

TAT RAZA NEWS

December
2020

Newsletter of the Te Atatu Memorial RSA (Inc)

From Our President

What a year this has been for everyone. No person could have predicted in their wildest dreams what the world, our country and us as individuals would have to endure in 2020 with covid-19.

Despite the lock downs and major disruptions to our business, I can report we are in a positive financial situation. With a third of the year behind us, we have an operating surplus of \$23,000. Your support at the club will certainly enhance our current position.

All members have now been informed by email or in-house notices that subscriptions are due. Any members making payment by 23 December



2020 will go into the draw to win a 32' colour television. Payment of subs can be made directly to Stephen in the office, over the bar or via internet banking.

During lock down, the painting of the club interior was finished. The sound system has been upgraded and some memorabilia reinstated. All our Victoria Cross recipient and life Member photos will be put back on the walls over the next couple of months.

In August the Government gave NZRSA \$2.5m to be distributed to returned and ex-service members, their partners and widows and dependent children. If you require any financial assistance

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for health or home renovations, please talk to myself, Richard Patterson or Ian Henry. We will guide you through the application process. All money not used by 30 June 2021 must be returned to Government.

Finally on behalf of the committee, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Bob Pettis
President

From the Editor



Hi Everyone – welcome to only our second, and last, newsletter of 2020. I hope it's an enjoyable read.

I sincerely thank all our contributors for the time and effort it takes to put an issue together.

One contribution missing in this issue is from Tama and Moana from the restaurant. These two wonderful people have been flat out since they started at our RSA and as we approach Christmas, contributing to a newsletter simply can't be their focus. But look out for the inside scoop in our next issue!

Maryanne Hannen
Editor

8 Ball Club News

Hi Everyone

We have got through another year. It seemed a lot harder and more uncertain with covid-19 but we survived and are finally coming to the end of 2020.

Summer League has now begun and for those of you who have joined a team, good luck for the season! For anyone who would like to come and watch – we'll see you on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm.

We will take a break over the festive season with our last game on 16 December. We will start again on 6 January 2021.

Next years trip is under review as concerns have been raised about going to Rotorua again. If you have any ideas, please put them forward at the next meeting to be held on either the 17th or the 24th of January (this will also be our AGM). Please keep an eye on the noticeboard for confirmation of details.

We will hold our prizegiving on the 20th of December and look forward to seeing you all there.

Until next time...

Club Captain **Suzanne**
Treasurer **Joanne Houston**
Trip Organiser **Diane Bold**

Welfare Team

Hi everybody, hope you are all well.

Here we are at the end of another year – thank goodness. 2020 has been a bad year for people and the club with all the lock downs etc.

Anyway, here we are at Christmas time. It can't kill that spirit and we can look

forward to holidays and good cheer, so make the most of it. Yes, 2021 will be better!

As normal at this time of the year, the Welfare Team will take leave to enjoy their families. Welfare won't close down though as I will be on call for any issues and transport etc.

A big thank you to Banjo and all my helpers throughout the year.

Banjo and I will take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. 2021 can only be better!

Ian Henry
Welfare Officer, Support Services

Real Community Spirit - Our Local Pharmacy and Lock Down

I hope everyone managed to keep well during what has been a very difficult year for many people and their families.

Times like these, although they can be challenging, show us what's truly important in life and for me that is my family and friends.

Working in our local pharmacy, the importance of family and friends and checking in on one another was something we all had in common during the covid lock downs.

We all pulled together to make sure our most vulnerable people were safe. For my colleagues and I this meant getting prescriptions delivered safely to people in their homes and checking if there was anything else they needed.

Sometimes it was something as simple as being there to take their phone call and have a chat – just checking in to see how they were doing and making

sure they were coping through the pandemic.

Nita Te Tai



Snooker

Despite the challenges of this difficult year, we have managed to complete our main RSA tournament season on time. Manaia Babbington and Simon Dawson had the most successful year, winning both singles tournaments and one pairs tournament between them. Manaia won the 'Top Dog' title. Paul Van der Straten and Jeff Ashby won the drawn pairs.

I would like to thank all our players and tournament organisers for their contribution to what has ultimately been an excellent season. The standard of play continues to improve as we attract more and more accomplished players, who happily share their knowledge and mastery of the game with those who are keen to learn.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year as we look forward to a better 2021.

Bob Wood
Chairman



From Dave's Perspective

Our Editor pleads for cheerful input in the termination of this somewhat unhappy year of 2020. Indeed the volume and variety of miseries we have shared may be deemed unsuited for remembrance. Dare I suggest we have all shed a tear at some time throughout this year. I will not list or attempt to add or subtract examples. The risk is that there's nothing left to say!

I try to remain resolute in an old conviction that all of us who have shared 2020 can still claim to have shared and lived in the best generation overall. That is in comparison to the earlier years of our parents and forebears. We should pause for a moment to think about what could be left for our children, grandchildren and so on in their future.

Admittedly in our experience there have been items or events of hardship. Such mishaps, whatever they may have been, should be looked upon as helping in the better recognition and appreciation of good times. Be exclusive to the memory of happy times. Discipline yourself to maintaining a sense of humour.

In sporting achievements, at the least it has to be desired for victories to be shared from time to time. (Don't cry for us Argentina)

The season's greetings and best wishes for the new year.

Dave Gillam



Te Atatu Senior Citizens' Club

We are thankful to be living in this great country with good leadership and more freedom than most other countries, although it has been a difficult year with many activities cancelled or put on hold.

We held our belated 53rd AGM in early November with a record approximately 50 members present. Afterwards we enjoyed a lovely buffet lunch in the restaurant – many thanks to our friendly chefs.

Our elected committee for 2020/2021 is:

President: Brian Craig
Vice President and
Secretary: Chrissy Holmes
Treasurer: Paulette Houghton
Committee: Jan McCarthy,
Ellen Murgatroyd, Ruth Hewlett,
Dawn Kuraia-Oliver, Mike Harris,
and new member Clive Knolles.

Many thanks to the Committee for your hard work to keep our Club running smoothly – you make my job so much easier! Thanks to all the folk who help when you see the need and also to Stephen and Amy for everything you do for us.

Best wishes everyone for Christmas and let's hope the New Year is a much better one!

R.I.P. Audrey Eagle, Bev. Galvin and Dick Lanigan.

Brian Craig
President

Men's Group

We seem to have weathered the lock down without undue worry, but we have managed to clock up a few problems – such as emergency surgery, accidental surgery (i.e. a nasty abrasion), and a fall or two. I guess that sounds normal for people in our age group but equally normal is the

fact that we carry on with life – and even have the occasional outing, Our last one was lunch at the Black Cottage Café in Coatesville.

Equally important is keeping in touch and sharing views and experiences and generally giving

one another support, encouragement and friendship.

We have room for another member – or even two! Anybody interested in joining us can ring me on 834 5707.

Peter Baran

Veterans Day 2020

Veterans Day this year was held on the 22nd of November. The day took much more planning than in previous years as we decided to host a hot Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. A big shout out to the ladies from the Women's Section for contacting people and taking messages etc. There was a lot of behind the scenes work to make this day happen

Our Patron David Cox (pictured below) came down from Whangarei where he is retired. Thanks to his partner Nancy for bringing him down. David told me he is 94 years young now and enjoys spending time with his family and in

his small garden. He is looking well and we look forward to his next visit.

The Auckland District President Graham Gibson also attended. He is a big supporter of our club and of the Women's Section.

This year was no different to years past, with all those who attended enjoying the day. Thank you for the many lovely messages of appreciation from our veterans. From the moment people arrived they were excited to be here. I am always amazed by the buzz in the lounge. Many people spoke about not getting out to much over

through the year and how great it was to see their mates and catch up with people again.

I would like also to give a big thank you to Tama and Moana for the beautiful lunch they prepared with ham and all the trimmings – and the delicious desert that topped it all off.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the contribution our Veterans have made to the lives of New Zealanders. We thank you!

Deidre Rich
Women's Section President



Ahoy from the Quarterdeck!

Seasonal Greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

The sailors table (Quarterdeck) has been boarded – a regular visitor from off the Peninsula often heads our way. Though ex-army, this friendly and entertaining guy gets on well with the marine members. He doesn't drink but has plenty to say – and buys us chips! He also likes to win meat packs.

Stokes here was elected to the RSA committee and given the job of Senior Citizens co-ordinator – which entails liaisons with the RSA and the Te Atatu Senior Citizens Club who play cards and also indoor bowls on the dance floor on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The dance floor is becoming very sort after now with darts and overflow from the restaurant also making use of it.

Covid this year caused us to cancel the annual Trafalgar Day Lunch. Us oldies on the Quarterdeck however live on memories of times past – Christmas aboard in foreign lands (heaps of stories there). Enjoy this one folks. Be kind and stay safe!

**Cheers
Stokes**



Christmas Goodwill

Each year the Women's Section makes donations to help those in our Community.

This year Deidre, Shirley and I attended the AGM of the Auckland District RSA Women's Sections where I presented the work of the Rangatira Children's Ward at Waitakere Hospital. This Children's ward serves the whole of the Waitemata District Health Board with a population of 600,000 and is the biggest in New Zealand.

As a result, the combined Auckland District Women's sections held a fundraising lunch for Rangatira – yielding monetary donations, knitting and new toys. The response was overwhelming. We presented the donation to the Well Foundation at Waitakere Hospital.

**Jackie Crane
Women's Section Welfare Officer**

Auckland District Youth Council and Waitakere Cadet Unit

The Auckland District Youth Council was formally wound up at the District RSA AGM at Eden Park on 1 November.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to some past committee members who have contributed to the Youth Council's tours and work over the past 10 years.

The 50th Anniversary tour to Australia has unfortunately been postponed due to covid-19 and it is unclear when we will be able to restart the tours in light of the continuing world-wide pandemic.

There will be a letter sent to RSA's in the near future, asking for volunteers to assist on the new Youth Development Committee of the Auckland District RSA. This committee will assist young people, whose parents or grandparents are members of RSA's, to go to Outward Bound, Spirit of Adventure and other places that will improve their lives, as well as the Australian Youth Tours.

The Waitakere Cadet Unit is the second largest in New Zealand with 50 cadets, made up of 32 males and 18 females.

They are currently recruiting for new cadets and will do this twice a year to keep the unit at a good size.

The 30th anniversary dinner was held on 7 November 2020 at the Te Atatu Community Centre. Around 90 people attended along with Commandant of the New Zealand Cadet Forces Andrew Law. The photo below shows Andrew and OC, Captain Zoe Stent, cutting the anniversary cake.

Les Mullins and myself represented the Te Atatu Memorial RSA and were presented with commemorative challenge coins.

Wishing you all a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

Phil Curtis
Te Atatu RSA Representative Cadets
Chair Youth Development Committee



Melbourne Cup

After months of covid lock downs etc, it was pleasing to have such a good attendance at our lovely Women's Section Melbourne Cup afternoon. Members dressed up in race day finery and were greeted with a glass of bubbly. Tama and Moana provided delicious finger food from the restaurant. We enjoyed being together again to share the excitement of the Race.

Jackie Crane



Women's Section

The Women's section has been busy over the last couple of months.

Our AGM is which is usually held in September, was this year held in October instead. We had a good turn out from our members – thank you very much for your support. Our Committee said good bye to Nita Te Tai. We would like to thank Nita for her support, friendship and hard work during her time on the committee – she will certainly be missed.

November saw our Melbourne cup day celebration which a lot of our ladies attended in their race day hats and finery. It was a vision of colour and there were some lucky people on the day!

In November, we also celebrated veterans day which is one of our

favourite events. It's always wonderful to catch up with our Service Members and this year was no different.

This year we contributed to refurbishing the Life Member and Victoria Cross recipient photos. It's been a real treat watching these pictures come back to life in their new frames. Once they are back on the wall, it will be like old friends coming home!

Over the last couple of years, we have supported the Rangatira ward at Waitakere hospital. This is the only children's ward out west and services the area from Wellsford to New Lynn. The 32 bed ward is always busy, and it is great that West Auckland families can visit their loved ones. We worked hard to ensure we could support the unit again this year. The Auckland District Women's Section joined with

us in this worthy cause. This meant we not only gave a monetary donation, but also knitting for the maternity unit so each new baby got a warm hat or booties. There were colouring books, colouring pencils, toys and books to donate – so many treasures! The true generosity of our district is amazing. I'd particularly like to thank Jackie Crane for her work driving this project.

This year we have one new member on our committee. Louise Starling has joined us and has already had some really good ideas.

On behalf of the ladies and myself we wish you – our members – a great Christmas season and a warm, happy and healthy summer.

Deidre Rich
Women's Section President



Kira's Final Update

A year ago, the Women's Section decided to sponsor the Assistance Dogs New Zealand Trust. We decided to specifically focus our efforts on Kira, a beautiful golden labrador puppy who showed great promise as a service dog. Below is, unfortunately, Kira's last update as she has been withdrawn from the program due to health issues. *Re-published with permission.*

Welcome to my end of year update!

I hope you're enjoying the start of summer, I've had a lot of changes since I last wrote to you which I can't wait to share. I'm enjoying the warmer weather; I spend lots of time outside with my chicken friends Elsa and Wingspark and having a good chew on my bone.

Firstly I want to thank you for your support, your donations have made the world of difference and I would never have got this far without you. As you know, I was diagnosed with canine meningitis in December 2019 and have been on a long road to recovery ever since. This illness makes dogs like me very sick, but often they can recover over time and still progress into a career dog.

However, that hasn't been the case. I have a good quality of life but I don't have the concentration or the consistent levels of physical stamina to be an assistance dog. The specialists have strongly recommended to the ADNZT team that I'm not used as a working dog, but rather place me in a forever home where I can have a quiet, low energy

lifestyle, and where I am loved and cherished. So, sadly, this is my final update to you as the team has made the very difficult, but right decision, to remove me from the program.

The past few months with my puppy raisers have been fun and I've continued to amaze them with my resilience. They say I'm growing into such a well-behaved and good-natured dog. I really enjoyed meeting up with all the other dogs during the recent puppy development session. I practiced leaving toys and food alone. I did a great job and showed my good manners off to everyone - Puppy Development Supervisor Robyn was very impressed.

I still enjoy strolling around the town on walks and helping my family with the grocery shopping. I sit very patiently by the trolley and always get lovely remarks from other shoppers on how well behaved I am! I also love going to school to drop off and pick up the kids. I am very gentle and I've been able to let kids who are not confident around dogs have some hands-on experience as I'm so placid.

Christmas will be spent at home with my puppy raisers while the ADNZT team look for the right forever home for me. I hope Santa brings me a bone and a new toy...I think he might.

I hope you are not too disappointed, and please know that your donations have still contributed to the enrichment of kiwis living with a disability this year. Unfortunately, withdrawal is always a risk as not all dogs are going to be suited to life as a working dog, and my illness was unpredictable. I would love for you to continue the program and support one of my fellow pups-in-training, Katie, Kowhai or Hui. {I hope you will} choose {another} pup and Alex will be in touch to introduce you to your new sponsor puppy.

Thank you again for everything! I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

***Love from Kira
and the ADNZ Trust team***

