

# Merry Christmas Everyone!



## TAT RAZA NEWS } December 2019

Newsletter of the Te Atatu Memorial RSA (Inc)

### From Our President - Bob Pettis

**Another year nearly over and another Christmas upon us. Where has the year gone?**

Over the past few months, the Clubs major activities have centred around building upkeep and maintenance. Major repairs have been completed on the roof and two main air conditioning units have been replaced. Painting the interior of the lounge and sports sections will commence in the new year.

The AGM was held in September. New committee members were elected. We welcome Shirley Hooton, Junior Edwards, Paul van der Stroten and Quaid Te Tai. Phil Curtis replaced Richard Patterson as the Vice President



and Richard remained on the Committee as one of the three Service representatives.

All members have now been informed by email and in-house notices of subscriptions due. The AGM increased all subs by \$5.00 and reduced the joining fee from \$50 to \$40.

Members making payments before Tuesday 24 December will enter the draw for a 32" colour television. The draw will be held at 6.15pm on Christmas Eve - 24 December.

In the gaming room, five new games have been introduced. This has certainly increased our revenue.

Bar operations are a continuous challenge. We need more members to

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use our great facilities. Please ask yourself, are you a member or a supporter of you club?

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, I wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

See you at the bar!  
**Bob Pettis**



## From the Editor



**There's not too much room for me this time!**

Editing this newsletter is an awesome job. It's great to bring you the latest news from Bob and Deidre and the sports

and youth clubs. It's a newsletter by the people for the people so please feel free to contribute articles about special birthdays, achievements and past/upcoming events.

For me personally I have secured a new role and start in January. I've LOVED my break but it's time to work again and I'm so excited about it!

**Maryanne Hannen**

## Te Atatu Senior Citizens' Club

At our A.G.M. in August the following were re-elected to the Committee: President – Brian Craig, Secretary/Vice-President – Chrissy Holmes, Treasurer – Paulette Houghton, Committee – Jan McCarthy, Dawn Oliver-Kuraia, Ruth Hewlett, Ellen Murgatroyd and Mike Harris. Anna Gaul didn't seek re-election. My thank you to the Committee and Anna for all their hard work – without grumbling! Having a good Committee is essential to the smooth running of the Club.

Our most recent bus trip was to Puhoi where we enjoyed a performance by a local dance group and a good meal provided by the Puhoi Hotel. Our driver took us for a tour of Hobsonville Point on the way home - there is more and more building happening all the time up there.

Thank you to the Te Atatu R.S.A. Committee and Members for allowing us to use your comfortable facilities for our Club meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You are doing something very worthwhile for the community.

**Brian Craig**  
**President**

## Welfare Team

Hello fellow members.

Another year has passed, so you can sit back, put your feet up and enjoy the festive season.

It's been another busy 12 months, so the welfare team will be taking a

break also, but don't panic, I will be on deck 24/7. As I will be the only one working, my availability may be scarce, but I will do my best.

On behalf of the welfare team, we wish you a happy Christmas, and a safe and prosperous new year. Stay safe and

healthy, and I look forward to another 12 months service.

My contact number is 027 4832 593

**Ian Henry**  
**Welfare Support**

## Mid Winter Children's Christmas Party

This year's party was very successful with a lovely turn out – ranging in age from little babies a few months old to Great Grandparents in their 90's.

The Women's Section party food went down a treat – especially the Jelly and icecream.

The Clown kept the children absolutely absorbed in his tricks for 45 minutes and children from the audience became instant stars.

Everyone stood outside in the sunshine for the arrival of Santa in the Fire Engine. Thanks very much to the Te Atatu Fire Brigade for helping to make it such a special day.

Each of the 52 Children received a present from our very cool Santa and

our photographer Ian Jepson got the pics. The photos tell of a fun afternoon with our lovely families.

Well done and thanks to our Women's Section Committee for their work in putting the party together again this year.

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



# RNZRSA National Women's Association 15<sup>th</sup> AGM Meeting/Conference

**This event was held at the Hastings RSA 10-11th June 2019.**

Te Atatu RSA Women's Section was represented by Deidre Rich (President), Pauline Scott (Treasurer) and Jackie Crane (Welfare Officer).

The gathering of 125 Women from 35 RSA's kicked off with a Gatsby dress-up night. This meet and greet evening with good food, music, dancing, wine tasting and costumes was a lot of fun.

The Conference was chaired by Angel Erstich (National Women's President) with the National RSA hierarchy in attendance. The guest speaker was Kay Matthews who presented an incredible account of "Honouring Hawkes Bay and East

Coast Women who served overseas during World War One."

Deidre resigned her position as National Women's Section Secretary which she has held for the past nine years. We have great respect and kudos for her dedication and commitment and for representing our RSA in the manner that she has. Many thanks Deidre from us all.

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



## Auckland District Youth Council and Waitakere Cadet Unit

The Auckland District Youth Council is proposing to be de-registered as a separate incorporated society and will become a sub-committee of the Auckland District RSA organisation.

It is proposed that its role will be expanded to include more Youth Development within the Auckland district, and not just reciprocal tours to Australia.

The current funds will be ringfenced for use by the Youth Development committee only and the council constitution will be rewritten to include roles involving cadets, youth grants for Outward Bound, Spirit

of Adventure etc, and also for New Zealand and Australian Youth tours.

This proposal will be presented at the next RSA District Presidents meeting on December 1st and hopefully will be ratified by them.

I attended the Waitakere Cadets committee meeting at Henderson High in October and I am pleased to report that the cadet unit is in good shape. They currently have 41 members and are continuing to recruit new cadets.

They have been involved in a number of fundraising activities through FUNCO over the year and have

their final parade on 3rd December. President Bob Pettis and myself will be attending this parade and presenting the Te Atatu RSA shield for most improved cadet.

The unit is also wanting to update and replace some of their trophies and have applied to Te Atatu RSA for a grant to do this.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Phil Curtis  
Te Atatu RSA Representative Cadets  
Chair Youth Development Committee**





## Working Dogs in Our RSA

**The RSA Review Winter 2019 Edition had a very interesting article on the harrowing experience of Afghanistan survivor Dion Taka and his struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Injury.**

Dion's service dog Delta, a white German Shepherd, has been a godsend in helping with his healing process. Delta picks up on moods when Dion gets anxious, can fetch medication when the pain gets too much, gets bottles of water, opens doors and closes cupboards. Delta is the first canine companion comrade for a serving New Zealand soldier. The Canine Comrades pilot programme is being initiated by the RSA,

Here at the Te Atatu RSA, we have frequent visits from Blind Foundation Guide Dog puppies. Arthur and Ngaire McKay are dedicated Puppy Raisers for the Foundation and currently have their 6th puppy, Tilly, in training.

When the puppies are wearing their red coats, they are training or working. They come into the RSA and go under the table to sit quietly until it is time to leave. The puppies are gorgeous and very cute and there is always the temptation to pat and interact with them. However it is important that they come into the RSA undisturbed and can sit quietly just as they would for a blind or low vision handler.

We commend Arthur and Ngaire for their commitment in preparing the puppies for Guide Dog training. Each puppy lives with its Puppy Raiser for approximately a year and follows a strict programme of feeding, care and training.

These amazing dogs gradually work towards becoming a Guide Dog for a blind or low vision handler, where they promote confidence as well as enhancing independence.

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

## 8 Ball Club News

It has been a great year! The Hamilton trip was a great success with everyone enjoying a marvellous hotel. The RSA in Hamilton were great hosts. You know, we may even see them in our Club during this coming year.

We took a day trip to Cambridge, where there were several very

interesting second hand stores and two wonderful high end antique stores. We continued in the region and next visited the Military Museum of Tauwhare, 20 minutes drive from Cambridge. There is a business card on the noticeboard in the RSA if you are interested in visiting. The museum is open by appointment only. Visit [www.tauwharemilitarymuseum.co.nz](http://www.tauwharemilitarymuseum.co.nz) for more information and bookings.

Summer League has a break over Christmas. The last game of the year is Dec 11 and the first game of 2020 is 22 January. Our AGM is in April.

Enjoy the festive season with friends and family. All the best!

**Joanne Argent  
Pool Club, 8 Ball**

## Snooker

**Our competition season closed with a victory for Susanna McLaughlin and Diane Bold.**

Susanna and Dianne beat Roi Davey and Annie Lancaster in the ladies pairs final on Sunday 17th November. The previous week Simon Dawson became this year's "Top Dog" beating Dave Gourley three frames to one in a close fought match. Well done Simon, it has been a few years in the making but certainly well deserved.

Our Monday and Wednesday handicapped tournaments will continue throughout the summer months so please join us whenever you wish.

Thank you to all those who have helped with our tournaments and

raffles during the year and I look forward to more friendly rivalry in 2020.

Best wishes to you, and your friends and families for the festive season.

**Bob Wood  
Chairman**



## Men's Group

Our little group continues to function but, as our numbers dwindle, we would like to have a few more members.

We are a small group of elderly men who meet once a week for an hour or two for social outings. Sometimes we sit and chat at the RSA. Other times we go somewhere for lunch or visit an interesting venue such as MOTAT or Crystal Mountain. We also have the occasional lunch at which our wives are welcome.

Anyone interested in joining us can ring me on 0-9-834 5707.

**Peter Baran  
President**

## Are poppies for Anzac Day or Remembrance Day?

The red poppy has become a symbol of war remembrance the world over. People in many countries wear the poppy to remember those who died in war or who still serve. In many countries, the poppy is worn around

Armistice Day (11 November), but in New Zealand it is most commonly seen around Anzac Day, 25 April.

From the Internet - Source Unknown  
Provided by **Dave Gillam**



## The Quarterdeck

Ahoy from the quarterdeck..

Some news good and some bad. Bad first was the loss of Kevin Smith, ex RNZN seaman and Te Atatu local who sat at our table every Friday. Kevin's passing leaves yet another gap and an empty seat, which leaves 3 ratings and 1 officer at the quarterdeck table. R.I.P. Kevin.

The good news is that Robby Rooke celebrated 90 years of life recently. We had a party and toasted many more years to come.

Our Trafalgar Day Function went well with over 60 marinas attending. Next year will be our 10 year anniversary - I wonder how much rum we will drink then!!

The Quarterdeck would like to pass seasonal greetings to all RSA members and look forward to socializing with you all in the future. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cheers  
**Stokes**



## Women's Section

This year has been very exciting for the Women's Section.

There are some new faces on my Committee, and some who have rejoined us and are taking on more as they come to understand the activities we are involved in.

We have had some great events this year. The high tea was well attended by our ladies and all attendees looked fantastic in their wonderfully bright outfits. A big thank you to the Committee for the teamwork that goes into organising such great events for the ladies of this club.

Our Melbourne cup day was a resounding success. Lots of ladies came and enjoyed the excitement of a little flutter on the gg's, hoping their pick would come in. Some of the hats were spectacular. Pauline Scott's was a creation by her mum and her costume was well deserving of the best costume prize as she was a picture of warmth and sunshine. Everyone looked wonderful in their hats and gorgeous dresses. Lance Crane took out first prize for the best dressed gent.

Our children's Mid-Year Christmas party was well attended – thank you to all the members who brought along their precious bundles of joy. It is heartwarming to see the place filled with all the energy they bring on the day. They laughed along with our clown who was a hoot and had eyes wide with amazement as Santa emerged from the fire engine.

Veterans Day last weekend was well attended and it is wonderful to see all the familiar faces.

My Committee love the events we host and it is great to see the smiles as they work to put the functions together.

The Women's Section have supported our members through many losses this year. It has been a sad time for the Club as we have lost a number of important members. This and the many other roles we play within the club is important to the Women's Section. We enjoy the support we give – not only to our club but also to the wider community. Whether it is providing refreshments at a community fun day for the children or providing a lift for Santa at the local Christmas parade, it

is a pleasure to be able to contribute to life in our community.

This year, we have made donations to, among others, the Rangatira Childrens Ward at Waitakere Hospital and to the Assistance Dogs New Zealand Trust. It is the second year we have donated to the Rangatira Ward and our gift ensures that all children in the ward on Christmas Day receive a gift. The Assistance Dogs donation is a first time donation. We will support the training and development of a dog from puppyhood to handler matching. There will be more details about this in the new year.

Thank you to all our members who have supported us through our Friday night raffles and the ladies and men who help with the events we cover.

We, the Women's Section Committee, wish you, our members and your families, a wonderful festive season, a relaxing summer with friends, and good health and wellness for the coming year.

**Deidre Rich**  
**President**

## Women's Section - Upcoming Events

### December 7th – Christmas Parade

We will be having a float in the Te Atatu Christmas parade so if you think this is something you would like to help with let Pauline Scott know.

