



TE AWAMUTU RSA

September 2026



***20th September 1999 deployment
of
Kiwi Troops in East Timor***

<https://teawamutursa.org.nz/>

email: tarsa@xtra.co.nz

Kiwi Troops in East Timor

It is the 27th-anniversary of an international military force - which included a large New Zealand presence - going into what was then East Timor to restore law and order as the country erupted into violence.

Now known as Timor-Leste, it descended into a state of anarchy in 1999 after the result of a referendum supported a breakaway from Indonesia following 25 years of occupation.

Militia forces supporting Indonesia were roaming the country burning villages and towns and committing acts of violence.

Commemorations marking the setting up of the International Force East Timor, known as Interfet, take place in the capital, Dili, today.

Between September 1999 and 2002, more than 5000 New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel served in Timor as part of Interfet and others did until 2012, serving with the United Nations.

A number of New Zealand police also served there.

The NZDF force included infantry battalions, Navy ships Te Kaha and Endeavour, and Airforce Iroquois helicopters.

It was the NZDF's biggest deployment since the Korean War.

New Zealand troops preparing to board a United Nations Puma helicopter at Belulik Leten. The New Zealand company base at Belulik Leten was about a 12-minute helicopter flight from the battalion headquarters in Suai, but a three-and-a-half hour journey by road in good conditions.

Supplied / NZDF

The New Zealand force was primarily stationed at Suai, south-west of Dili.

Glyn Harper, who with John Crawford, co-wrote the official history of New Zealand's military involvement, first arrived in Dili in October 1999.

"Dili was still burning, there was rubbish everywhere, including human faeces in almost every building and there were dead bodies lying around which had to be recovered. It was a pretty horrific time to be in East Timor."

Professor Harper, Professor of War Studies at Massey University, said the Interfet force went into a hostile and dangerous place.

The SAS were first in, followed by an infantry company.

"Nobody knew what was around Suai at the time. There had been a couple of massacres there. They were flown into an airfield and made the main effort for the Interfet operations and they were basically flying into the unknown."

Colonel Kevin Burnett, now retired, commanded the first battalion group deployed.

"The place was just devastated. A lot of little villages and hamlets had been totally destroyed, everything. Buildings burnt to the ground and just very little left there and in fact very few people in the whole area, it was quite eerie and it was certainly an environment where we were very concerned about the situation."

New Zealand's role was to secure the Cova Lima region from the threat of militia groups and allow locals to return home safely.





Photos from East Timor, Courtesy Daniel Van der Hulst

From the President

Winter has certainly arrived! The last few months have been cold and wet and have had their fair share of ups and downs.

Through all the gloom and winter weather the RSA clubrooms have been a warm and inviting place to come with friends and ignore what is going on outside

Our new menu and the specials nights are a great way to relax and catch up over dinner with the bonus of someone else doing the cooking for you!

Our adjuncts continue to keep our clubrooms full of activities, competition and laughter. If you are looking for something new to do, have a look at what is happening in the club and come along and have a go at a new activity

With spring on the horizon, it won't be long and we will be able to get back to enjoying evenings on the deck and watching the world go by – just another reason to come in and relax at the club

The core values team have a busy time coming up over the next few months with the following events happening

- *Service for the Peace Fountain that happened on 21 August*
- *Afghanistan Evening – Saturday 29 August*
- *East Timor memorial - Friday 25 September*

As well as planning is already underway for Armistice Day in November. These events cannot occur without the many volunteers who give up their time to organise and run them so please show your support for these events and come along.

With all of the events happening in the club, we look forward to seeing you soon!

Core Values Advisory Group – Induction, Terms of Reference

& Resource Pack

Core Values Advisory Group

Induction, Terms of Reference & Resource Pack

1. Purpose of the Group

The Core Values Advisory Group exists to embody the principle of *people helping people*. Our purpose is to honour those who have served, support the families of those who have passed, and strengthen the connection between the RSA and our wider community. By upholding the Core Values of service, respect, remembrance, and community, we ensure that the legacy of our veterans continues to be recognised with dignity and care.

This structure allows us to share the workload, support one another, and continue delivering meaningful remembrance activities for Te Awamutu and the surrounding districts. Together, we carry this important work forward and ensure it remains strong for future generations.

Core Values,

Upcoming commemorative events

A 25 year Afghanistan Veterans' commemoration of service will be held at the Te Awamutu RSA on Saturday 29 August starting at 1400 hours. Veterans and families, support personnel and interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate in the commemoration.

The event will commence at 1400 hours with a welcome and powhiri, Major Cameron Stapleton will address the gathering and introduce a screening of the video "Afghanistan: The Soldiers Story", followed by a commemorative service and recognition of personnel lost during New Zealand's Afghanistan deployment. Veterans are encouraged to meet and remember at the completion of the service. Food and liquid refreshments will be available at veterans' own cost.

Friday 21st August at 1400 hours at Memorial Park the reinstated Peace Fountain was commemorated with a service and the unveiling of a plaque recognising personnel who served in the Pacific War. Speakers from Waipa District Council and the RSA will relate to the significance of the Peace Fountain in Memorial Park. Participants were encouraged to return to the RSA and enjoy light refreshments at their own cost.

Friday 21st August, the Te Awamutu RSA commemorated Vietnam Veterans at 1800 hours with the Ode and recognising the local veterans who served in Vietnam and have since passed away. RSA members who have knowledge of local deceased Vietnam veterans please contact the RSA office to ensure they are remembered. Please contact Lou Brown with any questions.

An excellent Carvery was provided by Louise and her staff

A reminder of the Afghanistan event on Saturday

(next page)

followed by another buffet & full Restaurant menu,

Please advise staff if you want the Buffet to assist with Catering





TE AWAMUTU
RSA

— A SERVICE OF —
REMEMBRANCE
— FOR —
AFGHANISTAN
— LEST WE FORGET —



HONOURING ALL WHO SERVED
IN AFGHANISTAN AND THOSE
WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE



SATURDAY
29 AUGUST 2026



1500 HRS

MEDALS TO BE WORN



TE AWAMUTU RSA
381 ALEXANDRA STREET
TE AWAMUTU



FOLLOWING THE SERVICE
THERE WILL BE A
BUFFET DINNER,
AND FULL RESTAURANT
MENU AVAILABLE.



To assist with catering, seating arrangements we kindly ask that you confirm whether you will be attending the memorial service and joining us for dinner afterwards.



Meals will be at your own cost, with the full restaurant menu available, and a cash bar operating throughout the evening.



Please RSVP directly with the Te Awamutu RSA, or alternatively add your name to the attendance list at the bar.

— *We will remember them* —



07 871 3707



tarsa@extra.co.nz

SEPTEMBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 1.00pm - 500 Cards 7.00pm - Darts	2 Membership Draw 7.00pm - Indoor Bowls	3 1.00pm Bingo \$10 Lunch Special 4.30 - 6.30pm Happy Hours	4 1.00pm Mahjong Membership Draw	5	6 5.00pm Sunday Roast
7 Membership Draw	8 1.00pm - 500 Cards 7.00pm - Darts	9 10.30am - Knitting Group 6.00pm - 8 Ball Membership Draw 7.00pm - Indoor Bowls	10 1.00pm Bingo \$10 Lunch Special 4.30 - 6.30pm Happy Hours	11 1.00pm Mahjong Membership Draw	12	13 9.00am - All Blacks v South Africa - Breakfast 5.00pm Sunday Roast
14 5.30pm - Fishing Club Meeting Membership Draw	15 1.00pm - 500 Cards 6.00pm - Rotary Club 7.00pm - Darts 7.00pm - Exec. Meeting	16 10.30am - Knitting Group 6.00pm - 8 Ball Membership Draw 7.00pm - Indoor Bowls	17 1.00pm Bingo \$10 Lunch Special 4.30 - 6.30pm Happy Hours	18 1.00pm Mahjong 6.00pm Vetnam Remembrance Service Membership Draw	19 12.00pm - Rhodesian Lunch	20 District RSA Meeting 5.00pm Sunday Roast
21 Membership Draw	22 1.00pm - 500 Cards 7.00pm - Darts	23 10.30am - Knitting Group 6.00pm - 8 Ball Membership Draw 7.00pm - Indoor Bowls	24 1.00pm Bingo \$10 Lunch Special 4.30 - 6.30pm Happy Hours	25 1.00pm Mahjong 6.00pm - East Timor Memorial Ode Membership Draw 7.00pm - SWAT Band	26 2.00pm - Bingo	27 5.00pm Sunday Roast
28 Membership Draw	29 1.00pm - 500 Cards 7.00pm - Darts	30 10.30am - Knitting Group 6.00pm - 8 Ball Membership Draw 7.00pm - Indoor Bowls	NOTES:			

Out of the Office:

A busy time with battle commemorations -it is nice to see the club come together in a positive way and link in with the community.

Financially we are holding our own and appreciate the ongoing support from our patrons.

With many of our elderly members suffering from medical issues, it is a timely reminder to check on our friends, family and neighbours, these cold winter days are taking their toll, and we have lost several good people over the last month.

Tomorrow is not a given for any of us -so make the most of today.

If you are feeling unwell,

please

stay at home and recuperate -don't spread the bugs.

Kitchen and bar staff are now trained in first Aid -thank you to Vertical Horizons for providing this community initiative and supporting our club.

Heather

Want to know more? Here is our contact list:

Motor Sport Andrew Ross 027 496 5613	Women's Section Lois Knight 07 870 1431
Fishing Jim Perkins 021 278 4389	Indoor Bowls Linda King 021 238 7329
8 Ball Lyn Watson 022 122 8440	Darts Lyn Watson 022 122 8440
500 Card Club Kelvin Trass 021 1388 138	Travel Club Discontinued
Health Shuttle 07 870 3258 www.tahs.org.nz	Mahjong Robin Jackways 027 266 2259
Wine Club TBA	Support Services Irene Wardlaw 027 444 4374 dsa.waikato@rsa.org.nz Sue White, LSA 07 8713707 opt 5 or 0273466588 Email: Teawamutu.assist.rsa@gmail.com Gary Ridley Email; gary.ridley@hotmail.com
Bingo Cathrine James 021 217 1111	Knitting Group Karen Morgan 027 606 0113

Support Services

People helping people

To Contact Support Services

Gary Ridley has been appointed as the Support Adviser for Support Services in the Te Awamutu Area (this includes Ohaupo and Kihikihi)

Contact: Gary Ridley Email; gary.ridley@hotmail.com

Phone: 07 8713707 extension 5 or 0273466588

The Role of the Support Adviser

Reporting to Irene Wardlaw and Indirectly to National Office of the NZRSA, the Support Adviser for the Te Awamutu Returned and Services Association (TARSA) supports all serving and Ex serving military service personnel and their families.

Eligibility for this support is in accordance with the Veterans Support Act 2014 which determines a Veteran as any person who has been attested into the NZDF and their immediate family.

The support is provided by advocacy, and navigation of government and community entitlements.

Core Responsibilities include:

Access to veterans' affairs: Providing guidance on Veteran's Affairs and assisting with application forms and reviews.

Advocacy: Act on behalf of clients during appeal processes or when communicating with the New Zealand Defence Force and other agencies.

Financial support: Where eligible, provide access to financial support assisted by the Poppy Trust in times of need or bereavement support to eligible families through veterans' affairs.

Confidential Guidance: Listen to client concerns with empathy and direct them to specialized networks if further help is needed.

Practical Support: Coordinate local needs such as access to Hospital through the health shuttle for transport to medical appointments, a limited pool of mobility equipment, and advice on support via community health agencies or MSD.

Local Support: For all TARSA members, provide advice on eligibility to the support outline above and guidance on support available through TARSA identified local infrastructure agencies.

Should there be any need for clarity or if you need support or know of someone who does, please get in touch with Gary



Mahjong

No new report received for August Newsletter

Robin Jackways

Rotary meetings at the RSA:

- ***Drinks and order meal at 5.30pm***
- ***Dinner and meeting start 6pm***
- ***Meeting close by 7.30pm***

All RSA members and the public are welcome to attend our fortnightly Rotary meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Te Awamutu Rotary is a proud sponsor of this RSA.

	Tuesday 1st September	Tuesday 15th September	Tuesday 29th September
Guest Speaker 	Di Johnston Strength and Balance co-ordinator	CLUB FORUM	AGM

We have just completed our Annual Rotary Book Fair and raised over \$16,000. Thank you to all in the community who supported Rotary buying and donating books and thank you Te Awamutu Rotarians and friends and supporters of Rotary who worked hard for seven weeks to help make it such a great success.

Since July 1, Te Awamutu Rotary has made the following donations:

- Kainga Aroha Camp 2027 \$600
- Te Awamutu Community Advice Bureau \$500
- Riding for the Disabled \$500
- Kihikihi Police House Temple Cottage Charitable Trust \$250
- Operation Christmas Hampers \$500
- Te Awamutu RSA \$800

For more information please contact: **Graham Jull 027 276 8181 or**
Gill Johnston 021 278 9915

Smarty Bags Children's entertainment

Available here \$2.00 each



Pack Includes:

- **25 x Cars, Trains and Planes Bags | 25 x Princess Bags**
25 x Mermaid Bags | 25 x Dinosaur Bags
- **Made from 100% recycled paper**
- **Pack of 4 Crayons (8 Crayon Colours)**
- **36 page activity booklet**
- **Stickers**
- **Background sticker card**
- **Punch out game**
- **23cm wide x 17cm tall with 5cm gusset**
(Sponsored by Annie Kearvell & John Knowles)

Friendly reminder:**FEES ARE DUE IN MARCH**

Member	\$50	Partner	\$40	internet payment,
Service	\$40	Returned	\$30	Te Awamutu & District Memorial RSA (inc)
Over 75 is	\$20			03-0442-0100594-00
				Details = name and member number please

THE LAST POST

We record with regret, and with sympathy to their families, the names of our Returned and Service members, as well as our RSA members, who have passed since we last recorded them.

Malcolm Campbell
(Service RNZA 461129)

Raymond Clark
(Service RNZA 971476)

Bruce MacDonald

Dave McLean

Veronica Kerr

Elizabeth Oliedam

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Monday

*250g rump steak, served
with fries & eggs \$24*



Wednesday

*Schnitzel (beef, pork or
chicken), served with
coleslaw & wedges \$18*

Friday

Surprise Special!

Sunday

Roast of the day \$20



381 Alexandra St, Te Awamutu 3800
07 871 3707 | tarsa@xtra.co.nz

Raffle Roster for Adjuncts 2026

SECTION	WEEK BEGINNING =2027						
FISHING	4/05	15/06	3/08	21/09	2/11	14/12	01/02
WOMENS SECTION	11/05	22/06	10/08	28/09	9/11	21/12	08/02
DARTS	18/05	6/07	17/08	5/10	16/11	04/01	15/02
INDOOR BOWLS	25/05	13/07	24/08	12/10	23/11	11/01	22/02
MOTOR SPORT	1/06	20/07	7/09	19/10	30/11	18/01	01/03
8 BALL	8/06	27/07	14/09	26/10	07/12	25/01	08/03



TO: **Executive Committee of the Te Awamutu RSA**

FROM: Raewyn Adams, Treasurer, Women's Section

RE: Women's Section Report

18 August 2026

On 30th July we had a mid-winter Christmas lunch attended by 21 Women's Section Members. The day was full of enjoyment and laughter.

We have a few things on our calendar for the next few weeks.

We are having an impromptu morning tea on Thursday at Robert Harris which our ladies requested.

We have a group of ladies attending the Franklin Women's Section Birthday on 14 September.

Our next official outing is to the Velodrome Café in Cambridge on 17 September.

Our next Bar Raffle is 28th September which will be predominantly 'blue' items for Prostate Cancer Month – Blue September.



Fishing Trips 2026:

Month:	Day:	Date:	Coromandel:	Kawhia:
September	Tuesday	8 th		Wild Goose
	Tuesday	22 nd	Bob	
October	Tuesday	4 th		Wild Goose
	Tuesday	27 th	Bob	
November	Tuesday	3 rd		Wild Goose
	Tuesday	24 th	Bob	
December	Tuesday	8 th		Wild Goose
	Tuesday	22 nd	Bob	

Fishing Club:

Hi everyone,

New season fishing trip dates above

The Fishing Club meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 5.30pm
For more information: contact Jim Perkins, 021 278 4389

Thanks, Jim

Members Draw

Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 6pm & 7pm

RSA Darts

Hello to our RSA Members:



Well, how things change over a few weeks of darts in the second division.

Flybyes are in second place with Allsorts in fourth place, but things are all very close with only 12points between 1st and fourth places.

We will all be trying our hardest to catch the leaders in our division -the Thorns. Flybyes will be hosting Allsorts at the RSA on September 1st which will be a noisy night of fun and comradery.

Lyn Watson and Kathy Watson

Te Awamutu RSA 8 Ball

Well, this has been a fun filled month, as the 8-ball club had a challenge against Awakino on the 15th August in which we arrived on the weekend to have loads of fun and came back with the trophy at long last. The last time we had it was 2017. Next month we are preparing to go up against Te Kuiti on September 26th

Lynn Watson and Kathy Watson.





Te Awamutu & District Memorial RSA Incorporated

Trading Name	Te Awamutu RSA	Incorp # NZBN	Established: 24 May 1919: 214078 9429042863366
Address	381 Alexandra St, PO Box 101 Te Awamutu 3840 Email: tarsa@xtra.co.nz	Bank IRD/GST Website	Westpac: 03 0442 0100594 OO 012-541-498 https://teawamutursa.org.nz
Accountant Lawyer	Aaron Cornelissen: Elevate 360 Chartered Accountants cell: 021 250 0314 T: 07 242 0992 Sue Garmonsway: Gallie Miles Lawyers. 07 872 0560		
	Ivor Walter Stickley Charitable Trust Teresa Wood (sec) 027 278 3632	Bank	03 0442 0299089 00/20 112 994 948
	Te Awamutu Poppy Trust Cameron Stapleton (Sec) 021 024 68997	Bank	38 9025 0673632 01
Phone	07 871 3707 Extn 1. Bar Extn 2. Kitchen Extn 3. Office Extn 4. Courtesy Coach Extn 5. Support Services	Key Ops Contact	Secretary / Manager Heather Upston 027 271 3707 Bar Manager: Heidi Broughan Catering /Chef: Louise Chidlow Driver: 027 272 5667 Irene Wardlaw DSA: 027 4444 374 Email:dsa.waikato@rsa.org.nz Sue White, LSA 07 8713707 opt 5 or 0273466588 Email:Teawamutu.assist.rsa@gmail.com Gary Ridley, LSA 0273466588 Email; gary.ridley@hotmail.com
Exec. Committee	Daniel van der Hulst President) Don Ramsay (vice) Lou Brown Steve Gane Andrew Mitchell Jim Goddin John Knowles Patrick Bishop Murray Hancock Ann Lincoln	027 559 8796 027 760 0789 027 391 8620 027 4125000 021 164 2649 027 579 2050 027 571 3150 027 281 1868 020 411 78479 022 300 5362	tarsa@xtra.co.nz (attention Daniel) donaldr@stewcav.co.nz louandelsb@gmail.com awayagane@gmail.com mitchellandrew943@gmail.com jim@jimgoddin.co.nz j.w.knowles@xtra.co.nz p.bishop@xtra.co.nz murraynlindah@hotmail.com annlincoln59@gmail.com



Live Entertainment

Friday September 25th

SWAT

Just a note

Many Members don't realize there is a notice board adjacent to the toilets on the wall of the Gaming room and on the opposite wall, there is often valuable information there, so check it out.



BINGO:

Every Thursday at 1pm

AND

Sunday at 2pm.(Sept 27th)

BINGO is on Sunday September 27th

at 2pm. We need a caller for one Sunday a month and as a back-up for Thursday sessions, we aim to make bingo a fun, laid back social time-if you would like to have a go or think you can help us out please see Catherine or Heather.

MOTORSPORT



Hi everyone.

Past events -

9/8

We had our BBQ on the Deck with Music which proved to be another successful event for us and one that I am sure we will repeat again in the future.

Lots of Singing and Banter was enjoyed by the 19 members that took part including the 3 new members that signed up on the day.

A big thank you to Freida and Bruce for winging it and performing together providing music and songs that we all sang along to.

Future events –

11/10 Bathurst Day at the RSA

Come in and enjoy watching the Great Race as well as enjoying Spin the Wheel Raffles and our very popular Auction event.

That is all for now Folks and remember to Keep your "Pedal to the Metal"

Andrew Ross

TARSA Motorsport Club

RSA 500 CLUB.

Come and join our 500 card players, every Tuesday from 1pm till 4pm.

There's only a \$2 charge to play for the afternoon. Of which over the years, we have donated between \$500.00 +\$1,000.00 to the RSA or Poppy fund annually.

Its fun!, so come along and enjoy a game of cards and support our local club.

Learners welcome.

Contact..Kelvin Trass

0211388138



Weekly Club Activities

Monday Bar Open 11am-9pm Restaurant Lunch 12-2pm, Dinner from 5pm Monday Swindle Members Draw from 6.00pm	Tuesday Bar Open 11am-9pm Restaurant Lunch 12-2pm, Dinner from 5pm 500 Card Club 1pm
Wednesday Bar Open 11am-9pm Restaurant Lunch 12-2pm, Dinner from 5pm Knitting Club 10.30am Raffles from 4.30pm Members Draw and 8 Ball from 6.00pm Indoor Bowls from 7pm	Thursday Bar Open 11am-9pm Happy Hour 4.30-6.30pm Restaurant Lunch 12-2pm, Dinner from 5pm \$10 Lunch 1pm BINGO
Friday Bar Open 11am-11pm Restaurant Lunch 12-2pm, Dinner from 5pm Mahjong 1pm Raffles from 4.30pm Jokers Wild Members Draw from 6.00pm	Saturday Bar Open 11am-10pm Restaurant Lunch 12-2pm, Dinner from 5pm
Sunday Bar Open 11am-9pm Restaurant Lunch 12-2pm, Dinner from 5pm	

COURTESY VAN AVAILABLE FROM 4 PM MONDAY to FRIDAY

We pick up from home and/or drop off at your home within 12 km radius of the club rooms.

Talk to the Bar Staff or phone 07 871 3707 option 4

Alternative Transport Taxi TA A2B ph: 07 392 8808 or Uber

Please note due to the cost of running the van we have had to review operating times where the cost exceeds the benefits,

Special Weekend Event Transport by Arrangement, please call 07 871 7303



Please use the honesty box in the Van (Gold coin donation) The club cannot afford to run this service for FREE

, you don't want to lose it ,
Please respect the driver, he is here
To get you home safely

RSA Remembrance Calendar

Version 1, dated 14 Feb 25+2:144

September

1	Berlin Airlift begins.	1948
1	Confrontation with Indonesia: First deployment of 1 RNZIR during this conflict against Indonesian paratroopers who land just north of Labis in Johore state.	1964
3	World War Two begins. The NZ 'National Military Reserve' is activated.	1939
2	End of World War Two	1945
3	Merchant Navy Day. Commemorate all who served in the Merchant Navy in times of war	Annually
5	Major Keith (Grid) Caldwell, MC, DFC & Bar, NZ WW1 Fighter Ace, unbelievably survives a mid air collision by nursing his crippled aircraft to ground level before	1918
	climbing out of the cockpit and jumping clear as it crashed.	
15	Battle of Flers-Courcelette. NZ's first day on the Somme	1916
15	Battle of Britain Day	1940
16	National NZ Malaya, Malaysia, Borneo Commemoration. Commemorate all who served in the Malaya/Malaysia/Borneo Conflicts	Annually
20	East Timor / Timor Leste. Deployment of NZ Troops begins on 20 Sep 1999. Commemorate all who have served in Timor Leste from 1999.	
25	Capture of Amman by NZMR.	1918

HAPPY HOUR

Thursday 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Discounted Tap Beer and Wine
'Come in and catch up with your mates'

Any adjuncts or members wishing to contribute to the next newsletter
Please contact John Knowles 027 571 3150 or email j.w.knowles@xtra.co.nz
Pat Bishop 027 281 1868 or email p.bishop@xtra.co.nz

Please get your article or information to us a week before the end of the month to give us time to complete and publish the newsletter in a timely manner, we want you to know what's coming as well as what's been and make it as useful and up to date as we can.

Information is as provided and is to the best of our knowledge accurate, if you discover any inaccuracies or errors please advise Pat or John so corrections can be made for the future

