

DEVONPORT RSA

Established 1927

Presidents Newsletter September 2023

Kia ora all, we are now into spring so hopefully we will see an improvement in the weather, some warmer days and less rain.

It is with much regret that I advise you of the death of Max Laloli last week. Our condolences and love goes out Max's family. Max was a stalwart of the RSA movement filling roles on the committee and acting as parade Marshal for parades. He was a great advocate for the care of veterans and always made sure that members were being looked after. He will be dearly missed.



Rest in peace Max.

Recent Events

District AGM

Ron Turner, Gail and I attended the districted RSA AGM last month. Congratulations to Graham Gibson who was elected for another term as the Auckland District President. There was discussion on RSA matters and some ideas from National RSA going forward to the future. Some of those ideas are:

- Introduce a greater unity for RSA 2030
- Redefine current structures
- Districts Presidents part of National Management Structure

I am expecting a defined plan from National RSA in due course.

Mid-Year Function

Sunday 30 July 65 members enjoyed a Mid-Year American themed afternoon with entertainment from the 3Decibelles and an excellent meal prepared by the chefs at Chateaubriant. It was great to see the effort people put into their American Theme dress and the photo booth was a hit. We are now looking to organise our Christmas Function.



Club Nights

To support the Camaraderie pillar of our constitution the RSA is open one Friday a month from 1600 for club night. This is an opportunity to catch up with members, play a game of pool or darts and have a quite drink. Many are taking the opportunity to stop in on their way out to dinner, on their way home from work, or just coming in to say hi. Light snacks are provided. I hope to see your there sometime.

Poppy Foundation

The next Poppy Foundation meeting is scheduled for the 3th of October. So please get your claims to Gail no later than Friday the **22 September** to allow sufficient time for processing. Note that the Poppy Foundation pays out on the 20th of the month to the RSA's so expect payments to be few days later. If you don't receive as much as you were expecting it maybe because you have reached the category limits for this financial year. If you have any questions please contact Gail directly.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Every Friday at 1pm - Helena from Dance Haven will be running her class, only \$5 for RSA Members. No partner required, it should be fun, and it keeps you fit! Dance yourself Happy! Contact Helena on 022 093 2623 or info@dancehaven.nz

Monday 18 September 1100 – Members Lunch

Monday 18 September 1900 – Executive Meeting

Monday 2 October 1100 – Members Lunch

Friday 6 October 1600 – Club night

Sunday 14 November 1030 – Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 17 December 1300 – Christmas Function

This Month in History

Air Vice-Marshal Isitt accepts Japanese surrender

2 September 1945



Isitt signing the Japanese surrender treaty on board the USS Missouri (Air Force Museum)

In a short ceremony aboard the battleship USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, Japan, Air Vice-Marshal Leonard Isitt added New Zealand's signature to the Instrument of Surrender between

the Allied powers and Japan. The ceremony marked Japan's formal and unconditional surrender and the end of the Second World War.

Isitt was a career military aviator who had seen front-line service in the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War and then risen through the ranks of the New Zealand Permanent Air Force and its successor, the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He was the first New Zealander to serve as Chief of the dominion's Air Staff. Appointed to the role in 1943 with the rank of air vice-marshal, he was instrumental in securing an active role for New Zealand airmen in the Pacific War. Being chosen to act as New Zealand's representative at the surrender ceremony was recognition of his wartime contribution.

Only 12 signatures were required for the surrender documents and Isitt was the last to sign. In a short and solemn ceremony, lasting less than 20 minutes, representatives from the warring nations signed their name twice; once on the Japanese copy and once on a copy for the Allies. A blunder occurred when the Canadian representative, Colonel Lawrence Moore Cosgrave, accidentally signed his name under, rather than above, Canada's designated line on the Japanese copy. The three signatories who followed, including Isitt, were forced to replicate his error. After the Japanese delegation pointed out the mistake, the United States' General Richard Sutherland crossed out the four countries' printed names and wrote the correct name below their signatures. This proved acceptable, and peace was formally declared.

Air Vice-Marshal Isitt accepts Japanese surrender', URL: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/page/air-vice-marshal-isitt-accepts-japanese-surrender>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 31-Aug-2020

Ngā mihi
Muzz Kennett
President

