

# ANZAC DAY

*LEST WE FORGET*



**Dawn Service:** ANZAC bus will be leaving for the Cenotaph from outside the RSA office in the HWMC car park 47 Commerce St at 0520 There will also be some seats available on vans for those wishing to march from Victoria St. These will be returning at 0650 for breakfast (\$20)  
Please advise the office on **07 839 4928** if you wish to take the bus or van

**Civic Service:** Vans will leave for the Cenotaph from the Hamilton Workingmen's Club at 0930 and returning after the service at Approx. 1115



# RSA

## Hamilton April 2026

### FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2026, I trust you had a reasonable break over the Christmas period, and the New Year looks very promising for you and your families.

The next couple of months are our 'busy season' with the poppy day appeal on Friday 17 April so look out for our amazing volunteers who spend most of the day outside at several locations, like supermarkets, malls and large businesses around Hamilton collecting donations and passing on a poppy for you to wear proudly. Also keep an eye out for our Poppy boxes on counters in a large number of businesses throughout Hamilton and surrounding districts who support us.

The 111<sup>th</sup> commemoration of ANZAC will be taking place on Saturday 25 April. With the Dawn Service at 0600 and the Civic Service at 1000. Being a Saturday, we are expecting a large turn out this year.

Although this year marks the 111th anniversary of ANZAC day it also marks the 110<sup>th</sup> year of the RSA. In 1916 The RSA was established to provide support, comfort and welfare for returning servicemen and service woman and their families. It was formed to care for wounded soldiers returning from the Gallipoli campaign, offering support for medical needs, funeral grants and housing. The RSA aimed to provide a supportive environment for veterans to connect with others who understood their experience, fostering the "ANZAC spirit" of courage, commitment, and comradeship.

Some would say that the RSA has passed its prime. Not so. Yes, there are no surviving members that did us proud in WW1 and very few now from WW2, but what about Korea, Vietnam and later in East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq to name but a few. For all of those who served either home or abroad please remember you are not invisible and your service is valued. The RNZRSA considers all who served as being a Veteran. We must return to our core values and to the purpose we were founded on. It is time to step up, step forward and be a voice for those who feel unseen.

### **WHEN VETERANS STAND TOGETHER, WE HONOUR THE PAST, AND WE ALSO SHAPE THE FUTURE**

See you all on ANZAC day at either the Dawn or Civic service, or down at the Hamilton Workingmen's Club for breakfast and a tot of rum at 0700.

## A huge thank you to our sponsors

### Glenice & John Gallagher Foundation Trust



www.rfmentalcars.co.nz  
Rusakura Research Centre, Rusakura Rd  
Private Bag 3123, Hamilton 3214, New Zealand  
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## **A message from your President**

Kia Ora and greetings to you all. We are facing a very busy time of the year with our annual Poppy Appeal fast approaching and then of course we are in final planning for ANZAC Day commemorations in April. We should take a moment to acknowledge and remember those who have passed since December. Spare a moment to reflect on those that we knew as a friend, a loved one, a work mate or one whom we served with. May we acknowledge their contribution to this world and the lives that we lived, in their company. Ka maumahara tonu tatou, kia ratou. We will remember them. Let's recap on some of the happenings since our last December newsletter. Our office has had a freshen up with new paint and some of our office furnishings will be renewed as we have funds to do so. The Workingmen's Club have kindly allocated us the back office behind Helen which we intend to use as a general office space and meeting room for committee and Support Advisors. New donated carpet has been laid in this room. Thank you to Lance Langley for organising that. The RSA subscription year has changed and there will be an email in your inbox explaining this. The other thing we have introduced is a drop box which is to the right of the main office door, in the wall. You can pay your subs by dropping your old card in an envelope with your subs or write your name and member number on an envelope including your subs. Helen will then process your subs and have your new card available. There is an extra cost if you wish to have your new card mailed to you. Reminder, we cannot process payments by Eftpos. Thank you to Helen, who continues to toil with all the administration responsibilities. Thank you for the work you do Helen. Our Support Advisors: Ian Foster, Lance Langley, Jan Luttrell and Tony Wright who continue to do fantastic work in assisting our veterans and their families. Our RSA Poppy Trust, chaired by Murray Deed, provide financial support as required and this is well appreciated by all who receive this support. If you know of a veteran or a family out there who is struggling, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the office, in the first instance. The issue will be passed on to a Support Advisor for appropriate action. Be assured that all requests for help are handled in strict confidence. On Friday 27th February, the RNZRSA and our local office had a stall at the Veterans Affairs Forum held at the Claudelands Event Centre. It was also great to sit alongside other allied organisations who were there for our vets, Sisters in Arms, The Vietnam Vets, The NZ Artillery Museum and others. There were 250 veterans who registered for the forum but there were many more who just turned up on the day. The buzz in the room was amazing.

We all know that the cost of basic commodities is very expensive now and this means that more organisations and charities such as the RSA, have greater competition for that discretionary dollar. This means that we are seeing more and more businesses and community-based organisations closing their doors. This is always sad to witness and of course that also means that someone or some group are going to have to go without, as a result. There are a number of RSA's who are finding the going tough, either the consequence of location and competition with other hospitality outlets, poor management or because of a lack of member support who don't utilize the facility. We in the Hamilton RSA don't necessarily have those same concerns as we have a very good association with the Hamilton Workingmen's Club and have access to the excellent facilities that they provide for

members. HWMC membership subscriptions are still very reasonable, and they offer good value with a variety of social activities and a range of different sub clubs that cater for most interests. If you have a function coming up or are just wanting to enjoy an evening out, then consider coming on down to the club. There is a courtesy coach available. I just want to close off now by saying that you will be seeing more publicity around our annual Poppy Appeal in April and of course our two ANZAC services on the 25th. On ANZAC Day, we will be providing a bus that will leave from the office for those who require a ride to the Cenotaph and then again returning after the service. We will also have vans leaving from the office for both services for those that would like to march from Victoria Street to the Cenotaph. More detail will be sent out closer to the day. We are very keen for veterans, their partners and families to join us in the Workingmen's Club in Commerce Street Frankton following both the Dawn and the Civic services. We are going to do something different and special this year following the Dawn service. We would like to invite veterans to gather at the flagpole following the Dawn service at 0655 in the car park, where we will raise the flag and then have a piper lead us into the club. Families and friends can then follow. There will be a tot available at the bar and a hot breakfast can be purchased for \$20.00. The morning will be a chance to mix and mingle, tell stories and catch up with old friends. Entertainment will follow at 1100hrs and carry on into the afternoon. The RSA has been granted ANZAC week to sell meat raffles. The raffles run on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening from 1600hrs in the club.

Take care out there and thank you all for your ongoing support.

***Bruce Gillespie President Hamilton RSA***



## Last Post

Dennis **Griffin** 210685 Army Malaya/Vietnam

Kenneth **Meyer** 623537 Army CMT 13<sup>th</sup> Intake

John Morris **Bluck** 301236 RNZAF

# Thankyou



A huge thank you for all of those who knitted, weaved  
and crochet a scarf for a Veteran. We have received over 60

Please keep them coming

## Save the date

### Hamilton Civic Choir 2026 Concert Season

2026 CONCERT ONE

# Kia Maumahara

*Songs of Remembrance*

Conducted By: Elise Bradley MNZM

**SATURDAY 25th APRIL, 2026, at 7:30 PM**

**ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL,**  
**HAMILTON**

Angela Edmeades Smith - Lest We Forget  
David Hamilton - A Song Of Remembrance  
Janet Jennings - A Generation Lost in Legend

Hamilton Civic Choir 80th Anniversary

# FYI

## **Your Subs are due March 31, 2026**

At our 2025 AGM a resolution was passed to change our financial year **from** 1 April-31 March **to** 1 July-30 June. Upon payment of your membership of **\$35.00** this year, your membership will extend from **1 April 2026 to 30 June 2027**.

*You may direct credit payment to our Westpac bank account:*

*The Hamilton Returned and Services Association (Inc) **03 0306 0201470 00***

*You can trust this name and account number if your bank queries it is ours.*

**Please put your name and or your RSA membership number as references.** If you are paying the RSA office by cash, please have the cash with you as we do not have Eftpos.

If you would like your card posted out, please ADD the \$2.90 to your payment for postage, otherwise once payment has been received, your card will be held at the RSA office, 47 Commerce Street, Hamilton for collection during opening hours 10.00am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Friday.

After hours you can put your expired card and payment in an envelope into the RSA mail box just to the right of the RSA office front ranch slider door. It will be processed the next business day and held for you to collect.

## Milestones



**Congratulations Sylvie on your 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



**Congratulations Des on your 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**HCCU and TS Waikato**

Newsletter #5 Term 1 - 2026



**Welcome back everyone to Term 1**

Here at Hamilton City Cadets and TS Waikato, we hope you are feeling well-rested, refreshed and geared up for an exciting year ahead. A brand-new year means new challenges, plenty of fun, unforgettable adventures, a Navy Regatta to be won, Army Skill competition streak to win, personal achievements and everything in between.

Let's make 2026 a fantastic year for learning, growth, teamwork and memories. We cannot wait to see what we will accomplish together.

Here's to a great year ahead!



**SGT Kemps and CPL Sisson attended the Land Immersion Course – January 2026**

CPL Sisson: "The Land Immersion course really deepened my understanding of the Defence Force and overall. It was an amazing week with all the activities we got up to which was a very unique and special experience. Whether it was handling all the weapons to the Defence Force or just living in their barracks on base, this really immersed me in of the life of someone serving in the Defence Force."



**Exciting News from HCCU and Training Ship Waikato**



We are proud to announce that we now have our **very own Challenge Coins** – a special way to celebrate our unity, pride, and achievements. Coins are available for **\$25 each**.

We also have **new T-shirts** for both our **Army and Navy Cadets!**

- **Current cadets** will purchase one for **\$20**, replacing the existing Cadet Forces T-shirt.
- **New recruits** will receive the new shirt as part of their issue, replacing the old style.
- T-shirts to be worn with black shorts when not in uniform.

**What is a challenge coin?**

In the military, a Challenge Coin is a small, custom medallion that represents a unit, achievement, or event. It is a proud symbol of belonging and camaraderie, often awarded to recognise effort, commitment, or success. Tradition says you should always carry your coin, and during a "coin check," members tap their coin on the table to show they are part of the team!

If you would like to purchase a coin to swap with other units, add to your personal collection, or exchange with overseas cadets, please see the costs and bank account details for each Corps below.

You can email the Unit Support Committee at: [ujc@hccu.nz](mailto:ujc@hccu.nz)

Cost per coin: **\$25** (plus any shipping expenses – if applicable).

**Bank Details:**

Navy Coins: **TS WAIKATO SUPPORT GROUP 38-9026-0761677-01**

Army Coins: **HCCU SUPPORT GROUP 38-9002-0042280-00**

**Promotions**

In Term 4 2025, we celebrated some fantastic achievements at our End of Year Parade, with promotions across both Corps. Congratulations to everyone!

These new leaders are stepping into higher ranks, ready to drive us forward with fresh energy, confidence and leadership strengths. Let's support them as they take on these exciting new responsibilities.

For those who may feel disappointed about not receiving a promotion this time, please don't be discouraged. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, you are all being watched, valued and supported.

Keep giving your best, stay committed and look ahead to Term 2 ... this could be your moment to shine.

Well done to all of you, keep striving, growing and believing in yourselves.

**NEW ZEALAND CADET FORCES  
CADETS  
RANK EQUIVALENCE**



**Army**

- CDT Hobbs to LCPL
- LCPL Sisson to CPL
- LCPL Mitchell to CPL
- LCPL Runciman to CPL
- CPL Read to SGT
- SGT Sommerville to SSGT

**Navy**

- ACDDT Beere to LCDT
- LCDT Bannister to PO
- CPO Fisher to WO

## Term 1 Activities 2026

Activity	Army	Navy	ALL	Dates of Activity
Ex Ngarimu (NCO's only)		A & N		Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb
Ex Saunders I		N		Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb
Ex Apiata (Skills)		A		Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar
Ex Saunders II		N		Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar
Northern Area SCC Regatta		N		6 <sup>th</sup> Mar – 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Ex Sivern		A		Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Balloons over Waikato (BOW) – Fundraiser	A & N Parents/Caregivers			Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar
APL Fundraiser	A & N Parents/Caregivers			Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar
Northern Area Battalion Shoot		A		Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar
BCT Camp (Navy Recruits Basic Training)		N		Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar
<b>ACTIVITIES DURING TERM BREAK</b>				
<b>NCO'S ONLY</b> Ask before applying.	JNCO's & SNCO's Course			Thur 9 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Poppy Day		A & N		Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Apr
National SCC Regatta		N		Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr

## "Sneak Peek" of the start of Term 2 Activities 2026

Activity	Army	Navy	All	Dates of Activity
St Kilda		A & N		Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Op ANZAC		A & N		Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Ex Upham I (Army Recruits Basic Training)		A		Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> – Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
Ex Upham Graduation		A & N		Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
Ex Hinton		A & N		Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> May
Ex Kaimai		TBC		Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> May
Ex Apiata (Skills)		A		Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Jun
Ex Apiata (Skills Shoot)		A		Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jun

## Changes to Term 1, 2026

Everyone at HCCU & TS Waikato Staff, parents and USC would like to say a huge thank you to Krystal Calder for her incredible hard work, dedication and leadership as Chairperson of the Unit Support Committee. We are grateful for everything you have given to our Unit and community.

While the USC are sad to see Krystal step down from the Chairperson role, we on the staff side welcome Krystal to her new exciting chapter, by putting on the uniform and joining the unit on the Army Cadet side.

A new Chairperson will be appointed at our upcoming AGM, and we look forward to continuing to grow and thrive together.



Every Wednesday at 1800 at the Hamilton Workingmens Club we recite the Ode of Remembrance. We were very fortunate to have 3 of our cadet forces join us and recite the Ode. From left to right, President of the Hamilton RSA Bruce Gillespie, RSA committee member Diane Raffan, **Cdt Sgt Maz Reid (Army)**, **Cdt Cpl Kohner Olsen (Airforce)**, **Leading Cdt Hayden Beere (Navy)**, Manager HWMC Nathan Hartley, and Vice President of the Hamilton RSA Lance Langley



# WAIKATO ARTILLERY



## MUSEUM

Artillery on Show

Saturday 18th April

9am - 4pm

105mm LS Howitzer

Firing at 1pm

Sales, Stalls,  
Souvenirs,  
Coffee Cart  
on site,  
Sausage sizzle



Adult's \$10  
Child \$5  
Family \$25

502 Tauhei rd, Mangateparu  
(near Morrinsville)  
Phone Jack 021 075 2885



# FOR THE FALLEN



**FRIDAY 17 APRIL  
7:00PM**



**TUATARA**  
*Collective*

**2026 TOUR**

**MORRINSVILLE  
RSA**

27 Studholme Street  
Ph: (07) 889 7014

[admin@morrinsvillrsa.co.nz](mailto:admin@morrinsvillrsa.co.nz)

**BOOKINGS  
ARE ESSENTIAL**

[www.tuataracollective.com](http://www.tuataracollective.com)

**Tickets At  
Morrinsville RSA.  
\$15 pp**



**creative**  
COMMUNITIES *nz*



## **Introduction to Qualifying Service**

**FYI. Here is what can be found on the Veterans affairs Web site.**

*Qualifying Operational Service is a term used to describe service that has been carried out in areas that have been assessed as having environmental or operational risks to Defence Force personnel that is significantly greater than those of peacetime activities*

*There are two types of Qualifying Service:*

- Qualifying Routine Service*
- Qualifying Operational Service.*

*You don't need both types of Qualifying Service to get support. Either type will give you eligibility.*

*The support you can get depends on your unique service, including:*

- where you served or when you served.*

*You will also need to meet the individual requirements for each service or entitlement.*

### **Qualifying Operational Service**

*You will have Qualifying Operational Service if you have deployed to an area that has been declared as Qualifying Operational Service.*

### **How Qualifying Operational Service is determined**

*An operation is determined "eligible" based on its assessed threat level.*

*1. After the decision to deploy has been made, the Chief of Defence Force must give a report to the Minister for Veterans as soon as possible. This report assesses the operational and environmental threats to deployed personnel. Deployments that have already ended can also be reviewed.*

*2. The Minister for Veterans decides if there is a significant risk of harm to deployed personnel.*

*3. The Minister for Veterans declares the operation as Qualifying Operational Service if it meets the threat threshold. This declaration is published on the Veterans' Affairs website.*

*If you don't have Qualifying Operational Service — and didn't serve before 1 April 1974 — you are likely not eligible for support from Veterans Affairs.*

*There is a chance that you have deployed on an operation that has yet to be declared as Qualifying Operational Service. Check the Veterans Affairs web site.*

*If you served before 1 April 1974 — regardless of where — you will have Qualifying Routine Service.*

### **Qualifying Routine Service**

*You will have Qualifying Routine Service if you served in the NZ Armed Forces before 1 April 1974 — either in New Zealand or overseas.*

*Qualifying Routine Service recognizes that before 1 April 1974, service members were not covered for work-related injuries or illnesses. Because of this, we provide support to all those that served in the NZ Armed Forces during this time.*

*Qualifying Routine Service stopped on 1 April 1974 with the introduction of ACC. Since that date, ACC provides support for all New Zealanders who suffer work-related injuries or illnesses. This coverage extends to members of the NZ Defence Force or NZ Armed Forces.*