



# THE BULLETIN

## AUGUST 2024

**Newsletter of the Wellington  
Returned & Services Association Inc  
Established 1916**



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the Wellington Returned and Services Association's President's report to the 108<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Wellington RSA. This report will cover the period of 24 June 2023 to 22 June 2024.



Your executive committee has had some changes over the last year, but positions of President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Karori RSA President have remained the same. Sadly Chris Nevill passed away in February 2024 and to help fill our vacancies on the executive, Ruth Currie and John O'Reilly were co-opted onto the executive committee. The WRSA Executive focus during the reporting period has been to provide welfare support for our members and their families, and to provide welfare and financial support, through the Trentham hub, to serving NZDF personnel.

The WRSA Executive continues to support the three pillars of the RNZRSA's work:

- Remembrance through RSA tributes at members' funerals, ANZAC Day ceremonies at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park and the Wellington Cenotaph and military commemorative ceremonies throughout the year.
- Welfare support through the WRSA medical scheme, the provision of welfare advice through the WRSA Support Advisor, visits by the WRSA Visits Officer, support for the RNZRSA National Office and support for the Trentham Hub.
- Advocacy through support to the WWCT District President, the RNZRSA National Office and active involvement in the RNZRSA National Council.

### Welfare Support:

The WRSA welfare team of Michelle Tebbutt, Support Advisor and Kay Poynton, Visits Officer, provide great welfare support and advice to our members and their families. For most of the reporting period, Michelle has also been the Acting District Support Advisor and I would like to acknowledge her dedication and commitment to serving our members and their families through this extra commitment.

Michelle's work has led to deserved accolades from the Chief Executive of the RNZRSA and in collaboration with that body, she has also been an advisor the Veterans Employment Scheme, that seeks to assist NZDF personnel that are exiting into civilian employment. Kay has continued to provide support to approximately 21 of our members through visits and maintaining contact. Our visits list has declined, but we are always looking at ways to support and being onboard with new members who need support. Michelle will cover welfare support in more detail in her Welfare Report to the AGM.

The CRANZAC Biscuit Appeal was conducted again this year in collaboration with the Thorndon New World and the Breeze Radio Station. Theo Kuper was again the WRSA coordinator for this appeal and the identification of a family worthy of receiving welfare support from the funds raised. The year the Parker family was given a donation of \$10,253.76 to help support a child with disabilities.

### Poppy Day Collection:

The Poppy Day report will provide a detailed breakdown of how much money was collected and by whom. These funds are critical for the WRSA Welfare Trust to be able to provide welfare support to our members.

I would like to thank Theo and Zenetta for the work that they have done to organise Poppy Day collection and all the administration that goes with Poppy Day. Glenda Ramsey again did a magnificent job in organising the Poppy Day collection in the Eastern Suburbs and for setting and achieving ambitious collection targets.

The New Zealand Cadet Force again provided great service to Poppy Day, which reflects our good relationship with the Wellington Cadet Forces. We continue to get great support from the NZDF collection in the Central Business District as well as the United States Marine Corps personnel. This year Michelle Tebutt and John Hannan (Porirua RSA) arranged the Poppy Day collection in Johnsonville, which was very successful. I would like to thank them for a job well done as well as to others that got out on the day to collect.

### Remembrance:

The Wellington RSA has had a busy year around remembrance activities. The WRSA has continued to support RSA tributes to service at several funerals, including that of our Life Member, Chris Nevill.

In August we supported the Vietnam Veterans Day at the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. In collaboration with the Karori Residents Association, we also assisted with the Boer War Memorial at Ben Burn Park, which recognises the 1<sup>st</sup> New Zealand Mounted Rifles Contingent. It was at this ground in 1899 the contingent stayed at before going to South Africa in 1899. This was a great ceremony and was supported by the Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles along with the Karori RSA and the public.

The day before ANZAC Day, we supported the Bank of New Zealand War Memorial rededication at their new building. ANZAC Day was well supported by the Wellington RSA and Clint Libby did a great job organising the Civic Ceremony at the Wellington Cenotaph.

In conjunction with ANZAC Day this year, we hosted the New Caledonia Mont Dore Veterans Association visit to Wellington and their visit programme. Lastly, we have financially supported the East Timor Veterans 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary visit to East Timor and the documentary that they are producing. This commemoration will help to change veteran perceptions of the RSA.

### Finance:

The WRSA Executive committee have continued to provide sound management of the WRSA's two investment funds and their use to support the functioning of our office, remuneration to our staff and the continuance of our welfare support and medical scheme.

Jarden Investments continues to provide an excellent service administering our investment portfolios. The WRSA meets with Jarden at least twice a year to review our investment strategy and performance. Phillip Bolton has done a great job as our Honorary Treasurer and we have an audited set of accounts to present to the AGM.

### Karori RSA:

Bruce Johnston has been the President of the RSA for 28 years and this probably sets another record for the RSA. His report speaks for itself and I would like acknowledge his continued dedication in keeping the Karori RSA going. Bruce organised a successful ANZAC Day ceremony at the Karori RSA club rooms in addition to regular Friday night film and social evenings, and an enjoyable, well supported Christmas function.

### Seatoun RSA:

Adelle Trezise is President of the Seatoun RSA and has become an ex officio member of the WRSA Executive. It is anticipated that in time the Seatoun RSA will come under the WRSA.

### Support to the RSA Trentham Hub:

The WRSA in collaboration with the Upper Hutt RSA continues to support the Trentham Hub at Trentham Camp. Michelle visits the Hub for two hours every fortnight to provide advice and support to ex-service and serving NZDF personnel as this need has been of concern.

I have briefed the Chief of Defence, Chief of Army and the Sergeant Major of the Army, on the Hub's work. They were shocked that serving NZDF personnel require welfare and sometimes financial support. My comment to them was that this need reflected the current erosion of NZDF conditions of service and remuneration. Hopefully, the new NZDF leadership team will address these issues.

## OBITUARY

### Chris Nevill

The ever smiling and friendly presence of the late Chris Nevill was lost to fellow RSA members earlier this year when he died in Wellington following a short illness.

Born close to the Five Hundred Wood, in Southern England which inspired A.A. Milne to write the Winnie the Pooh books, Chris was named after the author's son Christopher Robin. Before he turned 5 his family moved to New Zealand, where they took up residence in Palmerston North.

Chris boarded and was educated at Wanganui Collegiate and opted to go into farming after leaving school. After becoming a junior shepherd for a brief period, he opted to put his hand up and volunteer for the Korean War at a friend's suggestion that it was going to be a big adventure.

He enlisted on 30 August 1950 as a gunner. He did his recruit and artillery trade training in Linton and Waiouru before then deploying with the 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, RNZA on the SS Ormonde on 10 December 1950. After arriving in Korea three weeks later on New Year's Eve, he was greeted by a hard cold winter in the middle of a war zone.

Chris was promoted rapidly, rising from Gunner (Private) to Lance Bombardier, to Bombardier and then to Sergeant in 6 months. At the time of the Battle of Kapyong in late April 1951 he was a Bombardier (Corporal) and Gun Detachment commander of a 25-pounder gun detachment.

The highlight (or perhaps the lowlight) of Chris's time in Korea was the Battle of Kapyong between 22 and 25 April 1951. During the three-day battle, the 25 pounder guns of 16 Field Regiment were firing pretty much non-stop in support of the three infantry battalions of the 28<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Brigade. Chris later described his 25-pounder gun as getting red hot from so much firing and not getting any sleep for over 50 hours. The battle ended with the Chinese army withdrawing and they never attempted to conduct such a large-scale attack against the UN forces again.

The RNZRSA is seeking to refresh the RSA through RSA 2030. This is around returning the RSA to its core tasks: remembrance, support for veterans and advocacy. The strategy also proposes a new governance structure which is yet to be finalised. Over the next two years all RSA's will be required to draft and submit new constitutions to the RNZRSA National Office and Registrar of Incorporated Societies. The WRSA Executive will bring in a new constitution to the 2025 AGM for ratification.

### Conclusion:

Your WRSA Executive Committee and staff have worked hard on your behalf to support remembrance, welfare and advocacy for veterans and their families. We have sought to use our investments and funds wisely to provide services and support for veterans and activities associated with the RSA and its role.

Kevin Arlidge  
WRSA President

## LAST POST

- Christopher John Nevill, Returned Member, died 20 February 2024 aged 95
- Bruce Whyte Diggle, Returned Member, died 14 May 2024, aged 96
- William John Clarke, Returned Member, died 25 June 2024, aged 97
- Bruce Craig, Service Member, died 26 June 2024, aged 80
- Patricia (Pat) Pearl Tie, Service Member, died 30 July 2024, aged 99

The late K Force vet Bruce Diggle as seen during his Tour of Duty in Korea with a building constructed partly out of beer tins and during a filmed 2019 interview. This is available to watch on Youtube once you put in Bruce Diggle in the search guide.





After returning to New Zealand by air on 7 September, Chris was discharged on 6 November 1952, having completed his military obligations. The Battle of Kapyong did however have one lasting effect on his life and that was his loss of hearing.

Chris returned to shepherding near Fielding after Korea and after saving up, bought the first of several farms. Later he sold two and went to Europe on an OE, where for the next several years he got around in a VW van. Upon returning in the 1960's with his newly married European wife, he got involved in several rural committees, before moving to Wellington in the early 1970's.

Chris was never one to stay still and being a keen walker went on some of the great walks around NZ including the Milford Track, while being a lover of cryptic crosswords, a big interest in the share market, books, paintings, and wine. He also became a bilge master for the floating crane, the *Hikitia*.

Part of his work on the self-propelled floating crane was to go underneath the lowest part underneath the anchors, where he could clean and check for leaks. The confined space was the most dangerous job on board the crane, but for Chris, he typically went about his work in a modest fashion, to the admiration of his work colleagues.

In 2011, Chris joined the Wellington RSA and within a short time later went onto the executive. Welfare was his specialist area and on Poppy Days, Chris's designated area outside Wellington Hospital, would usually bring in the biggest donation amounts. In 2021, he was awarded a Life Membership of the Wellington RSA.

He continued to attend monthly luncheons, Christmas functions and Anzac dawn services, before a change in health in his last couple of months saw him move away from his beloved Roseneath home into the Sprott Retirement Village in Karori where he passed away peacefully aged 95.

The past Wellington RSA President Theo Kuper delivered a eulogy at Chris's funeral, which addressed him as being the epitome of what the RSA stands for: Compassion for others along with Comradeship, Courage and Commitment.

Theo further noted that Chris loved to engage with others, and he cherished his friendship with his former K (Korea) Force colleagues for the over 70 years since he left the NZ Army. As a result, he attended many Korea War commemoration services at the Pukeahu War Memorial Park and even went back to South Korea on one occasion.

When it came to the annual Poppy Day appeal, Chris would demand to be allocated the entrance to the Wellington Regional Hospital, where he would successfully entice visitors and staff to contribute generously. As a result, Chris was proud of the fact that he was consistently the highest individual Poppy Day collector in the Wellington CBD.

The media cottoned on to Chris, resulting in him being in both the *Dominion Post* (now *The Post*) and on the TV1 news.



Chris talking to a South Korean Army Officer during a 2017 luncheon



Chris talks to NZ Victoria Cross holder Willie Apiata following an Anzac Dawn Service; A proud RSA member: Chris holds up his Wellington RSA Life Membership certificate and at the start of the 2021 Anzac Day dawn service at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

## MICHELLE'S MESSAGE



Kay and I continue to support many members both in their own homes and those who are now in rest homes or retirement villages.

Support varies from regular visiting to assistance with welfare matters, transportation to health appointments or assisting with advocacy and liaising with other agencies to get the appropriate support where needed.

I still hold a fortnightly hub at the Trentham Army Camp to offer RSA support and advice to current serving personnel and their families. I continue to work part time with the RNZRSA with the Veterans Employment Scheme and this programme will be funded until the end of 2024. The scheme has been going just over a year and produced good results, including nearly 100 people helped into employment.

From July, there has been changes to who can access VIP services through Veterans Affairs. The Discretionary Veterans' Independence Programme (VIP) services are available to veterans.

- That do have qualifying service
- Who do not have service-related illness
- Who are 80 or over (as of 1 July 2024) or have a terminal illness (previously this was 90).

These changes do not affect those who are already receiving VIP services.

In the next few weeks, I will be sending out a survey to all our members, either via email or in the post. This will be a small survey that will help me identify those members who are looking for further support or advice. I will also be asking in the survey if you wish to update your Next of Kin details for our database. This insures we have an update alternative contact in case we need one. I would appreciate your support in completing this.

Please contact me if you have any questions about welfare matters, medical claims or general enquiries. You can email me on [michelle@wrsa.org.nz](mailto:michelle@wrsa.org.nz) or ring through to the office on 04 385 1191, or directly on my cell phone of 021 1936 261. Zenetta is in the office from Mondays to Thursdays from 10am until 2.30pm and can also assist with enquiries and medical claims.

Michelle Tebbutt  
Support Advisor

## RSA 2030

The RSA National Office and the RNZRSA board are continuing their work on RSA 2030 and a new constitution for the RNZRSA. The RNZRSA Chairman, Maj Gen (Retired) Martyn Dunne, has spent quite a bit of time briefing RSA District forums on proposed changes to RSA governance and RSA 2030. These meetings have been reinforced at national council workshops, which has also involved the Wellington RSA.

Under RSA 2030, each RSA will still be an independent incorporated society. Poppy funds will not be centralised. The changes to the Board are designed to clarify organisational arrangements and strengthen representation of Associations at Board level. The President's Forum will remain. The legal requirements of the new Incorporated Societies Act will be included in changes to the RNZRSA constitution, and the text of the model constitution has been simplified.

RSA's received copies of the proposed new constitution and supporting documents in early July. The Wellington RSA attended a constitution workshop in July at the Lower Hutt RSA.

RSA 2030 will be based on the RSA's three core tasks: Remembrance, Support for Veterans and Advocacy for Veterans and Service personnel. Your WRSA Executive will keep members up to date through our website and future newsletters.

## SHOWING THE AGE SCALE



When it comes to Poppy Day, the Karori RSA uses people of all ages to assist: From 10-year-old Brownies, to the remarkable 106-year-old WWII WAAF, Noeline Ritson



## Bank of New Zealand War Memorial Re-Dedication



The day before Anzac Day was held, a small ceremony was held inside the new BNZ building to re-dedicate the BNZ War Memorial, which honours staff from New Zealand, Melbourne and the London offices, who were killed in both World Wars.

Originally located at the BNZ's Head Office on the corner of Willis St and Lambton Quay, the plaques have moved several times following various relocations.

In 2018, it was discovered that two additional names should be included on the World War Memorial. They now sit as a result along side other BNZ officers.

BNZ National Facilities Manager, Wing Commander (Retired) Logan Cudby acted as the Master of Ceremonies, while the Wellington RSA President, Kevin Arlidge (pictured) delivered the Ode, before laying a wreath at the ceremony.



Due to the high winds that buffeted Wellington on Anzac Day, the Karori RSA was forced to change their outdoor service at Ben Burn Park into their own clubrooms.

## Visit by Mont Dore Veterans Association of New Caledonia



The Wellington RSA had the pleasure of hosting a 22-person contingent from the Mont Dore Veterans Association of New Caledonia during Anzac Day week.

The contingent included eleven French Army veterans, who now reside in New Caledonia. The group started its week with a visit to Te Papa, which included a tour of the well-known Gallipoli exhibition. The rest of the week included lunch at the RNZRSA national office, a visit to the Karori cemetery to pay their respects to a French Polynesian soldier's war grave and a reception at the French Ambassador's residence.

The contingent then joined us for the Anzac Day Dawn service at Pukeahu, followed by the Civic Service at the Wellington Cenotaph. The NZ military has a special relationship with New Caledonia, as it was where the 3<sup>rd</sup> NZEF was established during WWII, before deploying to the Solomon Islands. 9 Squadron (General Reconnaissance), RNZAF, was based in New Caledonia as were elements of the RNZN. 200 NZ servicemen are buried in the Bourail Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Bourail, New Caledonia.

## LOOKING BACK – CHRIS SELLEY



Every Anzac Day, Chris Selley, plays an important part during services with the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille on the trumpet. More than 40 years ago, Chris began his involvement in the British Army, and after coming to New Zealand in the late 1980's, more involvement as a Territorial Force bandsman. Bulletin editor Carey Clements, caught up with Chris during a quiet, rainy day inside the Karori RSA, to find out more of his military background.

**Q: What area of England are you originally from**

A: I was born in Bristol but once my father left the Army, we moved around a lot as he was a rep for Guinness. I went to a boarding school in Lancashire for seven or so years, but the family are historically from Devon.

**Q: Tell me a bit about your father's involvement in the Army.**

A: My father was in the Royal Artillery. He started off in Dorset, but they advised him to get a Commission, and from that point he had a number of roles inside the artillery. He played a lot of sport and represented the Army and Combined Services in rugby, hockey and cricket from the late 1940's to the early 1960's. He also played hockey for England in the midfield. In the artillery, he started off with the 25 pounders before then going onto non guided missiles. My mother was also in the Women's Royal Army Corps.

**Q: Did he go to Korea**

A: No, but he did go to Suez at the time of the crisis there in 1956. He never spoke of what his involvement was there, however.

**Q: Did your mother also receive a commission in the Army?**

A: Yes, she was involved in a lot of admin and met my father at the garrison town of Larkhill.

**Q: Where did your love of music come from**

A: My mother's mother was a concert pianist and all three of my younger sisters were really good musicians. There was a generation gap with my parents. The school I went to meant that when you turned 13, everyone had to learn to play an instrument. This meant you had to go into different instrument rooms and trial out. Earlier I heard Louis Armstrong and decided that if I have to learn an instrument, I want to learn the trumpet like Louis Armstrong. I knew how to play a bugle because a friend of mine had one as a result of being the son of an Army Officer. So, I learned how to play one at his place. So, when it came to these trials about learning to play an instrument, I deliberately played badly on all the instruments, until I got to the trumpet. So, when it came to play, I impressed them straight away from my earlier experience on the bugle. So, I kind of conned my way into learning the trumpet and what also helped was I knew how to read music from playing the recorder earlier on.

**Q: Can you explain to me what the difference is between a bugle and a cornet**

A: A cornet has valves like a squashed-up version of a trumpet. But the bugle does not have valves, although to confuse that, in the US, they do have bugles that have valves. Both of them have the same playing range. Bugles just have the harmonics which is all you need for military calls.

**Q: Was there a cadet unit at your school?**

A: Yes, I spent three years in one and ended up a Corporal. I was in the school shooting team, which had Lee Enfield's number 4. Occasionally they would bring in a Bren for a zap as well.

**Q: What year did you finish secondary school**

A: I finished at Stonyhurst in 1980 after my O levels and then started my A levels in South London. I was playing trumpet in one of the school's jazz bands, but wanted to go into the military so thought maybe I can combine music and the military together. Nearby from the school was a recruiting office, from there I expressed my desire to take up music and straight away this was received well.





I was then asked what regiment I was interested in joining and knowing that the Royal Artillery had a band as a result of my father, the recruiting Officer then phoned something like the Sergeant Major of the band. I was then advised there were no positions for cornet players, but I happened to know that the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal Green Jackets were after a cornet player. So, told him that I could go for an audition. A week or so later he drove me down to Hounslow where the Green Jackets were. It turned out, this recruiting Officer had been involved with the band, so of course he was recruiting for them.

From there I auditioned, followed by rehearsals, and had lunch with them. One of the French horn players told me I was nuts to join, as knowing I was bright; I should join the pay corps and within five years would be a Sergeant. So in some ways he tried to put me off joining. In the afternoon they had a marching display rehearsal. It was the first time I had seen the Royal Green Jackets in a marching band and saw that it was done at a quick pace and that made it even more interesting. From there I did Army entry tests and a physical. In October that year I went to Winchester and joined 9 Platoon.

Although I was used to marching from my cadet days, I found the Green Jackets do their drill differently and that things are done under the one command and whatever movement you did, you would stand at ease at the end.

When I joined the Battalion at Hounslow I had a month there before doing 18 months in Aldergrove in Northern Ireland, between 1981 and 1983.

**Q: That period was during the Falklands War**

A: Yes. Had we not swapped postings with the Scots Guards who were in Aldergrove and then went to Hounslow, we would have been in the Falklands.

**Q: So, a personal regret that you never made it to the Falklands**

A: No because we got there in 1984 as the resident Battalion. This was for six months beginning around the Christmas-New Year period. You could not go wandering around because there were still mine fields everywhere and wreckage from aircraft.

**Q: How did you find living in the Falklands because it is such an isolated place...**

A: It is. But it was not too bad as it was summer. We went into West Falklands for R & R, they had kayaks etc.. A funny story comes from the time we were in Goose Green, we flew in a Chinook helicopter to where soldiers in a company or platoon size were based. (We were doing a retreat ceremony with locals and dignitaries). When we landed, and as the ramp came down, we started playing.

**Q: Was your job mainly to restore some morale back on the locals with the music?**

A: Yes. At that stage they had not restored the runway at the airport, which is why you had to bring ships in. But by then RAF Phantom jets were based there and while we were at Goose Green, we observed the Valley Run, which is low level flying. They were so low; it was almost like you could touch these Phantoms as they roared overhead.

**Q: I know this is a tough topic to cover, but can we talk about what happened to you at Regent's Park in July 1982...**

A: My unit went from Northern Ireland to the UK to play at Regent's Park. We were based in Winchester, so we were scheduled to play at one or two passing out parades of companies going through. It was like a musical tour coming away from Ireland.

So the day we were at Regent's Park, there were two bombings. One was a car bomb by Hyde Park and the bomb intended for us was underneath the grandstand. They reckon it was planted weeks earlier and set on a timer. The first bomb that got the horses at Hyde Park was by a remote.





We heard about the first bomb as we were going in on the coach. It was something like an hour before we got on the bandstand.

We were unaware of any signs of trouble, but in the early 1980's it was still ongoing in Northern Ireland. So, you had to be on your toes. We were encouraged not to have military haircuts because you did not want to look like military, otherwise you could be become a target.

**Q: So, what happened at the time you were travelling on the coach into London...**

**A: We just travelled ahead as normal. At the time the second bomb went off we were playing a selection from the musical, *Oliver!***

One of my contemporaries remembers on what word the bomb went off, but that was a coincidence because as I say the bomb was on a timer. I can remember thinking what is the kettle drummer doing and then nothing happened, followed by going up in the air. You don't hear a bang. It's more like a woomf, then bing, followed by ringing. This followed by pressure waves, so much so that the eardrums became perforated.

It's the pressure waves that do the damage. You will hear a bang if you are further away, but if you are sitting on top of it, you don't. The pressure gets to you before you hear any sound. And so without being able to see anything I just tumbled over the side of the bandstand and was helped off by some old ladies. It took me a while to get my sense of orientation again.

It was hard to stand up as my head felt like it was spinning around and then when I got back, those that were on the outside of the bandstand were responsible for shifting bodies, covering them with blankets and so on. I did not see some of the stuff that they would have seen, so that would have affected them more.

**Q: Has that caused tinnitus in your ears**

**A: Yes, I have had it ever since that day.**

**Q: Did you sustain any other injuries that day**

**A: I had some small shrapnel to my left side. I was lucky because a mate next to me had a bit more, so in effect I was shielded by him and after he fell back to earth, he landed in the crater.**

The majority of those seven that were killed, were next to him. It was a wooden stage, so weeks before, they had sawed through, placed the thing underneath, put it back up and covered with paint, glue or whatever, so you could not see what had been done.

So, I think that's why the bomb went up vertically as opposed to horizontally. So, it was in effect funnelled up towards those besides my mate. They were right on top of it.

**Q: Were any of the seven that were killed that day, members of the horn section**

**A: They were the euphonium players, the French horn players, one of the percussionists and a clarinet player. There was a story later that there was another device planted, but it did not go off, but that may well have been a rumour as I never heard anything official about it. I did not go back to Northern Ireland straight away as I went back to the Winchester depot to work in the Officer's Mess.**

I got a call from the RSM of the Depot asking if I could go to London where there was a British legion doing a charity for raising funds for those that were injured at the Falklands and both bombings.

**Q: Did you spend much time in hospital**

**A: No, other than going to the hospital and having my wounds dressed. I did not need any more hospitalisation, but a lot of the guys did.**

Each year on July 20<sup>th</sup> at Regent's Park the survivors and families gather for a memorial service. The Royal Green Jackets Association have their event on the Sunday closest to the date.

*Q: Does the raw emotion of it all still affect you*

A: No, just a quiet reflection. You try to not let it get to you otherwise it will be a win to the IRA.

*Q: Let's talk about coming to New Zealand. When did that happen*

A: I left the Green Jackets in 1986 and came to New Zealand in 1989 after I had met my soon to be Kiwi wife while she was in England doing her OE.

*Q: Did you try and join a band straight after you came to Wellington*

A: One of the mates of a workplace colleague was John Hinton, of the 7<sup>th</sup> Wellington and Hawkes Bay Battalion band. He suggested we hook up and after meeting John at a pub, I went to a band rehearsal and signed up within a matter of weeks.

*Q: How different was the 7 Battalion band compared to the one you played for in England*

A: Obviously the Green Jacket band was professional and full timers. 7 Battalion was part timers, but nevertheless there were characters that reminded me of people I knew back in England. It was a fun observation. The Green Jacket go on Sounding the Retreat with bugles, whereas here it is Beating the Retreat on drums. I ended up doing 20 years with 7 Battalion and finished up as a Sergeant.

Chris (middle) and fellow Karori RSA member David de Miranda receive Anzac Day biscuits from 9 year old Emily Allen in this year's Anzac Day.



## WELLINGTON RSA LUNCHEON PHOTOS – SOUTHERN CROSS BAR RESTAURANT 23 JULY



## 71 YEAR COMMEMORATION MARKING THE END OF THE KOREAN WAR



Since 1993, Otaki School has held an annual commemoration to mark the end of the Korean War on 26 July. This year four K Force vets, including Wellington RSA Life Member Phil Wallace, travelled to Otaki to mark the event. Phil can be seen shaking hands with the Korean Ambassador to New Zealand, his Excellency, Changsik Kim.

## WRSO KEY CONTACTS

President:

Kevin Arlidge 029 268 3509

Office Administrator:

Zenetta Ganic 04 385 1191

Support Advisor:

Michelle Tebbutt: 021 1936 261

Karori RSA President:

Bruce Johnston 04 977 6007

Bulletin Editor:

Carey Clements 021 073 4133

WELLINGTON RSA Office Address: Level 9, Technology One House, 86 Victoria St, Wellington.

KARORI RSA: 27a Campbell St, Karori  
Open Fridays 7.30pm – 10.00pm.

## KARORI RSA AGM NOTIFICATION

The Karori RSA AGM is to be held inside its Campbell Street clubrooms on Sunday 15 September 2024, starting at 2.00pm. Any current or new members are most welcome to attend.