



THE OFFICERS' CLUB

(INCORPORATED)

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NEWSLETTER JUNE 2014



From the President

It was great to see so many of you at our 6th Annual Tri-Service Cocktail Party (Tuesday May 20th if you missed it). It was a fantastic opportunity to chat with our serving officers. I was told that there were in excess of 150 people there in the Wintergarden. Our Social and Membership Committees (with our Service Reps) have outdone themselves. I was chatting with quite a number of young officers who want to join. Our Service reps are processing them now. It was a very enjoyable evening for me, finishing off with a dinner with yet another three prospective members. My thanks to Lindy for staying to see the last of our young guests safely off home; she tells me they really didn't want to go.

We had a good turnout at the Annual General Meeting too. My thanks to the committee for all their efforts over the last year to produce such a good result, socially, financially and membership wise.

My thanks also to you for the opportunity to continue as your President for another year. I look forward to working with the committee again this year. We had a number of new members elected to represent you for the next year. I'd like to welcome Capt Ted Ewbank, Eduardo Lopez, Lt Tom McGarry and Lt Mike Turner. Capt Ewbank has also "volunteered" to be the Club's Almoner.

It is my intention to create a new sub-committee responsible for the needs of our younger members using a similar approach to that of the Northern Club. They would meet electronically prior to our main committee meetings where they would then contribute to both the social AND the membership subcommittees.

Just prior to the Cocktail Party, Capt Lindy Esslemont and I met with Northern Club President, Tenby Powell, to discuss the WW100 commemorations for the coming year(s) along with Sarah and Jocelyn from the Northern Club staff. We thrashed out the next event, the formal dinner in August, in detail, and the following months leading up to ANZAC 2015 in outline. Early days for promulgating the detail but rest assured Lindy is onto it; I'm really looking forward to it. The Northern Club will be making some subtle changes to the Wintergarden to allow us to do what Lindy and I want.

I hope you all had a great Queens Birthday Break and I look forward to seeing you at our next club night

Jon Atkinson, ED**
President

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

CLUB SOCIAL CALENDAR	
JUNE	
Tue 3 June*	Club Night
JULY	
Tue 1 July*	Club Night
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	
Tue 5 August*	Club night. (also Northern Club cocktails with Prime minister John Key)
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. Guest Speaker will be the Minister of Defence.
SEPTEMBER	
Tue 2 September*	Club Night
OCTOBER	
Tue 7 October*	Club Night
Sunday 12 October	Passchendaele Service and Luncheon
NOVEMBER	
Tue 4 November*	Club Night
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.

***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.**

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

AIR FORCE WISDOM...

It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.'

'Yea, Though I Fly Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 50,000 Feet and Climbing.'

- Sign over SR71 Wing Ops-

'You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3.'

- Paul F. Crickmore (SR71 test pilot)-

'The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.'

'Without ammunition, the Air Force is just an expensive flying club.'

'If you hear me yell; "Eject, Eject, Eject!" the last two will be echoes.' If you stop to ask "Why?", you'll be talking to

yourself, because by then you'll be the pilot.'

'What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies; but If ATC screws up... the pilot dies.

'Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it.'

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'There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime.'

'You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal.'

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. **Why not make a night of it and join the Northern Club for dinner at the club beforehand on Thursday 3 July.**
2. Later this month Prime TV will commence screening **"War News"** a gripping new five part series that tells the story of New Zealand's role in World War One in a groundbreaking way.. It is a fictional current affairs show covering major events of the war by placing a television current affairs team at the coal face. For more information visit www.gibson.co.nz
3. This newsletter sees the commencement of The **World War One Timeline**. 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.

WORLD WAR ONE TIMELINE

DATE	WORLD EVENT	NEW ZEALAND EVENT	INDIVIDUAL EVENT
1914			
28 June	Arch Duke Francis Ferdinand assassinated in Sarajavo		
5 July	Kaiser William II promised German Support for Austria against Serbia		
28 July	Austria declares war on Serbia		
1 August	Germany declares war on Russia		
3 August	Germany declares war on France and invades Belgium. Germany implements the Schlieffen Plan ¹		
4 August	Britain declares War on Germany	New Zealand receives the news at 1300 on 5 Aug. It is announced by the Governor, the Earl of Liverpool on the steps of Parliament to a crowd of 15,000	
23 August	The BEF starts it's retreat from Mons. Germany invades France		
26 August	Russian army defeated at Tannenburg and Masurian Lakes		
29 August		A 1374-strong Advance Party NZEF captures German Samoa	

¹ German General Staff's Strategic Plan for victory if the German Empire had to fight a war on two fronts