

C-O-N-N-E-C-T-I-O-N-S

Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA — November 2018

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The Lower Hutt Memorial RSA meets on Friday from 4:30pm to 6:30pm upstairs in the Anzac Lounge at the Petone Workingmen's Club at 47 Udy Street, Petone



LOWER HUTT
RSA

HUTT CITY
TE ANA KAIRANGI

The Lower Hutt Memorial RSA and Hutt City Council
Invite you to attend November's

ARMISTICE DAY COMMEMORATION

Because this year's Armistice Day Commemoration marks the 100th Anniversary of the cessation of World War One hostilities, the occasion takes on even more significance than in previous years.

We expect this event will be enthusiastically supported by our RSA members as well as the general public, as we remember family members who served during this war.

WHEN: 11:00am Sunday, 11th November

WHERE: Lower Hutt Cenotaph,
Anzac Memorial Lawn,
Riddiford Gardens, Queens Drive

RSA Members, Service and Police personnel:

At 10:30am RSA members, Service Personnel and Police are requested to assemble adjacent to the new Pavilion, Riddiford Gardens, at the Western end of the Hutt City Council Building. The parade will then move off to the Cenotaph, arriving in time to observe a 2-minute silence at the commencement of the Armistice Day Service.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

ARMISTICE DAY COMMEMORATION:

The end of the First World War... 100 years on

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1918, the guns on the Western Front fell silent. After four long years of unending slaughter, resulting in more than 37 million casualties, the First World War was finally over.

This year's Armistice Day commemorations marks the 100th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities and so the occasion takes on special significance.

New Zealand will be the first country around the world to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. New Zealanders will pay homage to their 18,277 countrymen who sacrificed their lives and to their families and all others impacted by the war.

Almost every New Zealand city and town has its own memorial, dedicated to citizens who perished in the conflict. The Lower Hutt Cenotaph commemorates all those local New Zealanders who died in the war and honours the servicemen and women who served their country during that time.

On the anniversary itself, on Sunday, November 11, a commemoration ceremony, organized by the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA and the Hutt City Council will take place at the Cenotaph. Taking part will be a joint parade of the RSA, Service and Police personnel, and members of Lower Hutt's New Zealand Cadet Forces.

We will assemble in time to march off at 10:45am adjacent to the new Riddiford Pavilion, which is situated at the western end of the Hutt City Council Municipal Building. From there we will march a short distance following paths to the Cenotaph and observe a two-minute silence, before the service commences.

The Cadet Forces of Lower Hutt will be providing Cenotaph Guards, Flag Orderlies, distributing the Orders of Service and poppies and a drummer to assist with the March. We will also have the services of a Hutt City Brass Band Bugler.

Wreaths will be laid by our local Mayor, Ray Wallace; the RSA; local Labour MP, Ginny Andersen; Brigadier Evan Williams of the New Zealand Defence Force; Military Attachés from diplomatic missions; The President of the Petone Workingmen's Club, Jim Hogg; a local Cadet Force Unit and secondary schools.

Prior to Armistice Day, 188 crosses will be erected on Anzac Memorial Lawn, adjacent to the Cenotaph, carrying the names of the World War One fallen from Lower Hutt and Petone. The crosses will be installed in the formation of two companies of an infantry battalion on parade.

At the conclusion of the event we will be providing refreshments in the Anzac Lounge to all official participants of the Commemorative Service.

We expect that this 'one off' 100 year Commemoration will be enthusiastically supported by our members as well as the general public, who will be remembering members of their families who served during this "war to end all wars."

"We will remember them"

OUR LOCAL WORLD WAR ONE SOLDIERS REMEMBERED:

As the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day approaches on 11 November, Keith Garwood has put together a series of articles for our *Connections* newsletter. These articles are based on the presentation Keith made some years ago in our Anzac Lounge. The genesis for his research in 2015 was the 188 World War One men named on the Petone and Lower Hutt Cenotaphs.

Our World War 1 Fallen — Some Demographics

In the early part of the 20th Century Petone was by then a residential suburb in the sense that we understand the term today. The Hutt Valley, on the other hand, was more rural, with much of the land being given over to agriculture. This urban/rural divide is apparent on the Petone and Lower Hutt Cenotaphs; the names of 128 of our World War 1 dead appear on the Petone Cenotaph, while the Lower Hutt Cenotaph contains just 60 names. Compare this with the situation a quarter of a Century later when suburbia had moved further up the valley, and the names of the World War 2 dead on the Lower Hutt Cenotaph number 345 compared to 104 for Petone.

The jobs of our World War 1 men provide an interesting cross section of the types of occupations that supported the modes of production of the day. Included in our 188 we had 22 labourers, 20 farmers or farm workers, 19 railwaymen – most of them at the Petone workshops, 15 clerks – three of them bank clerks with the Bank of New Zealand, nine meat workers – mostly from the Gear Meat Company, eight teachers, six grocers – most of them apparently working in family businesses, three tinsmiths and two tailors.

One-offs included a farrier, a saddler, a harness maker, a hulk keeper with the Union Steamship Company, an artist, a seaman care of the barquentine *Oberon* and a Catholic clergyman.

We should be thankful for the fact that our men were overwhelmingly single when they were attested for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Of 157 men that we know both the enlistment date and marital status of, 139 of them were single and 18 married. There was just one man whose marital status was described as 'legally separated', suggesting, perhaps, the greater legal barriers and societal attitudes around separation and divorce in the early 20th Century.

The numbers of them born in New Zealand were surprisingly high given that New Zealand was still such a young country at the time of the First World War. Of the 176 men whose place of birth is known, 140 of them were born in New Zealand, 26 were born in the United Kingdom, nine were born in Australia and one in the United States of America. Many of those born in New Zealand would have been first generation New Zealanders.

The youngest of our fallen soldiers is Rifleman Leonard Kirby of the London Rifle Brigade, who was born in Wellington and was just 19 years old when he was killed in action on the 28th of March 1918; the eldest is Private Frank Harrison of the 1st Wellington Battalion who was 45 when he was killed in action on the 10th of August 1917. The average age of our men at the time of their death was 27 years and the most frequently occurring age was the 26 of them who were aged 21 years at the time of their death.

Finally, it is saddening but appropriate as we approach the 100th Anniversary of the Signing of the Armistice to consider the nature of death of our men. Of the 173 that we know about, 114 were Killed in Action; 38 Died of Wounds; and 21 Died of Disease. Killed in Action does not necessarily mean 'died quickly'. It means that the soldier was deceased when first located by his comrades; Died of Wounds means that the soldier was still alive when located by his comrades but died subsequently.

"We will remember them"

FUTURE PLANNING FOR THE LHMRSA:

Welcome to the first in a series of articles from me, Lars Millar, president of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA. During this series I'll outline the way forward, as I see it, for us as an association. I have five key points I wish to address, and hopefully, get started during my first term. These are:

1. Engagement
2. Recruitment
3. Financial Transparency/Independence/Sustainability
4. Governance
5. Communication

There will be one instalment for each subject in our monthly Connections newsletter. The first will focus on Engagement.

Engagement is a vital task in any organisation, and drives our relationship building, more so in ours where we rely heavily on the generosity of others. Full details of my Engagement plan are due out soon, but here is a Soldiers-Five snippet.

The LHMRSA will increase its engagement with all the organisations it currently has connections with, and will begin engagement with those it doesn't currently have any interactions with, such as NZDF, Trentham Military Camp, and the Reserve units in the Wellington and Hutt Valley. Local government will be on this list too. For too long RSAs around NZ have relied on the "build it, and they will come" maxim. Unfortunately, this has seen many opportunities for growth pass RSAs by. Part of the engagement plan is to develop scholarship and sponsorship opportunities for our men and woman transitioning out of uniform and for our boys and girls in the cadets to transition into adulthood. We will increase our engagement with the Petone Workingmen's Club too.

Engagement and recruiting are closely related, but different enough to require separation. Recruiting will be covered in the next issue.

Until then, thank you all and take care.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday

ASSISTANCE FOR ALL VETERANS FROM VANZ:

Veterans did you know that you could get the following assistance to help you in your daily life, and also a possible payment to help you enjoy your leisure times, and help you stay in your own home?

Assistance with, and at no cost to you:

- Lawns and gardens
- House cleaning
- Gutters cleaned
- Windows and house washing (external only).
- Help may be available for internal windows
- Home modifications to assist entry and exit (ramps)
- Furniture modifications
- Attendant care (short term basis only)
- Adaptive clothing and footwear
- Personal alarms (in case of falls, etc)
- Assistance with applications for funding of mobility scooters
- Travel allowances (certain conditions apply)
- Medical costs
- Hearing loss

The above is available to all who served prior to 1 April, 1974 and includes all operational deployments and routine service deployments.

This also covers those who served after 1 April 1974 and served in many theatres, or had routine service since Vietnam.

For further information or clarification, you may contact your Veterans' Affairs Case Manager directly on 0800 483 8372, or e-mail veterans@nzdf.mil.nz Alternatively you may make an appointment through PWMC/LHMRSA Reception on 568-8588 for one of our Support Team to discuss your circumstances and complete a short "Needs Assessment" form.
Support Team: Dennis Cheetham, Peter Gooch, Lars Millar, David Weston

NEED SOME HELP? CONTACT OUR SUPPORT SERVICES:

The Lower Hutt Memorial RSA offers support services for all Returned and Service members (or their widow / widower, spouse, children, or dependant) and they can apply for a grant for assistance with:

- Doctors' Visits and Prescriptions
- Dental
- Optical
- Hearing Aids
- Specialist Visits
- Funeral Expenses
- As well as home and hospital visits there are a number of Home Help services available too

If you need support, financial or otherwise, from the Support Team for any contingencies that Government agencies cannot assist you with, please phone 568-8588 and leave your contact details with the office

