



THE OFFICERS' CLUB

(INCORPORATED)

19 Princes Street, PO Box 4291, Auckland 1140. NEW ZEALAND

Email: officersclub@xtra.co.nz

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2015

From the President



Dear Members,

I would like to wish you and your families all the very best for the festive season and the New Year. I will particularly be thinking of those of you who will be working over the festive season. As usual for me, Christmas has snuck up rather quickly; hospitals don't seem to wind down over this time.

This year has been a very good year for our membership growth. Our Service Representatives have been very active indeed. Just last week we inducted Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Roy as one of our new Vice Patrons. The last three months have also seen the induction of Commander David Turner as our new Navy Service Representative, Captain Tim Burgess (Retd), Captain James Grigor, Lieutenant Jenna Riddle and Joel Bradley. Welcome to the club.

Great functions for our members continues to be the focus for our Vice President Captain Lindy Esslemont and her team on the Social Committee. Those of you who attended the Gallipoli Campaign Commemoration formal dinner have seen firsthand all the hard work that Lindy and the team put in. I can appreciate that the cost of these events may put some members off but we try hard to keep those costs down. The FISC constantly warned us, correctly as it turns out, that our fortunate run would not continue. Whilst our bottom line still looks good right now, we did take a hit later in the year so cash from interest and dividends has unfortunately been reduced. We use this cash to run the club. This year's budget was set after the AGM to reflect the committee's wishes to review where we spent our money on your behalf. It was decided that we would increase the subsidies on more events this (and next) year to maximise attendance at these events. We also discussed the Usage Grant given to all financial members at the end of each year, IF we've had a good year, to encourage attendance at club functions. As you know, if the grant is not used, we ask the Northern Club to return the monies to our Officers' club account. In the past, and this year is no different, quite a lot of the grant money is left unused. Given that this Usage Grant is not working as intended, and also that we wanted to increase event subsidies to increase attendance, the committee has decided that to fund the subsidies we will not be giving out a grant to individual members this year. This is likely not what you wanted to hear at Christmas time but I'm sure you can all appreciate that we need to look after our investments for the good of the club for future years.

Thanks must go to our outgoing Service Representatives Commander Geoff Rice and Squadron Leader Simon van Rijs. Geoff has unfortunately (for us) left the Navy but has already been replaced on the committee by David Turner. Simon is being deployed and will be replaced as Air representative by Wing Commander Rob Shearer who will take up "duties" with us in January. Thanks to Club 19's recent mini-cocktail party/soiree, Commander Turner has already lined up two prospective members for induction in the new year.

Also in the new year, new members LT Jenna Riddle and CAPT James Grigor will take up committee positions; Jenna, a young lawyer with Chapman Tripp, as Club 19 Representative on the main committee; and James, a Wealth Management/Investment Advisor, on the FISC.

Very special mentions must go to your very hard-working committee and to the FISC. Thank you very much for everything you have done this year – it is greatly appreciated, especially by me.

Remember, our regular Club Night for members, partners and guests has been set at the 2nd Tues of each month, starting 1800, from now on. When the Northern Club opens for 2016, I look forward to catching up with you all at our first Club Night for the year on Tuesday 9 February 2016.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Jon

Committee Members:

Lt Col Jon Atkinson	President	Cdr David Turner	Service Rep - Navy
Capt Lindy Esslemont	Vice President / Social	Capt Barry Samu	Service Rep - Army
SLt Jonathan Rowe	Secretary	Wg Cdr Rob Shearer	Service Rep – Air Force
Lt John Abbott	Treasurer	Capt Ted Ewbank	Almoner
Col Grant Ellis	FISC	Mr Ken Young	Social
Lt Col Tenby Powell		Lt Tom McGarry	Young Members
Fl Lt Michael Murray		Lt Mike Turner	Young Members
Mr Paul Kennerley			

FISC Report for October 2015

October saw a return to some stability in the portfolio after the vicissitudes of the past two to three months. We produced a return before tax and fees of 2.75% (2.34% after tax and fees). Interest and dividends received totalled \$13k of which tax and fees took \$8k. Unrealised gains totalled \$43k with \$2k realised.

By sector, results were generally positive across the board. Cash was down however with a \$10k unrealised (exchange) loss, partially offset by net dividend and interest receipts of \$5k. NZ fixed interest remained largely flat up 0.8% (\$2k in unrealised gains and interest), with global fixed interest slightly down by \$1k. On the equities front, NZ equities had a strong resurgence, up \$42k (8.1% gross) with gains in such stocks as AIA (up \$10k), FPH (\$4k), RBD (\$10k), RYM (\$4k) and POT, SPK and SUM \$3k each. Australian equities fell slightly (0.9% gross), partly offset with a realised gain on sale of Origin Energy rights (\$2k). Property was up \$5k or 5.9% gross.

Whether this constitutes a real recovery or “dead cat bounce” is yet to be seen; however it restores our closing balance to in excess of \$2.2 million and will provide a more comfortable buffer in terms of maintaining our capital for the year (now up \$67k on opening balance (inclusive of drawings)).

Grant Ellis
Finance Investment Sub Committee

Investment Portfolio

<u>ASSET VALUATION</u>	31 Jan 2015	31 Aug 2015	30 Sep 2015	31 Oct 2015
FNZC Cash Account	227,110	271,949	305,437	300,902
NZ Fixed Interest	569,896	610,014	604,740	606,599
Global Fixed Interest	25,200	26,550	27,387	26,400
NZ Equity	683,709	603,498	597,903	639,469
Australian Equity	105,537	99,059	101,988	100,673
Global Equity	360,456	415,582	360,142	367,540
New Zealand Property	96,173	97,367	92,710	97,706
Total FNZC	2,068,081	2,124,019	2,090,307	2,139,289
Rabo Term Deposit 24-06-15	100,000			
Rabo Term Deposit 24-12-15		100,000	100,000	100,000
Rabobank Call Account	6,148	1,747	1,750	1,753
	2,174,229	2,225,766	2,192,057	2,241,042

SOCIAL

PAST EVENTS

Since the last Newsletter the Club has hosted the following events

WW2 Veterans Lunch 27 July
Visit to HMNZS Philomel 6 Aug
WW100 Dinner 25 Sep
Passchendaele Lunch 12 Oct

The WW100 Dinner was our major event of the year and was so popular it generated a waiting list! We were fortunate enough to have renowned military historian Chris Pugsley as our Guest Speaker. He has visited Gallipoli many times and he spoke movingly of his recent visit and how vegetation clearance gave him his clearest insight yet on how clear the sightlines were between opposing trenches and how close they were.



WW2 VETERANS LUNCHES DVDs

DVDs were made of the veterans discussing their experiences. These are available to members at a cost of \$12+gst. Please contact Lindy Esslemont if you would like one.

Liness1910@gmail.com Tel: 570 0629 (work landline so office hours only) or Mob: 021 684527

FOR SALE

OFFICERS CLUB DECANTERS



These decanters are now available for purchase by members at a cost of \$230 each. Made of quality crystal and engraved with the Officers Club Logo. The cost of these decanters is \$230. If you would like to order please advise Vice President Lindy Esslemont by email (or phone if no email) and make payment directly to the Officers Club account 03 0196 0115044 00 with your name as the reference. Once payment is confirmed you will be advised when decanters are available for collection from the Northern Club. Liness1910@gmail.com Tel: 570 0629 (work landline so office hours only) or Mob: 021 684527

Battle of Britain Parade – 20th September 2015

Cenotaph, Auckland War Memorial and Museum

1. The Battle of Britain was fought over Britain following the fall of France in May 1940 until June 1941. It was intended to gain air superiority and pave the way for the German invasion of Great Britain – Operation Sea Lion. In September, after an RAF night bombing raid on Berlin, the German's switched their attention from RAF installations to London and other cities. During September and October 1940 London was bombed on 57 consecutive nights. On the 15th September the Luftwaffe launched its largest raid against London in the hope of drawing the RAF into a battle of annihilation, which is now recognized as the climax of the battle. 15th September is officially commemorated as Battle of Britain Day and in New Zealand on the subsequent closest Sunday – this year 20th September. The Battle of Britain was effectively won in October 1940 when Herr Hitler postponed indefinitely Operation Sea Lion and subsequently diverted his attention towards Russia.
2. During the period July to October 1940 RAF fighter Command suffered 544 casualties (killed), Bomber Command 718, Coastal Command 280 casualties (killed). The Luftwaffe casualties were 2,698 killed, 967 captured and 638 missing. Also during this period a total of 2,937 aircrew of Fighter Command took part in the Battle of Britain, of which 124 were from New Zealand, 12 New Zealanders were killed in the Battle of Britain. Two New Zealanders, Brian Carbury (15 aircraft destroyed) and Colin Gray (14) were two of 17 RAF pilots who claimed 10 or more aircraft during the Battle of Britain.
3. The winning of the Battle of Britain is attributed to superior tactics employed by the RAF and an advanced air defense system (the 'Dowding system'), including the use of radar. The architects of this victory were Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, Commander-in-Chief Fighter Command, and Air Vice Marshal Keith Park, Air Officer Commanding No 11 Group. On his retirement from the RAF Sir Keith Park settled in New Zealand and served as an Auckland City Councillor and chairman of the Auckland International Airport Establishment Committee. He was also president of The Auckland Officers' Club. 1955/56
4. The annual Battle of Britain Parade in Auckland is organized by the Royal New Zealand Air Force Association and up to 2013 received some funding from the Auckland City Council, when that year the RNZAFA was informed to seek alternative funding. In view of the significance of the role New Zealanders played in the Battle of Britain the Officers' Club together with the Auckland RSA will be assisting the RNZAFA secure future funds from Auckland City for the annual Battle of Britain Day commemorations. In 2014 the Auckland RSA supported the Parade and this year The Officers' Club donated \$1,000 towards the running of the Battle of Britain Commemorative Parade on 20th September this year. Neil Barr and Michael Murray laid a wreath on behalf of the Auckland Officers' Club.

Michael Murray



Flt Lt Murray (left) and Sqn Ldr Barr



Wreaths



A Message From The Almoner

Please email me should you become aware of any member I can assist:

ewbank@xtra.co.nz

Mobile phone: 021 980 906

Capt Ted Ewbank, Almoner.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

The following was written by Pericles well over two thousand years ago, long before the first ANZAC Day, but only a stone's throw from Gallipoli:

Each has won a glorious grave - not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes. Monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on far-off shores there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven not on stone or brass, but on the living hearts of humanity.

Take these men for your example. Like them, remember that prosperity can be only for the free, that freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it

Engraved forever at ANZAC Cove (see image below) are these words from Kemal Ataturk, the Commander of the Turkish 19th Division during the Gallipoli Campaign and the first President of the Turkish Republic from 1924-1938:

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives. You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.

WORLD WAR ONE TIMELINE

DATE	WORLD EVENT	NEW ZEALAND EVENT	CLUB EVENT
1915			
15-20 December	Allies Evacuate Gallipoli	The Campaign has cost New Zealand nearly 7500 casualties including 2779 dead	
1916			
27 January	Conscription introduced in Britain		
21 February	Start of the Battle of Verdun		
1 March		New Zealand Division formed under command of Maj Gen Andrew Russell	
25 April		First ANZAC day service	
29 April	British Forces surrender to Turkish Forces in Mesopotamia		

<p>Editor Boyd Squires boydsq@xtra.co.nz</p>
