

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

**Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA — April 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*

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## ***LHM RSA BIDS SAD FAREWELL TO A PAST PRESIDENT: By Ian Robertson (Executive)***

On Tuesday, 26 March this Association paid its last respects to Alison Sexton, our President from 2010 to 2018. The Executive and Members extend to Alison's family sincere condolences for their sad loss.

Alison's record of service to the RSA was remarkable. She was our President for almost ten years prior to her resignation in July 2018 due to illness. Prior to that Alison had served as Vice-President and as an Executive member for a number of years.

Alison represented the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA at all National Conferences and District AGMs during her time as President and was the District Secretary for the year prior to her resignation as President.

Alison had excellent links into the wider community — very importantly the Hutt City Council, where she was always well received. Alison worked closely with Deputy-Mayor David Bassett on the project that revitalised the new ANZAC Lawn and the Cenotaph commemorative area outside the War Memorial Library. The opening of these took place just a few days before ANZAC Day 2015 — the centenary year of the Gallipoli landings. For her work on this project, Alison's name is commemorated on the plaque near the ANZAC Lawn.

At the conclusion of the funeral service, the RSA Returned and Service members formed a Guard of Honour, as a mark of respect to Alison, as her casket passed.

## ***FUTURE PLANNING FOR THE LHM RSA: By Lars Millar (President)***

Since our last newsletter we sadly lost Life Member, and past President, Alison Sexton, after a long battle with cancer. Alison was the main reason I decided to join the association and ultimately the Executive. Her tenure at the helm was at the time when we joined forces with the PWMC and she and her team at the time performed well to ensure the LHM RSA lived to see another day. I am sure her legacy will live on within the LHM RSA.

2019 seems to speeding up the further we get in to it and this will be my 5<sup>th</sup> and last instalment of my five-step plan. So far, in this series I have covered off the following:

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

My last instalment is on probably the single most important topic – communication. Communication works very well when used correctly, but it can be an absolute nightmare if it's not used, or misused.

## 5. Communications

It is very easy to do, and because of this many organisations get it very wrong. The most important aspect of any organisation is its members, and it is vital that these members are kept informed about what's happening. The fastest way for an organisation to lose its way is for it to become a self-licking ice cream for its 'leadership'.

Many organisations that I have been part of have been information black-holes and I've lost count of the times, I either did something, or something happened 'just because'. Yet, on the battlefield, when our comms suite worked, everyone knew what was happening. For some reason in camp or on base – nothing. When I started to climb the promotional ladder, I was determined not to repeat the mistakes I had seen in the past. I'd like to say I was the communicator going around but I wasn't receiving the information to start with – and that makes it hard.

So, determined not to carry on in the same mould, I vowed to build on the past good examples I have seen. Hence the continued issue of *Connections*, which will carry on informing our members. Friday nights we've had guest speakers to talk about things that we may have little, or no knowledge of.

All of this forms part of the larger communications strategy. I'm not just talking about within the LHMRSA but also with our partners and friends i.e. the PWMC, LHCC, RNZ RSA, the Cadets. Everyone we talk to or act with needs to be communicated with – in a way that they can react to. It's no use just sending out emails, or snail mail, when we don't capture as many members as we could do. Hence emails, snail mail, phone calls, txt, Facebook, website, and conversations. Everyone needs to be spoken to, to ensure they feel part of our Association and that they know what's going on.

We have a Joint Working Group with the PWMC that ensures we have information sharing, and that potential issues are identified well in advance. This working group is vital to ensure both organisations are communicating, and letting each other know what they are planning in advance.

Also, for my own end, when communications are disseminated (big word for a grunt – don't worry I googled it) they need to be in plain English i.e. short and to the point. so that those on the receiving end can quickly assimilate if required to act.

One item I'd like to investigate is the possible inclusion of a 'member's corner' type article in our *Connections* newsletter, where members can submit an article on something they are keen on. Obviously not all articles would be able to be published at the same time and our *Connections* editor would have the ultimate say in what gets published and when.

In short, expect more communications about what's going on – sums up the intent of the entire article in nine words. My next series will be about who your Executive and Trustees are, and what they are currently planning.

## ***THE HISTORY OF POPPY DAY: By Keith Garwood (Executive)***

The red or Flanders Poppy was one of the first flowers to grow and bloom in the soil – or more correctly mud – that resulted from the pounding that the ground took during the World War One battles of the Western Front. The significance of the red poppy to that generation of soldiers and civilians was put into words by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian Medical Officer, who served on the Western Front. The death of a close friend during the Second Battle of Ypres provided the inspiration for Lieutenant Colonel McCrae to pen the words of the famous poem 'In Flanders Fields', which opens with the lines

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row*

Poignantly, Lieutenant Colonel McCrae's life is said to have ended with the closing lines from his famous poem. As he lay dying from pneumonia in January 1918 he is reported to have uttered the words, "Tell them this, if ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep."

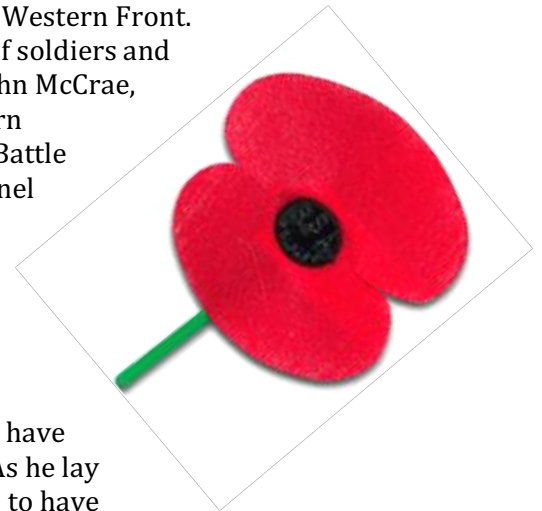
Two women, one American and one French, are credited with spreading the symbolism and use of the red poppy around the world. Moina Michael, who worked in a YMCA canteen in New York, in an apparent act of homage to Lieutenant Colonel McCrae, wrote in reply to him in November 1918, "We shall keep the faith". Her promise resulted in the American Legion adopting the red poppy as a symbol of remembrance in 1920. Madame E. Guérin, who was present at the convention of the American Legion in 1920 took up the call of Moina Michael and was instrumental in having the poppy adopted as a symbol of remembrance in many countries.

In New Zealand the Returned Soldiers' Association (the forerunner of the Returned Services' Association) planned to launch its poppy appeal around Armistice Day 1921, but the late arrival of stocks of poppies from Madame Guérin's charity supplier in France meant that the first poppy appeal in New Zealand took place in the lead up to ANZAC Day 1922.

Most of the proceeds from that first Poppy Day collection were used to assist needy, unemployed returned soldiers and their families, and that continues to be the focus of Poppy Day funds.

It is not necessary to be a member of an RSA to benefit from Poppy Day funds. Donations are used to support both current and ex-service men and women, including the NZ Police, and their dependents, living in the community where the funds are raised.

The use of the poppy as an act of remembrance associated with ANZAC Day is unique to New Zealand. In the United Kingdom and much of the rest of the World it is associated with Remembrance Day (formerly Armistice Day). This is also true of our ANZAC partner, Australia, which prefers the Rosemary spray to symbolise ANZAC Day because of the proliferation of that herb on the Gallipoli Peninsula as well as its long association – dating back to Roman times – with remembrance and death.



The poppy was used in some innovative ways during the centenary years of World War One. In 2014, 888,246 individually crafted ceramic red poppies were placed in the moat of the Tower of London. These commemorated the outbreak of World War One as well as the number of British or Colonial service people killed during the War.



Since 1927 Poppy Day in New Zealand has been marked on the Friday before Anzac Day (unless it falls on a Good Friday), which is in fact the case this year, with Poppy Day being observed on the early date of the 12<sup>th</sup> of April.

### ***LOWER HUTT ANZAC DAY SERVICE PROGRAMME— 25 APRIL 2019***

RSA Members and the public are invited to attend the following Anzac Day Commemoration Services on Thursday 25 April 2019.

#### **Lower Hutt Dawn Service**

- 5.45am: Parade assembles outside the Civic Centre, Laings Road, Lower Hutt
- 6am: Dawn Service held at the Cenotaph, adjacent to the Lower Hutt Memorial Library, Riddiford Garden, Anzac Lawn

At the conclusion of the Dawn Service a traditional 'Gunfire Breakfast' for RSA participants will be available at the Petone Workingmen's Club's Members' Lounge.

#### **Wainuiomata Services**

- 6.00am: Flag raising at the Cenotaph, Queen Street
- 6.15am (approximately): Flag raising at the Memorial Gardens
- 10.55am: Parade assembles at the BP Service Station
- 11am: Service held at the Cenotaph

#### **Naenae/Taita Service**

- 8am: Club service at the flag pole, Naenae Bowling Club, Vogel Street, Naenae
- 11am: Parade assembles at the Taita Lawn Cemetery gate, Rimu Street, Naenae
- 11.15am: Service held at Taita Lawn Cemetery

#### **Petone Services and Bracken Street Parade**

- 7am: Flag ceremony held at the Anzac Memorial Flagstaff, Petone Railway Station
- 8.15am: Parade assembles in Bracken Street
- 8.30am: Service held at the Garden of Remembrance, Memorial Park

### **Eastbourne Service**

- 9.30am: Parade assembles at Ballinger Gardens, corner of Makaro and Oroua Streets. Parade will then march past the Rata Street Memorial and Field of Remembrance
- 10am: Service held at the Memorial Gates, Muritai Road

### **Stokes Valley Service**

- 10.30am: Parade assembles at Scott Court ready to march off at 10.45am
- 11am: Service held at the Stokes Valley RSA, Hawthorn Crescent

### **Civic Service**

- 9.45am: Civic Service held at the Cenotaph, adjacent to the Lower Hutt Memorial Library, Riddiford Garden, Anzac Lawn.  
Refreshments will be held in the Dowse Art Museum, 45 Laings Road.  
If wet weather, this service will be moved to St James Anglican Church, 71 Woburn Road.

### **Lower Hutt Memorial RSA Service**

- 11.30am: The Atrium, Petone Workingmen's Club, 47 Udy Street, Petone.  
All attendees are cordially invited to stay at the Club's Members' Lounge for lunch and the afternoon's entertainment performed by Avi Diva and Wayne R Heath.

### ***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.**

### ***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/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

### ***NAVAL CONNECTIONS WITH THE STREETS OF LOWER HUTT***

Last month we had a look at local street signs that had First World War connections, and 'Poppy' embellishments, but two streets were missed; Godley Street and Haig Street, which will start our list this month. On the western side of Waiwhetu Road appear street names associated with the Royal Navy. Courtesy of "Valleys & Bays" by Alison Carey, here's a list of those streets and the history behind those names.

#### **Waterloo: Godley Street**

Major-General Sir Alexander Godley was a British Army officer and General Officer Commanding, New Zealand Forces (1910–14). He was in command of the New Zealand Division at Gallipoli during the First World War.

#### **Waterloo: Haig Street**

Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig (1861–1928) was a British officer in the First World War. He was in overall command at the Battle of Passchendale in which thousands of New Zealanders died.

#### **Waterloo: Collingwood Street**

Named after first Baron Collingwood (1750–1810), the Admiral who led the English fleet into battle at Trafalgar and assumed command on Nelson's death.

#### **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, *HMS Good Hope*, sank in the Atlantic. His brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Montagu Craddock, commanded New Zealand's Second Contingent (1899–1901) in the South African War. The family name is sometimes spelled Cradock.

**Waterloo: Cressy Street**

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

**Waiwhetu: Grenville Street**

Sir Richard Grenville (1541–91) was an English naval commander and a cousin of both Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake. He died in battle when his ship, the *Revenge*, was outnumbered by the Spanish fleet in the Azores.

**Waterloo: Hardy Street**

Sir Thomas Hardy (1769–1839) served under Admiral Lord Nelson as Commander of *HMS Victory* at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Hardy Street joins Trafalgar Square.

**Waiwhetu: Hawkins Street**

Rear-Admiral Sir John Hawkins (1532–95) was an English navigator and naval commander, and an uncle of Sir Francis Drake. He helped defeat the Spanish Armada in 1588, and died at sea.

**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: Nile Street**

Named after the Battle of the Nile in Egypt in 1798, when Lord Nelson defeated the French fleet under Napoleon.

**Waiwhetu: Rodney Street**

George Brydges Rodney (1719–92) was an English Admiral and first Baron Rodney of Stoke Rodney. His most noted victory, the Battle of the Saints (1782), restored English naval control of the Atlantic and ended the French threat to the West Indies.

**Waiwhetu / Waterloo: Trafalgar Street and Trafalgar Square**

The name commemorates Lord Nelson's victory at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The name was also given to the local sports field, Trafalgar Park.

**Waterloo: Vincent Street**

The Battle of St Vincent, fought on St Valentine's day, 1797, was a British Naval victory in the French revolutionary wars.