

December 2016 Newsletter

DUNEDIN RSA & WELFARE TRUST



*Major (Rtd) Lox Kellas
QSM, ED, Dunedin RSA
President- lays wreath
at Dunedin RSA
Centennial Church
Service held on the 11th
September at First
Church in Dunedin.*

*Reverend Anthony Hawes, Principal
Defence Chaplain Class 1 during the
service on the 11th September.*



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 Centenary Church service



The centenary of the Dunedin Returned Services' Association was celebrated with prayer, sermon and song on September 11th in Dunedin.

More than 200 people attended the Dunedin RSA Centennial Church Service at First Church. RSA representatives travelled from throughout the region to attend the service.

The Service started with Dunedin Piper Lynne Clarke piping in the flags – the RNZRSA Flag & the New Zealand Flag where carried in by WW2 veterans Neville Selwood & Jim Clegg.

The Dunedin RSA President would like to acknowledge all those who contributed to this great occasion. RSA Choir, St Kilda Brass band, Col (Rtd) Roger McElwain, Lynne Clarke , his Worship. Mayor Dave Cull, Reverend Anthony Hawes, Rev Dr Trevor James, Prof John Broughton, Matthew Patchett, Hope & Sons , Reverend Dr Tokerau Joseph and the First Church congregation.

Presidents Report

The centennial year has been busy throughout the district with a number of local commemorations taking place.

As part of WW1 100 activities many towns have remembered the men and women who served in World War 1 with stories from soldier's diaries, photographs of local men heading off in the reinforcement drafts and contributions from historians about the progress of the war.

This year the focus was on the Battle of the Somme where the Otago Regt suffered enormous casualties at the start of the ill-fated campaign. Memorial crosses were placed at Queens Gardens as a tribute to those men.

The ANZAC Day Dawn Service was well attended. The guest speaker, Commodore John Campbell paid a special tribute the seated veterans.



I attended the laying up of the 2 NZ Scots Colours at Toitu Settlers Museum. It is appropriate that the Colours remain in Otago bearing in mind the rich history of the unit.

The RSA's Centennial Church Service was well attended. A special thanks to Neville Selwood and Jim Clegg who carried in the NZ and RSA flags. We were privileged to have Wing Commander Ant Hawes, Principal Defence Force Chaplain as the preacher.

The RSA National Council was held in Wellington in October. The remits went through smoothly with most being focused on tidying up the roles and responsibilities of the Presidents Forum and the Board to bring them into line with new legislation and recommendations from the Independent Taskforce.

Other keynote topics were:

- The repatriation of service personnel buried in cemeteries in Singapore and Malaya. The Government is looking at this and a report is due in early 2017. The Australian Government has returned all its personnel.
- A group of contemporary veterans forming a trust called "No Duff" to deal with veterans who are presenting with a number of physical and psychological issues.
- Issues around medallic recognition of service in Singapore.
- The appointment of Rear Admiral(Rtd) Jack Steer as the new CEO of RNZRSA

I took the opportunity to visit the exhibitions at Te Papa and the old war memorial building. I recommend you to visit these venues; they are outstanding and have won international acclaim.

I attended the book launch of the history of the RSA by Stephen Clarke who attended Kings High School and Otago University.

This year we took the opportunity for youth to play a part in the Armistice Day Service.

Lola Garden from St Hilda's Collegiate gave brilliant speech. She was supported by the school choir. A certificate of appreciation was presented to her and the choir.

The Rev Dr Tony Martin blessed the new flagpoles which were erected at Queens gardens as a commemorative project.

We say farewell to Fred Daniel on his retirement as CEO of Montecillo. His contribution while in his role as CEO has been of tremendous benefit to the Dunedin RSA.

As part of our Centennial celebrations we have presented a number of awards and certificates to individuals and organisations that have helped our organisation.

The WW100 governance group met on the 7th December to discuss commemorative activities in 2017 & 2018. In 2017 the Fields of remembrance crosses will reflect the Otago regiment fatalities from the Battles of Passchendaele and Messines.

If you had a relative who had a cross in Dunedin Fields of remembrance during 2014, 2015, or 2016 you can apply to Marilyn Anderson at the DCC if you wish have the cross. (Proof of family connection will be needed.)

If you are planning any commemorative events for WW1 in your area, please let us know.

I attended a Service marking the 75th anniversary of the sinking of HMS Neptune was held at HMNZS TOROA on the 11th December. Attending where Chief of Navy - RADM John Martin, Deputy Chief of Navy - CDRE David Gibbs, Marine Component Commander - CDRE James Gilmour and Warrant Officer of Navy – WO Steve Bourke.

In closing thanks to the Poppy Day volunteers whose help allows our Trust to operate, and to Sally Turner, secretary extraordinaire, for her work throughout the year

Lox Kellas

President Dunedin RSA

RSA. Keepers of remembrance.

RSA 100 years ago, in Upper Clutha



What we now know as Cromwell and District Returned and Services Association was formed 100 years ago. In 1916 it was a sub-branch of Dunedin Returned Soldiers Association. A letter of 19th November 1919 records that we had members in Cromwell, Bannockburn, Lowburn, Queensbury, Luggate, Mt Barker, Albert Town, Pembroke (Wanaka), Maungaweara, Hawea Flat, Tarras, Malver Downs, Lindis Crossing, and Bendigo. We called ourselves "Upper Clutha RSA sub Association.

Only our name has changed. Our objectives remain constant – to provide welfare for our veterans and to act as guardians of the remembering of those who gave their lives in the service of our country. In this latter role, we held the following two events:

- On Friday 11 November, we marked the signing of the Armistice, that resulted in hostilities ceasing in World War 1 at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month 1918. A short service was held at the Cenotaph beside the Memorial Hall in Melmore Terrace.
- On Sunday 13 November, RSA members were invited to join in the 9am Remembrance Day service St Andrews Anglican Church, on the corner of Blyth & Donegal Streets.

Members of the Cromwell community joined in on both occasions.

John Morton, President

Greetings from RNZRSA National Office.

Rear Admiral (Retired) Jack Steer ONZM has commenced as Chief Executive of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association (RNZRSA).

Jack has had a wide and distinguished career with the Royal New Zealand Navy for almost 43 years, including appointments as Commander, Joint Forces New Zealand, Vice Chief of the Defence Force and latterly Chief of Navy.



I am delighted to have been appointed as the Chief Executive and look forward to working with you all to provide support to our returned and service personnel, their families and dependents.

During my time serving in the Royal New Zealand Navy I was fortunate enough to meet and engage with many of our veterans. Of course today, as I write this, young men and women are still serving our country, often in unfriendly and dangerous environments. They are our new veterans who also may need the support of the RSA, perhaps in a different way than we have been used to.

The work of the RNZRSA in providing support is very important to the livelihood and wellbeing of many. When coupled to the remembrance activities and advocacy work, this gives us a great profile, both in New Zealand and internationally.

One of the things that has always impressed me is the hard work of all of those people who make our organisation tick. Supporting those who have served our country is an honourable profession and I am proud to be working with you.

The National Office will be increasing our efforts to provide support and improve communication throughout the RNZRSA organisation. Keep an eye out for more social media and information, including our Website and of course, Basecamp. There will also be a regular email update from my office to as many of our members as possible.

That's all for now. I look forward to getting around and meeting as many of you as I can and working together with you to advance the work of the RNZRSA.

RSA 2016 Poppy
Appeal helps support
new generations of
veterans



The RSA's 2016 Poppy Appeal raised nearly \$2 million throughout New Zealand. The funds raised are being deployed by the RSA to assist current and former servicemen and women (including NZ Police), and their partners and dependants.

The 2017 Poppy Day is Friday April 21st

If you would like to volunteer for
Poppy Day in 2017 please give the
Dunedin RSA Office a call –
we would love to hear from you.

Commemorating 100 Years of RNZRSA

2016 marks the centenary of the RNZRSA. With community support three flagpoles have been installed at Queens Gardens to commemorate this significant milestone. Not only will the flagpoles add to future services but they are a mast for the flag that represents our nation and under which so many have made the ultimate sacrifice.



This project would not have been possible without the support of the Otago Community Trust, The Bendigo Sports and Charity Foundation and the Dunedin City Council.

Three Flag Poles commemorate 100 Years of RNZRSA

A.J Grant Engineering manufactured the flagpoles and DELTA did the ground work and installation



The Workers – Left to right: Jamie & Scott (Grant Engineering) Gabe (Delta) Andy (Grant Engineering)



Merry Christmas from RSA Welfare Trust



As the festive season and a summer holiday approaches we can take a moment to reflect on the year that has been and look forward to 2017 with optimism. The RSA Welfare Trust is proud to be supporting and assisting the men and women who have and continue to serve our country, and their families. This Christmas we spare a thought for those less fortunate than ourselves and for those who have put their service ahead of being with their families.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Trustees and Staff

RSA Welfare Trust

From the Welfare Officer.

Another year draws to a close and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of those people who have helped us out this year. Volunteer visitors have made a positive difference to the wellbeing of those in rest homes and hospitals, volunteer collectors have given time and effort to make another successful Poppy Day – which enables our trust to deliver services and assistance to our ex-service family, other volunteers have helped by offering wise counsel, sound governance and advice. Many people give their time to address the specific needs of our ex-service family in Branch areas as well as the city, to assemble posies, deliver things, organise events, sort and clean stuff and generally maintain our operation. Professional people and businesses have helped too by supporting our cause, and our funders who have helped with their grants and donations. And of course, the public offer their support by donating generously on Poppy Day. We would not be able to deliver a quality professional service without the support we enjoy.

As you settle back to reflect on the passing of another year, please take some time to consider that New Zealand is 'making' veterans at a faster rate now than at any time since WW2 so we need your support more than ever. Conventional warfare has changed and our service people and police deploy on a variety of peace keeping and humanitarian missions around the globe and are being exposed to all sorts of trauma, toxins, stresses and environmental extremes. Much like our allies we are seeing veterans returning with psychological as well as physical injuries. Psychological injuries are harder to spot, but just as damaging and we must remember that 100 years ago, back in 1916, RSA was started to support the needs and wellbeing of returning soldiers.

Earlier this month I made a commitment to RNZRSA: ***'To attend any incident involving an ex-service person, at short notice, at any time of the day or night, in the general areas of the Dunedin RSA and it's branches, to offer whatever immediate support I can while waiting for appropriate agencies to engage and, where appropriate, making those referrals myself.'***

This is a reflection on the very real needs of the time and effectively becomes our 'emergency response capability'. It also reinforces the good work of our network of Branch Welfare Officers, and is a resource available, after consultation, to the wider district.

I would like to ask you all to spare a little time over the festive season to think of any of our ex-service family who may be struggling financially, physically or emotionally. Support can range from just a few kind words and compassionate listening, to referral to specialist agencies. Your RSA Welfare Officers can be a great first point of contact, and I am always available to offer support as well.

Contact by phone: 0800 664 888, Cell: 027 416 5030, or email: welfare@dn-rsa.org.nz

Niall Shepherd – Welfare Officer – Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust

Armistice Day 2016- Dunedin



Armistice Day was commemorated by the Dunedin RSA in a ceremony at the Queens Gardens Cenotaph.

About 250 people braved pouring rain to attend this year's service, led by the Rev Dr Tony Martin— NZDF Officiating Chaplain.

Lola Garden from St Hilda's Collegiate School was this year's quest speaker. Lola gave her speech that won her the title of Regional winner of the ANZ Bank Cyril Bassett VC Speech Competition 2016.

The St Hilda's collegiate school choir lead singing and the hymn.

The service marked the signing of the armistice at 11am on November 11, 1918 between Germany and the Allied powers signaling the end of World War 1.

Click on the link below to watch Lola Garden's speech from the ANZ Bank Cyril Bassett VC Speech Competition 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/4bn1sis72aw>





Armistice Day in Ranfurly

On the 11th November, the group were invited to the Chalet Rest Home for a little service organised by their Activities Staff Member.

This was followed by a Devonshire tea, we had the honour of having our Patron, Bob Paterson attend.



Left to right. Mrs Margaret Lockhart Life Member, Mrs Kath McAuley. Chalet Resident. Mr Bob Paterson Patron, Padre and Life Member, Mrs Maree Moore Chalet Resident, Mrs Paterson and Mr Joe Lockhart in the back row.

Mr Colin Smith Vice President in the front.

Scholarship 2016 – recipient Mitchell McCutcheon

I would like to pass on a massive thank you to the RSA for the scholarship I received towards my university fees last year. Having the financial support of the RSA gave me more time to focus on my studies and allowed me to work on a more part-time basis than I would've been otherwise able to.

I have just received the last of my years results today and are as follows...

ACCT102 Principles of Accounting	A-
BSNS102 Quantitative Analysis for Business	A+
BSNS104 Principles of Economics 1	A+
BSNS106 Information and Communication in Organisations	A
BSNS103 Marketing and Consumption	A-
BSNS107 Understanding Accounting	A+
BSNS108 Business Finance	A+
FINQ102 Business Mathematics	B

My plan now heading into 2017 is to continue with a Bachelor of commerce at Otago. I initially intended to do a double major in Accounting and Finance, which I will continue to, however have decided to add a minor in Information Science as well.

Thanks again for the support!!

Mitchell McCutcheon

From the Dunedin RSA Office

I can't believe that another year has gone by. It's been another busy year with a lot happening, so I am definitely looking forward to the Christmas break. When I return in the New Year I will be kept busy with membership subscriptions – if you are reading this newsletter you should have received your 2017 RSA membership subscription invoice by email or post. You will notice that this year we have a new style of invoice, this is because we now are using the Xero software accounting package. Xero works well with our membership database and is a more user friendly and efficient system. When you pay by internet banking, cash or cheque your 2017 membership card will be posted to you within 2 weeks. If you haven't seen it in that time frame, please give me a call, but bear in mind I am on leave from the 23rd December until the 16th January.

If you are over 90, live in a Rest home or currently serving with NZDF or NZ Police you should have a discount on your subscription account as you are not required to pay RNZRSA capitation- couple's also receive a small discount. If you think your account is incorrect let me know so I can get it sorted.

One of the many things I enjoy about working for the RSA is the lovely people I have gotten to know over the years, I especially enjoy catching up with members when they call in to see Niall or myself - or over the Poppy Day Anzac Day period. It's usually a pretty hectic time, but also an enjoyable time. One of my favourite days is posy making, seeing all the regular posy makers getting together chatting and welcoming new helpers. Everyone just gets stuck in and before we know it there are over 4000 posy's ready for Anzac Day.

In preparation for the 100th Anniversary of the RSA I headed down to the Hocken Library and had a look at many of the historical Dunedin RSA photos and documents - it just made me realise the significance of the RSA being 100 years old and the importance of the RSA continuing in Dunedin as the keepers of remembrance.

Last week Fred Daniel retired as CEO of Montecillo – for those of you who haven't been into our offices at Montecillo, Fred's office was just along from mine - it was great having Fred nearby especially when there were RSA matters to discuss, or if I needed advice. It was definitely an asset

working alongside Fred. Thanks Fred for all your help over the past years. Thanks also to the many volunteers, Welfare Trustees, RSA Executive Members and Niall Shepherd for assisting me in my role as RSA Administrator & secretary.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sally Turner



Community Groups were asked to decorate a Xmas tree for the festival of Christmas Trees at St Pauls Cathedral

Can you pick the RSA Tree - we asked the community to help decorate it.



White Crosses

Somme campaign remembered -

More than 500 crosses were planted at Dunedin's Queens Gardens in September to symbolize the loss of Otago men in the 1916 Somme campaign in northern France.

The crosses were there until after Armistice Day.

Each cross bears the name, service number and rank of a soldier killed during the campaign.



RSA morning tea and awards presentation held on the 14th December

About 40 people attended this year's RSA morning tea on the 14th December. Welfare Trust Chairman Paul Galloway presented the 2017 Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust scholarships of \$1,000 each to recipients Joshua Scadden (Kings High School) & Alice Moran (Otago Girls High School).

Paul then presented the following awards:

- **CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION** to HMNZS TOROA and 2/4 Bn RNZIR in recognition of many years outstanding service to the Dunedin Returned and Services Association.

RSA President Lox Kellas then presented:

- **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP** to Ralph Miller in recognition of many years outstanding service to the Dunedin Returned and Services Association.
- **CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION** to Otago Community Trust, Bendigo Valley Sports & Charity Foundation, ANZ George Street, Otago Gunners, Lynne Clarke, NZ Couriers and Sophie Hall for their support.
- **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP** to – Hope & Sons and Toitū Otago Settlers Museum recognising their ongoing commitment to the RSA.
- A **SPECIAL AWARD** was presented to David Tohurangi Ellison 2 NZ Regiment on his appointment as Kaumātua for the Dunedin Returned and Services Association.
- An autographed copy of the RSA history: '**AFTER THE WAR, THE RSA IN NEW ZEALAND**', written by historian Stephen Clarke, was presented to Beth Campbell. Beth's late husband John Campbell was a former RNZRSA National President.





Merchandise



Letters from Home Pin

Our young men and women made great sacrifices during WWI, as they served New Zealand far away from their loved ones.

This pin remembers and honors the sacrifices made by our service personnel overseas and their families here at home.

\$10.00 incl. GST



RNZRSA Limited Edition Battle Pin - Gallipoli

The official RNZRSA Battle Pin commemorates the WWI battles that were significant to New Zealanders. This is the first of six pins we will be releasing.

Wear your pin to remember the sacrifice and commemorate the bravery of our Kiwi soldiers at Gallipoli, the Somme, Messines, Ypres, Le Quesnoy and Passchendaele.

\$10.00 incl. GST



RSA Centenary Pin

As part of the RSA 100 commemorations, we've created a special RSA centenary pin, featuring an eye-catching gold heart and gold backing.

These pins look great against any background, particularly a charcoal RSA polo or black jacket.

\$10.00 incl. GST

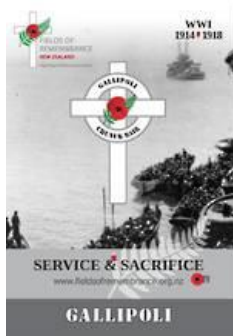


WW100 Poppy/Fern Pin

The most popular pin!

Highly sought after poppy/fern pin commemorating the centenary. Silver plated fern nestled behind a red enamel RSA poppy.

\$10.00 incl. GST



White crosses

\$10.00 incl. GST



After the War: The RSA in New Zealand

Learn the history of the RSA and the past 100 years of service and support in full colour, as written by historian Stephen Clarke. 288 pages including dozens of photos, anecdotes and local memories.

\$45.00 incl. GST.

T Shirts are still available for just \$20.00 each

We have a variety of T shirt styles and sizes available for both men & women





*Merry
Christmas
to all!*

The Office will
be closed from
4pm on Thursday 22nd December
and will re-open on the
10th January

**Dunedin RSA and
Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust**
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