



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

**Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA — April 2021**

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PO Box 38-905 Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt

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

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## ***WE WILL MEET IN THE ANZAC LOUNGE ON FRIDAY 30 April***

Pencil it in now on your calendar! Over the past two years the LHMRSA has supported a number of local cadets undertake overseas exchanges, attend cadet exercises and specialised training.

One of the criteria of this support is that the cadets receiving this support come to the RSA and tell the members of their experiences and benefits they gained from this support.

Because of COVID 19 we were unable to have the cadets visit the RSA to give us their experiences but that will now change.

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April, the week after ANZAC Day, a number of cadets will join the LHMRSA in the ANZAC lounge and speak to RSA members.

The ANZAC Lounge will be open from 4.30pm until 6.30.

On completion of the talks one cadet will be invited to recite the Ode at 6.00pm in the ANZAC Lounge and a second to recite the Ode to the PWMC in the main Atrium downstairs.

All are invited to hear these experiences.

We are hoping that we can encourage members back to the ANZAC Lounge who may have drifted away when we moved downstairs to the Members Lounge. This is our chance to demonstrate that we value the ANZAC Lounge as our spiritual home.

It is intended to get a guest speaker, once a month, to address members in the ANZAC Lounge so that we can build up numbers to the point where we can enjoy this facility regularly on Fridays.

And, yes... the bar will be open!

## ***'POPPY DAY' — FRIDAY 16 APRIL***

It's not too late to volunteer! Can you spare some time to collect on 'Poppy Day' – Friday 16 April? Volunteers are required to collect at supermarkets and the Queensgate Shopping Centre.

If you are able to help with this important fund-raising activity to help our veterans please contact our Vice President, Norm Rosser, on 569-2474 or email: [rosserhn@gmail.com](mailto:rosserhn@gmail.com)

## ***HELP NEEDED TO ASSEMBLE POPPY & ROSEMARY SPRAYS***

We also need volunteers to help put poppy and rosemary sprays together, upstairs in the PWMC Games Room, 10:00am, Saturday 24 April.

We will then be placing them in the Services Section of the Taita Cemetery. If you have secateurs and gloves, they will come in handy in the assembly process.

Again, if you can spare some time to help do this, please phone Norm on 569-2474 or email him on [rosserhn@gmail.com](mailto:rosserhn@gmail.com)

## ***'ANZAC DAY' — SUNDAY 25 APRIL***

This year we are trusting that we will be returning to normal with our Dawn Parade and Service at the Lower Hutt Cenotaph, our 'Gunfire' breakfast at the Petone Workingmen's Club, the 'Flagstaff' Service at Petone Railway Station, the Bracken Street Parade and Service, the Civic Service, and our own Service at the PWMC followed by lunch, fellowship and entertainment by Runga in the afternoon. There will also be an Antique Arms display and Ferret Scout Car exhibit. Plans are underway to ensure everyone can commemorate this day, the most important fixture on our RSA calendar.

- **Please note that in the event of an increase in the Alert Level all Lower Hutt ANZAC Day activities will be cancelled.**

Here is the timetable for all planned Lower Hutt Services:

### **LOWER HUTT SERVICES**

- 5:45am** Parade assembles on Laings Road
- 6:00am** Dawn Service held at Cenotaph, Riddiford Gardens, ANZAC Lawn
- 9:45am** Civic Service held at the Cenotaph, Riddiford Gardens, ANZAC Lawn  
*(If wet the Civic Service will be held in the Town Hall. Tea will be available)*
- 11:00** LHMRSA Service held in the Atrium, Petone Workingmen's Club

### **EASTBOURNE SERVICE**

- 9:40am** Parade assembles at Ballinger Park, Oroua Street
- 10:00am** Service held at Memorial Gates, Muritai Road

### **PETONE SERVICES**

- 7:00am** Flag Ceremony, ANZAC Memorial Flagstaff, Petone Railway Station
- 8:15am** Parade assembles, Bracken Street
- 8:30am** Service held at the Garden of Remembrance, Memorial Park

### **STOKES VALLEY SERVICE**

- 10:45am** Parade assembles at Scott Court
- 11:00am** Service held at Stokes Valley RSA, Hawthorn Crescent

### **TAITA and NAENAE SERVICES**

- 11:15am** Taita/Naenae Service at Taita Cemetery

### **WAINUIOMATA SERVICES**

- 6:00am** Dawn Service held at the Wainuiomata War Memorial, Queen Street
- 10:50am** Parade assembles
- 11:00am** Service held at the Wainuiomata War Memorial, Queen Street

### ***LHM RSA SUPPORT SERVICES***

The LHM RSA offers Support Services for all Returned and Service personnel (and their spouse/partner, or dependants). Assistance can be tailored to individual needs via grants or assistance with expenses for:

- Doctors' visits and prescriptions
- Dental
- Optical
- Audio impairment
- Specialist visits
- Funeral expenses (conditions apply)
- Mental Health

As well as home and hospital visits, assistance with a variety of home help services may also be available.

If you require assistance from the LHM RSA Support Services Team for any contingencies other agencies cannot assist with, phone PWMC Reception on 0-4-568 5404, and ask for an appointment with the LHM RSA Support Services Team, and leave your contact details.

### ***WELFARE OFFICER***

The PWMC have allocated funding for a Welfare Officer. Dale Ansell of the MAF Committee will be available to assist all Members with their welfare concerns. Office space has been established for Dale in the LHM RSA Office/Library, which is situated downstairs, off the Members Lounge. Appointments can be made to see Dale for Tuesday 9am to 1pm; Wednesday 9am to 4pm; and Thursday 9am to 1pm, at Reception on 0-4-568 5404.

### ***ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS FROM VETERANS' AFFAIRS NEW ZEALAND***

Veterans can get the following assistance from VANZ to help with quality of life issues, including:

- Lawns and gardens
- House cleaning
- Gutters cleaned
- Windows and external house washing
- Help may be available for internal windows
- Home modifications to assist entry and exit (e.g. 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 (conditions apply)
- Assistance with medical costs and 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 in various theatres since Vietnam.

For further information or clarification, contact your Veterans' Affairs Case Manager directly on 0800 483 8372, or e-mail [veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz)

If you are already dealing with VANZ and are having to wait a long time to see an appropriate professional, make contact with the LHM RSA Support Services and if we can help speed up the process with VANZ, we will.

