

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Including WRNZNS 1942 – 1977

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September 2010

President's Address

Greetings to all,

As I write this forerunner to the newsletter, I have a heavy heart for our members and friends in Christchurch, and other areas of the country that are having such a dreadful time with earthquakes and weather bombs. Please be assured you have been very much in our thoughts and prayers. I am going to be in Christchurch for a week at Labour weekend and I am very sure that returning to one's home town, after all the devastation, will put a new prospective on life.

The AGM bought little change to the committee, only that of the new secretary, Doreen Beer, who volunteered her service. We welcome her onboard, and I thank you all, for your vote of confidence in returning me to the chair. You will find in this newsletter the remits tabled at the AGM and the outcome. As there was so much interest in the remits it is felt that you would want to hear the results now rather than in 12 months time.

In August the RNZRSA flew me to Wellington for a day meeting of the Affiliates Committee. The purpose of these meetings is to give a strong/unified voice when dealing with Government. Independence of each organisation is also respected. Much of the meeting discusses the relations with VANZ (Veterans Affairs NZ) and the dealing with the rewrite of the War Pensions Act which is under review.

There was also a report on the progress of the NZ Defence Medal, and the matter still lies with the Ministers, final announcement still awaited. Preparations are in hand for distribution and presentation of the medal, if the decision is made to go ahead with it. It is hoped that an answer is made at the National Council meeting next month, where I am your Delegate and Meg Pilcher from Wellington Branch will join me as the observer.

And as I close, to all you Cantabrians may each day be easier than the one before, keep looking ahead, I know your shinning spirit will pull you through.

God bless you all

Margaret Mitchell

National President.

"The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do!"

A quote from C.S. Lewis

Last Post The following ex-wrens have crossed the bar,

Name	Surname	Maiden Name	Service No.	Date
Yvonne	Aronsen	Cholmondeley	472	01.08.09
Judy	Blake	Fraser	145	
Lois	Banks		1152	29.09.09
Enid	Brooks	Patchett	774	21.09.09
Mary	Clark	Stent	221	19.09.09
Lorna	Coles BEM		774	04.09.09
Diana	Cowie	Tapper	584	05.03.10
Kay	Duncan	Malley	245	
Hilda	Gray	Smith	20	11.05.10
Doris	Hopper		40217	13.10.09
Molly	Jones	Ecclestone	841	
Jessie	Jones	Anderson	147	
Nancy	McKenzie	YHoung	585	27.12.09
Margret	Moates	Campbell	28567	06.10
Valmai	Moss	Paulin	18	01.05.10
Mary (Mere)	Pahau	Pahau	28509	02.09.10
Helen	Phibbs	Fenwick	2	16.11.09
Margaret Annie	Reyburn	Lupton	844	04.09.09
Anne	Rutherford		45	
Marjorie	Schmelz	Loader	66	
Marguerite	Scott	Boxer	113	
Tracey	Thompson	James	394	14.07.10
Helen	Turner	Mountier	630	
Norma	Twort	Leask	1145	
Patricia	Wadsworth	Savage	824	
Eileen	Oxley	Morrison	333	July 2010

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY:

AUCKLAND

FROM AUCKLAND BRANCH

Greetings all from the sunny Bay of Islands, the weather is on the turn and temperatures up already. I am sure that my move up North will turn out to be a very good move. Have just moved into my flat, so am feeling a bit lonely after 3 months with Margaret and Lloyd Mitchell. It was very easy to feel comfortable and welcome in their home.

I am still looking for a kind volunteer to come on the Auckland Branch Committee as the Secretary. Please contact me if you think you could give some time to it. We are also looking for some volunteers to join the Auckland Committee and become part of the 2012 Reunion Committee. That Reunion is underway with venues being considered over the last few days.

We have only got the Xmas Luncheon left for this year and information will be sent out when we have settled on another venue. We are looking at going over the City side of the Harbour Bridge. Watch the Branch newsletter for details. Visitors are always welcome if you happen to be in town on the day we have it.

I do hope this newsletter finds everyone shaking off the winter chills. Our thoughts are still with our fellow shipmates who are struggling after the Earthquake and many after-shocks, in Christchurch.

Jill Thompson
President

CHRISTCHURCH

Greetings from Christchurch

May we all thank the many of you in other parts of the country who have rung or contacted fellow Ex Wrens/Naval Women here in Christchurch offering your thoughts and support over the past traumatic week. You will have seen in the media and on TV the devastation caused by the earthquake on 4 September around our region in general, the central city and outlying residential districts. We are all pulling together to get ourselves back on our feet as quickly as possible. The people of Christchurch are a resilient lot!!! The quake of course is uppermost in our minds at this time. (Many of us wish we were in another part of the country right now).

I have managed to contact all but one of the people on my Christchurch ringing list, and despite being shaken we are all OK. Damage that has occurred to our homes can be repaired. Raelene Palmer (Cusden) is the worst affected. She will be losing her home in Kaiapoi due to it sinking. Her home and beautiful garden are under a heavy layer of thick mud and silt. Raelene is also very upset at losing her many photographs and precious books. Her street, she says, is like a bomb site. She is full of praise for the people of Kaiapoi, the civil defence (who got her out of her home when she was trapped) and all the volunteers, she says neighbours who hadn't spoken to each other for years are all pulling together and they hope to hold a big street party, when things are cleaned up to thank each other.

Karen Humphreys in the midst of all this suffered acute appendicitis, was rushed to hospital and operated on. Karen is now at home recuperating.

Naira Dawson (Reidford) has once again been presented with a Community Services award by the Waimakariri Council. She was presented with the award for her diligence, dignity and compassion in working with returned servicemen and women and others in the Kaiapoi community. She is the Welfare and Pensions officer at the Kaiapoi RSA. Naira spends hours on the phone keeping in touch with frail and infirm members ensuring that they are well and that their needs are being met. Naira is also the Kaiapoi RSA Vice President, and an active member of the women's section. She is involved in the Canterbury Patriotic Council and is a Justice of the Peace.

Regards to you all and again, many thanks for your concern and support in our recent set back.

Sue Maguire (Willard)**Sue Maguire**

SOUTHLAND

There is nothing exciting to report from the Southland Branch. Our last get-together was a mid winter in June which I couldn't attend because of flu. Our next get together is on the 26th of September at Nichols Greenworld (where you can buy your plants after having your coffee !) Then we have our Xmas outing, date, time and Venue to be decided.

I have an ex WRNZNS friend staying with me at the moment - Glenda Whitehouse (Horsham) from Deal in Kent in England, who joined up in April 1957. She's off to Christchurch next then Wanganui to visit another ex Wren, Joan Bridgeland (Toura) then Auckland before going back to the UK. She sends her regards to all the ex Wrens she was in the Service with.

When speaking to Ann Fleet (Newling) this morning she told me that 5 of her Grandchildren were in the earthquake at Christchurch. The family must be Earthquake prone because her Mum And Dad and older sister Doreen were in the Napier Quake! I have a daughter in Christchurch too (ex Navy) out at Wigram but they weren't too bothered .

Our group is getting smaller and older but it is nice to see everybody.

Good health and happy days from all in Southland.

Cheers

Astrid Jamieson (Eriksson 1084)

WELLINGTON

Hello to you all from the Wellington branch.

I do hope all is well with you all, and this rain and wind is not getting the better of you. Our thoughts go out to you all in Christchurch and hopefully you are all managing well, despite the disruption to your daily routine and lifestyle.

Remit – carried

Remit Four:

Financial Member means a member of the Association who has paid her annual membership or subscription fee for the financial year in which they are due.

After much discussion, The National President, asked the Auckland President to ask the Auckland Committee members present, to consider withdrawing this remit. The Auckland Branch Committee agreed to it being withdrawn.

Remit Five:

13.3 Proper books of account shall be kept in respect of all monies received and expended, all matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure has taken place, and all purchase, sales and other transactions relating to the assets and liabilities of the Association. Separate books of account for each Branch, and for the National Executive Committee, be consolidated as a review or audited financial statement for presentation to the Annual General Meeting, and for filing annually with the Registrar of Incorporated Society, in accordance with the Act.

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After lengthy discussion, and knowledgeable explanations from the National Treasurer, the remit was reworded to read:

“The National Executive Accounts shall be reviewed/audited for presentation to the Annual General Meeting as a financial statement and for filing annually with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies Inc.

The National Treasurer shall present a consolidated financial position, including the National, Auckland, Wellington and any Reunion Accounts, at the Annual General Meeting.”

For: Unanimous Against: Nil Remit Five: carried

Two Ex-Wrens do good Community Work: Viv Andrews and Gwen Cameron. Thank you for submitting these newsworthy events. We are happy to reproduce items although we sometimes need to edit for size.

Community Gems:

Vivienne and Fred Andrews are two community gems as they have given many of the 48 years of living in Te Puna to local community services. Vivienne has spent more than 25 years with the Citizens Advice Bureau, and Fred has spent 10 years as a volunteer St John Driver.

Both were involved with Samaritans over 2 decades ago, always available to listen when people needed to talk. Vivienne and Fred were very humble when they were recognised as a Bay of Plenty Times Community Gems.



Viv and Fred Andrews



Gwen Cameron has been delivering Meals on Wheels for more than 35 years. Although older than some of those that she delivers meals to, she says "I can still do it, so why not". Besides Meals on Wheels she is the treasurer for the Euthanasia Society and involved in the Mission Bay Bowling Club, where she helps with the sewing for the trading table. She was nominated for a NZ Herald Unsung Hero by her niece and nephew, who describe her as "the most inspiring lady we have known."

Letter from Margaret Havell, 100983 UK Wren, and member of RNZNWA.

We received the following letter from Margaret after the Nelson Reunion, and I am sure she won't mind me sharing it – it is what our reunions are all about – you never know who you will meet up with!

"In the 50 years since I joined the Association, I have been too many reunions, both here and in the UK. Some years ago, in the Royal Festival Hall, I met a PO I knew, but had given up all hope of meeting anyone else I had served with.

Then, at the last function of the Nelson Reunion, in the Nelson Suburban Club, two women sat opposite us at dinner. They were also ex UK Wrens and we chatted. Amazingly, one, Joy Evans, had been stationed at the Royal Naval Air Station, Anthorn, near Carlisle, where I was! (1949-1951). We hadn't known each other, as we worked in different areas. But it didn't matter, as we share the same memories. It made this recent reunion one of the best ever."

From Midge Lee;

Following the Anzac Day wreath laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Buckle St Wellington several Veterans were invited to luncheon with the Governor-General Sir Anand and Lady Susan Satynand at Vogel House. We had, had this privilege two years ago when there was a larger number and we then attended Government House in Wellington, this was before the large renovation that is taking place now. On that occasion Mary Walker attended with me. Because of her long association and work done by the members of the London Embroiderers Guild, Mary was eager to see whether a number of chairs used at Government House, which had the backs and seats hand embroidered, would still be in use. The Wellington Members of the Guild had spent many hours repairing damage to the embroidery work. The housekeeper kindly showed the chairs to Mary and also acquainted the Governor-General of Mary's work. So this year he not only remembered this, but also the fact that Mary had passed away since. Some may also be interested to know that both the Governor-General and Lady Susan commented on the Wren Tartan which I wore.

Sir Anand introduced each guest individually with a very brief biography, prior to saying Grace. The lunch was delicious – Lamb Shanks with Beetroot, onion and mashed potato. The bone had been removed, and it had been reassembled to look as if the bone was still there! Each had a sprig of Rosemary on top. The dessert was individual Rhubarb tart with ice-cream. Wine and tea and coffee was also available. We departed at approximately 2.30pm from what was almost akin to a "family" lunch.