

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

Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA — October/November 2023

E-mail: lhmrta@gmail.com — Website: www.lowerhutt rsa.co.nz

*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*

Presidents Update

Hello members

Its been just over a month since the Annual General Meeting and you have a new Executive

President: Mike Collett

Vice President: Campbell Sutherland

Immediate Past President: Norm Rosser

Executive Members: Peter Barber
 Ash Ansell
 Dave Strutton
 Trevor Pack

1. Your new Executive are coming to grips with things and our plan is to get back to grass roots of our organisation
R - Remembrance
S - Support
A - Advocacy

Remembrance:

1. We conducted a Passchendaele Commemoration Service in the Petone Club on 17 October

2. On 11 November we are holding an Armistice Service in the Petone Club commencing at 10.45 am. All are welcome

3.. We have appointed our ANZAC Day organising team Martyn Robey and Keith Garwood. They have been our team for a number of years now

4 Poppy Day will be under the auspices of Peter Barber, Trevor Pack assisted by Norm Rosser

5 The RSA now acknowledges the passing of all Petone Club members who have passed away in the preceding week. The acknowledgement is done immediately prior to the reciting of the Ode of Remembrance at 6.00 pm

Support

1. Past President Jim Hogg has volunteered to be our Welfare Support Officer. He has undertaken training organised by the RNZRSA in order to do this role. Working with Dale Ansell the Petone Club Welfare Officer we hope to improve our support to our Veterans. Jim and Dale will attend the Monthly District Support Meetings held in rotating RSAs in the District. Lower Hutt will host the November meeting.
2. The Executive recently had a meeting with the District President to get a briefing on the Trentham Hub. This is a RSA initiative to support service personnel in Trentham Camp. In coming weeks we will be meeting with the Linton Hub convenor to ascertain what support they need from us if any.
3. We continue to support Veteran members through our Poppy Day fund to assist with their medical needs not available through the Public System. Veterans in need of assistance can obtain an application form from Petone Club reception or one can be posted out by ringing the club. Depending upon when an application is received it could be up to 5 weeks before payment is authorised. Our Poppy Day fund is made up of monies collected on Poppy Day normally the weekend before ANZAC Day.
4. On 4th November the Executive are having a workshop with our Trustees to ensure that both parties are in sync on the way forward

Advocacy

1. The Welfare team are here to assist Veterans who are having issues with Veterans Affairs and ACC. If you are having issues getting support from these organisations pop into the library at the club and talk with Dale. She is in the club Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings until around 2.00 pm.
2. Veterans who served before 1974 or have Qualifying operational service are eligible to assistance from Veterans Affairs but first one must register with VANZ. If you think you qualify have a chat with Dale, Jim Hogg or a member of the Executive and we will put you in the right direction to get registered

Social

The club meets every Friday in the Atrium of the Petone Club from 4,30pm to 6.30 pm. All are welcome to join us.

On 24th November we will be holding our Christmas function in the ANZAC Lounge from 4.30 to 6.30. We are hopeful of a guest speaker and we will be providing finger food.

Website and Facebook Pages

The Website and Facebook pages haven't been used for over 2 years and getting into the back end of both is proving to be a challenge. Hopefully we will have the website up and running within the next week or so. The Facebook page may take a little longer

Going forward

1. I am hopeful of getting another newsletter out before Christmas
2. I look forward to a positive workshop with our Trustees
3. Please put 11th November in your diary for our Commemoration in the PWMC
4. If you want to get back to the ANZAC Lounge on a regular basis you need to turn up on Fridays.

That's it from me

Mike

ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS FROM VANZ:

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 Viet Nam

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 LHMRSA Support Services and if we can help speed up the process with VANZ we will.

