



THE OFFICERS' CLUB

(INCORPORATED)

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NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2014



From the President

Dear Members,

I can't believe how quickly the year has flown. We have just had our last committee meeting for the year so Christmas must be getting close. In fact my wife Julie reminds me daily as she counts down the days to my son coming home with his family from Australia for an extended Christmas holiday. At the meeting I was assured we have an action-packed social calendar coming up next year but this year's Officers' Club activities are drawing to a close. The Northern Club will be having its own Christmas functions at the club so I may see you there.

I'm looking forward to the St Andrew's evening with Ken and Janis at the end of this month, Julie and I have ordered our token tartan accoutrements from the on-line *Scottish Shop*. I hope our MacDonalds can hold their tongues when they see she's a Campbell.

Since our last newsletter we've gained 5 more new members who have joined us through our Serving Officer Subsidy Scheme. Please welcome Major Roberta Wilkinson, Lieutenant (RNZN) Melvyn Loh, Captain Matt Cross, Lieutenant Pablo Hamber and Sub Lieutenant Jono Rowe. Welcome also to Colonel Brian Linehan, a regular guest at Officers' Club/Northern club functions, who has now decided to join us as a member.

Club 19, run by our young members' sub-committee, is up and running with their first event held a few weeks ago. The lads graciously invited me to join them for a whisky-tasting evening and then dinner back at the Bankside restaurant. A very enjoyable night, that looks like netting us 5 more young members (3 Army and 2 Navy). Club 19 (the name comes from our address at 19 Princes St) is actually a Facebook page that links our "connected" members with their like-minded friends and associates. Their mission is "have fun and get us some members" (my directive to our 2 young officer subcommittee members, Lt's Mike Turner and Tom McGarry).

Attendance at our Passchendaele Remembrance Lunch on October 12 was up on last year. Thanks once again to Ken Young for organising the day's events. In the morning I laid a wreath on behalf of you all at the War Memorial Museum then drove our guest speaker, Brigadier Peter Kelly, to the lunch. Brigadier Kelly, LCC (Land Component Commander) addressed the 80 guests, including RSA Patron Dame Trelise Cooper, and Passchendaele Society President Iain Mackenzie, after lunch giving us his insights into the changes facing our war-fighters in the modern joint force environment. Our recently purchased flags and stand, on display for the first time, received very favourable comments.

On Monday 20 October, I had the pleasure of chatting and then lunching with our WW2 Veterans. We will look at having more of these lunch time events in the future to ensure our social activities cater for ALL our members. Our veterans were filmed prior to lunch with the intention of producing a DVD, more to follow re this I'm sure. A reporter/photographer was also in attendance resulting in a good article the NZ Herald on 21 October. My thanks too Captain Ted Ewbank, and Mr Phil Fry for their efforts in organising the whole event. Our recently purchased Port Decanters made another appearance for the toasts to our special veterans.

In this issue:

Page 1/2 Presidents Message
Page 3 Investment Portfolio
Page 3/4 Social
Page 4 Obituary
Page 4 Decanters
Page 4/5 Meet your Committee
Page 5/6 World War One

As you can see from my previous comments, our annual Tri-Service cocktail is really starting to make a difference for our serving officers. We've had 2 reciprocal visits recently, firstly to HMNZS Philomel and then a few weeks ago out to Papakura. My thanks too Eduardo Lopez for organising both visits and also to Captain Barry Samu for the direct liaison with the lads at Papakura. I was so

impressed with the new Bridge Simulators at the Navy Base. What a great asset the Navy now has to train watch-keepers and the like. Did you too notice the smile on our Navy Service Representative Commander Geoff Rice's face when us Army types thought the "ship" was actually moving!

Prior to the Papakura bus trip, Julie and I enjoyed a very pleasant catch-up with members waiting in the Ivy Bar. We had arrived early because traffic from up North was unexpectedly light that day. The visit itself was very interesting; once again coinciding with the unit's happy hour but this time we were invited back by the CO to the inner sanctum of the Headquarters building to look at their very eclectic memorabilia and the history room.

Last week I once again, had the honour of representing the Officers' Club to lay a wreath at the Auckland War Memorial Museum for Armistice Day on 11 November. The 11 November Services Dinner that night was well attended; we maxed-out the Main Dining Room. Captain Richard Worth was our Dining President for the evening ably assisted as Mr Vice by one of our newest members Sub Lieutenant Jono Rowe.

Sadly we must say farewell to our long-standing Air Force Service representative Wing Commander Ian Macpherson; he is moving on but I have told him he is welcome back at any time and that we would gladly support his joining the club as a member in his own right in the future. He is replaced by Squadron Leader Simon van Rijs who has big shoes to fill. Thankyou Ian, for your support over the years.

To our hard-working committee, my special thanks. It's been a pleasure working with you all this year. It has been great to see the new members on the committee stepping up to temporarily take over from our social logistics wiz, Captain Lindy Esslemont, who has had to devote extra time of late to her new job. I look forward to a very busy, very social, year in 2015.

To all our members, I hope you and your families have wonderful holidays and **a Happy New Year!**



Jon Atkinson
Lieutenant Colonel
President

Committee Members:

Lt Col Jon Atkinson	President
Maj Wendy McEwan/ Maj Donald MacDonald	Secretary
Lt John Abbott	Treasurer
Col Grant Ellis	FISC
Capt Lindy Esslemont/ Mr Eduardo Lopez/ Mr Ken Young	Social
Lt Col Howard Mace	Membership / Library
Lt Col Boyd Squires/ Insp Trevor Horne	Communications
Cdr Geoffrey Rice	Service Representative - Navy
Capt Barry Samu	Service Representative – Army
SqnLdr Simon van Rijs	Service Representative – Air Force
Lt Tom McGarry/ Lt Mike Turner	Young Members
Mr Ted Ewbank	Almoner

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

JAN 2015	
Tues 27 th	Northern Club reopens
FEB	
Tues 3 rd	Club Night
MAR	
Tues 3 rd	Club Night
TBA	Possible off-site visit
APR	
Tue 7 th	Club Night
Sat 25 th	Anzac Day
MAY	
Tue 5 th	Club Night
TBA	AGM

16th SEPTEMBER – VISIT TO RNZN WARDROOM

This visit provided the opportunity for a visit to the Bridge Simulator Trainer complex where members viewed the capabilities of the 'surround screen' training programmes. To the amusement of RNZN personnel present, some members literally rolled with the perception of movement as rough seas were portrayed onscreen. A very pleasant evening of social interaction and discussion followed and was enjoyed by all.

12th OCTOBER – PASSCHENDAELE LUNCH

Following on from the Service at the Museum, some 80 members and guests attended lunch. The newly purchased Flags were displayed in the new stand, and received favourable comment,

31st OCTOBER – VISIT TO SAS BASE PAPAKURA



A number of members attended this visit, where we were welcomed onto the Base, and had the opportunity to view the Remembrance Wall and also the Chapel, quite a moving experience. We were also granted the privilege of a visit to their history display room where the SAS role in previous war theatres is detailed.

A convivial time in the bar was very much enjoyed and appreciated.

11th NOVEMBER – SERVICES DINNER

Commodore Dean McDougall, Deputy Chief of Navy was guest speaker at the dinner, and gave a fascinating address on the Battle of the River Plate, and the effect of this for the future recognition of the RNZN as a stand-alone Navy. Additionally providing enlightening comment on the role and actions, of Captain Langsdorff, and the challenges he faced. A very interesting, enjoyable evening on this notable date

29th NOVEMBER – ST ANDREW'S DINNER

The occasion was celebrated in traditional style with the Bagpipes and Haggis. Many tall stories were told on into the evening, and stylish Scottish Dress was worn by some, adding to the overall effect. Thanks to Ken & Janice for opening their home, and to Ken Young who oversaw the evening.

FLAGS

The Club Flags and purpose built stand have been purchased, and it is intended to display these on appropriate occasions.

***Note that club nights are now only once a month on the first Tuesday. It is hoped that members can make a special effort to meet this reduced commitment, ensuring a good turnout.**

Lindy Esslemont / Ken Young

Obituary:

Captain Duncan Lodge, Royal Engineers passed away in August 2014. He had been a member of the club for some 40 years. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

DECANTERS

The Officers' club has recently purchased 12 crystal port decanters. These decanters will be kept at the Club for use by both the Officers Club and the Northern Club. The decanters have been engraved with the Club logo and have already seen use at the formal dinner on the 29th, the Services Dinner, a formal evening held for the Ex British Military in New Zealand (BMNZ) and our own WW2 Veterans Lunch on 20 October 2014

A number of members have expressed interest in purchasing these decanters for personal use. We will advise details of pricing and delivery timings as soon as possible.

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

So that members are familiar with those who have been elected to serve on the Committee, we will from time to time publish profiles of Committee members. This issue we feature our hard-working Social and Membership/Library committee members.



Captain Lindy Esslemont. I have been a member for around 5 years and active on the social committee since I joined. I am a Scot, who was born and brought up in the tea plantations in Assam, India. I spent some time in boarding school in Aberdeen but the last 6 years of schooling were spent in Mt Hermon boarding school in Darjeeling.

I came to NZ about 19 years ago via Hong Kong and prior to that Sydney, having originally emigrated from the UK to Australia some 28 years ago

I am currently employed as the National Property Manager for Waste Management – a role I have just started and looking forward to making a difference there. The past 11 years have been occupied in the role of Corporate Facilities Manager for BNZ, TVNZ and Property Manager for Methodist Mission Northern.

My military connection comes from 7 years on a Short Service Commission with the British Army where I served in the UK, Germany, Northern Ireland and Hong Kong. My final year in the British Army was the year of the Falklands War – I was actively involved in setting up a casualty notification procedure within HQ South East District. When I left the British Army I went into event management and was fortunate to have organised a large number of high profile visits, including HM The Queen, the late Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, and the late Baroness Thatcher.

My service with the Australian Army started in the Reserves working with the 2 ARRU (Army Reserve Recruiting Unit) with my day job being with Reuters Economic Services. However, with a shortage of officers, I was asked to return to full time work and served for 5 years as a Reserve Officer on full time duty in Paddington Barracks. One of the more interesting roles I had was working with CESRF NSW as their Executive Officer (Committee for Employer Support for Reserve Forces).

I have two children, Alanna who is a Search Specialist for PHDiQ and Hamish, who is a nurse at Starship. I am actively involved in Auckland Rotary and currently a Director looking after Fellowship and Vocation

Lieutenant Colonel Howard Mace RNZDC (Ret'dBDS, MSc, DComH, CoP For Sc, FICD)

Service with Royal New Zealand Dental Corps in Linton, Woodbourne, Waiouru, Papakura, Burnham, Defence Headquarters and Naval base in Devonport. Hospital, private and national health practice in London. Previous Second in Command First Mobile Dental Unit, Assistant Director of Defence Dental Services, Head of Department of Periodontology, Naval Dental Institute, Jakarta, Indonesia. 1992 established a dental service for physically handicapped young people at Pusat Rehabilitasi Yakkum, Indonesia. 1993 –2000 Chief Dental Officer Northern.

Past President and Honorary Life Member New Zealand Society of Forensic Dentistry. Member New Zealand disaster victim identification team in Phuket, Thailand 2005. Lecturer, University of Auckland and Auckland University of Technology. Supervisor for the Dental Council of New Zealand. Ran a relief of pain clinic in South Auckland for the Auckland District Health Board. Honorary Life Member Auckland Dental Association.

Now a bed and breakfast operator in Devonport.

WORLD WAR ONE

OFFICERS CLUB ROLL OF HONOUR WORLD WAR ONE

As mentioned in previous letters we will provide a short biography of club members on our WWI Roll of Honour. To be published around the centenary of their death.

LIEUTENANT ERIC HARDWICK TAYLER.

1st Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment.

Died 9 February 1915 Aged 22.

Lt Tayler was the son of Archdale and Liliast Taylor of 180 Manukau Road, Parnell, Auckland.

He attended Auckland Grammar School and was commissioned into the 3rd Auckland Regiment on 12 March 1912. In March 1914 he was one of 180 candidates who sat a military examination for the Territorial Commonwealth Forces seeking direct commissions into the British Regular Army. He topped the examination and scored higher marks than anyone who had previously sat. Successful candidates are given the opportunity to select the regiment to which they wish to be appointed and he elected to join the York and Lancaster Regiment, well known of old to New Zealand.

He sailed to India in August 1914 to join his regiment which was then rushed back to England in December to provide much needed reinforcements for the Western Front. The Regiment landed in France on 17 January 1915. Shortly afterwards he contracted pneumonia and was admitted to Hazebrouck Military Hospital where he died on 9 February. He is buried in the Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery.

Members contributions

From Major John Hughes. "I once met a Club member who participated in the invasion of German Samoa. It was around mid-1970s and on a Saturday afternoon Don Thomson and I visited the Club to quench our thirsts. This gent was there by himself and during conversation told us of his exploits.

I regret that I cannot remember his name but I'm sure he was at that time a long-time Club member with a military rank of 2/Lt. I'm not sure if that was his rank at the time of the action.

I remember him as one of the many characters I've had the privilege to meet during my membership of our Club".

Thank you John. We would love to hear from other members who could contribute to this part of the newsletter - Ed

WORLD WAR ONE TIMELINE

DATE	WORLD EVENT	NEW ZEALAND EVENT	INDIVIDUAL EVENT
1914			
8 December		The NZEF combines with Australian Imperial Force Units to form the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. "Anzac" is adopted as the label for Australian or New Zealand soldiers following the Gallipoli landings	
1915			
19 January	The first Zeppelin raid on Britain took place		

3 February		New Zealand troops first see combat when they help defend the Suez Canal. Pte William Ham, severely wounded during the fighting, becomes the NZEF's first combat fatality two days later.	
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World War One Humour

A Welsh soldier wrote at the head of a letter to his mother “Braich yn dagran” and the censor believing it to be a Welsh motto, something like “God bless our home” allowed it to pass. To the soldier’s mother it read “Arm in tears” so she knew her son was somewhere near Armentieres!



A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers
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 Boyd Squires boydsq@xtra.co.nz
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