

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

Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA — March 2019

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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

FUTURE PLANNING FOR THE LHMRSA: By Lars Millar (President)

Hi members, 2019 is well under way, and Anzac Day is just around the corner. This will be my first Anzac Day as President, and I am starting to understand the pressures that come with the position. It is lucky that our governance structure has allowed us to do some extensive battle prep in the lead up, and rest assured our planning is well under way, and our planning team have things well under control.

1. Engagement
2. Recruitment
3. Financial Transparency/Independence/Sustainability
4. Governance
5. Communication

There will be one instalment for each subject in our monthly Connections newsletter. This fourth article is on, Governance. This has the potential to be another contentious article, as everyone has their own style and ideas, but in essence we have our structures in place and if nurtured properly, our future leaders will build on our success to carry the association in to the future.

Governance

Good governance is a key element in any organisation, as it is more than just making sure all the i's are crossed and t's are dotted. It is about ensuring that everything is working and performing to its maximum and that structures are in place to ensure going forward that the association can see and adjust its planning and structures in time to evolve and meet new challenges and environments head on.

With this in mind, there will be some changes to the structure, not big changes, merely troops-to-task – to coin a phrase. This will allow more mission-control, or directive control to use slightly old language. We are lucky we have good people already in place who have particular strengths and interests in areas. There will be four main areas, and no I won't use the continental staff system, to keep things simple and allow for a fast-paced battlefield, there will be four. These are:

1. Comms and Engagement,
2. History and Ceremonial,
3. Finance, and
4. Support (the old Welfare).

Comms and engagement

The Communication and Engagement Team will be responsible for all incoming and outgoing correspondence, media releases, advertising, social media, inter-agency, engagement, and other communication related tasks. Rules will fit under here too.

History and Ceremonial

The History and Ceremonial team will be responsible for history and ceremonial duties. For example, Anzac Day, Armistice Day, and any other key dates that the executive decides to mark. This includes liaison.

Finance

The Finance team will be responsible for all monies related activities and should provide a level of advice to the overall money situation of the association – to include the Trusts. This team will also investigate whether or not our Trust Deed and the set-up of the trust and all its associated structures are still fit for purpose, and if not, what remedial action is recommended. Within this team will sit the secretary and treasurer positions as well. Some work under this heading has already occurred and some changes made to make an immediate impact. I thank those who have already started the ball rolling in this space.

Support

The Support Team will be responsible for all support and welfare tasks and will ensure they are conducted with best practice in mind. This includes but is not limited to ensuring that our financial support is still current and the amount is reasonable. However, it must be remembered that we are not a bank or an endless pot of gold, but we must be reasonable.

Our support team has already made some changes and are consistently reviewing their operations to ensure best practice is being observed.

Rules

Work is well underway updating our rules, and this is no small task as anyone who has any experience with this kind of thing will tell you. Last year RNZ RSA finally passed its constitution after many failed attempts. This means that we finally have constitutional guidelines for our rules, and work is well underway to bring these in to line with national guidelines – however it must be remembered that we are an individual association along with the 181 other RSAs throughout NZ. With this comes certain individualities that must be catered for, and local needs that must be met. When the RSA movement was stood-up in 1916 they didn't want to be governed completely by a central power and fought tooth and nail to remain independent – hence we have 182 individual local associations who are their own boss.

Our rules will acknowledge the guidance from RNZ RSA and blend our own local needs as an association. We are working towards getting our draft rules out for wider consultation later in the year.

In Closing

The current executive have already, almost by default, begun working in these areas, and doing sterling work behind the scenes. It is this work that allows us to function as an association and means we will be around for many years yet. It is a credit to themselves and the association that attracts such high calibre members.

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 Alternatively, you may make an appointment through PWMC/LHM RSA Reception on 568-5404 for one of our Support Team to discuss your circumstances and complete a short "Needs Assessment" form.
Support Team: Dennis Cheetham, Peter Gooch, and 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 568-5404 and leave your contact details with the office.

'POPPY DAY' COLLECTOR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you spare some time to collect on 'Poppy Day' – Friday, 12 April? Volunteers are required to collect at supermarkets and the Queensgate Shopping Centre, as well as five railway stations (for those who don't mind an early start).

If you are able to help with this important fund-raising activity please contact Keith Garwood on 0-4-589 1510.

We also need volunteers to help put poppy and rosemary sprays together on Wednesday, April 24, and then to place them in the Services Section of the Taita Cemetery. Again, if you can spare some time to help do this, please phone Keith.

THE "BATTLE ZONE" STREETS OF LOWER HUTT

Many of you will have noticed that prior to Armistice day last year, the symbol of a 'poppy' appearing on street sign posts. Most of these 'poppies' appear on the streets on the eastern side of Waiwhetu Road in Waterloo. Courtesy of "Valleys & Bays" by Alison Carey, here's a list of those streets and the history behind those names.

Waterloo: Bauchop Road

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Bauchop, CMG, of the Otago Mounted Rifles, was killed at Gallipoli during the First World War. Bauchop's Hill in Turkey is named after him.

Waterloo: Birdwood Road

Field Marshall William Riddell Birdwood (1865–1951) was an Englishman, born in India. He took command of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps in Egypt late in 1914, and was the first to adopt the acronym ANZAC. He became 1st Baron Birdwood of Anzac and of Totnes, and in 1925 was Field-Marshal in the Australian Military Forces. There is a town named after him in South Australia.

Waterloo: Craddock Street

Rear-Admiral Sir Christopher Craddock (1862–1914) of the Royal Navy died in action during the First World War when his ship, the *Good Hope*, sank in the Atlantic. His brother, Lt Col. Montagu Craddock, commanded New Zealand's Second Contingent (1899–1901) in the South African war.

Waterloo: Cressy Street

The *Cressy* was one of three British cruisers sunk by a German U-boat in the first weeks of the First World War.

Waterloo: Freyberg Street

Named after the distinguished soldier Bernard Freyberg (1889–1963), who was born in England but grew up in New Zealand. He fought in both world wars, rising to the rank of Lieutenant-General, and was awarded the Victoria Cross in the First World War. He served as Governor-General of New Zealand (1946–1952), and in 1951 was elevated to the peerage, becoming 1st Baron Freyberg of Wellington, New Zealand and Munstead, Surrey.

Waterloo: Frickleton Grove

Named after Lance-Corporal Samuel Frickleton, who was awarded the Victoria Cross in the First World War. Before the war he was a miner in Blackball, on the West Coast, but later lived in the Hutt Valley. He died at Naenae in 1971.

Waterloo: Jutland Street

Named after the Battle of Jutland, fought off the Jutland Peninsula in Denmark between the British and German fleets in 1916.

Waterloo: Malone Road

Lieutenant-Colonel William George Malone (1859–1915) was a New Zealand soldier at Gallipoli who was responsible for the Wellington Infantry capturing Chunuk Bair. He died in the battle, and was held in high esteem. Before the war he had been a lawyer in Stratford.

Waterloo: Melvill Grove

Charles William Melvill (1878–1925) was born in England, and served in the British Army. In 1907 he came to New Zealand and took up sheep-farming. During the First World War he was a Colonel in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and was widely decorated. In 1919 he commanded the Wellington Military District and later became the General Officer Commanding.

Waterloo: Russell Street

This street, in the Waterloo “battle zone,” was named after Major-General Andrew Russell, Commander of the New Zealand Division after Gallipoli, in the First World War.

FRIDAY, 8 MARCH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME PRESENTATION

At 5:00pm on Friday, 8 March Josh Sales will be giving a presentation to members about his exchange programme trip to Australia.

Josh is a senior Navy Cadet member of TS Tamatoa in Petone, and at the time of his trip held the rank of Warrant Officer Cadet. Josh’s intention is to eventually join the Royal New Zealand Navy specialising in marine electrical engineering.

Lower Hutt Cadet exchange programmes are supported financially by the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA, so it’s especially pleasing that Josh is making his report to us personally.

The Lower Hutt Cadet Forces play a significant ceremonial role in our Anzac Day and Armistice Day commemorative services, so we know you will appreciate Josh’s presentation at this Friday’s evening meeting at 5:00pm.

FRIDAY, 15 MARCH E.O.D. PRESENTATION

At 5:00pm on 15 March, Dean Rennie NZGM will give an account of his Explosive Ordnance Demolition experiences as a SNCO in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Seconded to the UN, Dean’s duty covered the years 2010 to 2018.

We are sure this is going to be an incredible insight into the hazardous life of the professional E.O.D. operator, and a presentation definitely not to be missed.

