

# The Razza

WHANGAMATA RSA NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 92  
MAY 2022

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



# Presidents Message

Geoff March

Life is slowly returning to a normal routine, yes COVID has been in our community and in fact in our membership. Luckily those who contracted COVID didn't have severe symptoms and after isolation were able to return health to enjoy our facilities. It showed us how supportive and helpful our community is, well done to those who stepped up, your involvement is appreciated.

Easter was a good weekend for us, it helped that it was in the school holidays and followed by ANZAC DAY, we saw an increase in those enjoying our club and Sunday with the Easter Egg Hunt and impromptu dance off with the Kids it was a successful time for families as the Kids went home with an easter Egg and a prize for their dancing skills.

Poppy Appeal was the biggest take we have had, which is heartening. Using our Veterans at New World certainly had positive reaction and interaction that we really did expect, the public response was brilliant. A big THANK YOU to our Poppy Collectors and Veteran's your dedication helped to achieve this overwhelming result. The amount collected was \$10,348.50, around \$2500 most than any other year.

ANZAC DAY, it was lucky that the COVID level changed to Level Orange shortly before ANZAC DAY, so we were able to put into place what we had planned, we were still impacted by COVID as our Piper was isolating. The large crowd at the Beach Service enjoyed a mild morning that was clear, which made the Coast Guard and Surf Club involvement easier to see which went down well, we were entertained by local singers who lead us in the National Anthem and once the service was over, they sang "We will meet again".

The Civic Parade was well attended, this included two of our WWII Veterans, 104-year-old Brant Robinson and 97-year-old Roy Brooks who enjoyed the parade from the security of the Moana House courtesy vehicle. The size of the spectators for the parade seems to grow each year, they line the parade route all the way, with many young children being present. Memories being made.

I think everyone is now wanting to move on with our lives, and be responsible for their own health and safety, on that note, if you know of anyone who could do with support, please let us know, a simple talk, pick up and take home, even an invitation to join you at the RSA is all it could take to make someone's day.

Most of the adjuncts are now back to their usual operating schedules which is great to see, we do notice an increase in those attending and enjoying what our RSA has to offer, we still have quite a few local groups and organisations using our facilities during the day.

Lyn, John and I attended the latest District Meeting last weekend, it was reported the Poppy collection were up through out our District. There are still quite a few RSA's who are struggling after lockdowns and need to look at their operating reasons. There will be more training available to Presidents, Committees and Support Advisors, which should help RSA's manage and adjust to the way things are now going to be.

We have the Country Music Club on June 5th from 12pm, followed by Joe Fingers as our entertainer from 5pm. This is Queens Birthday Weekend, so we are hoping for a good attendance.

If you have been somewhere and seen a good group/band that you think our members and guests would enjoy, please let us know, we are always on the lookout for new artists to help attract more patrons.

We THANK everybody for their support and most of all we enjoy your company, if you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us, we want everybody to feel part of the TEAM, and to continue the good name that our RSA has.

## Womens Section Report

Lyn Ward – President

Our May meeting was held on Tuesday 3rd May. We only had about 15 members turn up with some not well with Covid and others out of town. The meeting still went well and our guest speaker was Cherry Estcourt.



A very interesting talk from Cherry all about how she got involved in all sorts of crafting – crocheting, weaving, felt work and others as well as learning and then teaching Tai Chi.

Our members found her talk most enjoyable and we will invite her back again.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th June at 1.30pm.

Diane Norris will be our guest speaker.



**COME JOIN OUR KIDS CLUB TODAY**

Kids will get their very own membership card and special Kids Club Member benefits.  
Kids Club Membership is Free!



**KIDS CLUB MEMBERS**

OUR KIDS CLUB MEMBERS HAVE SHARED WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN UP TO.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?

ART, SOMETHING FUN, HOLIDAYS, SPORTS, SCHOOL, ACHIEVEMENTS?...



**FOOTCARE CLINIC**

Alison Walkington Footcare Nurse

First clinic on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July  
2pm till 4pm

(Clinic once a month on the second Friday of the month)

Veterans and Members

More details to come

## Veterans Support Update

Whangamata RSA now has two trained Support Advisors and one support person waiting for training, these people ensure our Veterans get the support from Veteran Affairs that they are entitled to. After months of data collection, we finally have a comprehensive list of eligible Veterans for Support Advisor services. We have around 180 Veterans for our Support Advisors to manage, confirm details and ensure they are getting the right support, such as gardens, lawns and house maintenance, tasks which are funded by Veteran Affairs.

So, who is entitled to Veteran Affairs Support, any person who has been issued with New Zealand Service Number, Army, Navy, Air Force, Regular or Territorial, YOU DO NOT NEED TO HAVE SERVED OVERSEAS to qualify. Service numbers are important when it comes to making arrangements for independent contractors, on what is referred to as the Veterans Independent Programme VIP. When you apply, is when the services you are entitled to are calculated and assessed, all Veterans are encouraged to register with Veteran Affairs even if they do not require the services or assistance now, once you are registered you will be looked after quicker when you do need their support or assistance.

Is this something you would be interested in being part of, please get in touch with one of our Support Advisors who would work along side you to see if this is for you.

### Whangamata RSA Support Advisors

**John Gillooly: 027 480 5456. Trained**  
**Nick Penney: 027 654 8501. Trained**  
**Pam Murray: 027 610 5599. Waiting for Training**



### Whangamata Community Van THAMES SHOPPING TRIP



**Thursday 23 June 2022**  
**Thursday 21 July 2022**  
**Thursday 18 August 2022**

Departure from Whangamata: **9am**  
 Return time: **3:30pm**

Contact our office for more information: **07 865 7065**  
 or Jess **027 470 1714** [jess@whangacst.co.nz](mailto:jess@whangacst.co.nz)



A big thank you to Colin and the rest of the guys from Ventia who install the street signs around Whangamata including our Poppy Signs.

We have seven signs. Tamaki Rd, Achilles Ave, Bellona Rd, Leander Rd. In the next issues of the "Razza" we will bring you info on the following: Ajax Rd and Exeter Rd.

Before HMS Philomel was commissioned for service under the New Zealand Government in 1914, the ship had already had an eventful 24-year life. Built at Devonport Dockyard, it was launched on 28 August 1890 and first commissioned into the Royal Navy on 10 November 1891. Philomel was a third class cruiser of the Pearl-class, one of nine similar ships. She cost £141,802 to build.

In mid 1892 Philomel deployed to the Cape of Good Hope Station, where it would spend the, next six years. At the end of the first commission the ship took part in the Brohemie Creek Expedition (Gambia) in September 1894. This punitive expedition resulted from several men being killed or wounded when a Government boat was fired upon in August. Captain Charles Campbell of Philomel led one detachment of seamen in an attack on the principal town, where there was no opposition but 106 guns were captured, as was the chief's treasury. Recommissioning on station in August 1894, Philomel participated in the M' wele Expedition in August 1895 and the Bombardment of Zanzibar in August the following year. The latter resulted from a prince trying to usurp the throne on the death of the Sultan. Britain, with the acquiescence of the other European embassies, supported the true heir. After 37 minutes of bombardment of the Sultan's palace, the rebels left and the rightful successor was proclaimed. In January 1897 the British Consul General in Niger was attacked and the following month an expedition was mounted to Benin to arrest those responsible. Personnel from Philomel formed part of the Naval Brigade and during the attack the ship's Captain and the Gunner were wounded.

After an eventful three and a half year commission, Philomel returned to Devonport in March 1898 and paid off for refit. On its return the people of the Borough of Stonehouse decided to fête Philomel and the officers and ship's company marched through the streets to a civic reception and lunch in the town hall. The illuminated address commemorating the occasion is now in the Philomel wardroom. With the refit completed the ship recommissioned at the end of 1898 and returned to the Cape Station. The following year the Boer War broke out in South Africa and Philomel was tasked on various duties around the coast, while some officers and members of the ship's company were employed ashore in actions such as Modder River, the march to Pretoria, the Battle of Colenso and the relief of Ladysmith. Philomel returned to England in March 1902 and paid off being laid up at Bowness in the Firth of Forth. In 1904 Philomel was included in Admiral Fisher's famous list of "sheep, lhamas and goats" – ships too old to fight and too slow to run away — as one of the ships to be placed in reserve but without any maintenance.

However, three years later the Ship was towed to Haulbowline in Ireland and refitted, being commissioned again on 1 February 1908. This time Philomel joined to the Red Sea Division of the Mediterranean Fleet. During operations in Somaliland Philomel landed troops as well as its own landing party.

There was however, little action. After a commission of just over a year the ship paid off at Portsmouth in mid 1909, immediately recommissioning and deploying to the Persian Gulf and Middle East. Two years later, at Aden, Philomel again recommissioned, spending a further two years in the area. Most of this time was spent intercepting and inspecting dhows, looking for weapons and slaves. In October 1913 the ship was recommissioned again, at Singapore with the intention of it being handed over to the New Zealand Government, which eventuated in July 1914.

Two weeks later, with the ship on a shakedown cruise war broke out and Philomel returned to Wellington to prepare for war. The New Zealand Government had agreed to occupy German Samoa and an expeditionary force was raised to achieve this. Two troopships were required, but the only escorts available were the three obsolete cruisers of the New Zealand Division, one being the newly commissioned Philomel. With a strong German cruiser squadron in the Pacific, this escort was not sufficient and the Admiralty ordered the Australian Squadron to assist. Suitably strengthened the Samoan Expeditionary Force went ashore in Apia on 30 August, the German garrison choosing not to resist.

After the ship's return from Samoa, Philomel underwent essential maintenance before joining the escort of the troopships of the Main Body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in October, when they sailed from New Zealand. Philomel remained as part of the escort until it reached Western Australia, where it detached and proceeded separately to Singapore and then on to the Middle East. During early 1915 Philomel operated in the Eastern Mediterranean and at the beginning of February was off the coast of Syria, in the vicinity of Alexandretta.

Captain Hall-Thompson sent a landing party ashore on 8 February to investigate a convoy of pack mules. This was ambushed by a strong force of Turks, one man being killed and several wounded, two mortally. Able Seaman W.E. Knowles from Christchurch was one of those who died, he being buried at sea the next afternoon. Willie Knowles has the distinction of being the first New Zealand naval rating killed in action.

By mid year the ship was operating in the Red Sea, patrolling for arms smugglers and supporting the garrison at Aden.

By the end of 1916 the ship was in need of an extensive refit, but being 27 years old, the cost was not considered economic and the ship returned to New Zealand, being met at Wellington by a guard of 50 corporals from the NZEF as well as VIPs. Home, the ship was paid off, with only a care and maintenance party remaining on board. When, in 1918, it was learned that the German Raider Wolf had laid mines off New Zealand Philomel took on the role of depot ship for the trawlers taken up for minesweeping.

After the war it was decided that the New Zealand Navy would comprise up to three cruisers, if possible, supplemented by destroyers, although the priority was the cruisers, which were the smallest 'stand alone' vessels at the time. Supporting the operational ships would be Philomel in the role of a depot ship, providing training for new entrants and specialist maintenance personnel. Auckland was chosen as the location for these facilities and with the support of HMS Chatham, Philomel steamed on its last voyage, to the naval base. Berthed alongside on what would become known as 'the Training Jetty' the old ship became home to generations of new entrants.

To create classroom space the engines were taken out, but this was never going to be satisfactory and the early 1920s saw the commencement of a struggle to have facilities provided ashore. The first of these was the acquisition of an old building from the Army which was sited at the base of what would become known as 'Monowai Hill'. Beginning as a YMCA canteen this building has housed a variety of functions over the years, presently being the Junior Ratings Fleet Mess. Soon afterwards three classrooms were built on the foreshore, the first of the 'green huts' which were finally removed in early 2000.

Until 1942, when the maintenance facilities formally became His Majesty's New Zealand Dockyard, Artisans in Philomel provided personnel to assist ships staff in undertaking

maintenance, using equipment owned by Auckland Harbour Board under a joint working arrangement.

The experiment of naval personnel using leased facilities was not a success and it was with much relief that the Navy took over the facilities in 1936, the Harbour Board only retaining the dry dock. Major construction took place in the mid 1930s and the base was fully developed during the Second World War and many of the present buildings date from that time. In 1941 most of the training function of Philomel was transferred to HMNZS Tamaki, as was the ship's mainmast, which went to the new establishment. Following the Second World War Philomel became responsible for Basic Branch Training, a function it retained until 1975.

By the end of 1945 the old ship was well beyond its anticipated life and it was put up for tender. On 17 January 1946 the White Ensign was hoisted over the shore establishment and soon after the ship was towed to Coromandel by its new owner. There it was stripped, much of the wood being used to construct a small coastal trading vessel named Coromel. In August 1949, 4kg of explosive sent the hulk to the bottom of the sea off Cuvier Island at the entrance to the Hauraki Gulf. At the turn of the new century, as part of a major reform of the Naval Command structure, HMNZS Tamaki ceased to exist and Philomel assumed responsibility for the whole of the naval base and facilities in November 2000.

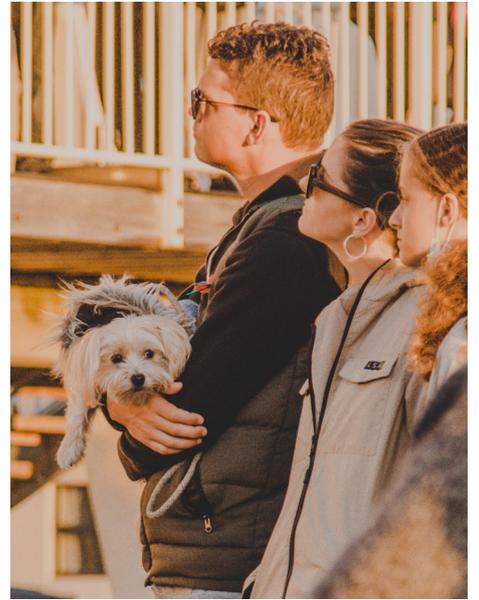
HMS Philomel Berthing at the ferry wharf Wellington 1917



# ANZAC DAY 2022







for more  
Anzac Day  
photos see our  
facebook page



# Indoor Bowls

Mens Singles Championship was played on Tuesday 10th May.

After 4 rounds 3 qualified -

Alex Steel, John Hares, Patrick Cairns (who got the bye)

A very tight games all tired up on the 10th but John won next 2 ends to put him in the final against Patrick.

This was a tit for tat game - end of 4th end 4 all.  
After 10 ends 8 all.

Then Patrick found his Greenland won 1 point off next 2 ends to win.

Exciting game well played by both of them.

Congratulations Patrick!



## Golden Oldies Snooker Results Practice Rounds

May 3 2022

Players: 11

Highest Break: Stephen

Winner - Ying's @ the RSA: Bob S. 4 Wins. 211 Points

Runner Up - Meat at the Beach: Stephen. 3 Wins. 244 Points

Raffle - Meat at the Beach: Mike Judd

May 10 2022

Players: 10

Winner - Ying's @ the RSA: Cherie. 3 Wins. 190 Points

Runner Up - Meat at the Beach: Ray. 3 Wins. 182 Points

Raffle - Meat at the Beach: Ray

May 17 2022

Highest Break: Graham W

Winner - Ying's @ the RSA: Bob S. 3 Wins. 235 Points

Runner Up - Meat at the Beach: Stephen. 3 Wins. 234 Points

Raffle - Meat at the Beach: Bill

May 24 2022

Players: 13

Highest Break: Stephen

Winner - Ying's @ the RSA: Bob S. 4 Wins. 195 Points

Runner Up - Meat at the Beach: Cherie. 4 Wins. 166 Points

Raffle - Meat at the Beach: Bob S

## Thursday Snooker Results

April 4 2022

Winner: Glen. 3 Wins. 247 Points

Runner Up: Paula. 3 Wins. 194 Points

Hi Break: Graham W. 27

Sponsors Prize: Grant

Raffle: Glen

May 5 2022

Winner: Mathew A. 3 Wins. 204 Points

Runner Up: Glen A. 3 Wins. 203 Points

Hi Break: Gavin. 48

Sponsors Prize: Ray

Raffle: Chips

May 12 2022

Winner: Graham W. 4 Wins. 234 Points

Runner Up: Paula. 4 Wins. 182 Points

Hi Break: Graham W. 18

Sponsors Prize: Mike J

Raffle: Glen

## Artists and Crafters

Have you made something you would like to share.

Let us know and you can be featured in 'The Creative Corner'





**"I wish Covid-19 had started in Las Vegas. Because what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas"**

**A young boy enters a barber shop** and the barber whispers to his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you."

The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, "Which do you want, son?" The boy takes the quarters and leaves.

"What did I tell you?" said the barber. "That kid never learns!"

Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream parlor.

"Hey, son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?"

The boy licked his cone and replied:

"Because the day I take the dollar the game is over!"



# Friday Quiz Night



**6.30pm start (after Jokers Wild)**

Lots of Fun - Test your Trivial Knowledge  
Teams of up to six players - \$2/person  
Come and join in - All Welcome!

*Proudly Sponsored by*  
Supporting your club.  
0800 868 439



First National  
Real Estate



Tuesday  
7PM

Thursday  
4PM

# ADJUNCTS AND GROUPS



## GOLDEN OLDIES SNOOKER

Tuesday  
1pm

## SNOOKER

Thursday  
6pm



500

Wednesday  
1pm

## INDOOR BOWLS

Tuesday  
9.45am



## FISHING

Please check  
noticeboard by  
8 Ball tables for  
trip info



## MAH JONG

Thursday  
10am



## 8 BALL

Wednesday  
Register by 6.30pm  
Play starts 7pm  
All Welcome  
\$3 Entry

## UKULELE 'HIGHLY STRUNG'

Thursday  
1.30pm



## TAI CHI WITH CHERRY

Wednesday &  
Thursday  
9am - 10am  
\$5



## UPDATE CONTACT DETAILS

Not getting emails? Change your address?

If any of your details need to be updated  
email [rsamanager@outlook.com](mailto:rsamanager@outlook.com)  
put "Contact Details" in the subject line



## LINE DANCING

Friday  
(every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday 1pm)  
9.30am beginners  
10.30am - 12pm  
\$3/person  
all ages, abilities welcome

# Upcoming Entertainment and Events

COMING SOON

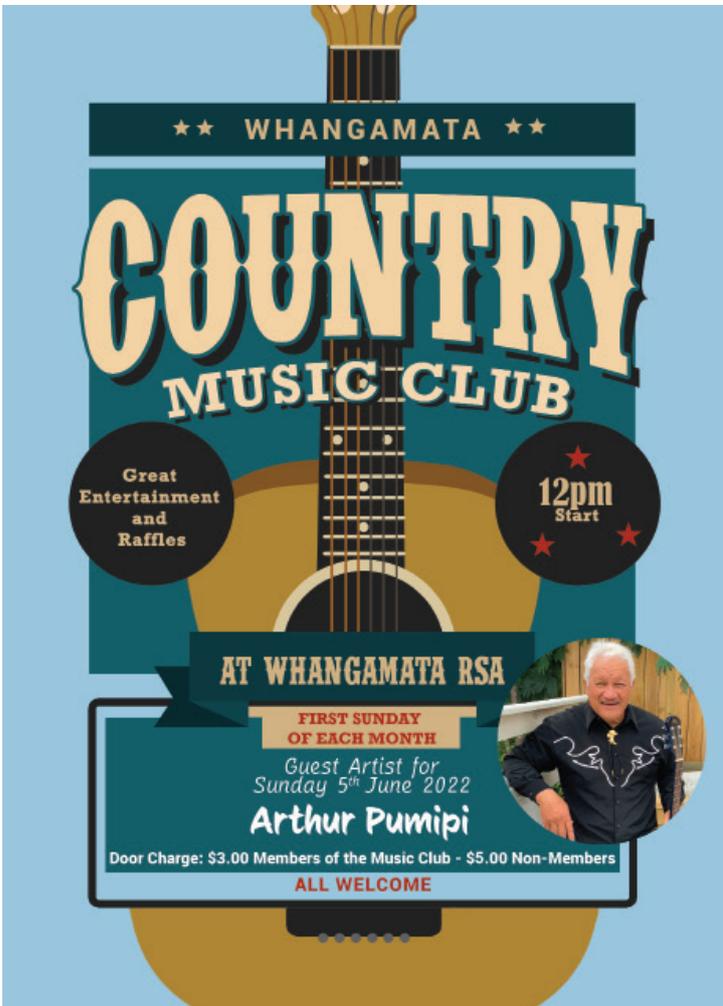
Combined Services Day  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022



Kevin  
**GREAVES**  
and Friends

**WHANGAMATA RSA**  
SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY & 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

**4PM**



★★ WHANGAMATA ★★

# COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

Great Entertainment and Raffles

12pm Start

AT WHANGAMATA RSA

FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Guest Artist for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
**Arthur Pumipi**

Door Charge: \$3.00 Members of the Music Club - \$5.00 Non-Members  
**ALL WELCOME**



# Joe 'FINGERS'

*Queen's Birthday Weekend*

**Whangamata RSA**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**5pm**