

August 2016 NEWSLETTER DUNEDIN RSA & WELFARE TRUST



Dunedin RSA President Lox Kellas
cordially invites all
RSA members, friends & family to attend the
Dunedin RSA's Centennial Church Service
10am 11th September 2016
at First Church
Moray Place, Dunedin

*This will be a special occasion to mark 100 years
of the RSA in Dunedin*



Original RSA Clubrooms in Moray Place

Last Post

In remembrance of
all service and ex-service personnel
who are no longer with us

*At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.*



Dunedin RSA 100 years ago

Two short lived committees for returned soldiers were established in Dunedin during World War I. The Otago Old Boys formed themselves into the Soldiers' Club House Incorporated, while, at the same time, the YMCA opened a furnished clubroom in its premises that was known as the Otago Soldiers' Club. In 1916 the Royal New Zealand Returned Services' Association itself was founded by wounded veterans returning from World War I. William Patrick, a local businessman, provided all of the funds necessary to purchase premises which was originally the 12 room, two storey home of Dr Hocken in Moray Place. At the time, only soldiers and returned nurses were eligible for membership. After World War II the scope was widened to include all returned servicemen and women and the name was changed to the Returned Services Association. Its establishment recognised a need to provide care for returning soldiers and to assist the families of those who would never return.



The Mayor of Dunedin called a public meeting in January 1918, at which a committee of prominent citizens was formed to establish a Returned Soldiers' Memorial Club. The foundation stone was laid in 1920 by Sir William Birdwood, commander of the ANZAC force in Gallipoli.

At the end of its first year of existence, the Dunedin Returned Services Association had a membership of 283, and in the 1980s it had grown to over 6,000. Members had served in the Boer War, First and Second World Wars, and conflicts in Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam. Following World War II the clubrooms in Dunedin were modernised and extended, and in 1962, following a fire, they were rebuilt and further modernised.

Dunedin RSA Today

The Current President, Major (Rtd) Lox Kellas has been a member of the RSA since 1970, he is also a past Chairman of the Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust and a current Trustee . Lox has been co-ordinating the Dunedin Anzac Day Dawn service since 2000.

The Executive is made up of a great group of current & former service people. Major (Rtd) Fred Daniel, Rev Dr Tony Martin NZDF Chaplin, John Cosgrove NZDF photographer, Jenepher Glover (NZ Police) Otago Southland District President & past Dunedin RSA President - Fiona Stewart ex servicewomen.

The Dunedin RSA is one of 180 RSA's in New Zealand and has approximately 400 current members and branches in Cromwell, Upper Clutha, Omakau, Maniototo, Port Chalmers & Peninsula. 100 years ago Dunedin was one of the first RSA's to be formed, and in 2008 was the first to appoint a female president Jenepher Glover – Jenepher has since gone on to become the Otago Southland District President.

The aim of the Dunedin RSA is to honour and remember the past as it is an important part of who we are, but also to focus on the present and look to the future in order to honour and respect those who currently serve.

The Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust supports our past and present servicemen & women including NZ Police, and their dependents using funds raised on Poppy Day. The Chairman of the Trust is Paul Galloway, who spent 30 years with the NZ Defence Force both in NZ and overseas. Paul is supported by Trustees, Prof Dr John Broughton, Cadet Officer (Rtd) David Abercrombie, Major (Rtd) Lox Kellas, Hon Col 2/4 Battln Jim Cutler, Navy Cmdr (Rtd) Lyall Cocks , Father Tony Harrison NZDF Chaplin.

Both the Association and the Welfare Trust are supported by staff members Sally Turner & Niall Shepherd who are available Monday – Friday

The RSA Executive & Welfare Trust meet every 6 to 8 weeks .



Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust

The Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust was once again overwhelmed with the generosity and support of the Dunedin and Otago public on Poppy Day in April this year. With that generosity we are well placed to continue providing a valued assistance to service and ex-service people and their families.



The money collected in the Dunedin area on Poppy Day is invested with the Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust where it is used to deliver assistance to service and ex-service personnel, their spouses and dependants **when there is a need**.

'Services' in this context has a wide definition and includes Airforce, Army, Navy, Compulsory Military Training (CMT), National Service, Territorials, Cadet Forces, Police, Merchant Navy and can also include the Services of other countries.

In addition to help with funding for things like hearing aids, dentures, glasses, gardening and maintenance the Trust has provided funds for specialist hospital beds, medical supplies, visits to specialists, and food parcels. If a 'need' can be demonstrated, chances are that the Trust can help. Apart from grant funding the Trust freely offers advice, advocacy, support and referrals, and enjoys strong links with many social agencies and professional service providers. Appropriate help, in confidence, is often just a phone call away.

Contrary to popular belief beneficiaries don't need to be members of an RSA and don't need to have served overseas.

If you or someone you know needs help, please get in touch with us.



Changes to Total Mobility scheme:

If you get Total Mobility books (Taxi chits) from the Welfare Trust you should have received a letter recently from the Otago Regional Council (ORC) explaining that paper vouchers are to be replaced with personalised photo ID swipe cards. In order to do this your photo needs to be taken and verified. If you are unable to come to one of the ORC's specified venues I can take your photo for you – you just need to ring me to arrange an appointment.

Volunteers wanted:

One rewarding task carried out by the Welfare Officer is coordinating a team of volunteers who regularly visit the 'ex-service family' in rest homes and hospital. A companionable visit offering friendship and support by one of the Trust's volunteers can brighten up the day of both the resident and the visitor and will sometimes identify other needs that the Welfare Officer can help with. Over time volunteers move on so we are looking for people who might be able to spare a couple of hours every fortnight or so. If you think you might be able to help at either the hospital or one of Dunedin's many rest homes, please contact us for more information.

The Dunedin RSA and Welfare Trust staff welcome any inquiry and can be contacted by phone: 03 466 4888 / 0800 664 888, email: welfare@dn-rsa.org.nz, or via our website: www.dn-rsa.org.nz

Armistice Day 2016
11am 11th November 2016
Major General Peter Kelly, MNZM
Will be the official guest for this year's
Armistice Day – all welcome.
Cenotaph Queens Gardens -Dunedin

Looking Back

Anzac Day becomes a sacred holiday

1916 – 2016

RSA



Anzac Day (25th April) was first marked in 1916, on the anniversary of the previous year's Gallipoli landings but the status of this half-day holiday was then unclear. In 1920 the Government responded to lobbying by the Returned Soldiers' Association (RSA) by declaring Anzac Day a full-day public holiday, which was observed for the first time on the 25th April 1921. This legislation closed banks and hotels and banned race meetings, but the RSA still wasn't satisfied. The following year the 25 April was effectively 'Sundayised', further emphasising its sacred place in the New Zealand calendar.

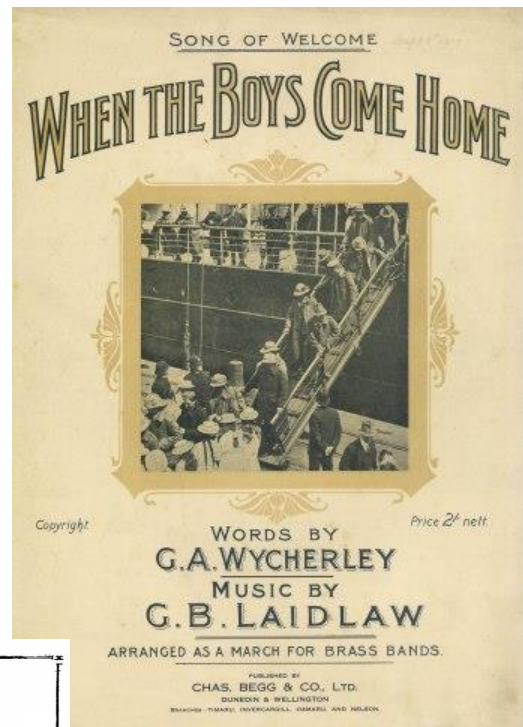
***First Anniversary of
Anzac Day, Dunedin
Municipal Chambers,
25th April, 1916.***



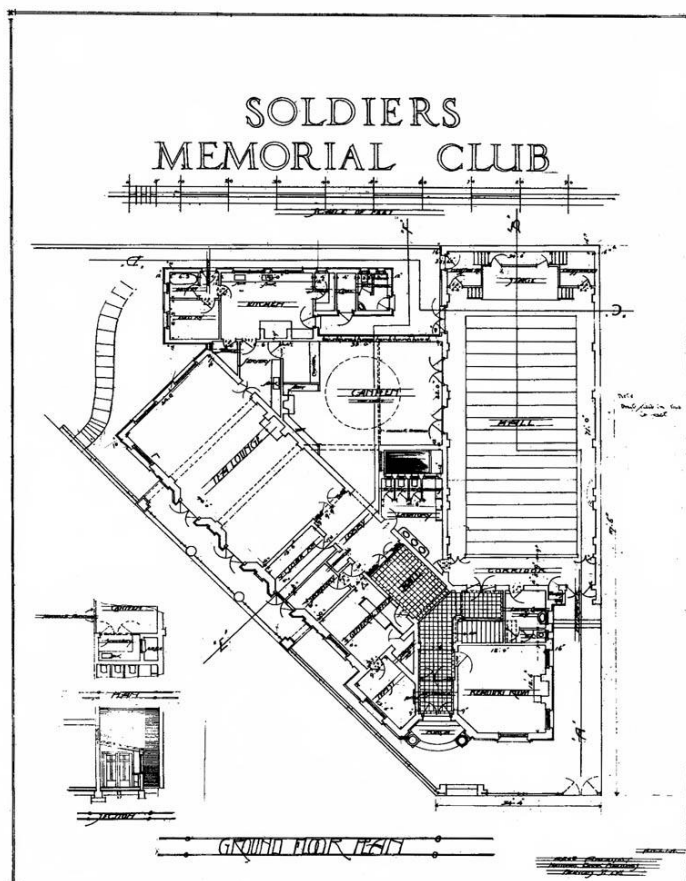
Troops from the 16th Reinforcements parade through the Octagon, Dunedin, on 19th August 1916 - Otago Witness



Below: The cover of the sheet music for 'When the Boys Come Home', a song written and composed in Dunedin about the return of soldiers from the First World War



Below: Original Floor plan for Moray Place



RSA Building (Arrow House)

Built: 1920-1921 (additions completed 1938 and 1946)

Address: 469 Moray Place

Architect: William Henry Dunning
(additions by Miller & White)

Builders: Fletcher Construction Co.

1916 – 2016

RSA



Dunning's plans for new buildings on the Anzac House site were approved in April 1919, and in March 1920 a description was published in the *Otago Daily Times*:

The club will be a two-storeyed edifice in the modern renaissance style, and will be carried out in brick, finished with concrete. The frontage to Moray place will be 34ft, to Burlington street 87ft. The entrance will be at the corner of these streets, and will give access to a wide vestibule, on the right of which will be the reading room, with the offices on the left. The hall leading from the vestibule will give access to the canteen and tea lounge on the ground floor, and to the billiard, board, and common rooms, by means of a wide staircase, on the upper floor. The canteen is to be lighted by a dome roof, and will have a cosy inglenook round the wide tiled fireplace. This may also be used later as a supper room in connection with the social hall, which will be built subsequently, or when funds permit. The spacious tea lounge will be 40ft by 24ft in area, and this will give access by French doors to a covered verandah, occupying nearly the whole length of the Burlington street frontage. A very complete kitchen and servery will be attached to the lounge, and also to the canteen. The billiard room upstairs will be sufficiently large to accommodate four full-sized tables. Hot and cold showers will also be provided upstairs; in fact, the sanitary arrangements throughout the building are to be of the most complete and up-to-date character. The hall, which it is intended to annex to the building at a later date, will be provided with a stage and eating accommodation, up and down stairs, for about 400 people. The exterior decoration of the building, without being of a very elaborate order, will be most imposing, and, with the advantage of a wide street frontage, the clubhouse will have a most imposing and monumental appearance, of which our soldiers and the city generally may well be proud.



Additions were made in 1938, when the ground floor social hall was extended down Burlington Street. The steepness of the street and the rock beneath the additions gave a striking effect to the enlarged structure. The architects were Miller & White, who effectively worked in the existing style, possibly based on drawings left by Dunning, who had died some years earlier. The same firm designed more extensive additions in 1944, but these were not completed for another two years. They extended the first floor to the same extent as the earlier addition, making space for another billiard room. At the same time a miniature rifle range and assembly room were built beneath a new roof structure, increasing the height to three storeys, though the top floor was set back and obscured from the street. Existing internal spaces were also rearranged making room for a lounge, women members' room, committee room, and recreation and games room. The work was carried out by Mitchell Bros and the redeveloped building was opened by Sir Donald Cameron (Mayor of Dunedin) on 18 December 1946. The redevelopment cost a little over £20,000.

A large fire broke out in the early morning of 17 April 1962. The building was so extensively damaged that the *Otago Daily Times* initially described it as being destroyed. The following day it was reported that '*apart from repair work, little structural rebuilding will be necessary on the first floor...but the second floor and roof will have to be rebuilt*'. The cost of the damage was estimated at £60,000. Extensive reinstatement work was designed by N.Y.A. Wales (of Mason & Wales). A small corner tower and other masonry and detail at parapet level were removed, and the reinstated rifle range or indoor bowling space on the second floor featured sloping glazed walls. The building was officially reopened on the 6th April 1963.

Around the same time the RSA acquired the freehold of the land (previously held leasehold from the Presbyterian Church Board of Property).

The next major renovations were carried out between 1971 and 1972 at a cost of approximately \$80,000. It was reported that the work '*will modernise the clubrooms, turning the second floor into an area for social activities and extending the charter activities throughout the first floor, except for the offices and reading room*'. A permit for glassing in the balcony was issued in 1978. After facing a financial crisis, the Dunedin RSA sold and vacated the building in 1996. In 2009 it was extensively refitted as commercial office space for owners Beach Road Limited (Grant McLauchlan). It was subsequently renamed Arrow House after its anchor tenant, Arrow International.

It is many years since the RSA occupied the building, but although it is not an official memorial like the nearby cenotaph in Queens Gardens, it remains a significant built connection to the soldiers who served in conflicts overseas.



Arrow House as it is today

Dunedin Returned Soldiers' Association (Inc) Executive Committee 1919-1920



Back Row H BEGG C R MCLEAN W H WOOD Major J McCRAE D.S.O.

SITTING G M SMITH (Secretary) C R MURRAY (Hon Treasurer) Dr T HARRISON (President) Col. J H MOIR (Vice President) J H MCNISH [Founder Dunedin RSA Choir]

Front Row C L CALVERT E N STEWART

Absent- Capt R P JONES (Vice President) W CLARK J E MCMANUS

RSA Choir History

The Dunedin RSA Choir had its origin on the battlefields of Gallipoli . It was during a lull in the fighting in 1915 that Dunedin soldier Jimmy McNish was captivated by the singing of the enemy in a trench a short distance away.

Young McNish was so impressed with the singing and he made up his mind that, if he survived the war, he would start a soldiers' choir back at home.

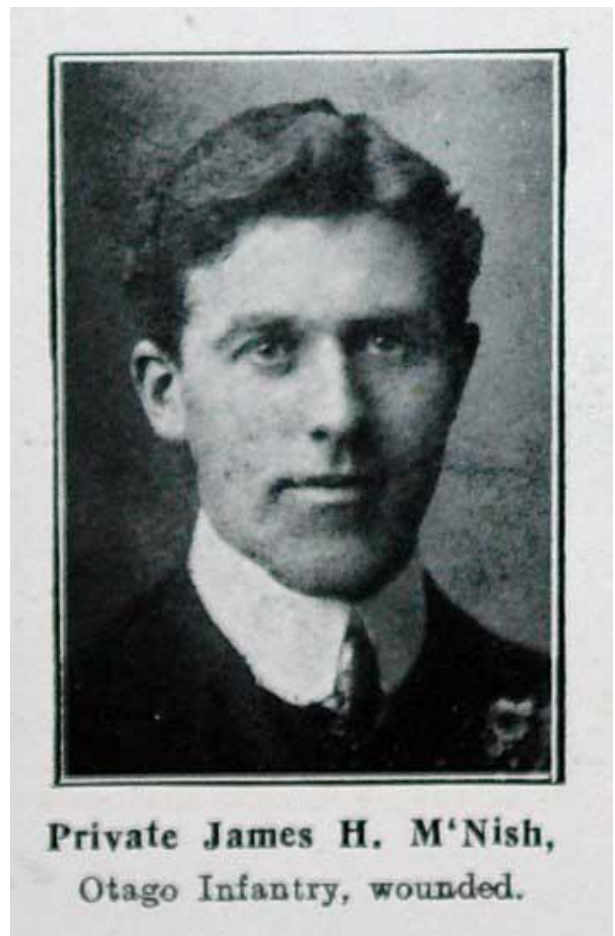
Obviously he did survive, became an early member of the committee of the Returned Soldiers' Association, and called a meeting of singers. Only nine turned up, but undeterred, McNish encouraged friends from wartime days and by the end of 1919 there were 30 in the new choir.

For many years now the choir has numbered around 60, and has played an important and valued role in Dunedin City's cultural activities and the commemorative celebrations of significant historical events.



The Dunedin RSA CHOIR next performs on the 22nd of November at the Dunedin Town Hall.

For more information visit their website www.rsachoir.co.nz or phone 03 4876160



The Dunedin Returned Soldiers' Association. (Inc)
THE FIRST OTAGO PROVINCIAL PATRIOTIC APPEAL.
(Organised by the Association in the Otago District.)
5th.-10th. FEBRUARY, 1940. (CITY APPEAL-9th. FEBRUARY.



STANDING:

A. Duncan. S. Ewens. H. Berland. J.W. Anderson. G.H. Ferens. J.M. White. O.L. Ferens.
(VICE-PRES.) (EXEC. COM. MEMBER) (PRESIDENT) (SECRETARY)

SITTING:

W.R. Clark. G.G. Low. G.W. McDouall. D. Jolly. J. Shannon. A. Thomas.
D.S. Bank Nat. Bank National Bank D.S. Bank D.S. Bank (PAST-PRES) RSA D.S.B.

TOTAL COLLECTED £1,952.10.8.

Note to Photo.

The Dunedin Returned Soldiers Assoc Inc is now The Dunedin Ret Services Assoc Inc

The 7 ~~8~~ members standing ~~are~~ plus Mr Thomas are
 returned servicemen 1914/1918 war
 and possibly committee members RSA

Mr A Thomas was the Manager of the
Dunedin Savings Bank now called.
The Otago Savings Bank

The men marked D.S.B. were members of the bank staff
 LOW McDouall & Shannon could also be
 D.S.B. & National bank staff recruited by Mr Thomas a good friend
 to all ex servicemen.
 Pres V-P. P-P. Sec. all refer of course to RSA.

P.T.O.

Posy Laying 1960

MS-3093/097

[Original order of photo album] P1.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ANZAC DAY SERVICE AT THE SOLDIERS PLOT AT THE ANDERSONS BAY CEMETERY.

In 1959 a proposal that on ANZAC Day a spray, or posy of flowers be placed on each grave in the Soldiers' Plot in the Andersons Bay Cemetery was put to the then Executive of the Dunedin R.S.A. by Mr. H.J. Stinson on behalf of the late Mrs. Gwen Graham. Also presented were Mrs. Graham's ideas that a sprig of Rosemary (Remembrance) be incorporated in each posy and that it should be mostly young people involved in the actual Service.

The Executive declined the proposal on the grounds that the Dawn Service, the March from the R.S.A, the Wreath Laying at the Cenotaph and the Service in the Town Hall were sufficient. The Ex-Servicewomens' Branch however felt that there was a place for such a Service and it was decided to go ahead on ANZAC Day in 1960. Mr. H. Stinson was co-opted to design a suitable Service, arrange Bands and organise the laying of the posies while the Ex-Servicewomen would be responsible for the making of the posies and arranging for the young people to lay the posies. The Ex-Servicewomen then sent invitations out to other Organizations to join in this venture - Y.W.C.A. Floral Art Club, C.W.I. Pine Hill, R.S.A. Womens' Section, and P.O.W.

Thus on the 25th April 1960 a most successful first function was held at the Andersons Bay Cemetery where, with about 500 spectators, 46 Girl Guides placed 991 posies on the graves, and the Air Training Corps Bugle Band played The Last Post and Reveille.

The same basic pattern has been followed every year since with the A.T.C. Band performing on each occasion and the addition of Junior Bands playing during the laying of the posies. Bands which have assisted are Kings High School Band, St.Kilda Junior Band, City of Dunedin Junior Highland Pipe Band and latterly the Homestyle Kaikorai Junior Brass Band.

With the cessation of the Street March and the Town Hall Service, this Flower Laying Service has become a major and integral part of the observation of ANZAC day. This year 1987 114 Girl Guides placed 3394 sprays before a large number of spectators despite the cold conditions. Many have remarked how moving they have found this short Service (it last only 15 minutes) and how it ensures the care and maintenance of the Soldiers Plot.

RSA Ex-servicewomen making posies for Andersons Bay Cemetery



There is a lot of historical information about the Dunedin RSA housed at the Hocken library - It's well worth a visit if you are interested in our history.

Contact the Reference Desk

Tel: (64) (3) 479 8879

Email: reference.hocken@otago.ac.nz

Dunedin Life Membership awards

Life membership awards were recently presented to Fred Daniel & Lox Kellas.

Between the two of them they have 68 years of Dunedin RSA Membership, of which 41 years have been spent on the Executive. Lox & Fred are both past RSA Presidents and have been Chair of the Welfare Trust.



RSA Members always welcome

Your Friendly Neighbourhood Bar

11b North Rd
The Gardens
Dunedin



Phone:
03 473 1795

Where Everyone Knows Your Name



Open Hours
from 10.30am

Daily Happy Hour
4.00 - 5.00pm

**Super Happy Hour
& Bar Draw**
Every Friday
4.00-7.00pm



**Pension Tuesday
Happy Hour**
10.30am - 5.00pm

Self Service TAB

Pokies

Sky TV

Sports Betting

**Outdoor
Smoking Area**



Dunedin RSA Presidents Board

1916 - 2016

DUNEDIN R.S.A.			
PRESIDENTS		PRESIDENTS	
W R Clarke	1916	1961	H J H Horrell
Dr R C McKillop	1917	1962	L deV Gilbert
Dr T Harrison	1918-1921	1963	L G Malthus
T W McDonald	1922	1964	R D Gillespie
Rev H McLean	1923	1965	P E Hazledine
J McRae	1924	1966	S W Shrimpton
P S Anderson	1925	1967	J D Mercier
E J Anderson	1926	1968	W M Wheeler
A C Iaing	1927	1969	R W Foster
H L Paterson	1928	1970	R P Smithson
A McHutcheon	1929	1971	J M Anderson
J S Skinner	1930	1972	A B Walker
W F Forrester	1931	1973	J W Rush
P S Anderson	1932	1974	W Wards
A J Gordon	1933	1975	G V Booth
A Thomas	1934	1976	A L Parry
A S Falconer (to 14.8.1935)	1935	1977	M W Sinclair
A Thomas (from 14.8.1935)	1935	1978	S J Kelly
H L Paterson	1936	1979	L H Bills
C L Calvert	1937	1980	O J Lay
M R Wilson	1938	1981	F J Summers
J M White	1939	1982	V S Johnson
W K Cameron	1940	1983	J D Fairley
W E Earnshaw	1941	1984	R C Hamilton
S G Scoular	1942	1985	(to 10.10.1985) W J Tointon
C R McLean	1943	1985-86	(from 10.10.1985) L E Burgess
D Forsyth	1944	1987	A G Davidson
H P Jefcoate	1945	1988	J Sherriff
S P Cameron	1946	1989	R E Shrubsole
M S Myers	1947	1990	R G Anderson
A J H Jeavons	1948	1991	C R Matheson
D L Wood	1949	1992-1995	R J Smith
K W Stewart	1950	1996	I W McMeeking
H H Parata	1951	1997	G R Mowat
A W Barnett	1952	1998-1999	H J W Hedges
W P Wellington	1953	2000-2001	L E Burgess
F R M Watson (to 28.9.1954)	1954	2002-2003	A J Campbell
W H Reid (from 28.9.1954)	1954-55	2004-2005	E L Kellas
G P McElwee	1956	2006-2007	F W Daniel
L G Malthus	1957	2008-2009	J Glover
H J Stinson	1958	2010-2011	A Goding
F J Gray	1959	2012-2014	J Glover
J W Moodie	1960	2015-2016	E L Kellas

The RNZRSA 100th National Council will be held at the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington on the 10th and 11th of October 2016.

On Sunday the 9th October 2016 at 5.00pm there will be a National ceremony at Pukeahu, the National War Memorial.

A parade of veterans followed by a wreath laying ceremony.

RNZRSA encourages all veterans to participate in this parade to commemorate the forming of our organisation. If you would like to march in the parade you just need to be at Pukeahu ready to form up in Tasman Street, by 4.00pm on the 9th October.

For further information contact Bukit Hill at Bukithill@xtra.co.nz or phone 027 659 0679.

**Dunedin RSA and
Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust**
63 Bay View Road
P.O. Box 4008, St Kilda
DUNEDIN 9016

Access from 3 Prince Albert Road opposite Dominos Pizza behind the Montecillo Veterans Home and Hospital.

RSA Administrator:

Sally Turner

Phone: 03 466 4886

Email: finance@dn-rsa.org.nz

Welfare Officer:

Niall Shepherd

Phone: 03 466 4888

Email: welfare@dn-rsa.org.nz

Freephone: 0800 664 888
Website: www.dn-rsa.org.nz