

DEVONPORT RSA

Presidents Newsletter

March 2024

Kia ora all, I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year. It has been a much better summer this year; and I hope you have enjoyed the outdoors without the flooding that many of you endured last year.

The Christmas function was a fantastic event with wonderful entertainment from the Verity Burgess Trio and as always, the food from Chateaubriant was excellent. It also gave me enormous pleasure to award RSA badges to our newest Youth members, Milla Rodrigues-Birch, Celine Wu, and Scarlett Buckingham.



Verity Burgess Trio



Members enjoying the entertainment



Members enjoying catching up and spinning some yarns



Our New Youth Members.

Purple Poppy Day

In collaboration with the Devonport RSA, the Navy Torpedo Bay Museum hosted Purple Poppy Day. While I was not there myself, I have heard it was a fantastic event and a special day with the welcoming of the statue of Minnie the cat generously gifted by Nigel Allsopp



Minnie the Cat

from the Australian War Animals Memorial Organisation (AWAMO). It was great way to commemorate those animals that have served. Thanks to everyone who came along. If you're visiting the museum, go and see Minnie she's sitting across from Torpedo Bay Cafe.



LT CDR Ray McLaughlan, Chris Mullane, Colin Waite the New Zealand representative of the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation.

Poppy Day 2024



Poppy Day Collection will be held Fri 19 (Poppy Day), Sat 20 & Sun 21 Apr. We need your help with Poppy Collection Friday at the wharfs and streets of Devonport and Takapuna as well as at the local supermarkets and Shore City particularly 0900 - 1600 Sat 20 and Sun 21 Apr. Unfortunately, due to lack of volunteers last year we could not crew some of the collection points so if you can spare a couple of hours, please email

committee member Trouty Taylor - rodney.taylor@nzdf.mil.nz or txt details to 022 041 6321. You can also contact me on 021 458279.

AGM 2pm Sun 24 Mar 24

DRSA (Inc) Rules allows for nine Executive Committee positions, being: President, Vice President, and Seven members. All positions are open for nominations.

DRSA (inc) has so much to look forward to and be excited about over the next year or so. At the forefront is aligning with the RNZRSA modernization programme, which aims to build a strong and resilient RSA for the future.

We are looking for people who want to be part of this. We want and need people who have skills or experience in communications (eg digital, media), marketing and promotion, NFP financial management; organization change and transition, event planning, or team building and volunteer workforce management.

We would love to have you join our Devonport RSA Executive Committee or Sub Committees. If you can help us to ...

- operationalize our strategic plan (see [website](#));
- review the DRSA draft constitution currently being rewritten to comply with the new Incorporated Societies Act and Charities Act;
- planning for our DRSA 100th anniversary in 2027; (Sub Committee)
- monitor and deliver support to our veterans and Club members;
- Deliver remembrance events (Purple Poppy Day Feb 25; Anzac Day Apr 25; Remembrance Day Nov 25); (Commemoration Sub-Committee)
- organize events on our social calendar (see website);
- ensure the good operation, management and governance of DRSA (Inc).

... please consider being a member of the DRSA Executive Committee.

Want more information – contact Muzz (president) 021 458279 or email gmk.kennett@gmail.com. You do not need to be a Service person, former service person or current member of the RSA to be considered. You would however need to be a financial member to be eligible for election.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 4PM ON 12 Mar 24

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MUST BE NOTIFIED OF ALL NOMINATIONS NO LATER THAN 17 Mar 24

Note if we don't fill the committee positions on the day, we will take nominations from the floor. For the AGM to go ahead we need a quorum of 12 financial members so please attend if you are able.

National Council Workshop



Syd Dewes, Gail Kennett, and I attended the RNZRSA workshop in Wellington Sat 24 Feb. There were lots of ideas with much debate on the future structure of the RNZRSA. This engagement will see us build a strong and resilient RNZRSA for the future. The workshop document links are below.

Workshop Documents

National President's address: [Download here →](#)

Board Chair's Address: [Download here →](#)

Constitution Working Group Presentation: [Download here →](#)

Workshop Questions: [Download here →](#)

Upcoming Events and Activities

Monday 4 March at 1100: Fortnightly Members Lunch Meeting

Monday 4 March at 1900: Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday 14 March 14 at 1600: Club Night (Whisky/Rum Tasting TBC)

Monday 18 Mar at 1100: Fortnightly Members Lunch Meeting

Sunday 24 March at 1400: Annual General Meeting

Monday 8 April at 1100: Fortnightly Members Lunch Meeting

Friday 12 April at 1600: Club Night

Sunday 14 April at 1500: Set out Field of Remembrance.

Friday 19 April: Poppy Day

Friday 19 Apr, Sat 20 Apr 7 Sun 21 Apr: Poppy Day Collection Days

Thursday 25 Apr at 1100: Anzac Day

Sunday 28 April at 1500: Bring in Field of Remembrance.

Veterans living in our area.

I know there are many Veterans and ex serving personnel living in our area South of Takapuna. If you know of anyone, ask them if they would share their email or postal address with us. I would like to know who they are and keep them informed of what their RSA is up to via email or post and to ensure they know what support is available to them and their families.

Muzz Kennett
President