

# C-O-N-N-E-C-T-I-O-N-S

Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA — October 2018

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*The Lower Hutt Memorial RSA meets on Friday from 4:30pm to 6:30pm upstairs in the Anzac Lounge at the Petone Workingmen's Club at 47 Udy Street, Petone*

## **RESIGNATION OF TWO OF OUR TRUSTEES:**

Following the resignations of Trustees Peter Jacobs and Tony George of the LHMRSA on 17 September and 19 September respectively, Interim President Lars Millar became an Ex Officio Trustee by virtue of his position. Lars was subsequently elected to this position at our AGM on 23 September.

## **AGM REPORT:**

47 members attended our AGM this year, which was held in the Anzac Lounge at 10:00am.

There were 9 apologies noted before Keith Garwood read out the Roll of Honour.

After the acceptance of last year's AGM minutes the meeting heard the reports of the President, Support Services, Trustees, Financial Statements and the Rules Review.

The Interim President, Lars Millar, thanked the Executive and the Petone Workingmen's Club for their efforts and acknowledged the recent and current difficulty faced by the PWMC after two significant floods. Anzac Day was, once again, well attended and the support of the PWMC and its staff was appreciated. Mention was made of the "elusive" \$50,000 contribution to the PWMC, which hopefully will be paid by the time you read this. Lars also thanked past-President Alison Sexton, who recently retired due to ill-health, for her time and efforts over many, many years and wished her all the best for her future. He also thanked Innes McNeil and Peter Stitt for their tireless efforts as Executive members, Vice Presidents, Presidents and Trustees.

The Support Officer's Report by Dennis Cheetham, was included in the Agenda papers. The report stated that the Team continued to make regular contact with those who have made requests either by visiting or phone calls. Many hospital and rest home visits were also made. Two of the Team attend up-dating monthly Wellington Area Support meetings. This past year the Executive approved an increase in benefits from the Poppy Day Trust and added an additional category\*. Listed here are the categories where the Support Team have supported our returned and Service members: Dental, \$1000; Optical, \$750; Hearing, \$1500; X-Ray, \$500; Specialist, \$750; Funeral, \$1000; GP Visits\*, \$200.

Also included in the Agenda papers was the LHMRSA Darts Adjunct Report from its Chairman, Jim Hotton. In the report Jim explained that the Darts Adjunct now applied directly to the PWMC to claim their expenses. The Adjunct comprises four competition teams, the oldest being the 'Nomads' who play in Lower Hutt's Social Grade. The 'Troopers' play in the Wellington Area Chartered Club Competition on Saturdays in the second division. 'Razamataz' play in the first division and our top team, 'The Forsaken,' play in the premier division of the same competition. As the teams are only halfway into their points, final results were unavailable. The RNZRSA Inter Dominion Darts Team and the four

members of the LHMRSA Adjunct were congratulated on their success in Sydney over Easter. (This was reported on by Tony Wicksteed, in June's "Connections"). The report concluded by thanking the LHMRSA Executive for their support, the PWMC for guidance, the Adjunct Committee and especially Adjunct Secretary, Tony Wicksteed and Adjunct Treasurer, Marie Brooks.

The Trustees Report was made by Mike Collett. As he explained to the meeting neither he, nor Sam Kahui, were in a position to sign or accept either the Accountant's Performance Report or Balance Sheet, nor the Auditor's Management Report. As new Trustees, neither had been briefed on governance, processes and procedures of the Trust Accounts by the then current Trustees in the previous 5-months. In the event, the Trustees Report requires Mike, Sam and President Lars to agree with the documentation supplied to the Accountants and the Auditors by the previous Trustees. As a result the Trustees Report was 'received and tabled' subject to clarification. *(On the 27 September Mike and Lars met with the banker and auditor to discuss the Trust Performance Report and the Audit Letter of Representation. They have now signed both documents, which enables us to move forward and satisfy our various reporting obligations).*

The Financial Statements, disclose the current year's results and financial position of the primary activities of the Association. In-house we call it the Administration Account which receives revenue, such as grants from the PWMC, subscriptions, donations, etc. Expenses include financial review fees, capitation levies, hospitality, sporting tournaments, etc. The year ended June 2018 saw equity (retained earnings) at the end of the period recorded as \$1,600.

The Rules Review Update was reported by Tony Mort. This is still a work in progress and requires additional input from the Executive before sign-off by the PWMC, RNZRSA and the Registrar of Incorporated Societies. As Tony explained, one of the principle roadblocks in progressing our re-written rules was the impasse that followed the suspension of the change to the RNZRSA Constitution following last year's RNZRSA AGM. Until such time as we can proceed with our amended rules Tony was able to obtain approval from the RNZRSA to change three rules which are pivotal to our progress. Namely, these are changes that allow us to honour our commitment to the PWMC for the removal of the Liquor Licensing provisions from our rules, and another that introduces the flexibility to process rule changes at any General Meeting of the Association and not just at an AGM. The third rule change was to allow the Executive to amend the wording of a rule if so stipulated by the RNZRSA or the Registrar of Incorporated Societies, so long as it did not alter the intent of the rule. These three rule changes were approved by the AGM in a Notices of Motion.

The Election of Executive Officers required only one ballot, that for the position of the Vice President, where two nominees were standing. Each were given five minutes to address the AGM prior to the ballot being taken. After the ballot count the following members were elected to the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA Executive: President, Lars Millar; Vice President, Norm Rosser. Executive Officers: Marie Brooks; Dennis Cheetham; Keith Garwood; Tony Mort; Ian Robertson; Martyn Robey; David Weston.

In General Business, it was proposed that both Wg.Cmdr Harry Hayward MBE RNZAF (Rtd) who recently celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Alison Sexton, a past President of the LHMRSA should be awarded Life Membership. This was roundly approved and applauded.

The President of the PWMC addressed the meeting stating that the LHMRSA and the PWMC had now been together for 10 years. The PWMC had approximately

10,000 members of whom 280 were LHMRSA members. He expressed the enthusiasm and intent of the PWMC to continue its good relations and close alignment with the LHMRSA and that 6 of the 9 PWMC Executive Committee were also LHMRSA members. The PWMC pays the operating costs of the LHMRSA.

As there was no further General Business to discuss the meeting was closed at 11:15am and the traditional "President's Shout" proceeded at the bar. All-in-all it was a good AGM, with much for members to look forward to in the future.

### ***ARMISTICE DAY COMMEMORATION:***

Because this year's Armistice Day Commemoration, at 11:00am on Sunday, 11 November, marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the cessation of World War One hostilities, the occasion takes on even more significance than usual.

Planning for this year's Armistice Day Commemoration is well underway. Led by Keith Garwood, the first organising meeting with the Hutt City Council took place in late September with Lars Millar and Martyn Robey.

This year there will be a LHMRSA parade to the Cenotaph. We will assemble in time to march off at 10:45am adjacent to the new Pavilion, which is situated at the western end of the Hutt City Council Municipal Building. From there we will march a short distance following paths to the Cenotaph and observe a two-minute silence, before the Service commences.

The Cadet Forces of Lower Hutt will be providing Cenotaph Guards, Flag Orderlies and a drummer to assist with the March. We will also have the services of a Hutt City Brass Band Bugler.

VIP invitations, the Guest Speaker, the Anglican Minister, wreathes, sound system, Order of Service, publicity, etc. are all in hand.

Prior to Armistice Day, we will be erecting 188 crosses on Anzac Lawn in the formation of two companies of an infantry battalion on parade, with the names of the World War One fallen from Lower Hutt and Petone.

At the conclusion of the Service we are investigating the possibility of providing refreshments.

We expect that this 'one off' event will be enthusiastically supported by our members as well as the general public, who will be remembering members of their families who served during this appalling war.

### ***OUR LOCAL WORLD WAR ONE SOLDIERS REMEMBERED:***

As the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armistice Day approaches in November this year, Keith Garwood has put together a series of articles for our *Connections* newsletter. These articles are based on the presentation Keith made some years ago in our Anzac Lounge. The genesis for his research in 2015 was the 188 World War One men named on the Petone and Lower Hutt Cenotaphs. They are personal accounts of some of our heroes, sets of brothers and other poignant stories.

***Major Norman Frederick Hastings, Distinguished Service Order, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, a Mention in Despatches, Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment***

Based on his record of service and conduct in the field, Major Norman Hastings is one of the most distinguished military officers from Petone to die in the First World War.

Major Hastings saw service in the Second Anglo Boer War in South Africa and was awarded both the Queen's South Africa Medal (with clasps Cape Colony, Orange Free State, and Transvaal) and the King's South Africa Medal (with clasps South Africa 1901 and South Africa 1902).

After the war in South Africa Major Hastings returned to New Zealand, where he worked for the New Zealand Railways as an engineering fitter, while also serving in the territorial force as an officer in the Dominion Scouts and the 6<sup>th</sup> (Manawatu) Mounted Rifles. During this time he also settled in Petone, married, and with his wife produced a son and a daughter.

Major Hastings was attested for service with the Wellington Mounted Rifles on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 1914, just nine days after New Zealand's declaration of war on Germany. He sailed for Egypt with the main body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 1914 and then to Gallipoli in May 1915 with the Wellington Mounted Rifles.

He was wounded on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1915 during the short-lived attempt to hold the summit of Chunuk Bair taken just the day before by the Wellington Infantry Battalion.

Due to the chaotic conditions that prevailed, the nature and time of Major Hastings' death was not determined until a Court of Inquiry was held in Egypt early in the following year. The Court of Enquiry concluded that he had died of wounds inflicted on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1915. His assumed place of burial is marked with a memorial at the Embarkation Pier Cemetery on the Gallipoli Peninsula. His death is also commemorated on the New Zealand Railways Roll of Honour in the foyer of the Wellington Railway Station.

Posthumously Major Hastings was awarded:

- the Distinguished Service Order. For officers the Distinguished Service order ranks second only to the Victoria Cross for acts of bravery
- the French Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) – one of only 14 members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force to be decorated with this honour during the First World War
- a Mention in Despatches
- For further information on Major Hastings see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman\\_Frederick\\_Hastings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Frederick_Hastings)



*Major Norman Frederick Hastings, DSO, Chev LH, MiD*

***Gunner Ellis Alexander Parr, Military Medal, New Zealand Field Artillery***

Gunner Ellis Parr was wounded twice before being awarded the Military Medal in August 1917 for gallantry in the field during operations on the Messines Ridge two months earlier. But he had little time to reflect on his gallantry award before being killed in action at Ypres, Belgium, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 1917.

The Auckland Weekly News of the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1917 paid tribute to Gunner Parr and his family: Private [sic] Ellis Alexander Parr, who was recently reported wounded, is a member of a family which is doing its share in the war. His home is at Petone, Wellington, and he has two brothers, Rupert and Mark Parr, in the fighting lines, while his father is a member of the garrison at Samoa. All the male members of their household are in khaki. Ellis Parr is well known in rowing and football circles in Auckland, where he was a clerk in the loco department of the railway service at the time of his enlistment.

For further information on Gunner Ellis see:

<http://100nzmemorials.blogspot.co.nz/2012/07/gunner-ellis-alexander-parr-featherston.html>

*We will remember them.*

#### ***A FAMILY TRADITION CONTINUES:***

Naval traditions often run in families, but for one of our members, Mike Sharpe, this tradition has taken a special twist. Mike was a Chief Petty Officer Medic, specialising in Aviation Medicine with the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm. Mike served for 22-years from 1956 to 1978 and was attached to 848 Squadron FAA, aboard *HMS Bulwark*, for two commissions.

In 1956 *HMS Bulwark* was involved in the Suez Task Force operating Sea Hawk jets, Avengers and Dragonfly helicopters. From lessons learnt from the Suez 'Incident' *Bulwark* was converted to a Commando Carrier in 1959/60, resulting, ultimately, in 1963 with embarked Wessex and Sioux helicopters, with a complement of 1,035 and Royal Marine Commando troop lift of 900.

In 1966 *Bulwark* was again called into action and was underway within four hours for the Confrontation period with Indonesia, where she embarked a whole Commando, aircraft and stores.

Now Mike's grand-daughter's husband, Lt.Cmdr Andy Mahoney has followed her family's tradition. Andy was a Royal Navy Principal Warfare Officer (PWO) and came out to this country on exchange to the RNZN's Anzac class frigate, *HMNZS Te Mana*, as PWO. He then served as *Te Mana's* Executive Officer for a period before returning to the UK. On returning to the UK, Andy resigned from the RN and joined the RNZN taking up his current appointment as Fleet Warfare Officer (FWO).

On 22 August 2018, the Minister of Defence announced the purchase of the 85-metre *Edda Fonn*, a newly-purchased Dive and Hydrographic vessel as a replacement for the decommissioned ships *HMNZS Manawanui* and *HMNZS Resolution*.

Her first commanding Officer will be Mike's grandson-in-law, Lt.Cmdr Andy Mahoney and her home port will be Gisborne. Andy said it was "an honour and a

privilege” to be appointed as Commanding Officer. “Although we don’t take delivery of *Manawanui* until next year, the hard work has already started in raising and training the crew who will post to the ship. It’s an exciting time for us all.”

He said the ship will have a 3 in 1 capability, something the Navy has not had before. “We’ll have a platform for our hydrographic specialists to embark and conduct coastline, lake and harbour surveying. It’s a tailor-made ship for our divers to conduct underwater explosive disposal and it will have salvage capability. It will offer plenty to our Navy and government support agencies.”

The *Edda Fonn* is currently in Norway but will be delivered to New Zealand in March and renamed *HMNZS Manawanui*. She will be the fourth ship to bear the name and her full displacement is over 5,000 tonnes. The bridge deck is nearly 16 metres above the waterline and there are 7 decks in all, not counting the weather deck. The helicopter deck, at the bow, is capable of landing a Super Puma helicopter weighing over 9 tonnes.

A useful feature is a 7.2m by 7.2m enclosed moon pool, an opening in the ship’s hull up to waterline level, allowing diving and the use of remote underwater vehicles from inside the ship.

We all join with Mike in wishing Andy well in his new command.

#### ***ASSISTANCE FOR ALL VETERANS FROM VANZ:***

Veterans did you know that you could get the following assistance to help you in your daily life, and also a possible payment to help you enjoy your leisure times, and help you stay in your own home?

Assistance with, and at no cost to you:

- Lawns and gardens
- House cleaning
- Gutters cleaned
- Windows and house washing (external only).
- Help may be available for internal windows
- Home modifications to assist entry and exit (ramps)
- Furniture modifications
- Attendant care (short term basis only)
- Adaptive clothing and footwear
- Personal alarms (in case of falls, etc)
- Assistance with applications for funding of mobility scooters
- Travel allowances (certain conditions apply)
- Medical costs
- Hearing loss

The above is available to all who served prior to 1 April, 1974 and includes all operational deployments and routine service deployments.

This also covers those who served after 1 April 1974 and served in many theatres, or had routine service since Vietnam.

For further information or clarification, you may contact your Veterans' Affairs Case Manager directly on 0800 483 8372, or e-mail [veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz) Alternatively you may make an appointment through PWMC/LHMRSA Reception on 568-8588 for one of our Support Team to discuss your circumstances and complete a short "Needs Assessment" form.  
Support Team: Dennis Cheetham, Peter Gooch, Lars Millar, David Weston

***NEED SOME HELP? CONTACT OUR SUPPORT SERVICES:***

The Lower Hutt Memorial RSA offers support services for all Returned and Service members (or their widow / widower, spouse, children, or dependant) and they can apply for a grant for assistance with:

- Doctors' Visits and Prescriptions
- Dental
- Optical
- Hearing Aids
- Specialist Visits
- Funeral Expenses
- As well as home and hospital visits there are a number of Home Help services available too.

**If you need support, financial or otherwise, from the Support Team for any contingencies that Government agencies cannot assist you with, please phone 568-8588 and leave your contact details with the office.**

*We look forward to seeing you on Friday*