



THE OFFICERS' CLUB

(INCORPORATED)

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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014



From the President

Dear members,

My calendar, like yours I'm sure, is filling up fast for the next few months. ANZAC Day is just around the corner and so is the Officers' Club Annual General Meeting. It's hard to believe that it has been over a year since our last AGM.

My wife Julie and I will be attending the Dawn Service then the 11am Civic Service at the Auckland Museum as usual. The difference for me this year is that I will be laying the wreath on behalf of you all. In between the two services, Julie and I will be joining you at our traditional ANZAC Breakfast at the club before heading off to Rotorua for a short holiday with the family.

I enjoyed the tour of Whenuapai Airbase last month and appreciated the chance to chat with some of you at the bar and over dinner. Many thanks to Lindy Esslemont's Social Committee and our Air Force Service Representative Wing Commander Ian MacPherson for organising the event. A few members mentioned to me that they would like to join the Officers' Club Committee. We are always looking for volunteers and I would gladly welcome any new member to assist us running the club the way you would like. Simply forward your name (with that of a seconder) to the Club Secretary prior to the AGM.

Next month, on Tuesday May 20th, you will have yet another opportunity to chat with our serving officers at our annual Tri-Service Cocktail Party. Our Social Committee is now asking for numbers to assist in the planning. Last year we had well over 100 members and guests gathering in the Wintergarden. It was a great success; many serving officers have mentioned to me how much they appreciate the opportunity for this get-together, often the only chance for them to meet in such a way.

As my first year as President comes to a close, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve you; it has been an honour and a privilege. Please take care over the Easter break and I hope to see you at the club soon at the ANZAC breakfast.

Jon Atkinson ED**
President

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

CLUB SOCIAL CALENDAR	
APRIL	
Fri 18 Apr	Good Friday
Mon 21 Apr	Easter Monday
Tue 22 Apr	Club Night
Fri 25 Apr	Anzac Day – details in Northern Club April Newsletter
Tue 29 Apr	Club Night
MAY	
Tue 6 May	AGM – details notified separately
Tue 13 May	Club Night
Tue 20 May	Tri Service Cocktail Party - details notified separately
Tue 27 May	Club Night
Mon 28 May	Northern Club AGM – details in NC April Newsletter
Tue 29 May	Officers Club Committee Meeting
JUNE	

Tue 3 June	Club Night
Tue 10 June	Club Night
Tue 17 June	Club Night
Tue 24 June	Club Night
JULY	
Tue 22 July	Winter Lecture Series - The Desert War – Recollections. The DVD of this name is a recording of the personal stories of two WW2 veterans, John Johnston and Norman Leaf. The DVD was a joint production with the Club, AV Productions and NZMHS. Both John and Norman will be in attendance on the evening to talk and answer questions and we will also be showing some highlights from the DVD. There will be a charge of \$16.50 which includes a glass of wine. This will be promoted through the NC newsletter and so bookings will be made through the Office. Our thanks to Phil Fry and Ken Young for arranging this evening.
AUGUST	
Friday 29 August	WW100 Commemorations – Dinner - this will be the first of the functions both the NC and OC will be working on together as part of the W100 commemorations and will take the form of a formal dinner, partners included. We are just putting the final touches to the details for the evening. Please put this date into your calendar now.
OCTOBER	
Sunday 12 October	Passchendaele Service and Luncheon
NOVEMBER	
Tues 11 November	Services Dinner – Rear Admiral Jack Steer, ONZM has agreed to be the speaker for the night and we will once again have some of the Navy Band providing music on the evening.

REMEMBER: Club night every Tuesday, join members for fellowship at the main bar

Future Events and Guest Speakers - Just a reminder that we welcome any suggestions you may have for events/functions and in particular for guest speakers.

Lindy Esslemont / Ken Young

RNZAF Visit:

This visit hosted by Wing Commander Ian MacPherson, was most enjoyable and convivial. An escorted tour around the base provided an insight to the future building and facility developments. Conducted tours of the Orion aircraft and explanation of the equipment available for Search and Rescue work was most topical given the MH370 aircraft search. The following interactions in the Officers Mess were enjoyed by all, as was the meal provided. It was a jovial group who returned home on the bus.



MILITARY HUMOUR

A young officer is working late at the War Office. As he comes out of his office about 8 p.m. he sees the Colonel standing by the classified document shredder in the hallway, a piece of paper in his hand.

"Do you know how to work this thing?" the Colonel asks. "My secretary's gone home and I don't know how to run it."

"Yes, sir," says the young officer, who turns on the machine, takes the paper from the Colonel, and feeds it in.

"Now," says the Colonel, "I just need one copy..."

WORLD WAR ONE - (WW100)

New Zealand's centennial commemoration of World War One commences later this year. Starting with our next newsletter we will be focusing on this event with timelines highlighting significant events.

You are all invited to contribute to this with your own items, for example, stories of your own family member's experiences or suggestions of poems or other writings that in your mind evoke the period.

In particular we would like to record your personal anniversaries such as the death of family members.

If you have any contributions please email Boyd Squires boydsq@xtra.co.nz or Telephone 489 9879

MATTERS OF INTEREST

1. **'Once on Chunuk Bair' - Maidment Theatre, Wednesday 12 June - Wednesday 2 July 2014.** By Maurice Shadbolt, one of New Zealand's most celebrated novelists, playwrights, history-writers and storytellers and in this rarely-performed classic, he recreates a tragic episode of modern war: a battle that defined us as a nation. Of the 760 men who had reached the summit 711 had become casualties. This is their story. Directed by Ian Mune and Cameron Rhodes.

2. **Duntroon Society** Auckland Sub-branch annual lunch will be held at the Northern Club on June 27, 2014. Guest speaker is Sir Robert Harvey whose topic is "My Life in Leadership". Booking details to be advised.
3. **The 3 Auckland North Regimental Association** is hosting a Winter Lecture Series, to which Officers' Club Members are invited. (*See attachment*).
4. **'Living With High Explosives'** – The 1st NZ Light Trench Mortar Battery 1916-1918, by Keith Sloane. A WW1 history of 232 soldiers from throughout New Zealand, (Cape to Bluff) is due for publication in April 2014. Seven years of meticulous world-wide research has produced a unique look into the war exploits of this unit, the enigma that was the 1st NZ Light Trench Mortar Battery. Hardcover, 400 pages, 300 images, 21 dedicated maps and indexed. ISBN: 978-0-473-27904-2 – Cost \$60.00 – Contact Keith via email: sloane.howe@xtra.co.nz
5. **Capt Peter Kingston.** On a sad note, Past President (1991-1993) Captain Peter Kingston is not well in Cornwall Park Hospital. Our thoughts go out to him and his wife Daphne.

Trevor Horne / Boyd Squires

Communications Sub-Committee