

DEVONPORT RSA

October 2024

Presidents Newsletter

Kia ora all, we are coming out of the back of Winter with some nice Spring Days to look forward to. There is a lot going on at the moment with your committee busy planning Remembrance Sunday Commemorations on 10 November and the Christmas Lunch Sunday 8 December.

The next Club night is Friday 18 October with guest speaker Capt Warren Cummins, RNZN (retired) talking on his recent trip to Timor Leste for the 25th Anniversary Veterans Visit. Warren was the Commanding Officer of the HMNZS CANTERBURY during the conflict.

Mid-Winter Pacifica Theme Lunch

We were privileged to have Naima Tui and Whanau performing traditional dances and local guitar man Carl Mose playing some great tunes. The food with an Island flare was provided by Chateaubriant. It was great afternoon with prizes for the best dressed, thank you to the committee and all those people that helped make it a wonderful afternoon.





RNZRSA Constitution Update

Now that consultation has concluded, the next phase of the RNZRSA Constitution is under way. In mid-September an in-person workshop with 11 representatives from a variety of RSAs (small, large, different models), support services, districts, the Forum and the RNZRSA Board. These representatives were from around the country - Auckland, Waikato, Otago/Southland, and Wellington. RSA member Syd Dewes attended on behalf of the Devonport RSA. The work is ongoing, with the working group making good progress in delivering a workable constitution that will future proof the RSA movement for years to come. Syd and I will attend the RNZRSA National Council mid Oct where further discussions will be had.

Poppy Foundation Update



The Devonport RSA participates in the Poppy Foundation of Auckland Trust (PFT). The PFT provides financial assistance to veterans, ex-service persons and their dependents for welfare associated costs eg: glasses, hearing aids, dental and medical costs not covered by any health insurance scheme or a war pension entitlement.

When submitting claims we would like people to carefully distinguish between need and entitlement. We understand that this distinction between need and entitlement can sometimes be challenging, but it is our collective responsibility to make choices that secure the future of PFT and its mission to provide equal welfare to veterans in need. If you are in need of requiring additional support, please submit an application with a covering letter. It is suggested that you evaluate needs based on the degree of hardship or poverty. For example, a veteran, spouse, or dependent who can reasonably afford a specific expense without falling into poverty or enduring significant discomfort, it is recommended such costs are not claimed through PFT. This approach guarantees that PFT resources are channelled toward individuals who truly require assistance to alleviate financial hardship and maintain a basic standard of living if there is no other priority source of support. Any funds available in the Devonport RSA Poppy Day Trust may be used to support eligible members in extenuating circumstances or facing financial hardship for which PFT support is not available or is inadequate.

Each year the Devonport RSA Poppy Trust review our participation in the PFT. At the last meeting it was decided to continue with our participation as it was in the best interests of the members, this is best demonstrated by the fact that in the last financial year Devonport contributed \$24,161.00 and the PFT paid out \$29,246.00.

Please ensure you have all Poppy claims to Gail Kennett as soon as possible as claims that are older than three months will only be considered in extenuating circumstances. A copy of the claim form is attached to this newsletter.

If you have any questions or need assistance in submitting a claim or covering letter please contact Gail on 021446011.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Friday 18 October Club Night

1600 - Bar opens finger food from 1700.

1800 – Guest speaker.

Warren Cummins - Captain, RNZN (Rtd) will be our guest speaker talking to us about Timor Leste and his recent trip for the 25th Anniversary since the 1999 East Timorese crisis. Warren was Commanding Officer of HMNZS CANTERBURY from 1997-2001. During his time in command, he led the ship through the United Nations Peace Making Force deployed to Timor Leste, contributing to a new nation's early days.



10 November at 1100 Remembrance Sunday

Meet at the Devonport War Memorial to be seated by 1045.

Traffic Control: Please note there is no traffic control being provided this year and there will be no marching down Victoria Road – the parade will assemble and form up off the road outside the library.



Sunday 8 December 1300: Christmas Party

Monday 16 December: Office Closes

Monday 20 January 25: Office open and first 2025 Members Lunch Meeting

HMNZS MANAWANUI

You will have seen news reports of grounding of HMNZS MANAWANUI near Samoa. Thankfully, all crew and passengers are safe and now reunited with their Whanau. The Devonport RSA and its members are thinking of them and their Whanau at this time, I have passed on our offer of support should there be anything we can do.

Muzz Kennett
President