



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First newsletter of the year and what an unpleasant summer it has been. We had the few brief sunny periods, but the continuous windy weather was annoying and severely affected my golf handicap!

Our first major event for the year is only a few weeks away. ANZAC Day commemoration will follow along the same schedule as previous years with some minor positive changes to the service.

Poppy Day will be on Friday 21 April. If you can support our team of collectors with two hours at a designated area to sell poppies please inform Ian Henry or add your name to the list at the main door. This is our opportunity to raise funds for support services in our Club.

The proceeds of the sale of poppies or badges purchased at Z stations, Countdowns or Warehouses go to National Office in Wellington and not to local RSA's. (the Countdown reference is for sales made at the check outs. Poppy sales made in the entrances of Peninsula and Te Atatu South Countdowns by our own member volunteers are for our own Club support services.)

Please support our local area.

We are three quarters of the way through our financial year and trading both at the bar and gaming is 2% behind the previous year. Members' continued support of the bar and regular attendances to make full use of our splendid facilities should bring about a turnaround.

We have also spent an extra \$15,000 on routine maintenance and repairs. It is imperative for our building and plant to be retained at a high standard.

Finally we have two great entertainers in the pipeline. We are waiting for confirmation—Watch this space !

Bob Pettis
President

Golf Problem

The only problem with golf is that the slow people are always in front of you and the fast people always end up behind you.

WOMEN'S SECTION

Greeting from the Women's Section 2017.

Our ladies have been busy getting ready for the coming year taking the Christmas decoration down on the 15th January. I know some would have liked them down earlier but many members of this committee were away out of town, taking a much-needed rest. We apologise to those who felt they should have been down earlier.

This March the ladies are busy revalidating their FOOD SAFETY knowledge, and preparing for the 2017 Anzac Day which of course is the big event in the RSA calendar.

Raffles have undergone a few changes this year - our meat suppliers being one. Most have enjoyed the change in quality. Some of the cuts are new to us which is a little different but on the whole this is a positive move supporting our local businesses. If we don't support these businesses they will move on – like the ASB. We do need diversity in our shopping centre.

The ladies would like to thank all those members who for years have supported our Friday night raffles. At the beginning of this year we announced we would no longer have prepaid numbers, so that the Friday night raffles are a fair process with all numbers available. A big thank you to all members for their support of our raffles. The proceeds go a long way to supporting the functions we provide.

We have had a good response to our call for volunteers for the catering of the funerals with 15 ladies putting up their hands up. We will have a get together to go over how this will run so all involved know what's happening.

Dates to watch out for are as follows:

- 25th April 2017 being our Anzac Day
- 2nd July 2017 Children's Mid-Year Christmas party
- August Dine dance date to be confirmed
- 2nd October 2017 ACDRSA Women's Section conference 2017,
- 19th October 2017 Trafalgar celebration,
- 29th October 2017 Women's Section birthday,
- 26th November 2017 Veteran's day

Subscriptions are due. We apologise to those who aren't aware we have changed the subscription due date back to December to bring it in line with the Club's annual subscriptions. See Shirley if you need to update your Subs.

On a final note, Margaret Majurey, Heather Burton and Roi Davey have not been well, so please keep them in your thoughts and I know the ladies wish them well.

Kind regards

Deidre Rich
President Women's section.

TE ATATU RSA SUPPORT SERVICES

Hi Everyone

Once again I ask you to update your files in the office as I do require an emergency contact number for each of you. If you were to collapse or have some mishap I need to be able to contact your next of kin or relevant person. Please remember mishaps are not planned in advance and can happen at any time.

On Wednesdays shopping trips to Paksave are still available to you all . If there is not enough interest the service will have to be cancelled.

Medical appointment transport is still available to members. Please remember one hour's notice is not enough. Please let us know as soon as possible. The Support Services Team is prepared to take you, but the earliest warning is required for us to run an effective service. Contact me and I will organise the driver.

Remember that I can only make visits to hospital or home sickness cases that I am told about and have been requested.

Please let me know !

In the meantime the preference is to **STAY HEALTHY.**

Ian Henry
Support Officer

TE ATATU MEMORIAL RSA COMBINED DARTS

Hi Everyone,
To kick-start the new darts season we had our AGM On 21 January—again a disappointing turnout. However, there were some robust discussion and useful suggestions.

We have the following appointees :-

Club Captain	Russell Simpson
Secretary	Annie Lancaster
Treasurer	K. B.
Tournament Organisers	Flash and Annie
Tournament Helper	Sharon

We started our season hosting Richardson's Tavern and as always a great bunch. Lots of fun on the day—a narrow win to us.

We have a number of new clubs in our fun Saturday home and away games. These along with the in-house Fixtures ensure the calendar is reasonably full.

As always, if you want a friendly game of darts have a look at our notice board and join us on a Saturday afternoon. All welcome.

Cheers K.B.



'8' BALL NEWS

It doesn't seem like too long ago that I was wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and here it is March already!

Not a lot to report at this time. We had our first game against another club on the 25 February and the result was a win, so that is a promising start to the year. We have got lots of games booked against other clubs, so if anyone is interested in playing in the 8 Ball team, then see Birthe Hansen (Club Captain) who is at the RSA every Thursday and Friday night.

We have had one in house tournament so far this year and below are the results.

Reg Hawthorne Mixed Drawn Pairs
Winners: Charles Marsters and Joanne Houston
Runners Up: Paul Howson and
Susanna O'Callaghan

Roi Davey, one of our regular players has had a couple of spells in hospital recently. She is home again now and we wish her a speedy recovery. We look forward to seeing her back at the club in the not too distant future.

Noelene Ross Secretary

SNOOKER

Our season gets underway on Sunday 26th March with a tournament for players 65 years of age and older. The following Sunday will be the Drawn Pairs Championship, a good opportunity to get your name on the RSA Snooker Honours Board if you strike it lucky in the draw and then become a solid support to an accomplished player. Mind you we have had an influx of "accomplished players" so competition looks set to be tough throughout the year.

On a less demanding note our Monday evening and Wednesday afternoon mini-tournaments continue every week. These are handicapped games designed to share the prize money around as much as possible. Although more recently that doesn't seem to stop Manaia Babbington from collecting a bit of regular pocket money, even giving away the maximum penalty of forty points to opponents on both days, the first to achieve that dubious honour, he continues to be a regular front runner. Well done Manaia.

All financial members of the RSA are automatically members of the Snooker Section, we do not have any annual fees or subscriptions, just a small entry fee on the day which is returned as prize money to the winners and runners up. Please feel free to come and join us if you are looking for some friendly competition.

Bob Wood (Chairman)

THE QUARTERDECK

Ahoy from the quarterdeck—a little advertising and recruiting. Many of us Q/D personnel belong to the Navy Club. We meet monthly at the Commerce Club in Remuera- midday to socialize and have a subsidized lunch with a free drink. The Navy Club is open to all serving / ex-members, naval / merchant navy men and women. Membership forms are available from Mike Harris on the Q/D.

Other up-coming events for naval personnel include HMNZ Otago reunion in Wellington; Old Salts lunch at Waiheke RSA. The Kumeu Military Show on 25 March is also a good visit. So a busy month for us old salts of the quarterdeck who will have to drink tots and tots of Rum to keep up.

CHEERS Stokes.

RAZZA RAMBLERS

Another year has gone and we are already 3 months into 2017. Hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. Our group has been out and about over the last couple of months. Some of us visited friends and family both near and far and we also had a group get together over Waitangi weekend. Lots of laughs and good times. Happy hour was a special part of each day.

Lance and Jackie went to Napier for the Art Deco weekend. They enjoyed it immensely, got involved by dressing in the outfits of the era that the weekend celebrated. It is something worth putting on the To Do List.

Michelle and Steve came north with their motorhome and parked in our drive for a few days. One way to keep us on the road is to visit each other. Janice and Neil, in Dargaville, have also had visits from some of us. We also had a group visit to Greg and Barbara's driveway in Te Atatu. That was a really enjoyable night.

Things are changing within our group as another couple sell up in Te Atatu to move to pastures green or should I say brown if they move north of Auckland. Although as I write this blog we are expecting very heavy rain for the next few days in Whangarei and points north where rain is needed to break the drought.

We will all need to hit the road a lot more to keep in touch with each other. Having a drink and a meal in the company of friends is what our group is about. Fortunately we do have the Te Atatu RSA as a central meeting place where it is always enjoyable to catch up with our wider circle of friends.

A Razza Ramblers visit to Dargaville is on the horizon and I am sure we will all be ready to jump in our motorhomes at the drop of a hat for the chance of a get together.

Till next time from the Razza Ramblers near and far.

Merle Dysart
Scribe

MENS GROUP

We have not done a lot so far this year, but have been enjoying each others company. As Brian said recently, with all the stresses at home (health wise etc), it is just so relaxing coming here for a quiet natter for an hour and going home all refreshed and looking forward to the following week. This is of course what the group is all about. . . enjoying each others company, respecting other's points of view and building up firm friendships.

On 22Feb we did go to a local cafe for a coffee and a light bite to eat.

Over the next couple of weeks we are having Ross Dallow come back again for another talk about his life in the police force. We are also talking of cafes and eateries to go to over the next month or so, just for coffee or lunch with our wives. Also, although nothing firm at this point of time, places to visit. More details later.

Meantime, I thank the guys for their loyalty in turning up each week, rain, hail or shine.

We trust the New Year is going well for everyone in the RSA.

Errol Schirnack - Convenor
Ph 818 9990

SENIOR CITIZENS

This year we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our club.

Many hundreds of people from Te Atatu and surrounding areas have enjoyed the fun and friendship that membership of our club offers and we will be doing something special to mark the occasion later in the year.

Our March bus trip was up to Parakai Hot Pools which is an annual event. Once again we stopped at Ginger Crunch Cafe at the Helensville Railway Station on the way, then on to the lovely private area at the pools, some to swim and some to chat and get to know each other better. The Committee ladies and others prepared a tasty lunch and then we enjoyed the trip through the countryside back to TeAtatu.

Club days are Tuesday and Thursday from 12.15 to approx. 2.30pm.

Annual subs are only \$5 and new members are always welcome.

Brian Craig
President / Secretary. Ph. 8346595

THE FISHING CLUB

Hello to all keen fishers, the notices have been up for a while with the coming years trips, we have a break in the middle of winter, that's if there is such a thing as winter anymore. Hopefully a mixture of east and west coast trips will help achieve successful outings.

This year we have started off with a very successful trip to the Kaipara, the Waitemata not so much which has proved to be consistently inconsistent this season. The weather just recently has been worthy of summer as we know it but solid rainfall and a good blow can change everything. Rivers in flood carry all sorts of detritus and food items out to sea, and fish like snapper and kahawai are the ultimate opportunists. They will move into shallow water under the cover of murky conditions, and roam the edges of the freshwater as they search for anything edible.

Some species like mullet, flounder and kahawai are not deterred by freshwater, and will even travel far upriver. They have been found in the Waikato River as far from the ocean as Huntly, but fish which have lived in the river for some time take on a dark colour and lose their attraction as table fish.

Snapper, however, avoid the actual river water and will be found around the margins. They love to gorge themselves on the baby flounders just like kingfish that follow the rays. As the rays stir up and disturb the dabs the kingfish sit in behind making the most of easy pickings.

We will be recording any larger fish caught this year as well as the unusual, pictures and weights will be displayed on our facebook page and in the RSA. Newsletter.

All the best to our keen anglers and supporters for the coming year.

Regards,

Graham Lange

AUCKLAND DISTRICT RSA YOUTH COUNCIL

Kiaora and blessings. This is my priority for this newsletter as we zoom through yet another year. Yes, April is just around the corner and 29 young people and 4 managers from the New South Wales Returned Services League will be arriving in Auckland on Easter Saturday 15th April. This will be the 47th Reciprocal Tour between New Zealand and Australia.

The Australian Youth will be performing their first concert right here in our R.S.A. on Easter Sunday, 6.30 p.m. Please come along to show your support and be entertained. From previous experiences they do put on a good show - mark it in your calendar now. It's Easter Weekend and the beginning of the school holidays so the kids and grandies are so very welcome.

Annie Lancaster

WAITAKERE CADETS UNIT

Well the Cadets are just doing fine. Recent happenings for them was the Unit shoot at Whangaparoa where 12 cadets shot off 615 rounds and word has it they were 'buzzing'. You would have received your Te Atatu Views Flyer by now which the Cadets and supporters deliver as a way of earning funds. They also assisted as marshals at Lions Club Krypton Factor on the 5th March which is also another source of income - last year the Lions Club donated them a very generous grant which enabled them to purchase 14 tents for use in bush craft. They have quite an intensive calendar for the year which should keep them very busy and hopefully having a great time. Hope you are all taking time to reflect on how you can make a difference to the young people out there who are taking steps to ensure they grow to be sharing caring citizens just like you.

Please make it to the concert on the 16th April and if you are interested we are still up for more hosts to billet our visitors.

Take care out there,
Annie Lancaster (again)

THE BACK PAGE

Greetings to all you readers and congratulations to all of you survivors of last year 2016- especially you pensioners.

2016 was a tough year- if you remember ! Especially us Gold Card holders. Those used to enjoying the excessive luxury of a free bus ride into the city now and then, finding that to continue this privilege you had to find your way into New Lynn and pay \$15 for another card. Don't forget to 'clock off' the bus when you get off !

Not only that - the trip into the city used to take us right to the bottom of town at Britomart. Now you have to get off up the hill at Albert and Victoria streets. Its getting back up that hill to the bus stop to come home that's the killer !

Then came those enlarged recycling bins! Wow. Don't miss a collection. Don't wait until you fill it up. You'll never get it up the path.

Then came the new rubbish bags- change of colour and bigger too; plus change of collection day. Oh the confusion. Out on the street by 07.00. Is it daylight by that time?

Then, Is it a postal delivery day today? Tuesday, Thursday or is it Saturday ?

Pay your bills on line says the man. Pay your bills on line. Be in for a prize if you do. But watch out for the scammers - especially Russians?.

The final blow for the year. They moved the Post shop. At least, if you get your timetable management right you are halfway to the Doctors' shop.

Be glad your expiry date is not printed on your Gold Card. Is somebody really determined to finish us all off ahead of our due date?

Never mind - whoever it is - has failed. We have survived. But the war is not over-what happened to our ASB?

Never mind be Strong and remember our local refuge. Spend more time at the TE ATATU RSA. Recall the old saying from WWI - If you knows of a better 'ole-go to it..... There isn't one.

Dave Gillam—Editor