

# NEWSLETTER November 2015

## DUNEDIN RSA & WELFARE TRUST

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The Memorial dedicated to soldiers of the  
Oturehua District



The Ranfurly  
War Memorial  
recently  
upgraded by  
the Maniototo  
RSA

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# Last Post

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

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



## RSA President

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I attended the National Council meeting in Wellington last week. Held under the new national office structure, it was a vast improvement on previous councils with all business being completed in two days.

RNZRSA has a young and professionally focused team working on behalf of our members that will guarantee the viability of this organisation into the future. I spoke to a number of delegates and the main topic of discussion was the implementation of the Veterans Support Act 2014. As with any new legislation it takes time to absorb the changes but these are being worked through by National Office and Veterans Affairs.

I also attended a Veterans Colloquium facilitated by the University of Otago . The focus was on academic research into veteran's health .One of the key points was the effect on veterans health post discharge from the services and how to identify health issues caused by conditions of service. The operational environment has changed dramatically post World War 2.

Next year we celebrate 100 years as an organisation. Our ability to survive is dependent on your continued membership. The introduction of the RSA Club card is

an excellent incentive to maintain your membership and to tell others in the community of its benefits.

I am often asked if we are going to re-establish our own social facilities. We have looked at potential venues in the past and will continue to do so in the future however please bear in mind that the cost of compliance and regulation can make it prohibitive coupled with the financial cost. I urge you to support the luncheons and social gatherings we organise to maintain contact with one another.

*Lox Kellas President*

## RNZRSA ANZ Bank Cyril Bassett VC Speech Contest

Dates have been set for 2016 Speech  
competition. They are:

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1 February	Entries Open	29 February	Entries close
11 – 13 March	Regional Final	23 March	National Final

All high schools will be contacted in  
the next week

**The RSA Office is closed from the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
December until Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> January**



## Lawrence RSA A well deserved award

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At the Trustpower Community Awards held recently in Balclutha, Mrs Barbara WILSON received an award for unfailing annual commitment to the Lawrence branch of the RSA.



Barbara for many years has been the main organiser of the Anzac Day services held in Lawrence.

**Pictured presenting the award to Barbara are Graeme Purches of Trust power and Clutha District Mayor Brian Cadogan**

*Robert Wallace*

*Chairman Lawrence Branch RSA*

## Association News

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It has been a very busy year in the RSA once again. Apologies go out to anyone who may have called me, during mid-September and October, left a message and never received a call back. In September the building was struck by lightning, which caused a lot of problems. One of these was my RSA telephone number 4664886 being damaged. People could still ring and leave a message, but unfortunately I couldn't access the calls or messages. Fortunately a new system was installed and from the 2nd November it was business as usual.

The big news for this issue is the introduction of the RSA Club card. In 2016 we are going to use the nationally issued 'RSA Clubcard' as our membership card. We have already received the cards and will be issuing them as you pay your annual subscription. As a member, the bonus for you will be the discounts available from the various retailers listed in RSA Club card insert attached to the newsletter. Your 2016 subscription account is enclosed with the newsletter and if you would like to pay it now, we will be happy to issue your new card so you can take advantage of it for your Christmas shopping.

The RSA Spring lunch at Robbies, Bar & Bistro, was great success and it was an opportunity to have a catch up , if you would like to attend the RSA Christmas Lunch being held at Robbies on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December please give Niall or myself a call.

There is still a good stock of badges, T shirts & Poppy bags please give me a call and I can get these out to you in time for Xmas. Check out the new Gallipoli Badge on page 7 and the Letters from home badge on page 12 both of these are \$10 and can be purchased from our office.

We have had a lot of new members during the past year, many people have always thought that they should join the RSA but never got round to it. This year especially, these people have been coming in and asking to join the RSA. Some ex-service people think that because they didn't serve overseas or that they were CMT or National Service they aren't eligible to join. **This is totally wrong** anyone can join the RSA .

If you have military service, police service, full time or part time you are classed as a **Service member** or **Returned Member** if you have no military service you can join as an Associate member

Many have joined as a tribute to parents /grandparents who have served. The Dunedin RSA needs support from the local community, by joining the RSA you will help ensure that the Dunedin RSA can continue to be the Guardian of remembrance in our community.

If you know anyone who may like to support the RSA please pass on our details.

The RSA was formed 100 years ago in 1916- next year the Dunedin RSA will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary .

If you have any memories you would like to share or photos please give us a call we would love to share these around.

The Dunedin RSA is looking at how it can celebrate this 100th anniversary with members and the community. More information will be coming out in the next couple of months .

I hope you all have a great Christmas with family & friends

Hope to see you in the New Year .

*Sally Turner Administrator*

# Looking back 50 years ago

Below is an article published by the 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of Anzac DUNEDIN RSA  
Yesterday & Today issue

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## DUNEDIN R.S.A.—TODAY

Any association which has been in existence for almost 50 years and which can boast a voluntary financial membership of more than 6,200 members must obviously be an organisation with some core of purpose and achievement. Concurrent with this observation is the fact that these members, who come from all walks of life, are, by nature of their service to nation and Commonwealth, sufficiently individual in character that they would not perpetuate their membership unless they possessed some pride in doing so.

It is with this and similar backgrounds of thought that successive Executive Committees of the Dunedin Returned Services Association have accepted the challenge of meeting (and preserving) the continuing welfare and social needs of ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen throughout the province.

The Dunedin Returned Services' Association has its headquarters in Moray Place, Dunedin, and is comprised of eight sub-associations\* and 17 branches† (known officially as "committees") which are located in the provincial towns of Otago. All are affiliated to the N.Z.R.S.A. through the Dunedin Association. Each sub-association and committee is autonomous with its own elected executive and annually the collective membership of the sub-associations and committees, together with the membership of Dunedin City, elect by ballot the president, vice-presidents, hon. treasurer and executive committee of the Dunedin Association.

The Dunedin Executive meets every second Tuesday night throughout the year under the chairmanship of the president. The executive members also form the following committees: Management, Welfare, Club Activities, Membership, General, Charter and Educational Bursaries. These committees meet weekly and convey the results of their deliberations to the full executive for approval or rejection.

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\*Balclutha, Clutha Valley, Kaitangata, Lawrence, Maniototo, Milton, Owaka, Palmerston.

†Alexandra, Arrowtown, Clinton, Cromwell, Karitane, Middelmarsh, Mosgiel, Omakau, Port Chalmers, Queenstown, Roxburgh, Seacliff-Warrington, Upper Clutha (Wanaka), Waikouaiti, West Taieri (Outram), MacAndrew Bay, Glenorchy.



# 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.

**Available from the Dunedin RSA \$10**

## Star biscuits

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### INGREDIENTS

- 225 g butter
- 3/4 cup icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1/2 cup raspberry jam
- Icing sugar for dusting

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 160°C. Beat butter, icing sugar and vanilla until pale and creamy. Add flour and mix well.
2. Tip dough onto the bench and knead thoroughly. Roll dough out into a 1cm-thick rectangle.
3. Cut out 30 stars with a cookie cutter approximately 6cm in diameter. Using a 3cm star cutter, cut a star shape out of the centre of 15 of the biscuits.
4. Place biscuits on a baking tray and cook for 10 to 12 minutes until firm. Cool on a wire rack, then spread the 15 full biscuits with raspberry jam and top with a cut out biscuit. Dust with icing sugar.





*Presents...*

# YEAR END CONCERT:



RSA CHOIR ANZAC 2015 & GUESTS

*Conductors:* Karen Knudson & Rosemary Tarbotton

*Pianist:* Alison Paterson; *Organist:* George Chittenden.

## ***Guest Artists:***

**Sings Hilda:**

*Vocal Scholar:* **Beth Goulstone.**

*Vocal Scholar:* **Sam Madden.**

**RSA Choir Outcasts.**

**Dunedin Town Hall, Tuesday 17th November 2015 at 7:30pm**

Bookings at TICKETDIRECT, Regent Theatre, Edgar Centre and Forsyth Barr Stadium.

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# MANIOTOTO RSA

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The Maniototo RSA has been busy this last year on many fronts.

First we wish to acknowledge Colin Smith. After years as serving as President of our branch, Colin Smith has stepped down from this position. We wish to thank him for his leadership and commitment in this role. I have taken on this position and am the first Female President of the Maniototo RSA, (no pressure) and large shoes to fill.

A little about myself being the new kid on the block...

I served in the RNZN as a Medic during the 1990's and had a couple of tours overseas. These deployments have allowed me to gain Returned status, and some great stories. Like many Returned Servicemen, these stories tend to revolve around shore time, fellow comrades and normally the trouble we got into. I have gained the OSM, GSM and the Four Year Service medal during my tenure with Her Majesties Service.

What the Maniototo has been up too:

The Maniototo RSA has had the project of refreshing the Ranfurly War Memorial. It looks fantastic and was the result of a lot of hard work from many people. Fundraising for this was a large undertaking, for a little Branch, but we did it. Stalls at market days, raffles among the events, as well as the amazing handmade knitted poppies crafted by our local (and very talented) knitters. These poppies even made it to the National level being showcased on the Morning TV show.

The students of the Maniototo Area School have put together a Role of Honour for past students that fell during WWI. This has been a wonderful undertaking by the Year 8's of the school and show that the youth are still reflecting on what war means

a 100 years on. The year 8's of next year will be tasked with the names for WWII. The un-veiling of this is expected to be in November.

The Maniototo RSA has been raising its profile lately amongst the community. During the Labour Day Markets we decided to hold an information stall to allow the community to see who we are. Photos and mementos were displayed to allow the public to see who Service Members are, and what we have done for our country. Of course the hotly debated flag issue was mentioned and we did fly the current version with pride.

*Shirley Clarke President*

## Cromwell RSA

We were in recess during July August so not much has happened. Looking ahead we will have an Armistice Day service at the Cromwell Cenotaph on 11 November, and our end of year luncheon at The Moorings, Pisa Moorings on Tuesday 8 December. This has been organised by our Vice president Jim Cutler. Jim has now stood down as Vice President due to some health issues and the commitment required in his role as Hon. Colonel of 2/4 Battalion. Gordon Gates has accepted the Vice Presidents role for the balance of the year.

In 2016 the Central Otago District Council are commencing a major upgrade of the Memorial Hall. This will give us larger Club Rooms, but mean that we need an alternative location for both the 2016 ANZAC Day service and our monthly meetings until the renovations are completed.

*Kind regards, John Morton, President*



# MONTECILLO IN PICTURES

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Montecillo welcomed spring with special visitor Magic the miniature pony. Residents enjoyed cart rides courtesy of Magic and his owner Bruce. Also regular visitors to Montecillo are SPCA staff, volunteers and their animals .

The craft group have been busy making spring gardens.



## New RSA Club card

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***This is the new membership card for 2016.***



***On the back of the card is your name, Dunedin RSA membership no. & expiry date of 31/12/2016.***

***You can use this card at the retailers featured in the RSA Club card insert in this newsletter.***

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

### REMAIN THE SAME FOR 2016

**Pay your account now and get to use your RSA club card before Xmas.**

*If you are looking for a new volunteering opportunity, Alzheimers Society Otago is looking for people who can offer regular companionship to people with mild dementia. Volunteer support aims to help people feel less disconnected from their lives, decrease social isolation and feel part of an enjoyable relationship. If making a difference appeals to you please contact Anne Ruck – Ph: 03 471 6154 or email: [coordadards.otago@xtra.co.nz](mailto:coordadards.otago@xtra.co.nz)*

# XMAS STOCKING FILLERS

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We have limited numbers left of the items below

T Shirts now only \$17.50    Poppy Bag \$6.00

Wrist bands \$3.00

Badges all \$10



# NEW CHAIRMAN FOR RSA WELFARE TRUST

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There is a saying that change is the only constant and so it is for the Welfare Trust. Andrew Rooney relinquished his position as Trustee and Chairman of the RSA Welfare Trust at the last meeting. Andrew and Bernie are relocating to Wellington at the end of October to take up a new opportunity. Both Andrew and Bernie have made valuable contributions to the Trust and the Association. We are very grateful for their efforts and wish them every success in their future endeavours.



Paul Galloway has taken up the role of Chairman of the Welfare Trust. Paul has a background of 31 years Regular Force Army Service in the Artillery. As a group the Trustees are looking forward to raising the profile of our organisation and supporting more veterans and their families with advice and access to welfare services.

**Total Mobility (Taxi voucher) clients:** We have taken delivery of a supply of DX envelopes. DX Mail guarantees local delivery the next day so you shouldn't have to wait so long for your new Taxi book. Just ring and leave a message as usual and I will send you a new book by DX Mail.



# WELFARE NEWS

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This will be the last newsletter for 2015 and as we head, with what seems like increasing speed, toward the end of the year it is time to take stock of 12 busy months in the Dunedin office. As with every year, organisation for Poppy Day and Anzac Day dominates the first few months along with membership renewal.

Since starting as the Welfare Officer in July 2014 I have been able to visit each of our Branches a couple of times and I'm pleased to say that despite some decline in numbers, rural welfare matters are being attended to appropriately and efficiently and there is a great spirit of caring evident. Together our local contacts and networks allow us to quickly identify members of our ex-service family in need of assistance. Please remember that **all** ex-service people and their spouses are eligible for free advice and welfare assistance, there is no requirement to be a member of an RSA, and there is no requirement to have served overseas. I am always available if you have any queries and its not even a toll call so please make use of me if you have any welfare matters to discuss or need help (0800 664 888).

It has now been a year since Veterans Affairs has been administering the first part of the Veterans Support Act 2014. While there have been changes that have upset a few individuals there have been positives as well. I would have to say that most concerns raised have been able to be addressed to the satisfaction of all concerned. This has largely been due to a good collaborative working relationship I enjoy with Veterans Affairs and RNZRSA.

RNZRSA is undergoing a make-over with some staff changes and a new look web presence. CEO David Moger and his team

seem to be leaving no stone unturned in their attempt to revitalise the RSA making it fit for the future. One new face is Mark Compain who is employed as Support Services Manager. Mark's review of support services may well mean some changes, but I believe there is a need to develop RSA support services into a professional entity trusted to fairly represent our ex-service family at the highest level. It also needs to be one that is capable of delivering appropriate and consistent welfare services wherever our people are.

Our own Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust has not been exempt from change either. Having taken over as chair of the trust from Will Martin, Andrew Rooney has recently accepted a job with Civil Aviation based in Wellington. We will miss Andrew's wise counsel and expertise but of course wish him and Bernie well in their new adventure. Andrew is replaced by Paul Galloway who has a great enthusiasm for the welfare of our ex-service family. Though coincidental I have noted that Paul, being ex-Army, completes the full rotation of appointments to the chair between Navy, Air force and Army. We are very much looking forward to working with Paul.

Already we are starting to see end of year functions happening. It seems they get earlier every year! Our own 'Thank you to our volunteers morning tea' will be at HMNZS TOROA on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December at 10am. If you are one of our valued volunteers please come along and join us for a cuppa and some recognition of your service. If you can make it please let us know so we know how many scones to bake! (RSVP Ph 466 4886 by 30<sup>th</sup> November please).

Finally I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe festive season with time for relaxing and enjoying family and friends.

*Niall Shepherd      Welfare Officer*



*The RSA would like to invite you to  
attend a Xmas Luncheon at  
Robbies Bar & Bistro*

*67 Macandrew Road,  
South Dunedin .*

*Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
12 Noon*

*\$15.00 per person*

*Choice of Ham on the Bone & salad, Roast of  
the Day and Dessert*

*XMAS RAFFLES – LUCKY DIP – SPECIAL  
GUEST*

***COME ALONG AND HAVE A CATCH UP***

*Bookings required*

*Phone Sally 4664 886 or*

*Niall 466 4888*



# LOGAN PARK AND QUEENS HIGH GALLIPOLI SCHOOL TRIP TOUR REPORT

## A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

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Four countries, fifty hours of international flights and sixteen hundred kilometres of road travel. All this within three weeks made for an exciting and hectic Gallipoli tour nicknamed “Crossroads of Empires” undertaken by nineteen students from Logan Park High School with five students from Queens High School over the recent third term holidays.

From Istanbul to Ancient Troy, Gallipoli, Athens, Olympia, Delphi, Capri and Rome the busy schedule saw the tour encompass the modern and the ancient with cultural and culinary highlights throughout.

Gallipoli was an emotional highlight as thunder and lightning assaulted us as we landed at Anzac Cove at about the same time in the morning as the New Zealanders landed a hundred years ago. Numerous grave sites showed the futility and human cost of the campaign and left us emotionally shell shocked as we ventured into the eerily quiet cemeteries.

After reading books, studying in class and seeing Gallipoli in numerous documentaries it was an unusual familiarity that met our group as we crossed the Dardanelles from Canakkale for our one day tour of the famous battleground. The famous Sphinx landmark was much closer to the beach than expected and Anzac Cove itself narrower and rockier than imagined. The terrain and closeness of everything over such a small geographic area made us all realise how difficult it must have been for our troops here a hundred years ago.

Cemeteries were numerous and superbly tendered. We were in our own thoughts as we surveyed each one, reading the headstones and slowly being overcome by the loss and senselessness of this long remembered battle. Together we were happy to be alone in our own personal thoughts, responses and feelings.

We laid some poppies at Shrapnel Gulley which contained mostly New Zealand graves within a secluded and eerily silent yet peaceful landscape. One of the students, Josh, read first then sang a pioneer battalion poem which cut everyone deep. The mood continued to be very reflective as we visited Lone Pine which was perhaps the largest site with a massive monument and wide visage of



graves including a replanted lone pine tree. This is the main monument to the Australian forces and is visible from nearly everywhere on the battlefield. From here we could look back to Anzac Cove and forward to Quinn's Post and Chunuk Bair all seemingly less than a kilometre away.

Our superb Turkish Guide, Mustafa, then showed us a moving cemetery dedicated to the Turkish 57<sup>th</sup> regiment which was nearly wiped out during the campaign and its regimental number never reused as a mark of respect to the fallen. Many Turks were also visiting the area on the day we were visiting. A moving statue showing the Turks oldest surviving soldier at over one hundred years of age, holding a young girl's hand showed how the Turkish people also respect the ideals of peace and looking always to the future.

A further large statue showing a Turkish soldier carrying a wounded Anzac showed the bond between our past foes and our nations now. Everywhere we went in Turkey the people were incredibly welcoming and genuinely interested in us.

Quinn's Post. where the trenches were less than twenty metres apart was another highlight as we pondered how the opposing forces could be so close for so long.

Finally we travelled to Chunuk Bair where Poppies were again laid at the imposing monument and individual mini speeches given based on students' individual research on Otago soldiers who died at Gallipoli added a sombre touch. We could even see the Dardanelles in the distance, the main objective of the futile campaign. We took a group photograph and pondered singing the national anthem but realised it was a fairly public area and it would be better left to a more reflective time and place.

After some personal time at Chunuk Bair investigating the trenches and other nearby monuments we boarded the bus to return down to the little port to catch our ferry back to Canakkale. It was during this journey that we collectively sang our National Anthem with pride and started to individually put together our thoughts about how this incredible day had personally affected us.

Overall we visited thirty one historic places and sites during our three week tour but it is our one day at Gallipoli that has left the most lasting impression.

*Paul Fielding*

*History Teacher*

*Logan Park High School*



# Mixed Berry Trifle

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## INGREDIENTS

- 280 g jam sponge roll
- 425 g pitted cherries, drained and juice reserved
- 2 cups mixed berries (eg, raspberries, strawberries and blueberries)
- 500 g carton vanilla custard
- 300 ml thickened cream
- 6 fresh cherries with stems to garnish
- 100 g caster sugar



## METHOD

1. Divide the drained cherries between 6 x 1-1 ½ cup capacity serving glasses. Mix in a few of the fresh berries. Pour 3 tablespoons of the reserved cherry juice over the berries in each glass.
2. Slice the sponge roll and decoratively place a layer over the berries. Pour over a layer of custard to cover the sponge.
3. Divide the remaining berries between the glasses, reserving some for decoration. Pour over another layer of custard, smooth the top and spoon over a layer of cream. (The trifles can be covered with plastic wrap and placed in the refrigerator for several hours at this stage.)
4. Before serving, decorate the tops of the trifles with the reserved berries and cherries and, if desired, decorate with toffee.
5. Make the toffee by placing the sugar and 2 Tbsp water into a small saucepan. Place over a medium heat, rocking the pan from side to side occasionally to dissolve the sugar. Do not stir.
6. Once the sugar has dissolved, increase the heat and let the syrup bubble until it is a golden colour. Remove the pan from the heat and allow the bubbles to subside, then carefully place a spoon into the toffee and drizzle it over the top of the berries.

*To all RSA Members  
their families, currently  
servicing NZDF personal, ex-  
service people, RSA supporters &  
sponsors and the local community  
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
From everyone at the  
Dunedin RSA.*



*The office will be closed from 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
until Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> January*

**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, behind the Montecillo Veterans Home and Hospital.

**RSA Administrator:**

Phone: 03 466 4886

**Freephone: 0800 664 888**

Email: [finance@dn-rsa.org.nz](mailto:finance@dn-rsa.org.nz)

**Welfare Officer:**

Phone: 03 466 4888

Email: [welfare@dn-rsa.org.nz](mailto:welfare@dn-rsa.org.nz)

**Website: [www.dn-rsa.org.nz](http://www.dn-rsa.org.nz)**

