat with him about gold / white cards.</p>	Drew Maddison
1250	<b>Meeting close</b>	Drew Maddison

<b>Minute taker:</b>		Marianne Doyle	23 March 2025
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<b>President:</b>		Drew Maddison	24 March 2025
<b>Vice President:</b>		Eamon Hale	24 March 2025
<b>Secretary:</b>		Celia Hale	24 March 2025
<b>Treasurer:</b>		Wing Chan	23 March 2025