

ISSUE 105 Mar/Apr 2024 *ANZAC Edition*



"If you see someone without a smile - give them one of yours"



PRESIDENTS REPORT Geoff March

The last couple of months have been busy and exciting, Beach Hop appeared to be larger than we have seen before, more people anyway. We had five busy nights and the Truck Show and Band on the Saturday went very well. For all involved in all of that, Thank you.

Next big weekend was Easter, again large numbers of people enjoying our RSA, our Easter Raffle went extremely well, and we had some very happy winners. The Easter Egg Hunt took a bit of time finally find all the hidden swatches, was fun and many went home with a lot of eggs.

ANZAC DAY is approaching fast, before that we have POPPY DAY, which is Friday 19th if you want to help and or get involved please see Kerry, collectors are always appreciated. We will be asking for foliage, flowers, and greenery suitable to use in the Wreaths, if you have anything suitable, please drop it at the small hall on Tuesday afternoon so the Wreath builders can do their magic on Wednesday morning. Thank you in advance.

Plus remember we have the winner of our ANZAC DAY Flight Raffle who will be sitting in the front seat of the aircraft as they fly over us at the Beach Service. The ANZAC DAY timetable will be published in this edition, we will have military involvement in the Beach Service and Opening of the WALL area, I am pleased to say they are from the RNZ SIGNAL Corps, the Corps that both Sue and I served in when we served, a proud day and an honour.

Our membership numbers are still increasing at a surprising and pleasing rate, 2752 members is amazing, we just need ideas on how to attract more people to use our facilities, once people try our facility, they enjoy what we offer, and I am surprized how many haven't been to an RSA before.

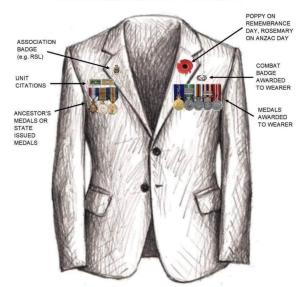
Our RSA is different to many, we are a family friendly RSA, and our members make visitors and guests welcome, unfortunately that isn't enough to ensure we have a bright future we need bums on seats.

Our REMEMBRANCE WALL Area is progressing and should be completed by ANZAC DAY, we have had lots of surprizes along the way, many very generous members, who have helped with donations and offers of services.

The plan is to unveil the REMEMBRANCE WALL area on ANZAC DAY before the Laying of the Wreaths.

Thank you all for being so welcoming and friendly to other members, guests, and families this is what makes our RSA the success it is, and is talked about by other RSA's, well done all.

WEARING MEDALS ON COMMEMORATIVE OCCASIONS



We are looking for volunteers to make wreaths for ANZAC Day and also for donations

of greenery and flowers etc.

This is to happen on Wednesday 24th, 9am at the memorial hall.

Thank you in advance to those who can help in any way, it is greatly appreciated.





TEA AND COFFEE AVAILABLE & THE BAR WILL BE OPEN

What's On at Whangamata RSA



APRIL

Sunday 14
Medals, Memorabilia & Baking 2pm
Flight Raffle Draw 5pm



Lex Greaves

4pm

Friday 19 **Poppy Day**



Sunday 21

Boots & Hats Line Dance Social

10.30am - 3.30pm



ON EVERY WEEK

HOUSIE

Thursday 4pm

DRAW NIGHTS from 5.15pm

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
Raffles | Jokers Wild
Membership Draws



FRIDAY QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 6.30pm
Teams of up to 6 people \$2 pp



6.30am Sunrise Flag Raising & Service (Includes flyover by Stearman aircraft) - assemble at Whangamata Surf Club Breakfast after at Blackies in Williamson Park

9am Mix and Mingle at Whangamata RSA

9.30am Beach Hop vehicles will collect members and take them to the parade start

10.20am Civic Parade led by the Bay of Plenty Pipes & Drums from the Council Offices

11am Service in Whangamata War Memorial Centre. Welcome by RSA President Geoff March.

On completion of the service, the laying of wreaths and floral tributes will take place at the renovated Remembrance Wall, the Last Post, Ode and Reveille, followed by a light lunch and entertainment at the RSA Clubrooms

All Welcome

Membership

Membership is available for Returned, Service and Associate

Over 18 years of age (\$40/year)

Veterans Returned and Service 75+ (\$20/year)

Junior Membership 16 to 18 years of age (\$25/year)

Current Serving - Serving Uniformed Members of the NZ Defence

Force and NZ Police - this is a complimentary membership. (Free)

Paid your Subs but don't have your card yet?

Come in and pick up, your card will be at the bar waiting for you. (This applies to members with a Whangamata address - if you have an out of town address your card has been posted, please contact us if you have not received your card).





COME TO WHANGAMATA RSA!

Rack up the fun with free-to-play snooker and 8 Ball tables!

Get the whole family involved with these lively games: Cornhole, Giant Jenga, Quoits, and Foosball

Check out our Library. Dive into our stacks of books and puzzles, including a special collection just for kids

Everyone Welcome! we are a family friendly RSA







If you served in any of the NZ Armed Forces and you have a NZ Operational Service Number, including CMT and National Service.

You may be eligible for assistance from Veteran's Affairs. Please contact one of our Support Advisors:

Pam Murray – 027 610 5599 Nick Penney – 027 654 8501 Doug Walters – 021 102 8602

Doug Walters is a JP here in Whangamata and is happy to offer his services to our Members.

Women's Section

Our monthly meeting was held on Tuesday 2nd April at 1.30pm.

Our guest speaker this month was Judy Hares who gave our members an interesting and enlightening talk on the art of spinning. She showed us how it is done and the different types of wool used. Judy very kindly started her talk by sharing a box of Favourites (chocolates) with everyone which was appreciated by all. Our members all enjoyed the afternoon and asked questions which Judy was happy to answer.

As always our meeting concluded with a cuppa, afternoon tea and a chat. Next meeting is on Tuesday 7th May.

Lyn Ward - President



If there are any ladies in the Whangamata and surrounding areas who would like to meet up with other ladies once a month the RSA Women's Section would welcome you.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm at the RSA. Our program is business (formal meeting) first, followed by entertainment such as guest speakers, quizzes, housie and any other ideas the committee (and members) can organise.

Any prospective member would need to become a member of the RSA (if not already) and then pay a sub of \$10 per year to become a member of the Section.

If this is of interest to you feel free to come along to meeting to meet with the members or contact - Lyn Ward, President, 0212106755 for any further information.



HARRY FIRST TO USE THE NEW POOL HOIST



Whangamata Real Estate Community Swimming Pool recently installed an accessible hoist for those with physical difficulties when accessing and leaving the pool.

This was made possible by generous donations from Pub Charity Ltd and Whangamata Community Health.

Providing access for all has always been a high priority for the Whangamata Community Swimming Pool management committee, we are extremely grateful to these organisations who supported our vision.

In February Harry Sydney was the first person to access the pool on the hoist, with pool lifeguards Denise Boston and Monique Thomas on hoist controls. Harry was able to enjoy the benefits of being in the pool, the first time for 20 years said a beaming Harry.

We welcome families and individuals who may wish to use this device and look forward to meeting potential users who may just wish to come and check it out.

To give pool staff prior notice, and arrange set up of the hoist, please contact the pool through the Whangamata Real Estate Community Swimming Pool Facebook page or email manager.whangapool@gmail.com

Please note the pool is currently closed for refurbishments.





Project Remembrance Update

February 2024

The RSA Heart has been included in the concrete design

March 2024

Progress on Project Remembrance continues, as Ted devotes his attention to preparing the concrete for its upcoming polish.

The area is illuminated at night, and the foundation for the seating has been installed. Visitors will soon be able to enjoy a serene atmosphere as they reflect and pay tribute. The soft glow of the lights will provide a comforting ambience, inviting people in.



The Wall at Sunset.





UPDATE CONTACT DETAILS

Not getting emails? Change your address?

If any of your details need to be updated email rsamanager@outlook.com put "Contact Details" in the subject line



April 2024

The two Pōhutukawa trees have been planted by Ted Pickett, committee and members.

The planting of the two Pōhutukawa trees symbolises the growth and strength of our bond with our past and our commitment to honour the memory of those who have gone before us.

RSA Padre Ross Falconer blessed the trees which will serve as a reminder of the blessings we have in the form of freedom and peace, made possible by the dedication of those we seek to honour.







Come in and try THE COOKIE TIME GOLDEN CHEWY OAT COOKIE

as part of this years Poppy Appeal

\$2/cookie
and they are yummy!



Paws of War: The Remarkable Saga of Unsinkable Sam

By Kyle Carmean/historydefined.net

Of all the tales of epic battles and heroism of World War II, there's one that stands out as not only remarkable but undeniably cute – the story of Unsinkable Sam.

Originally named "Oscar", he got the nickname "Unsinkable Sam" after his harrowing adventures during the war. No, Sam was not a Marine or a sailor, Unsinkable Sam was a black and white ship's cat whose extraordinary tale of survival has become legendary among the British Royal Navy.

If you're a history buff with a soft spot for felines then prepare for an adorable story of how one ordinary cat survived the sinking of not one, not two, but three different ships on both sides of the war.

What Was The Role of Cats on Ships?

You may be wondering why, during a time of war, would cats be on warships in the first place. It turns out that they served many roles and were an important part of the crew.

Rodent Control: Ships were usually out at sea for long periods and in that time the ship could become overrun with rats and mice

Moral Boost: War wasn't always eventful. Being a sailor could be a lonely life and cabin fever can set in quickly. Having a cat around provided companionship and a sense of normalcy for the crew. The playful antics and comforting presence of a feline friend could boost morale and relieve stress amidst the harsh realities of war.

Superstitions and Luck: Sailors were known for their superstitions and cats became symbols of good luck on board. Many sailors believed that having a cat on the ship would ensure safe voyages. Among the superstitions associated with cats was that they could sense impending danger, such as the approach of enemy submarines or aircraft.

The Bismarck Vs. The HMS Hood

Not much is known about Sam before this time. However, it is believed that he was owned by an unknown crewman onboard the Bismarck. The Bismarck was one of the most powerful and feared warships of its time and the most powerful tool in the German navy. Named after Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, the ship was one of the largest and most powerful battleships ever built.

The HMS Cossack

After the sinking of the Bismarck, the crew of the British destroyer HMS Cossack was searching the area for survivors. This is when they spotted Sam floating on a makeshift wooden plank amidst the floating debris.

The resilient cat caught the attention of the sailors and they adopted him into their ranks. They gave him the name "Oscar" which is the designation for the letter "O "in the International Code of Signals.

Unfortunately, Sam's luck was about to take another turn. On October 23, 1941, the HMS Cossack was torpedoed by a German U-boat while on convoy duty in the North Atlantic. As the HMS Cossack slowly sank, the crew, including Sam, was transferred to The HMS Ark Royal before the Cossack finally succumbed to its injuries and sank.





Cat of the seas, Unsinkable Sam

The HMS Ark Royal

The HMS Ark Royal was one of the Royal Navy's flagship vessels. Commissioned in 1938, the Ark Royal became renowned for its significant contributions to various naval operations throughout the war.

During the early years of World War II, the Ark Royal was involved in hunting German U-boats, protecting convoys, and launching airstrikes against Axis targets.

During his short time on the Ark Royal, Sam became a familiar and cherished companion to the crew. But bad luck seemed to follow Sam wherever he went.

Less than a month later, on November 14, 1941, the Ark Royal was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat. Now familiar with the drill, Sam found a piece of driftwood and clung to it until he was rescued by the British destroyer HMS Legion and brought to safety.

Retirement

After his 3rd and final rescue, the Royal Navy realized that Sam had had enough of the war and was granted retirement. He was sent to Gibraltar where he lived out the rest of his life in a sailor's home.

He was officially christened "Unsinkable Sam" and he became a legend among the British Royal Navy.

The Legacy of Unsinkable Sam

The story of Unsinkable Sam has captured the hearts of animal lovers and military enthusiasts alike. Sam's remarkable journey reflects the camaraderie that often develops between sailors and their animal companions during the hardships of wartime.

His presence brought a touch of comfort and companionship to the sailors on both sides of the conflict.

Unsinkable Sam has become a symbol of the importance of mascots in the military. These animals, whether cats, dogs, or other creatures, often played vital roles in boosting the spirits of military personnel and providing a semblance of normalcy and companionship during long deployments



Thursday 14 March

These days we make our Welfare Bowls Fun Day Tournament a St Patrick's Day theme as it is either played on or close to the day.

As the players gathered on the green, adorned in various shades of green and Irish attire. Laughter and friendly banter filled the air, setting the perfect atmosphere for a day of bowls in which we raise funds to help our members in need of assistance.

Amidst the friendly rivalry, the Women's Section took charge of ensuring that everyone was well fed and energized throughout the day.

Thank you to all who play and help out. Thank you to the Whangamata Bowling Club for joining us and allowing us to use your greens and clubrooms. See you next year!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

100% Whangamata - Bartley Graphics
Bunnings - Coin Save - Craft Haus
Gumps Outdoors - Haven - JCD Marine
Lion Nathan - Pumice Patch - Sorensons
Stirling Sports - Superliquor - Table Talk
Twentymans Funeral Services
Unichem Pharmacy - Whanga Books
Whangamata Foodmarket
Whangamata New World
Whangamata Pharmacy
Ying's @ the RSA















Decked out in vibrant green for St. Patrick's Day, our members and guests had a great time!

Laughter filled the air, games brought out the competitive spirit, and jokes were told.

Sue March won the \$100 Prize (thanks to our sponsor Whangamata News) for Best Dressed!



OPERATION EXERCISE BLUNDER a poem by Julie Moyle

I failed the Army Military Operation As I went AWOL whilst on Guard Duty in the station I just got bored and decided to flee So left my post in the hands of Private Snee.

We'd had a few vodkas an hour before, Though no drink allowed on duty, that was the score. Private Snee was an inexperienced boy, Who handled his rifle as though a toy.

So when the enemy forces arrived full throttle Private Snee grabbed the bottle. The bottle slipped out his hand and smashed to the floor As the rest of the troops came in the door.

Private Snee went for his gun, then changed his mind And decided to run.

He ran fast past the soldiers as the door was ajar The enemy fired several rounds from afar.

Lucky for him I decided to come back I was happy to join in the attack. Though an exercise is really only a game But for Pte Snee, he was never the same.

The following day I was put on a charge A 252 from the Company Serg. I stood to attention as he told me my fate I'd be reduced to a private, a rank that I hate.

Pte Snee resigned from the Army and went on the dole He tried hard to find a perfect role. Unfortunately no jobs were to be found So it was back to the Army he was bound.

NB A 252 form is an Army charge form.- Serg = Sergeant Dole = Unemployment Exchange



Theme: Boots and Hats

Sunday 21st April 2024 10.30am - 3.30pm

10.30dm - 3.3

\$5 DOOR
NON DANCERS
FREE

Whangamata RSA 324 Port Road

BYO Lunch. Tea and coffee provided RSA Bar and Ying's Restaurant will be open 11am onwards

Raffles and Profit will be donated to Moana House Dementia Building Fund

Enquiries to Colleen 021 252 1511 Lorraine 027 316 646 Rochelle 027 260 5054 Email jessie.ev@xtra.co.nz



ADJUNGT RESULTS

GOLDEN OLDIES SNOOKER

Results Colman Cup

Held at Waihi Beach RSA 18th March 2024

1st Waihi Beach RSA with 4 Wins and 205 Points.

2nd Whangamata RSA with 4 Wins and 153 Points This team was Rex Osbaldiston and Roger Wolfe. Well done to those two players.

Team Trophy Waihi Beach 13 Wins and 632 Points Runner Up Whangamata RSA 11 Wins and 574 Points Great effort by all our RSA players.



Golden Oldies Practice Round

Date: 9/4/24 Players: 6

Highest Break - Meat at the Beach: Alex 21

Winner - Ying's @ the RSA: Alex 4 wins, 363 points

Runner Up - Meat at the Beach: Stephen 4 wins, 292 points

Raffle - Meat at the Beach: No.3 Chips



INDOOR BOWLS

On Tuesday 19th March six players contested the Men's Singles Championship.

Four games were played in the qualifying round with players needing five points to qualify and progress to the play off round.

Four players qualified for semi-final play with Don Gardner playing Alex Steel and Brian Wyatt playing John Hares. Alex and Brian won their games and progressed to play the final with Alex taking the win for the championship.

The Ladies Singles champs were held on Tuesday 9th April with five ladies competing.

A round-robin tournament was held with each player playing four games of nine ends each.

After some closely fought games and the scores toing and froing between players the outright winner was Ann Costar who won all of her four games to top the leader board. The runner-up was Joy O'Sullivan with two wins and one drawn game.

The newer bowlers, Laraine Osborne and Erin Wyatt, gave the more experienced bowlers some work to do to take out a win.

Congratulations to all the players and thanks to those who came to officiate and help out on the day.



Alex Steel and Brian Wyatt for the Men's Singles



Ann Costar and Joy O'Sullivan for the Ladies Singles.





























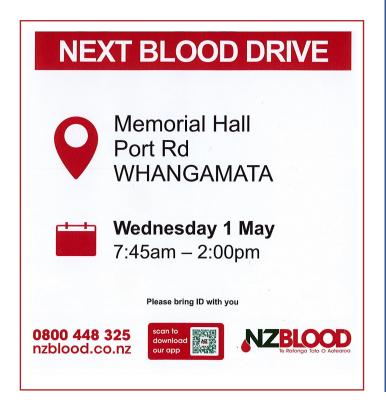








COMMUNITY ADVERTISING





Saturday 27 April 2024 Cornerstone, 101 Ocean Rd, Whangamata

Tables of 6

Come as a team or come on you own to make up a team on the night

Gather from 5.30pm

Quiz starts at 6.00pm

Raffles

Funds raised will be used for refurbishment at Cornerstone Community House

\$20.00 pp Light meal provided, bring own drinks

to purchase tickets

Contact Wendy 021 663 835

or come to the Cornerstone Office

Monday-Wednesday 9.30am-12noon





TRUE STORY!!!

Two Kiwis from Waiouru die and go to hell.

The Devil decides to pay them a visit, so he enters their room and sees them talking and laughing. Confused, he asks them why they're so happy.

They tell him, "Well, we're so sick of the cold where we came from, and this place is nice and toasty."

The Devil, annoyed, storms off and goes to Hell's boiler room where he turns up the temperature.

He goes back to the Kiwi's room, being begged by all sorts of people along the way to turn the heat back down. He enters the room and sees the Kiwis having a barbecue. He angrily asks them what they're doing.

"Well, we can't miss this beautiful weather without getting the barbecue out!"

The devil realizes he's done the wrong thing.

He goes to the boiler room and turns it down until it's colder than it's ever been on earth. He knows he's won now, so he goes back to the Kiwi's room, only to see them jumping up and down in excitement. He yells at them in anger, "WHY ARE YOU STILL HAPPY?!?!!!"

They look at him and yell at the same time, "Hell froze over! That means our Cricket Team won!"





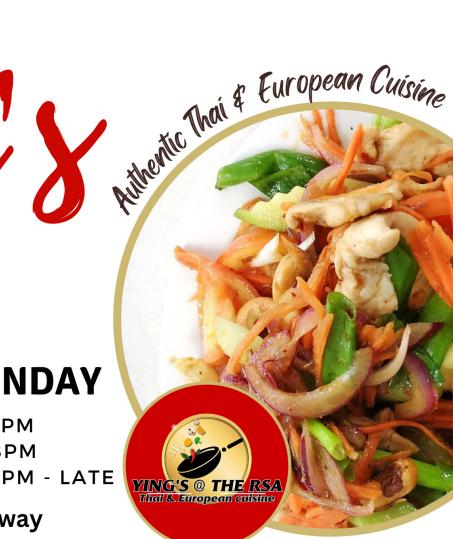






LUNCH 11AM - 3PM DINNER 5PM - 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5PM - LATE

Dine in or Takeaway



ADJUNCTS & GROUPS All Welcome

