

Douglas Reid

100!



ANZAC DAY 2022

Avondale digger turns 100!



RSA



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Returned Serviceman Associations

The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association, best known simply as the RSA, is one of the largest voluntary welfare organisations in New Zealand and one of the oldest ex-service organisations in the world.

Wounded soldiers returning from the Gallipoli Campaign founded the organisation in 1916. What was needed then was a place for them to meet, talk and socialise.

The Welfare Trusts were set up and run from within these RSAs and money collected from Poppy Appeals was dispersed to needy veterans.

The RSA received royal patronage in 1920. The RNZRSA celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2016.

Remembrance plays a special part in the life of the RSA. A moment of silence is generally observed daily at RSA club rooms in memory of comrades. On ANZAC Day and on other special anniversaries, local RSAs play a significant part in wreath-laying ceremonies of remembrance.

The "local RSA" is a well-known meeting place or restaurant where anyone is welcome.

THE ODE

As a mark of respect for the fallen, the Ode is recited at all New Zealand RSAs.

The Ode is recited at the Avondale RSA nightly at 7pm. When this happens, the lights are turned off and we ask you to be upstanding and face the nearest torch of remembrance (they are orange in colour and mounted on the walls and remain on during the Ode). Please stand still and quiet for these few minutes.



**They shall grow not old
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them.
Lest we forget.**



**Get the kids
to colour in**

Provided by The Airforce Museum

WHAT IS ANZAC DAY?

ANZAC Day is a National Day of Remembrance in Australia and New Zealand.

In December 1914, during preparations for the invasion of Gallipoli, in what is now Turkey, the New Zealand Expeditionary Force contingents were grouped together for the first time as the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). Together, they provided almost half of the total number of troops in the Allied Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF). From this point on, all combined Australian and New Zealand forces came to be known as "ANZACs."

On 25 April 1915, Australians and New Zealanders landed together at Gallipoli, at a place later called ANZAC Cove. This date was adopted as our National Day of Remembrance for war dead in both countries. The first observance of Anzac Day in New Zealand took place in 1916.

At first, ANZAC Day honoured those who served in the Gallipoli Campaign. But ANZAC Day has grown to commemorate all our service men and women who have died in conflicts and peacekeeping operations, along with the contribution of those who continue to serve.



In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



POPPY APPEAL

In the Spring of 1915, fields of red poppies bloomed in the churned-up ground of the Flanders battlefields in Belgium. This sight inspired Canadian officer John McCrae to write the famous poem, "In Flanders Fields" and resulted in the red poppy becoming an internationally recognised symbol of remembrance.

Beginning in America in 1920, poppies were made and sold to raise funds for veterans.

The New Zealand RSA sold over 260,000 poppies for veterans'

welfare in the first ever poppy day for ANZAC Day 1922. This tradition has continued to this day, with the poppy now representing the sacrifice made by New Zealanders in all conflicts since World War One and in remembrance of those who continue to serve.

A Poppy Day street collection is held each year on the Friday before Anzac Day.

Funds raised go towards the RSA's vital support work, which can include financial support, advocacy, family days and access to a strong network of people who have been through similar experiences, to name a few.

By buying a poppy from a bona fide local collector, you can help to support Avondale's local veterans.

You can also place a Virtual Poppy at:

<https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>



AVONDALE RSA

Avondale RSA has been in operation since 1933, in a spirit of service and community which we still up-hold to this day. We are a friendly local RSA with great people, a great atmosphere and great prices.

We welcome all members and their guests and visitors from affiliated clubs. You do not have to be a member to visit the RSA, though we welcome and encourage membership for anyone over 18. We wish all members and guests an enjoyable time in our facilities.

The clubroom is located at 48 Rosebank Road, Avondale. There is onsite parking, a public carpark across the road, and a bus stop on both sides of the street outside the front door.

For all enquiries, call Manager, Bernie Thomsen on ph 828 5000 or email office@avondalersa.org.nz.

MEMORABILIA

Our memorabilia room holds an array of memorabilia items and books. This is situated downstairs, with items from all three branches of the services.



BAR & RESTAURANT

The bar is open from 12 noon until close, 7 days a week, with a wide range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments available.

Our Kai Ataahua restaurant has a fantastic menu with a great new chef. Check out Kai Ataahua on Facebook for our menu: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100072179814963>

Lunch Thurs & Fri from 12 noon

Dinner Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun from 5:30pm

For groups of 5+, we recommend you book a table. Please text or ring mb 021 0613080. Group bookings outside regular hours are welcome with prior arrangement.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Avondale RSA has regular entertainment for our members and their guests. There is a band every Friday night from 6.30pm (Dine & Dance). And Karaoke every Sunday from 5pm.

GAMING ROOM/TAB

We have a total of 22 gaming machines - come try your luck!

We have two self-service TAB machines on site (open during regular club trading hours), with two large-screen TVs allowing two different games to show at any one time. We also have five smaller teletext screens dedicated to racing, with fields and form guides so you'll feel like you're in the middle of the action!

We proactively support a responsible approach to gambling and harm minimisation.

MEETING SPACE

A meeting space is available free for small groups (10-20) conditions apply.

VENUE HIRE

Looking for a venue for your wedding, celebration, or other ceremony? RSA Avondale's function room is available for hire at low cost, and can host up to 120 people, or smaller sized groups.

Contact us for a walk through and quote on phone 828 5000.

SPORTS ROOM

Pool tables and dart boards make the sports room a welcoming area of the club. We also hold euchre events. Please contact the office on ph 828 5000 for enquiries.

CLUB SECTIONS

Indoor Bowls Every Thursday morning from 9.30am inside the Club rooms. New members are welcome to join, so don't hesitate to turn up and be included in this group.

8 Ball Read the Pool section notice board in the sports room for upcoming tournaments and RSA trophies etc. They are always on the lookout for new players and some competition.

Three Active Darts Sections

They are always on the lookout for new players. Contact Phil Kersey, pkersey4@gmail.com or Prim Rose qulanja.veigh@gmail.com.



Become a Member

We would love you to visit our club and become a member.

Membership is open to everyone over the age of 18 years, whether you have served in the armed forces or not.

Your membership card entitles you to discounted drinks at our bar, and at any RSA throughout the country. See the page 10 for the member benefits in Avondale.

Annual Membership Fees

Returned Senior	\$8
Returned Servicemen & Women	\$13
Servicemen & Women	\$25
Widows & Daughters of Returned Service Persons	\$25
Youth Membership (13-18 years)	\$10
Associate Membership	\$40

Looking to renew your membership? Membership expires 31 March each year. To renew your membership, see our bar staff, or Bernie or Pat in the office.

New Member Application Form

Mr / Miss / Mrs / Other

First Name (s) Last Name

Date of Birth

Address

..... Postcode

Phone Work Home Mobile

Email

Please return completed form with payment to
RSA Avondale | 48 Rosebank Road, Avondale

ANZAC Day 2022

**Members of the public are invited to join us
and attend the commemoration service**

Monday, 25 April 2022

- 7:30AM** **KAI ATAAHUA BREAKFAST**
Returned Persons & Serving Personnel (Sponsored)
Members & Visitors \$5
- 10:00AM** **SERVICE INSIDE CLUB ROOMS**
48 ROSEBANK ROAD, AVONDALE
- 11:00AM** **ENTERTAINMENT**
- 12 NOON** **LUNCH**
Members & Visitors \$15
Returned Persons & Serving Personnel, sponsored

- All tickets for breakfast & lunch will be on sale at the bar from the 20th April 2022.
- Tickets for Returned & Service will be issued on the day.
- Clubrooms open to the public all day.
- Entertainment will be from 11am to 3pm
- ANZAC Day Hours 7am to 9pm .



LEST WE FORGET

DOUG'S STORY

World War II recollections

The Second World War began in 1939. Initially, the minimum age for recruits was 21 years old. By the following year, recruit numbers had dropped and the government was forced to introduce conscriptions.

In 1941, Doug Reid received a government memorandum stating that anyone who had turned 19 in May and June of that year must join the forces - the Army, Airforce or Navy - with a view to joining the war. Three boys from the little village of Turua, south of Thames fitted the bill - Roy Olsen, Johnny Johnson and Doug.

How did you feel about it? How did your mum feel about it?

Not good. My brother was already overseas; he went over with the 6th Field Artillery.

I can't remember any feelings. The Government just said "do it." It was only if you were an essential industry worker that you could get out of it - milking cows, in the ammunition factories but we were in the Post Office Board, so we had no show.

We joined the territorials on 22nd December. We went to Hopuhopu Camp just north of Ngāruawāhia for training, and then, at 20, came to Papakura and joined the overseas forces.

They gave us training and an overseas number. I became a Vickers Gunner. It fired 300 rounds a minute.

So, the time came to get on the boat and head for Egypt. I had been recently married and my wife had just given birth. I got to spend just a few hours with my daughter.

The New Amsterdam was the boat; a beautiful ship. I had my 21st birthday six days out of Perth - not only me, all the boys of that reinforcement were of the same age, so we all turned 21 before we hit Egypt.

We did our time in the desert training and learning manoeuvres, but we were also able to see Cairo - the Sphinx and the Pyramids and have a ride on a camel.

It must have been in August that the whole of the New Zealand division marched 100 miles from Maadi Military Camp to the Mediterranean coast - it took five nights. Then we caught a boat at Alexandria to the Italian port of Taranto. We got off the boat at Taranto and marched to Bari - it had just been bombed and was devastated, still smoking. We headed north from there to Sangro River.

We could hear the guns over the Sangro. We thought, "Hey what's going on here?!" It's really hard to explain...

Because it was the end of summer, we were able wade across the river.

The engineers built bridges to try and get transport and the artillery across, and our trucks too with our guns on.

Across the other side, the order came to dig in. My mate and I dug in and boom, she started – the first time we had had anything fired back at us. You must remember we had only trained until now and had never had a shot fired back. It's a hell of a big difference when it's coming back at you.

They gave us hell with 10 minutes of shelling. We got buried; it filled our slit trench.

Thankfully, they weren't after us but were headed towards Bailey Bridge about 300 yards away to stop transport getting across, and so it moved on.

And so it went on. Yeah, that was the start of the war for us - shelling and firing. I was in Italy for three years.

We got used to it - I shouldn't say we got used to it, that's a lie, you can never get used to that. But never mind ... I came home and a lot of good fellas didn't come home.

How do you come to have shrapnel in your leg?

It was just before Rome; the guns were in position. My mate and I had to take a message up to the gunners to change the line of fire. They just said, follow that track up there and you won't be seen. And we just about reached the side of the gunners when all of the sudden ... well, you never heard them hit you...

The wife got a letter to say that I had been wounded.

You fought at the battle of Monte Cassino. Were you with the Maori Battalion?

They were there, yes. But to be fair, they were just one of five or so infantry battalions that went up to Cassino and they weren't any different to the other battalions who got shot to hell.

Monte Cassino is a solitary mountain with the monastery on top of the damn thing. We were lucky we got to the foot of it, but it was of no damn use. Three of our boys were wounded and 20 killed. Oh God yes, I'm one of the lucky ones. And there was bitter fighting at the township of Cassino seven miles away. It was just rubble; they were fighting in rubble.

How did you find Christmas when you were away?

Christmas was just another day, nothing special. We were still fighting. Sometimes they stopped the whole show, had Christmas dinner, and then it was back to it again.

When I think about it, they generally turned out quite a good meal for Christmas.

What was it like normally?

Well, you didn't eat much when you were in action. When you came back, the cooks made a decent meal for you and you could have a hot shower if you were lucky. They only had enough



"The only thing that kept you going was your good mates"-
Doug Reid

gas to heat the water for so long, so sometimes you'd get soaped just in time for the water to go cold!

Did you get paid? How did you have money in your pocket?

You had a pay book. I think it was 7 shillings a day, that was all, that went into your pay book.

Did your wife write to you?

Oh hell yes, and I used to write to her.

And you kept the letters?

I don't think so. Funny, they came in handy when you were in the line and had no toilet paper. It might seem funny, but it's true!

The best thing was the Salvation Army / St John Ambulance parcels. They were always quite good, especially if they had a packet of Johnson's baby powder for your feet!

Do you remember when you heard that the war was finished?

Yeah, the 8th of May 1945. We were just outside Trieste when word came in that it had finished, but we weren't allowed to stand down yet.

Yugoslavia's, Marshal Tito, had brought the Germans into Trieste just ahead of us, and he wanted the port. So, it was the big boys in there for a couple of days. They didn't know what was going to happen. But they got an understanding, and so that was the end of the war for all of us in Italy.

We spent time picking up the guns,

cleaning up and different things, and got back to New Zealand in January 1946.

Who greeted you on your arrival?

They had sent a letter to the wives saying please don't come up. They didn't want people greeting us as we came off the boat. So, I had to go back down to Kopu before I saw my wife.

Then you got one month leave and a free train ticket to go anywhere around New Zealand, and that was the end of it.

It must have been terribly difficult to integrate back into normal life?

Yeah, it was. We all had to go back to Civvy Street, but we had reunions every two years. They were good days meeting the guys again. Only at the reunions would you be able to talk to your mates, but then you only talked about what you were doing and



Doug in 2014

reminisce about how you had been through the war together.

The boys at the club, they ask you questions. . . . But how can you explain what a war is, it's bloody terrible. Even my son and my grandson . . . you can't explain it to them. It wasn't bloody good.

But there it was. That's life. And then you count yourself lucky you've come back and had a life.

And here I am back and 100. You put it down to part of your life now.

Can you look back fondly on that period at all?

Let's be fair . . . if we hadn't have had say 50% good times against 20% bad times, you'd never have bloody lived, never. The only thing that kept you going was your good mates.

You must have got up to a bit of mischief?

Of course we did, we were only 21/22. We were foreigners on weekend leave in Rome and Cairo! The vermouth was good, the wine was good, and I'm not going to tell you anymore. . . . [laughs].

It has been 76 years since Doug Reid returned from the second world war and he has been an active member of Avondale RSA for some 50 years of that time.

Having outlived his wife, Doug lives on his own in Avondale and, at 100 years old, still drives his car to have a few drinks with the boys at the RSA each Thursday, where he is held in the highest regard.



AVONDALE PEACE GARDEN

The Avondale Peace Garden (where Great North Road meets Ash Street) was created in August 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The driving force behind the site was Kurt Brehmer, a now deceased local environmentalist and peace activist who was a member of the Avondale Community Board at the time. The small circular garden was planted with a low trimmed box hedge in the shape of the campaign for nuclear disarmament, CND sign.

The Whau Local Board passed a resolution on 9 August 2011 to support Auckland Council's Peace Declaration of 2011. Let's not lose site of this important peice of our local history.

ANZAC DAY PRAYER

Thank you, O God,

For those who gave themselves with such courage in service and sacrifice for their country.

Inspire us to spend ourselves for the common good that we may build up the harmony and peace for which they fought and died.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with us and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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