

21 MAY 2024



RSA



WHANGAREI RSA NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all Members - Nga Mihi o te ra

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wed 22nd & 29th May – **DARTS**
Club Night – Drawn pairs format
- Thu 23rd May – **MONTHLY MEETING**
Airforce Meeting & Lunch
- Thur 23rd & 30th May – **POOL**
Club Night – Drawn pairs format
- Fri 24th May – **ENTERTAINMENT**
The Saltwater River Band
- Sat 25th May – **POOL CLUB**
Hokianga RSA - Home Game
- Sat 25th May – **DARTS CLUB CHAMPS**
Mixed Pairs with Laurie & Helen
Hughes providing the music.
- Sat 1 Jun – Mon 3 June **CLOSED**



- Sat 8th Jun – **POOL CLUB**
Ladies Singles Club Champs
- Wed 12th Jun – **MONTHLY MEETING**
Women's Section

Progressive Specials



MEMBER NIGHTS

WEDNESDAYS

4:30pm Raffles \$1.00

6:30pm - Ode Notices Snowball
Draw Bar Raffles Door Prize

FRIDAYS

4:30pm Raffles \$2.00

6:30pm - Ode Notices Snowball
Draw Bar Raffles Door Prize

SNOWBALL DRAW



Whangarei RSA

Physical Address: 16 Hannah Street

Postal Address: PO Box 740

Phone: 09 438 3792

Web: www.whangareirsa.co.nz

RSA Secretary Manager:

Email: admin@whangareirsa.co.nz

Executive Committee

President: Brian Towgood

Vice President:

Mel Matheson

Jinney Ruawhare

Committee:

Dianne Foster

Sharon Birch

Victor Corbett

David Gray

Phillip Marsh

TRADING HOURS

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	12 Noon to Closing
Thursday	12 Noon to Closing
Friday	12 Noon to Closing
Saturday	Bookings & Events only
Sunday	Closed

Courtesy Coach Available 4pm Wednesdays' & Fridays'

A donation-based service; thank you for your support.

Contact our driver direct on 021 048 1330 from 4pm Wednesday & Friday.

Kenny's Kitchen

Kids Menu

Chicken Nuggets & Chips...

Fish & Chips...

Nachos...

Snacks:

Chips...

Wedges...

Seafood Chowder...

Prawn Twister...

Snack Platter...

Garlic Bread...

Nachos...

Calamari...

Shrip Cocktail...

Chinese Dumplings...

Burgers:

Beef

Chicken

Fish

KK'S Burger

Mains:

BBO Pork Salad

Fish & Chips

Grilled 250G Scotch Steak

Lamb Shank

Seafood Platter

Desserts:

Ice Cream Sundaes...

Caramel...

Chocolate...

Strawberry...

Chocolate Brownie

Drinks

Iced Coffee (frappe)...

Iced Mocha (frappe)

Iced chocolate (frappe)

Milk Shakes...

Smoothies...

What's Behind The Bar

No specials or promotions at this time. But come in and check out our range of taps beers and cider, stubbies and quart bottles, RTD's and wines.

SEE YOU HERE SOON...

KITCHEN CLOSED? THEN TRY OUR BAR SNACKS

- Assorted Muffins \$ 5.00
- Sausage Rolls \$ 4.50
- Toasted Sandwiches \$ 5.00
- Steak & Cheese Pie \$ 6.00
- Mince & Cheese Pie \$ 6.00

Also available a selection of chips, nuts and goodies from the snack box

From The Vice President Service Mel Matheson

All who served in the military, I'm sure, look forward to reunions to continue friendships made in earlier times. It is a bit difficult locally, due to small numbers, to have individual Corp gatherings.

With the army reorganisation various trades have been combined. I was informed on ANZAC Day of a planned reunion for a group of different trades soon. The venue was to be the Kamo Club, something I didn't expect at the Whangarei RSA on ANZAC Day. It was the most important day of the year for the RSA.

A previous reunion had been held here at the RSA; it was on the same day as a sports section was holding a function and apparently it just "didn't feel right," why I am not sure as we are one together. Those who attended that reunion numbered about twelve or so, I can't see how any major problems could have occurred.

I, as Vice President, representing returned and service members don't think it will go down very well by the former to attend a military function at a civilian club. Even as a non-office holding member I would not attend. The RSA needs, in these difficult times, the loyalty and support of all members.

If the above article upsets anyone well...I stand by what I've written and there is no apology.

M.B. Matheson
N50014 Army
Vice President (Returned & Service)

Poppy Appeal 2024

What a great month we have had for donations, at the present time we are up to \$24,400 nearly the same as last year.

Thanks must go to August and Jinney for the hours they spent delivering poppy boxes to schools and businesses and for working on Poppy Day picking up money buckets and delivering poppies to our volunteers.

I say a big THANK YOU to you all.

We were also lucky that on Poppy Day we had the head teller from ANZ come and get all of the takings ready for banking.

Once again I thank all those who helped.

Colleen Towgood with Jinney Ruawhare as co-coordinator.

ANZAC DAY



RSA vice-president Mel Matheson, who served in NZ in 1978 to 1982, attends Anzac Day to remember his uncle who died in World War I. Photo / Michael Cunningham

Also, on ANZAC Day we were treated to a presentation of a poem by 17-year-old Alex Turner.

Attached is his article written for publication "The Huanuanian" their school newsletter and a copy of his poem.

I only received PDF and JPEG versions and have tried to make the article and poem easier to read, this is the best I could do.



Alex Turner in Year 13 wrote a moving poem for ANZAC Day that depicts the struggle between a separated husband and wife of WW2. A staff member at the RSA came across his poem and passed it along to the senior organiser of the Anzac Day ceremonies to use in a live performance.

The poem was so moving, that the RSA felt it deserved a live audience. Anzac Day, with its solemn remembrance of fallen soldiers, demands utmost respect and sensitivity. Given my young age of 17, they diligently checked the poem's authenticity with combat veterans, who were astounded by its accurate reflection of their experiences. Indigo Tomlinson resonated deeply with the poem and immensely helped in creating a meaningful performance.

The preparation was extensive. Indigo and I were coached by Debbie Walters-Brown, a former drama teacher at Huanui College, and received valuable insights from the RSA on how best to present the poem. Indigo and I practiced individually before rehearsing together at the serene garden behind the library and also at the RSA. A pivotal element was the integration of audio-visual components – over 20 connected images that enriched the reading. The RSA invested significant effort to ensure the audio visuals and performance was impactful. The attached image used in the event shows how we presented the reading. The images had been carefully crafted to serve as a support to the poem. This specific image is a powerful symbol of the meaning of the poem. It symbolizes the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity, depicting how even in the midst of total destruction, the heart can offer solace and hope amidst the horrors of war.

I wore a soldier's uniform authentic to the period, while Indigo wore a dress of a woman from that era. Our costumes were thoughtfully provided by the local Drama club, ensuring we represented the time accurately and with respect.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, which relieved my initial nervousness. Veterans approached us to express how the poem echoed their unspoken experiences and emotions. They shared that the lines of the poem empowered them to finally discuss these poignant memories. Soldiers asked for a copy to send to family members currently deployed in combat overseas. It was an immensely humbling, incredibly moving and satisfying experience. The blend of nervousness, relief at its conclusion, and the joy of having successfully conveyed such powerful stories was profound. I was particularly nervous beforehand, remembering past difficulties with public speaking, but the positive reception and a committing to a greater purpose made it all worth while. Our heartfelt poetry reading at the Anzac Day ceremony not only those who served but also highlighted the power of poetry to bridge past and present, conveying deep, often unspoken truths.

Writing feels like sculpting perfection and beauty that, once created, needs no further change. It liberates me from the continual struggle for beauty and brings a sense of peace and harmony that is deeply fulfilling.

Written by Alex Turner





April 1917

My Beloved Wife,

*As the shells rain down on us men pleading for death,
I think of the past that bears down on my chest and
conquers my thoughts
My eyes are blinded with the brown stench of mud that
hides my fingers,
dirtying the youth and innocent of my face,
as I wipe my eyes of pain, like a baptism,
a coming of age in the world religion of War.
I drown in the dying screams of the sergeants and
captains, sons and brothers.
The dead shriek in an ear-breaking silence, but before long
the chorus calls fourth as Machine guns sing and horses cry.*

*We collectively chant 'I am not afraid to die'.
The percussion of the rider falling in a cry of fear is quickly
followed by that of the horse,
a prisoner to its desire to serve
An ever present reminder to me of the same zeal
possessed by my band of brothers.*

*I miss you, my Love. The only warm hand on this waring
front is death itself.
The only warm words I speak, is when I reminisce to the
lads about you.
But I wouldn't want you to worry,
For in my weakness I bend the knee, pledging utter
determination.....
So that I may know how it feels to love you tomorrow.
Just know that it is in the hateful eyes of the enemy that I
am reminded of the love in yours
How wrong is my love of you that I reminisce upon the pain
the memory of your beauty has blessed upon me*

*My Heart cries its love upon you in this letter, see me
bleeding myself dry through each tear upon the page,
Pray they forever fall, for It is by them I forge the beauty
with these words.
With each step I take towards Death, know I take another
towards Life.*

*In all sincerity
You are my Beloved Wife, I am your husband*

Dearest Beloved Husband,

*Know that I am the Sun creating the new day,
dragging you from your sleepless nights filled with
Moonlit terrors.
And as the ring I wear binds you to I, and I to you,
I swear that one day we may taste heaven again in each
other's embrace.*

*But alas I must say the home you once knew is no more,
As the woman in the mirror now wears the wounds that
come with the working life in the munitions factory.*

*But it is not in that weakness right now that I write to you,
For it is from those wounds I have found my truth and
strength, such is it's assertiveness you shall know of it too,
My Husband.*

*That as your wife, the guardian of your heart, the giver of
her own, Demand with that stubbornness you love, that
you MUST NOT FALTER!*

Do not add an inch to the trench!

*I feel your disappointment when you fail to give me what
I ask. As I know my strength so do you now know yours,
For who can see the other as they, are better than the
Heavens sees the Land or the Land see the Heavens.*

*Let the love in these words paint for you a picture of the
man I know you to be.
Let these words show you a reminder of the Wife you fight for.
As one bleeds, so does the other:
It is with the lifeblood of my page shall the red of yours
shine true,
I summon you to fight and face all blight
Stand upright, tall and strong with the knowledge of how
much I love you.*

*Your Beloved Wife for all of life and through the
bloodiest fight.*

With this song of agony I kiss you goodnight.

Section News

Darts 'Bull'etin

Club Nights – Wednesday
Format – Drawn Pairs
Names in by 7:15pm
Play Starts 7:30pm



What's Happened & What's Coming up?

Club nights are progressing well.

Coming Up:

Mixed Pairs

Saturday 25th May

The Travel Club

3rd Friday of the month
Venue – RSA Bar



Watch this space further details.

Women's Section

Meet 2nd Wednesday

Each Month at 1:30pm

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday the 12th of May 2024 at 1:30pm. For further information. Please contact Raewyn Massey on 021 252 1627

Rifle Club Hot 'Shot's'

Club Nights – Tuesday

Venue - Whareora Hall

Start Time 7pm

Our next club nights will be the 28th May & 4 June. For further information contact, secretary, Toyne Harris on 022 093 6311.



What's Going Down at the Pool Club?

Club Nights – Thursday

Format – Drawn Pairs

Names in by 7:15pm

Play Starts 7:30pm



What's Happened & What's Coming up?

We have a regular group on club night.

Coming Up:

Hokianga RSA Home

Saturday 25th May

Ladies Singles

Saturday 8th June

Men's Pairs

Saturday 8th June

Results Thursday May 9th

Winners: Jinney & Ludene

Runners Up: Kevin & JK

Results Thursday May 16th

Winners: Kevin

Runners Up: Paula

Hurricanes' Gift to Benefit New Zealand's Veterans



2024-05-17

Twenty-three match worn Hurricanes jerseys have been gifted to the RSA to help raise the funds needed to support New Zealand's veterans of military service and their whānau.

Worn during the DHL Super Rugby Pacific's Anzac Round, the jerseys feature the RSA's iconic poppy, and each has been signed by the player who wore it during the match.

The RSA's National President Sir Wayne Shelford was overwhelmed at the support shown by the Hurricanes. "The Hurricanes have shown they're not just the team to beat this season, they're the team with the biggest hearts. Times are tough for us all right now, and this incredible gift will help the RSA to raise some much-needed funds to continue our work supporting veterans throughout New Zealand

Hurricanes CEO, Avan Lee said it was an honour to be able assist in raising funds for the RSA. "It's our privilege to be able to assist the RSA. The RSA do an amazing job providing services for veterans, and given connection and humility are two of our values, giving back to our community is really important to us. The RSA's Poppy is one of the most recognizable emblems in New Zealand and we will continue to wear it with great pride."

The jerseys are being auctioned on Trade Me with the last of the listings due to close on Thursday the 23rd of May.

Meeting Room for Hire

We have a meeting room to let. Here is the price list and the contact details for anyone interested. **All prices are GST exclusive.**

Type	Details	Price	Time
Meeting Room	Suitable for 30 people	\$ 60.00 \$ 120.00	Up to 4 Hours Full Day

Contact details:

Address: 16 Hannah Street, Whangarei

Phone: 09 438 3792

Email: admin@whangareirsa.co.nz

Website: <http://whangareirsa.co.nz>

For more information follow this link:

<https://www.whangareirsa.co.nz/room-hire/>

Snowball

This coming Wednesday the snowball will be **\$150.00**. Be here on the night for the 6:30pm draws.

Door Prize

These were **\$270.00** last Wednesday and **\$259.00** on Friday. Tickets are \$1 and can purchase them at the bar.

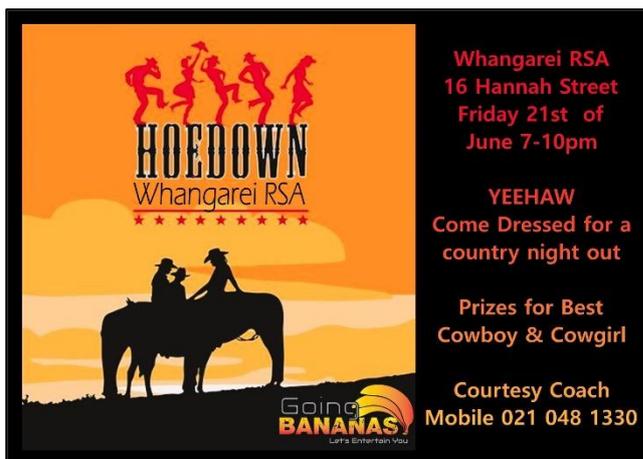
Support Our Sponsors



Northland
Toyota



What's Coming up?



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BAR MANAGER

A HUGE THANK YOU to our sponsors for their kind donations on ANZAC DAY.

Karen from Pete's Towing - 2 bottles of Rum
Mark & Justine from NOPDs – Tea/Coffee
Bill Raynor - Milk
Diana Vicarey & Sheryl Stirling – Hot Toddies

Without you all it wouldn't have been the great day that it was – Regards Donna



RSA

MAY – JUNE 2024

CONTACTS		
Darts	Sharon	021 055 4380
Pool	Mark Lydon	021 857 056
Travel Club	Paula Detlaff	027 237 8370
Women's Section	Nancy Hawks	027 272 0032

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
20 May 	21 May 	22 May Open 12 Noon – Closing Snowball 150 (If not struck) Door Prize Darts Drawn Pairs Register by 7:15pm Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	23 May Open 12 Noon – Closing Airforce Meeting  Pool Drawn Pairs Register by 7:15pm Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	24 May Open 12 Noon – Closing Snowball \$175 (If not struck) Door Prize ENTERTAINMENT THE SALTWATER RIVER BAND Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	25 May Open 12 Noon – Closing POOL HOME GAME HOKIANGA RSA DARTS CLUB CHAMPS MIXED PAIRS Kenny's Kitchen Open	26 May 
27 May 	28 May 	29 May Open 12 Noon – Closing Snowball \$175 (If not struck) Door Prize Darts Drawn Pairs Register by 7:15pm Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	30 May Open 12 Noon – Closing  Pool Drawn Pairs Register by 7:15pm Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	31 May Open 12 Noon – Closing Snowball \$200 (If not struck) Door Prize NO ENTERTAINMENT IN HOUSE MUSIC Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	1 Jun 	2 Jun 
KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 2024	4 Jun 	5 Jun Open 12 Noon – Closing Snowball \$200 (If not struck) Door Prize Darts Drawn Pairs Register by 7:15pm Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	6 Jun Open 12 Noon – Closing  Pool Drawn Pairs Register by 7:15pm Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	7 Jun Open 12 Noon – Closing Snowball \$225 (If not struck) Door Prize NO ENTERTAINMENT IN HOUSE MUSIC Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	8 Jun Open 12:30pm - Closing POOL CLUB CHAMPS LADIESSINGLES MEN'S PAIRS Kenny's Kitchen Open	9 Jun 
10 Jun 	11 Jun 	12 Jun Open 12 Noon – Closing Women's Section Snowball \$225 (If not struck) Door Prize Darts Drawn Pairs Register by 7:15pm Bistro - Lunch & Dinn Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	13 Jun Open 12 Noon – Closing  Pool Drawn Pairs Register by 7:15pm Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	14 Jun Open 12 Noon – Closing Snowball \$250 (If not struck) Door Prize NO ENTERTAINMENT IN HOUSE MUSIC Kenny's Kitchen 12 - Late	15 Jun Open 12 Noon – Closing DARTS CLUB CHAMPS DRAWN PAIRS Kenny's Kitchen Open	16 Jun 