



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

Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA — July 2021

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PO Box 38-905 Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt

*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*

OUR NEXT GUEST SPEAKER: 5:30pm FRIDAY 30TH JULY

Our guest speaker this month will be LTCDR Peet Hoeksma VRD*, RNZNVR. Peet will be providing us with an illustrated presentation on his reflections on deployment with the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (Dubai).

Over 90% of New Zealand's trade goes by sea. Much of this passes through the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aden, and past one of the most notorious regions for maritime piracy (The Somali Coast). Since 2016, New Zealand has contributed to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) unit in the Gulf of Aden. UKMTO is a Royal Navy capability with the principal purpose of providing an information conduit between military (which includes security forces) and the wider international maritime trade. UKMTO delivers timely maritime security information, often acting as the primary point of contact for merchant vessels involved in maritime incidents or travelling within an area of high risk (HRA). The New Zealand contribution to UKMTO is to provide an International Navies Liaison Officer (INLO) for six months each year. The role of the INLO is to provide advice to mariners through briefing merchant ship captains on the current maritime security of the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean region.

During 2017, LT CDR Hoeksma was deployed to UKMTO as the INLO for a period of three months. This talk will outline Peet's experience in this role, discuss maritime piracy in general and the importance of New Zealand's contribution to maritime security, as well as the role of the Royal New Zealand Navy Volunteer Reserve. Based at HMNZS OLPHERT (now in Waione Street, Petone), Peet has been in the RNZNVR since joining in August 1989. He has held the post of Executive Officer, HMNZS OLPHERT and is currently posted to the Office of the Commander Maritime Trade Operations (CMTO) as the Staff Officer Training and Evaluation.

The ANZAC Lounge will be open from 5.30pm until 6.30pm.

All RSA and PWMC members are warmly invited to hear these experiences. And, yes... the bar will be open!

OLD TAITA SERVICEMEN'S CEMETERY CLEAN-UP... by Mike Collett

On Saturday 7th August the 3 cadet units from Lower Hutt – TS Tamatoa, CLHCC and 2 Sqdn ATC supported by the LHMRSA and Bunnings Petone will be going to the Old Taita Servicemen's cemetery to carry on the process of cleaning the gravestones. Cleaning of the gravestones started approximately a year ago by the Remembrance Army and the cadets have undertaken to carry on this task as part of their Community Service obligations. Should you or you know of anyone who would like to assist we will start at 10.00 am. Buckets, and scrubbers provided. We anticipate the work will take around 90 minutes depending upon numbers. There are approx 300 grave stones to be cleaned.

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual general meeting of the LHMRSA will be held in the ANZAC Lounge on Sunday 19th September, starting at 11:00 am.

The agenda will be as follows, and will be printed in 23rd August edition of the Hutt News:

Apologies

Minutes of the 2020 AGM

Reports:

President

Support

Trustees

Darts Adjunct

Financial

Notices of Motion

Election of Executive Officers

General Business

Nominations for the Executive Committee close at 5:00pm on Friday 3rd September.

Nomination forms are available at Reception and the sealed box for completed forms is also at Reception.

Notices of Motion need to be in a sealed envelope and posted in the sealed box at Reception no later than 5:00pm on Friday 3rd September, 2021. Notice of Motion forms are available at Reception and a template of one appears at the end of this newsletter to help you fill it out.

Only financial members of the LHMRSA for 2021 are eligible to attend this meeting.

THE MONTH OF JULY IN NEW ZEALAND MILITARY HISTORY... by Keith Garwood

5 Squadron RNZAF



US Navy Catalina flying boats at the Luganville Seaplane Base, Espiritu Santo, in February 1942

The RNZAF's second No.5 (Flying Boat) Squadron was formed in **July 1944** at Fiji. An earlier 5 Squadron had been formed in November 1941 flying Vickers Vincents and then Short Singapore flying boats but was disbanded in 1942.

The reformed 5 Squadron was based at Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) from October 1944 to October 1945. From there it operated its Catalina flying boats across a broad swath of the Pacific Ocean to the Admiralty Islands mainly searching for Japanese submarines and surface vessels.

Interesting 5 Squadron facts

- The Catalina aircraft were known within the RNZAF as '90 knot wonders' because they took off, flew and landed all at 90 knots.¹
- In the closing months of the war the future conqueror of Mount Everest, Sergeant Edmund Hillary, was a navigator with 5 Squadron.

¹ 5 Squadron RNZAF Association [5 Squadron History \(5sqnassn.org.nz\)](http://5sqnassn.org.nz)

- RNZAF Catalina NZ 4051 (pictured), which served with 5 Squadron at Espiritu Santo, was flooded and sank while taking off from Evans Bay on the 7th of February 1950. It was recovered by the floating crane Hikitia (still a feature of the Wellington waterfront) and sold for scrap.



5 Squadron PBY Catalina NZ 4051 at Auckland in the immediate post-war period

Willie Apiata VC

The award of the Victoria Cross for New Zealand² to Corporal Bill Henry (Willie) Apata was announced the 2nd of July 2007

followed by an investiture ceremony at Government House, Wellington on the 26th of July 2007. The award related to an action in Afghanistan three years earlier where his Troop was attacked by about 20 enemy fighters using rocket propelled grenades, machine guns and automatic rifles. In part his VC citation reads:

In total disregard of his own safety, Lance Corporal Apiata stood up and lifted [a seriously wounded] comrade bodily. He then carried him across the seventy metres of broken, rocky and fire swept ground, fully exposed in the glare of battle to heavy enemy fire and into the face of returning fire from the main Troop position. That neither he nor his colleague were hit is scarcely possible. Having delivered his wounded companion to relative shelter with the remainder of the patrol, Lance Corporal Apiata re-armed himself and rejoined the fight in counter-attack.

In the picture Willie Apiata is wearing the RNZRSA's Badge in Gold which was presented to him by RNZRSA patron and Governor General the Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand at RNZRSA's ANZAC House head office on Armistice Day 2007. At the same time the Governor General unveiled a symbolic Badge in Gold to all deceased members of the NZ Armed Forces who have received the Victoria Cross. By receiving the RNZRSA's Badge in Gold Willie joined an exclusive group that includes the Allies' most decorated WW2 servicewoman resistance fighter Nancy Wake, Sir Winston Churchill, Lieutenant General Lord Freyberg, two monarchs and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Willie is one of only nine living holders of the Victoria Cross. The others comprise three Britons, one of whom is the last surviving World War Two holder of the Victoria Cross, one Gurkha, and four Australians, three of whom are holders of the Victoria Cross for Australia.

On ANZAC Day 2008 Willie gifted his Victoria Cross to the Nation to be held by the NZSAS Trust. The medal is held at the NZSAS Compound in Papakura and is worn by Willie when required.



Willie Apiata VC

² The Victoria Cross for New Zealand was introduced on the 21st of September 1999 to recognise acts of gallantry and bravery performed by New Zealanders, and as such replaced the British Victoria Cross instituted by Queen Victoria on the 29th of January 1856. The Victoria Cross for New Zealand sits at the pinnacle of a new range of gallantry awards as part of a distinct New Zealand Royal honours system.

NEW SUPPORT SERVICES APPLICATION FORM

Reproduced below is the new Support Services Funding Application Form. This form and the application itself has been streamlined to be more user-friendly for all concerned.



LHMRSA
Discretionary Funds Application

Only applies to Returned/Service personnel or Widow/Widower/Partner of a Returned/Service person residing in the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA area (Proof of service is required by non-members of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA).

Name:.....

Service No:.....

Address:.....

.....

Phone No:.....

Being a Returned/Service person I wish to apply for a grant in respect of Dental/Optometrlist/Specialist/X-ray/Hearing aids/ Doctor/ expenditure by myself.

Amount of expenditure \$..... Original receipts & details attached

Bank details

Email

Address.....

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Signature:.....

Date:.....

Approved:.....

Date:.....

Support Officer: Ph. 568 5404 & leave contact details.

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. Step-by-step assistance with understanding and using Internet Banking is offered too.

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

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.



Lower Hutt Memorial RSA (Inc)
NOTICE of MOTION
2021/22 (Template)

NOTICE OF MOTION:

(Insert text of Notice of Motion)

RATIONALE:

(Insert text for rationale leading to creation of the Notice of Motion)

RULES AFFECTED BY NOTICE OF MOTION:

(List references to Rules affected by the Notice of Motion, including any proposed new text for affected Rules, e.g.

Example 1: *Rule 5 (g) Interpretation – DELETION of Rule (5 (g) which provides a definition of the term “the House.”*

Example 2: *Schedule 6 - Association By-laws – Clauses 5-6 inclusive – REMOVAL of words “Duty Manager” and “Secretary” wherever they may occur and simplify text accordingly as follows:*

“Schedule 6, Clause 5 – Any member being intoxicated so as to be a nuisance on premises occupied by the Association may immediately be suspended by an Officer of the Association. Any such suspension must forthwith be reported in writing to the President outlining the reasons therefore and a meeting of the Executive Committee called with all reasonable haste to address the suspension.”

PROPOSED BY:

SECONDED BY:.....

MEMBERSHIP No.....

MEMBERSHIP No.....

SIGNATURE:.....

SIGNATURE:.....

- 1 All signatories must be financial members of the Association for 2021
2. All Notices of Motion must be placed in an envelope and deposited in the sealed box at PWMC Reception and submitted NO LATER than 5:00pm Friday 3rd SEPTEMBER 2021
3. No Notice of Motion may be vindictive, vexatious, frivolous or IMPROPER to be considered at a General Meeting.
4. No Notice of Motion may be submitted or processed on behalf of a third party not qualified as a financial member of the Association.
5. The Executive Committee may consider such Notices of Motion and provide recommendations to members.
6. Failure to provide all information and comply with the above will render the Notice of Motion invalid.

