

E. J. FOWLER  
P.O. BOX 23  
LEST. WE. FORGET. MEMBERS OF PAST WHO HAVE COME TO HIGHER SERVICES  
WAIHI BEACH  
\*\*\*\*\*

Names from Waihi Beach Honours Board. This list is not fully complete and some names have been unfortunately omitted.

\*\*\*\*\*

- |       |                   |       |                      |
|-------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 1953  | A. CLARK.         | 1980. | S.R. HARDWICKE.      |
| 1956. | C.W. NEIBER.      | 1980. | C. GRACEY.           |
| 1959  | A. CORDON.        | 1980. | H.M. EADES.          |
| 1960. | W. RUSSELL.       | 1981. | S.G. HEALD.          |
| 1961. | E.G. BROWN.       | 1981. | G.A. MARTIN.         |
| 1961. | A. HICKS.         | 1982. | W.F. COLEMAN.        |
| 1964. | C. HOPKINS.       | 1982. | E.W. MADDREN.        |
| 1964. | N.C. FOSTER.      | 1982. | A. DICKSON.          |
| 1964. | J. DUNBAR.        | 1982. | K.K. Bjerring.       |
| 1966. | F. ALLCOCK.       | 1983. | C. BURNS             |
| 1967. | A.E. HAINES.      | 1984. | B. SMITH.            |
| 1969. | P. WOOD.          | 1984. | M. LYON.             |
| 1969. | C. EDWARDS.       | 1984. | F.H. SMITH.          |
| 1969. | J. SCOBIE.        | 1984. | W.L. PETERS.         |
| 1969. | C.R. WILLIAMS.    | 1984. | S.A. HAMMOND.        |
| 1969. | A.R. WEAL.        | 1984. | D.T. MURPHY.         |
| 1970. | W. HANLEN.        | 1985. | T. McCONNON.         |
| 1970. | A. HASKEL.        | 1985. | T.H. FINLAYSON.      |
| 1971. | E.A. COX.         | 1985. | L. POWELL.           |
| 1971. | M. BRYAN.         | 1985. | F. GILLESPIE.        |
| 1972. | W.J. ROBERTS.     | 1985. | T.L. DIMMOCK.        |
| 1972. | A. SPONG.         | 1985. | S.W. PERRY.          |
|       |                   | 1985. | A.H.D. HUBBARD. Mrs. |
| 1972. | F.G. FOWLER.      | 1985. | W. MELTON.           |
| 1972. | S. FOSTER.        | 1986. | N.S. FRANKLIN.       |
| 1972. | J. FYFE.          | 1986. | R.R. McGREGOR.       |
| 1972. | D. NEAVE.         | 1986. | H.H. SMITH.          |
| 1972. | J.A.C. McCORMACK. | 1987. | E.G. STEWART.        |
| 1972. | P. HAIGE.         | 1987. | M.R. COLLINS. Mrs.   |
| 1972. | C. WILDE.         |       |                      |
| 1974. | W. WHITTY.        |       |                      |
| 1975. | P. SOWERBY.       |       |                      |
| 1976. | C. HAYES.         |       |                      |
| 1976. | C.K.H. CORNWELL   |       |                      |
| 1978. | R.M. COWERN.      |       |                      |
| 1978. | G.J. OLSEN.       |       |                      |
| 1978. | W.S. WRIGHT.      |       |                      |
| 1979. | R. GILLIES.       |       |                      |
| 1979. | W. BUXTON.        |       |                      |
| 1979. | R.R. GARDINER.    |       |                      |

E. J. FOWLER  
P.O. BOX 23  
WAIHI BEACH

WAIHI BEACH. R.S.A. PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES FROM 1946 TO 1987.

\*\*\*\*\*

YEAR.	PRESIDENT.	SECRETARY.
1945 - 46	J.A. C. McCORMACK.	NEWMAN. WHALEY.
1946-47	G. MITCHELL.	"
1947-48	MAC. COWERN.	"
1948-49	JACK TOMS.	"
1949-50	HUGH MULLINS.	"
1950-51	LEN BACON.	"
1951-52	J.A.C. McCORMACK.	13 " YEARS.
1952-53	J.A.C. McCORMACK.	"
1953-54	GERRY PAULL.	"
1954-55	FRANK COXHEAD.	"
1955-56	TOM JOHNSTON.	"
1956-57	JACK SHAW.	"
1957-58	J.A.C. McCORMACK.	"
1958-59	NEWMAN WHALEY .	PERCY CUBITT
1959-60	REG TREMBATH.	"
1960-61	ANDREW LOWRY.	REG TREMBATH.
1961 62 /	JACK SCOBIE.	GEORGE McALLISTER.
1962-63	J.A.C. McCORMACK.	"
1963-64	CLARRIE BLACK .	J.A.C. McCORMACK.
1964-65	JIM FYFE .	"
1965-66	ANDREW LOWRY.	"
1966-67	ROBIN BAXTER .	"
1967-68	CLIFF HAYES.	"
1968-69	CLIFF HAYES.	"
1969-70	ALF PEARSON.	"
1970-71	JOHN FOWLER.	"
1971-72	JOHN FOWLER.	"
1972-73	JOHN FOWLER.	"
1973-74.	JOHN FOWLER.	STAN. HARDWICKE.
1974-75	CLIFF BURNS .	"
1975-76	CLIFF BURNS.	HARRY EADES.
1976-77	HAROLD DOWRICK.	"
1977-78	MICK. FOREMAN.	"
1978-79	MICK FOREMAN.	"
1979-80	MICK FOREMAN.	HAROLD DOWRICK.
1980-81	MICK FOREMAN.	"
1981-82	MICK FOREMAN.	"
1982-83	BILL BLYTHE.	BARRY BLACKFORD.
1983-84	BILL BLYTHE.	HAROLD DOWRICK.
1984-85	BILL BLYTHE.	VINCE ROIGARD.
1985-86	BILL BLYTHE.	VINCE ROIGARD. TREVOR DUCKMANTON.
1986-87	BILL BLYTHE .	TREVOR DUCKMANTON.
1987-88	BILL BLYTHE.	"
1988-89	Reg Lincoln	"
1989-90	Reg Lincoln	"

WAIHI BEACH. SUB BRANCH. FOUNDATION COMMITTEE. 1944-45

PRESIDENT. J.A.C. McCormack. SECRETARY. NEWMAN WHALEY .  
COMMITTEE. A.CLARK. C.HOPKINS. A.HICKS. S.M.HOVELL. A.W.HICKS.  
A. MORRISON. S. STEVENS.

\*\*\*\*\*

1957. NEW HALL BUILT TO REPLACE FIRST SUB STANDARD HALL DESTROYED BY FIRE.  
OFFICIALLY OPENED BY G.COWER. NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT N.Z. RSA.  
SATURDAY. 25th.MAY. 1957

\*\*\*\*\*

1981. 4th. JULY . WAIHI BEACH R.S.A. CLUB.  
OFFICIAL OPENING BY. ARNOLD T. CLEMENTS. DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT. N.Z.R.S.A  
E.A. FOREMAN. PRESIDENT. H.I. DOWRICK. SECRETARY. H.M. EADES, TREASURER.

\*\*\*\*\*

WAIHI BEACH. R.S.A. HONOURS LIST.

GOLD STAR. N. WHALEY. E.J. FOWLER.

MERIT AWARD. E.J. FOWLER.

LIFE MEMBERS. J.A.C. McCORMACK.  
A.J. LOWRY.  
S.STEVENS.  
E.J. FOWLER.  
E.A. FOREMAN.

\*\*\*\*\*



WAIHI BEACH. RETURNED SERVICES ASSN. PAST AND PRESENT. JOYS AND SADNESS. AND PRIDE.  
\*\*\*\*\*

History and details of the Waihi Beach R.S.A compiled mostly from memory by E.J. Fowler. Any errors and omissions in this narrative is unintentional and if any such discrepancies are made the writer seeks forgiveness and also for any spelling errors and typing mistakes.

My schooling only permitted to a standard six education and my attempts at typing are confined to one finger.

The prospect of my attempting to write a history of Waihi Beach R.S.A and also the history of the district is a real challenge and I can only pray that I can find the incentive to do this task and can write the story as I remember the events. I feel that of necessity I shall have to confine my writings mostly to people both past and present and how so many good citizens have contributed so generously to make this lovely seaside resort such a wonderful place to live in. After all R.S.A really is all about people and sometime one tends to forget about this most important fact.

Any R.S.A. body could not function without the assistance of all members of the community of which it belongs and a tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to the past and present Waihi Beach citizens.

As one enters our present Club rooms on Brighton Road one could forgive oneself for forgetting that things were not always as they are now and that the many amenities that we have now were not always there and that the rewards for us having such nice conditions to enjoy were not achieved without many sacrifices and hard work by some body.

With these introductory ramblings I must now proceed into the past and try to recall and write of my own association with Waihi Beach and why I am here anyway.

My earliest memory of ever knowing that such a place as Waihi Beach existed goes back to about 1920. I was then a lad of seven and my best mate Hugh Eastwood had been to Waihi Beach for a Summer holiday with his mother and sister Norma.

Hugh was just so full of the wonders of this wonderful seaside resort and I was indeed so envious of his good fortune and I could only imagine what such a paradise could be like and it was to be for me many years before I was to visit this visionary beach.

It was 1939 when I drove into Waihi Beach at the wheel of a five ton Bedford van, I had just commenced a new job as a salesman driver for the Opotiki Bacon Co. To get to Waihi Beach in those days it was required to journey from Tauranga on an all metal road and the route in those days was far removed from the lovely sealed highway that we enjoy today.

Many who perchance may read this epistle can remember the old road and the torturous route over the spiral hill near Omokoroa to Apata. After leaving KatiKati one had to look out for the bypass at Waimata where one had to turn right and detour via the Trig Rd on the the Beach Rd to Waihi Beach.

As I slowly approached the Waihi Beach township that day I was not to know that some day I was to reside at this place and indeed the first house on that road on the Right hand side was to be my future home.

No there was no turn off to Wilson Rd in those days that area was a vast wet swamp. Leo St was only a half formed metal track and there were no dwellings of any size to be seen only for the most part simple beach cottages and baches.

My first stop that day was at a very small kioske on the right hand side of the Main Rd. very near where Ron and Colleen Mayor now have their service station.

I was to meet my first Waihi Beach citizens in the personage of Mr & Mrs Raffles. What a delightful old couple they were. Mrs Raffles very friendly and rather plump and Mr Raffles short, full head of hair and completely deaf.

I was then to witness and hear a very loud conversation between wife and spouse over what they required to fill the needs of their very small shop which from memory must have been some six feet by 12 feet and the opening to the public was per medium of two shutters which were lifted and propped to provide some protection to any customers. After many attempts of visual lip movements the old gentleman got the message and I was rewarded with a rather humble order of bacon and small goods.

For the record. Mr and Mrs Raffles had a daughter Vera, later was to marry a Mr. Alec Clark and they were to build a corner store on the corner of Main Rd. and Oceanview Rd.

The Clarks ran that corner store for many years until the unfortunate death of Alec. In later years Vera married Ernie Shoyer and only recently Vera passed away and Ernie still lives in Edinburgh St where they resided for many years.

My next stop that morning was at a shop in the centre of what was then the complete township of Waihi Beach.

The reason I pulled up outside that particular shop was because a rather squat rotund gentleman was outside and when he saw the van was waving frantically to me for attention. I was to meet one, Teddy Brown and what a character this man was and little did I realise then that I was to have many encounters and adventures with this chap, but what he really wanted that morning was to get to me first before I called at the Miss Mullins store which was before his shop but Ted was out of sausages or something and wanted prior attention.

In the next five minutes I was to be informed of who was who at Waihi Beach and the terrible ordeal that was before me when I was to attempt the almost impossible task of traversing the stretch of pure white sand over to the far end of the North of the village where I was informed resided a Mrs White who urgently required an order of bacon and small goods.

After satisfying the needs of Ted and meeting the very friendly Mrs Addie Brown I was then offered the services of Ted to assist me to navigate that 100 yards or so across the sandy beach.

Feed her the herbs yelled Ted and turn right now sharp left and in a shower of sand we were across and Mrs White a dear old white haired lady was pleased to receive her few supplies.

The other shops then were Kennedy Store now where Don Watsons is and then the Miss Mullins who had two shops and there was also a small dining room run by an elderly lady a Mrs Burke.

I was to visit this small township weekly for the next two years but the sounds of war were getting louder and I was to leave the life of bacon and small goods and was to go overseas and help win a war.

It was to be 1944 that I was to once again revisit Waihi Beach and this time I was to drive into the township at the wheel of Grey & Menzies Areated Waters van. The place had not altered a great deal in the three years and Ted and Addie Brown welcomed me back as did Nellie and Cathie Mullins. I think Bigwoods were now where Kennerdys were and Mullins had rebuilt their shop and were now in larger premises with a butchery, bakery, drapery and stationary. The same building is still there today but very unloved and does nothing to enhance the beauty of the Northern end of Waihi Beach.

I was to have only a brief twelve months with the Grey and Menzies firm before I was to return to what I was really trained to do and I was to purchase a 131 acre farm on the Beach Rd with the aid of the Rehabilitation Dept.

Molly and I and six week old Michael took over this run down farm and its starving 85 cows on the 1st November 1945 and it was to be seven years later that I was to have further introductions to the Waihi Beach community.

That year 1952 we purchased a small converted garage bach at 14 Wallnutt Ave and we were to experience the wonders of living at a beach resort for the first time and enjoy the delights of our three children as they experienced the joys of the lovely surf which was just around the corner.

Two years later I was to take over the lease of the Shaw Estate farm of some 400 acres which had been managed for the past 16 years by one John Weedon a 6 ft 8 inch giant of a man who was responsible for providing the milk requirements for Waihi Beach. As I was at that time also involved in the Town Supply Milk industry I was to become well acquainted with Jack and was able to assist him with a supply of milk when he was short.

Later on I hope to relate more on the Weedon family but at this period of writing I wish to relate to the R.S.A at Waihi Beach and how I recall my first introduction to the members and the first hall.

I was first introduced to the RSA by Gerry Paull who at that time had taken over the grocery and dairy part of the business owned by his aunties, the Miss Mullins.

I recall Jerry calling on the then local doctor one Richard Wright and I was to have a lot more adventures with this colourful person over the next few years.

Strive as I may I cannot remember very clearly just what that first hall looked like, I think I was only in the hall perhaps some three or four times.

I recall the full size billiard table in the club room at the right hand side of the building. I never did have a game on it.

Perhaps one of the old timers who had so much to do with the building of the first hall may be able to give more details on the construction and the fellows who built it.

I do know that Arthur McCarmack and Newman Whaley were well to the fore when the two Leasehold sections were taken over from the Waihi Borough Council on the first 21 year Glasgow Lease. These two low sections were the last remaining sections available at that time and the reason being of course why they were available was because of the low lying area which everyone knew would flood at every heavy rain fall.

Perhaps at this stage I might relate more on this area of land and how the drainage of all that area has effected the RSA over the years .

At that time the township of Waihi Beach was administered by the Waihi Borough Council and the drainage at that time really started at the Leo St culvert which came to the centre of the hall and then connected up with a drain running at right angles and then another right angle bend to proceed down the western side of the hall and then under a culvert across Brighton Rd and on down between Wallnutt and Marine Ave then across Oceanview Rd to turn Right and finally to finish up at the beach and into the sea.

If readers know anything about the flow of water and most farmers have had plenty of experience in this work it is surely a fact that to make a waterway turn at a corner requires careful planning and most prudent drainers will plan to make a more gradual approach to the task and try and make for a gradual sweep of the drain and so have less trouble with washouts and allow for a large volume of flood water to discharge at a greater speed.

To this day we still have this double right angled drainage system which in wet seasons continue to flood this area with disastrous results.

However at that time the two sections were available and it made sense to acquire them and get a hall built in preparation for the returning servicemen who would shortly be arriving.

Through necessity the hall was constructed with very inferior timber with some car cases and a malthoid roof. Later the malthoid was covered with aluminium roofing on account of the malthoid leaking badly.

Most of the RSA committee then were 1st war men and we today owe a great debt of gratitude to these early First world war men for their enterprise and courage to prepare the way for the homecoming of us Second world war men and women.

Names that are mentioned are. On the small board at the entrance of the Clubrooms. President. J.A.C. McCormack. Secretary. Newman Whaley.

Committee. A. Clark. C.Hopkins. A.Hicks. S.M. Hovell. A.W.Hicks. A.Morrison. S. Stevens.

There would have been others who would have assisted with the construction of the first hall but this was all before my time.

It was also at around this period that the same pioneers were constructing the new Bowling Green and a tremendous amount of labour must have gone into the laying out of this project and their foresight must be commended when one realises what a great asset Waihi Beach has now through those early citizens efforts.

At that time also the Waihi Beach Golf Course was in full swing and great difficulty was experienced during the war years with the supply of golf balls.

The course was of nine holes and extended from the area where the Catholic Church Fire Station back towards the hills with one green being over where the County now has its depot. I did do one round of this course before it was closed and ran out of golf balls before completing the round.

All of the area was part of the Matha Shaw Estate and was then subdivided into the Residential sections and of course is fully built over today.

Martha Shaw and family were very early settlers at the beach and it would indeed be a very interesting story if the history of this family could be written.



WAIHI BEACH.R.S.A. HALL ON FIRE. JAN.24th.1956.

The disastrous fire which destroyed the first RSA hall is well remembered by many residents still residing at Waihi Beach. It commenced in the late afternoon and there was no possible way the fire could be subdued once it was alight. The last person in the hall was reported to be Mick Bryan who was the unpaid caretaker and he had been busy that afternoon cleaning up. Mick was very distressed over that fire and to his dying day swears that he did nothing that would have caused a fire.

At that time I was living at 14 Wallnutt Avenue and I was commuting daily between the Beach and my Town Supply farm on the Beach Rd. I well recall the scene as I arrived at the Beach that late afternoon probably just before six.

I was a member of the Beach Fire Brigade at that time and when I showed up the full Brigade was in attendance under the capable control of Jack Toms the then Brigade Commanding Officer.

The old Ford Four by Four fireengine was doing its best with water procured from the drains and any convenient water tanks handy. No there was no town water supply to complain about in those days?

The heat from that fire was tremendous and what water the brigade was able to supply was concentrated on saving the two storey house of Des and Dianne Spiers next door. This they were able to do but not without that house being really hot and curtains being useless afterwards.

The roofing of firstly wood sarking then malthoid and finally light weight aluminum was the most specular blaze and flame reached great heights.

The aluminum burnt like paper and the only useful conclusion after the fire was that it was so complete and made the final task of cleaning up the remains so much easier. Lost in the fire was a full size billiard table and a piano plus the usual furnishings of a hall

The loss of the hall of course was a severe blow to the RSA at that time and with the result that they had no place to hold their meetings and for the period from Jan.1956 until the opening of the new hall May 1957 the monthly meetings of the executive were held at the home of Newman Whaley on the corner of Brighton & Savage Ave.

At this stage of this epistle it is fitting that I should relate some time over this remarkable gentleman and of the stirring work he contributed to Waihi Beach RSA and other organisations. I only wish that a more knowledgeable writer than I could tell of the exploits of this small statured man and his journeys through life.

Born at Hull England, the same year as Winston Churchill was born. Became a regular soldier in Queen Victoria's ever advancing forces.

Served in India. Where he contracted malaria and doctors dispared for his life and gave him only a short time to live.

Served in South Africa during the Boer War. I think his rank was Reg.Sergeant Major.

Served in the First World War. in the NZ. army. Newman immigrated to NZ in 1913.

On the outbreak of the Second World War Newman again offered his services.

Newman was born in 1880 so at the start of the 2nd war would have been in his 60th year.

What this little man lacked in statue he certainly made up for in guts and sheer grit.

I well remember those friendly meeting in Newman's little front room lounge. No woman could have kept a more tidier home that this little guy. Everything always ready for the meeting. Chairs arranged and papers and minute book always ready and business was conducted very efficiently and always a cup of tea and goodies served by our host before we left. Those meetings in Newman's little home were very important meetings and the future planning and preparing for the construction of our new hall was to be pondered over in great depth and several plans for the new building had to be studied and the financial arrangements were being carefully studied. Newman Whaley was the Hon Secretary of the RSA for some 13 years 1945 to 1957-58 He was awarded the Gold Star around 1956 and became President 1958-59. Unfortunately I have no record of his date of death but from memory it would probably have been about the mid sixties.

John, Arthur, C, McCormack. (Mac.) Surely this man was Mr RSA himself and nobody did more than Mac to further the spirit of the RSA in this area. A veteran of the First World War he was a very early volunteer for the second and made it to Egypt but unfortunately ill health terminated his participation over there and he was invalided home early as a result. This setback did not daunt Mac for long and soon he was devoting his energies to the formation of the Bowling Green. After lengthy arguments with the Waihi Borough Council he was finally able to make a start with the aid of other locals including the late Jim McDermott, Stan Stevens, Hicks Bros, Sunny Hovell and several others but this was all before my time. Ethel McCormack still resides in Dillon St and is still active in Bowling and RSA womens division etc. Ethel informed me that at the start of the forming of the bowling green Mack and his sons dug the whole area by hand. Mack was the driving force in securing the present site where our Club rooms now stand and also the power behind the running of the RSA until his untimely death in 1972.

Mack died from a heart attack and had heart troubles for many years leading up until his demise. I was one of the early persons called at his death and it was a great shock to us all at his sudden death.

I always had a very warm admiration for Mac, but for me to say the he was a model of diplomacy and tolerance would be stretching credibility a little too far.

Mac had very strong beliefs in his own beliefs and sometimes was very reluctant to have others try to change those ideas. This sometimes made for heated meetings and some of those meetings were indeed very heated and I well recall two old stagers who shall remain nameless inviting each other outside so that they could settle matters once and for all. However peace was declared before that encounter was started and better judgement prevailed. Both those veterans then would have been nearly eighty at that time.

Mac was always a trier and he often said to me that he could be very successful in the running of the business of the RSA and Bowling Club affairs but was not so fortunate with his own business ventures and no lucky breaks seemed to come his way. Mac built the Sunglow Cabins near the RSA and where Michael Collins now lives. Later they sold the cabins and purchased the Shaw Rd store where Pat Bourke now has. Both these venture were not wonderful business successes and finally Mac and Ethel built the present house in Dillon St.

I have always regretted the Mac McCormack was not rewarded by the RSA for his services to the club and his tremendous contribution to the formation of the Waihi Beach RSA and the running of it for all those years from 1945 to 1972.

It would have been fitting for Mac to have been rewarded with all that the RSA had to offer including the Life Membership Badge, Merit Award and Gold Star.

Construction of the New hall 1956 - 57.

The question of the rebuilding of a new hall to replace the old burnt out structure did not meet with the approval of all the RSA members at that time.

A considerable number of the fellows were rather in favour of just a small Club Room and not a hall as such.

Other men considered that a larger hall was necessary and that much revenue could be gained with the catering for dances that were all so popular at that time and which the Cabaret which was situated on the Main Rd next to where the Drift Inn is now.



There were several special meeting before a decision was made to proceed with the erection of a new hall and it was moved that a structure of 80 Ft by 40 Ft be built which would be the main hall area and that a side room of 40 X 20 be attached which would serve as the Club rooms .

A start was made late in 1956 on the construction of the new hall and at this time 30 years later it is difficult to remember just who all did assist with its building. Certainly most of the work was done by unpaid labour and Ray Williams had a lot to do with the drawing up of the plans and the building.

Les Morgan. Les was there at the onset and I well remember Les and his Dumpey Level Les was making sure that the floor was to be perfectly level and had to be suitable for indoor bowling.

The foundations of the hall were put down with great care and a real jungle of concrete was set in place down to solid ground below the peat.

Many tons of reinforcing were used in the formation and all concrete was done by hand with two motor driven concrete mixers. Many hours of sweat was put in by the various volunteers who provided the few skilled builders with the concrete where they required it.

I shall write some of the men who worked on the hall as I remember but I am afraid that there will be many who I shall not recall.

Sid Whaley and his assistant Reg Alcock did all the plumbing work and nailed all the roofing on. The only paid builder was George Blake and this man did a great job in organizing the many inexperienced labourers to the best advantage.

Many fellows worked on the hall some for very lengthy periods and some perhaps for only the odd day.

Some names that I can recall are.

Andrew Lowry, Bob Lowry, Clarrie Black. Syd Whaley. Jack Toms. Les Morgan.

Steve Groves. John Fowler. Mick Fowler. Pery Cubitt. George McAllister.

Arthur McCormack. Stan Stevens. Bert Pipe. Oliver Pipe. Ted Dye. Newman Whaley.

Mick Bryant. Norm Cameron. Joe Anderson. Des Spiers. Gerald Sexton. Etc Etc.

Most of the timber was purchased direct from the mills at Putaruru.

Most of the timber was heart rimu and the special run of flooring was heart matai.

It must be realised that there were many difficulties to be overcome at that time there was no water scheme or sewerage at that time and these were the days of the night soil collection and reliance on tanks for water supply.

I remember there was a great debate on the feasibility of an inside mens toilet. Andrew Lowry a man of distinct personal opinions though that an inside toilet was a possibility and in spite of overwhelming opposition from all he went ahead at his own expense and built an inside gents toilet complete with a dry concrete urinal and a one seater can toilet.

Not to be outdone Clarrie Black and supporters constructed an outside men's toilet complete with a concrete urinal and two can toilets at the left rear of the hall. The Ladies toilet was placed at the right of the stage and consisted of two can type toilets and a small wash basin.

Came the dance period and it soon became evident that the inside mens was too overpowering and this had to be sealed off and for many years until the event of water and sewerage reticulation the outside gents served the wants of nature.

Might mention the old night soil collection at this period of history and just how everybody had to suffer this foul method of sanitation.

No trouble with the mens. But .. Cor.. The Ladies ??? Imagine the great New Years night when over 1600 patrons paid to enter for that great night.

It was some poor devils task to see that for the evening several spare cans were at the ready when required. The night soil collectors called every evening usually around 11 pm or midnight.

The tactful man on duty had to pick the right moment usually when a dance was in progress and then as discretely as possible open up the flaps from the outside of the hall and lift the sloppy foul can out on to the ground and place the lid on it. Then in went the clean can and the flaps shut once again.

Sometimes a female squeal signified the timing was a bit astray but of course the operator was not to know who the offended lady was anyway. ??

As history shows the new hall was officially opened on the 25th. May 1957  
 There were a large gathering of citizens and visitors for the occasion and the stools which had been built sufficient to encircle the inside of the dance floor ~~are~~ were insufficient to seat the assembly. No ? There were no stacker chairs in evident then and indeed the furnishings was very very basic.

The hugh effort of stringing coloured paper streamers across the rafters were not able to entirely shut out the sight of the black building paper under the iron roofing. It was to be many years before a respectable ceiling was to be placed in position.

However sparcy furnishing did not dampen the spirits of the hardy RSA personal at all and the thoughts of all at that time was how the club could make some money to repay the small mortgage from the bank.

As time came to think of running dances over the busy Christmas period the question arose as to the availability of a suitable dance band.

At that time the Cabaret on the Main Rd was in full swing and they had enjoyed the patronage of the holiday dancers for decades. They had a great band under the man-ageship of Harry Miller the great promoter and several star performers . We were under no allusions that for us to open in opposition we had a great task ahead of us.

It was then the Geoge McAllister mentioned Bill Seveci and his Samonian Band and we approached Bill Jeffs (Seveci) and came to an arrangement with him to take over the entertainment with the aid of the RSA personal as doormen and ticket sellers Etc. The basis of the deal was a 50 - 50 deal .

The band arrived the Saturday before Christmas and accommodation had to be provided for them for the duration of their stay until the last week in January.

#### THE GREAT DANCING ERA .

Came the first night and if there had not been for the Bands followers and the RSA personal there would have been an empty hall.

The Cabaret in the meentime was enjoying the usual flow of happy dancers and their music from the loud speaking system was not at all music to be enjoyed by our ears. However like true artists Bill and his band played on throughout the evenings and indeed for several more evenings.

We tried everything to try and promote the RSA Hall. Loud speakers around the Beach during the day. Then Ladies free if escorted by a partener.

We all parked our cars around the hall area to give the impression of a great attendance. But not much better patronage although we were now getting more every night and the few who were attending were overjoyed at the music and entertainment and then came the day when Bill Seveci and his boys made a hige promotion drive around the visitors and the word went out to everybody within ear shot of the challenge they were offering to all and sundry for a non stop Three Step Pollinaise to be held that evening. The challenge was made to everybody that the Band would outlast the dancers for the evening and the contest started at 7-30 and finished at midnight.

4½ hours of non stop dancing had been set by the dancers at the old Pitt St Cabaret in Auckland previously and Bill was challenging any dancer to complete the evening. The scheme worked and soon by word of mouth the message was received up at the Cabaret and as the evening progresses so did the dancers.

That band was simply terrific as it played on without a stop. Certainly individual players would have a pause but the music went on and on and on.

In spite of all windows and doors wide open the heat generated by those dancing bodies became overwhelming.

I was the doorkeeper on the main door and it became more and more obvious that it was impossible for the dancers to survive and soon exhausted bodies were retreating outside for fresh air and never were more soft grinks more in demand. I think from memory every bottle of drink was sold and we had to send around the shops for more.

Jim Sproule was the man who owned the Cabaret at that time and I well recall his calling at our door shortly after our opening to check up on how we were faring. Jim said to me. You Know John it is real peaceful around here no rush and bustle. like at the Cabaret ??

Jim call@the hectic night once again, but this time he did not have his sarcastic remarks about the peace and quietness. His hall had completely emptied his band had gone home and in fact some of his band was dancing to the Island music of Bill Seveci.

The great battle for the dances had be won and the RSA was the victors and would remain so for many years. In fact the Cabaret never again really did recover and although in latter years did receive some patronage after the Cabaret was taken over by Pat McLeay. Pat never really did very well in his venture and finally the old Cabaret was finally destroyed by fire. That fire was also one hell of a blaze. Must give some details regarding those dancing days. It was really quite a task for us RSA personal running those dances and it said a lot for the chaps who night after night spent some 5 hours on the doors or ticket box or on patrol.

As would be expected with public dances at times there would be some young blade who would try to show how tough he was. But this was only very seldom and over the years the RSA had a very good record for good behaviour and Mums soon learned they could leave there daughters with complete safety.

Many the Mum I assured in this respect and the girls only had to approach one of the fellows on duty and be reassured .

The dances were held every night with the Sunday dance commencing at midnight and terminating at 4-30 am.

After six weeks of dancing one was not sorry when the season was over and life came back to normal.

Not one penny was received for us RSA blokes over those years and it was to be for the next 4 or 5 years that we continued with these conditions.

#### THE BAND.

Must introduce you to the members of Bill Seveci's Island String Band.

Bill Jeffs. Leader and played the flat steel guitar. Bill was and still is a master of this instrument and we were honoured to have Bill return to our midst on the occasion of my receiving the Gold Star some four years ago.

Malu. A giant full blooded islander . But what a gentle giant, soft spoken and a perpetual smile. Only one night did Malu exercise his hugh strength when two young blades started a fight in the middle of the hall. Malu just laid his large base down walked slowly across the hall grabbed a youth in each hand and lifted both of the floor with easy and just carried the two miscreants to the door and the custody of the doorkeepers.

Hugo. A Blonde German Samoan . Played piano but could also relieve any other member of the band with his instrument .

John drummer . The only true kiwi in the group.

There were also two other guitarists who I cannot recall their names and also there were several vocalists. Val . Vince. Ronnie Sundin. Allison Durbin and many others.

Those first years were very profitable to the RSA and we were soon to be free of debt and a healthy bank balance until ????

I think the year was 1962 and I had just commenced as a Real Estate Agent.

I was talking to old Staff Clark this day and he mentioned that I would sell his Leo St property for £850.

Now why this property was so interesting to me was that it was the property right behind the RSA hall and it would have given us the extra room to extend the hall and more important it already had a septic tank constructed and it would have enabled us to have done away with the old night soil cans and installed flush toilets.

When I mentioned to old Staff that it was the RSA that could be interrested he reduced the price to £650. and would have given us good terms for repayment.

The executive were all very keen to proceed with the plan and a rough plan was formulated to improve the drainage and the 40 foot extension.

With the enlarged hall we could have catered for much larger dances and Balls and we would have had the largest floor space in the district.

A special meeting was called for and on that night I was astonished on entering the club rooms to find the room filled with mostly older man some of who I had never met and many of whom I have ever met since.

That meeting had been well canvassed for by some of the older members who considered that we had no right in choosing to expand the premises. The voting at meetings were different in those days and nominations for the executive were taken from the floor. A complete new executive was voted in under the chairmanship of Jack Scobie and secretary George McAlister.

All the hard working members who had done the hard work and put the RSA on such a

sound footing were out and the old chaps were going to show us young chaps how to run a RSA club.

Looking back now I am still wondering who those old blokes were at that meeting that night I have certainly never seen them since.

I remember Jack Scobie moving to have a motion that the RSA could not spend more than £25. without the approval of a special club meeting.

Clarrie Black a life long friend of mine since my childhood was perhaps the principal person behind that uprising and he was to be the Club President two years later. However the new broom did not sweep too clean for very long and from then onwards started to go down hill.

Bill Seveci could not work with the new committee and only lasted one season.

It was at that time that when the dances had petered out the committee decided to lease the hall to Mr. John Carter from TeAroha and John renamed the hall the Surf-Rider. The dances about this time were almost finished as the fashions were by then changed and the revenue coming in was practically nil.

Unfortunately the club at that time was experiencing a real depression and many meetings had to be cancelled for want of a quorum.

I recall one very tense meeting in which Ray Williams and myself were especially asked to attend as things had got to such a pitch that nobody could agree with nobody.

I well recall the evenings events and the atmosphere when Ray and I entered the room could have been cut with a knife. However after Ray and I had both had a say and asked for reasonable thinking the peace was declared and it was at that meeting that the two old warhorses had invited each other to go outside to let honour be decided. However the disharmony amongst the members in the past was uncommon and indeed would have been no worse than any other RSA.

It was in 1970 that I was persuaded to become President. This was 12 years after I was to have had this position in 1958.

At that time I was the Vice President and was to have been honoured that evening by becoming President. However the events of that evening's meeting altered my intentions when Newman Whaley mostly through ill health announced his resignation as Secretary after 13 years continuous service in that position.

The announcement from Newman was a real bombshell at that time and I remember we had some difficulty at the meeting obtaining somebody to accept nomination for the position of Secretary. Finally Percy Cubitt was nominated to fill the breach and proved to be a very good secretary over the next two years.

It was at this time that I proposed that Newman Whaley in recognition of his tremendous contribution to the Waihi Beach RSA be nominated as Club President and that as I was to have been the incoming president I would be pleased to stand down and have Newman Whaley as our new President. This motion was passed with general accord and Newman proudly took over the chair in his new role as president.

Those years onward and after the dancing era was over were struggling years for our RSA and when you consider that in all those years although we had a hall and club room there was not much incentive to entice members along for entertainment.

All the various committees did their best to make the club function and the hall was fulfilling the function as a town hall and no organisation was ever refused permission to hold a function. Indoor bowls, snooker on the one table, 500 cards, occasional dances, concerts, and of course there was always the Womens Section. Where would we have been without our good ladies always ready to assist at every function and who did the lions share of the cleaning. Certainly; it was our good ladies.

Perhaps now at this time as we enjoy the comforts of our present Club Rooms and look at the imposing bar facilities, nice carpets, two full size billiard tables, two pool tables, the whole improved furnishings, the new toilet facilities and of course the final new Restaurant.

It is now a pleasure to enter the Waihi Beach Club Rooms and many of our members and citizens fully enjoy these luxuries and I trust will continue to do so for many Years.

Now please consider what the hall was like pre licenced club days.

Firstly. The Club room was a separate room entirely from the hall and only one small door entered into the hall.

The club room in those days was really considered only for the use of genuine RSA members and almost exclusively for the use of the returned men only.

I well recall the first time that someone moved that soft drinks be sold at dances from the club room instead of from the kitchen. Indeed there was quite a lot of opposition from the old members, especially the first war men. It was then that the first door was put in place and it was many years later when the second door next to the supper room was added. Then the question of liquor. For all those years the only bar as such was a small lock up counter of perhaps 5 ft X 18 ins, Inside you would be lucky to find 2 doz beer and a bottle of whisky and rum for Anzac Day. Not much incentive for a married man to venture out at night for enjoyment. There was no wonder that the hall became a huge monster over the heads of the RSA fellows and the few loyal members who were doing their best to keep things moving became down hearted and less and less use was being made of the dismal looking hall. This was the picture facing John Fowler in 1970 when he found himself now in the hot seat as President and with dear old Mac McCormack as my running mate as secretary. The committee discussed the proposition raised by Mac that perhaps we could sell the hall to the community through the Ohinemuri County Council as a town hall and then perhaps the club could find a suitable house that we could turn into a small club room.

On the next page of this epistle I have inserted a letter that was sent to the council. In hindsight now it seems incredible now that such an offer should have been made to the council and ever more incredible that the council should turn down our offer. However that was 1970 and the RSA was in desperate plight with a fast depreciating hall which was in need of painting and general repairs.

I regret that I have not a copy of the reply from council declining our offer of them taking over the hall but have printed a copy of a press report at that time. When the offer was made public at that time the letters in the press were hot over the audacity of the RSA expecting the rate payers to take over their ugly old hall and of course most of those letters were under the signature of a nondeplume. Then came the day in the course of my position as a Land agent it came to my notice that the property once built by Fred Hawkins at No 67 Shaw Rd was placed on the market for sale. Price \$8000. I think from memory we were to pay \$2000 deposit and the balance over five years at 6%. These terms were only offered to the RSA as the then owner of the property was a returned man.

The position was then that the RSA could not take over a residential house and use it for a club room without the consent from council and then the change of venue had to be advertised in the press and any opposition to the proposal had to be heard.

At the time we were not worried over the prospects of us being able to overcome the requirements for us to operate our new clubrooms. We had already had assurances from council members that they were in favour of us going ahead with the scheme and all we had to worry about was the advertising of the project in the newspapers and if any objections were received we would be surprised.

Well indeed we were to be surprised and the following pages of the this report will give the reader some idea of the heated opposition we really did have thrown at us I apologise for the rather untidy look of these old press report but after all when one has kept these in his drawer for some 16 years they have come out of the photo-copier with reasonable clarity. I also had to do a rather masterly job of work with Scissors and celotape to get the full press cuttings in to photo-copy size.

We were fortunate in having on our side Mr Laurie Boughton our Honorary Solicitor who was a tower of strength to us and at the final hearing in the Council Chambers on the 22nd. March 1961 some of the would be objectors were to be handed out some stinging home truths and reminded of just how much of a debt the citizens of this community owed to the returned men and women and of their selfish stand in trying to block us from securing our own clubrooms.

I was to greeted with many downturned eyes as the objectors made their way into the council rooms that evening and many months later after the RSA were firmly established in No 67 Shaw Rd some of these objectors came to be and said that they were sorry that they had objected at the time. In deed some of the objectors made use of the clubrooms and some attended the weekly evening 500 cards .

All this past history of our rather brief venture into the new Clubrooms and the subsequent dealing in real estate happened in my term as Club President and of course it was through my business in this field that the opportunity came about for the chance to procure the property at such a bargain price and such favourable terms.



"Disgusted" Says President:

# PETITIONERS FAIL TO SHOW AT MEETING OVER R.S.A. CLUBROOMS

None of the 30 persons who petitioned against the Waihi Beach R.S.A. purchasing a beachfront house to convert into club rooms attended the association's public meeting on Saturday night in St. Peter's Hall, to discuss the matter.

The president of the Waihi Beach R.S.A. Mr E. J. Fowler, said yesterday that he was disgusted that the petitioners were not willing to come forward to discuss the club's plans. He said the association had until February to take possession of the house and they would now discuss the

situation with their solicitor, County Council. Twenty-four members of the public and R.S.A. members did attend the meeting and the chairman, Mr G. Gay, pointed out that a public meeting had been called and those present had the right to hear the facts. Speaking for the council, Mr J. Harris said that the petitioners were not making personal accusations, but under the Town and Country Planning Act had the right to object to a change of land. The council required the R.S.A. to state their intentions as to the use of the clubroom with concise facts. Mr Fowler reiterated his letter to the council in which he stated that the rooms were intended for the use of local R.S.A. members to play cards, table tennis or billiards. He said some alterations would have to be made to the building but these would be of a minor nature and there would be ample parking space available on the property. With regard to a charter, Mr Fowler said that it was most unlikely that one would be granted to the clubrooms as there were insufficient members. Also the grounds were not large enough. Mr E. Darke asked what the position would be if the present hall were sold, as requested by the public using it for table tennis and indoor bowls as had been the case over the past years. Mr McCormack, the R.S.A. branch secretary, stated that the original intention behind the building of the hall was to eventually raise sufficient funds to build a clubroom. The finance from the letting of the hall had now made this possible. He said it was possible that the new owner would continue in the same manner, though undoubtedly costs would be higher as in the past the R.S.A. had charged little or nothing for the use

## R.S.A. CLUBROOMS

Sir, I was amazed to read in the Gazette an application by the Waihi Beach, R.S.A. for permission to convert an existing residence into a clubrooms.

It is about time a firm stand was taken in adhering strictly to the rules in regard to a residential area. Where is it all going to end if Beach residents are not secure in their rights and find workshops and clubs etc parked virtually on their doorsteps, especially right in the middle of a densely populated area?

People come to the Beach for peace and tranquillity to get away from noise and pressures of the day and certainly do not want to be subjected to noisy revving of cars and door slamming at weekends when the club has its busy time.

There is also the quest of property values which could be affected in the immediate vicinity. There is room for hotels, clubs, and industries etc, as everyone will agree, but they must be located in suitable areas (as is the hotel) so that residents rights and privacy are not interfered with.

Observer,  
Waihi Beach

Mr Darke also stated that he could understand the feelings of the residents in Shaw Road. In the past few weeks he had had occasion to call on Mr Fowler to stop the noise coming from the hall very early on Sunday mornings.

Whilst he wished the R.S.A. members good luck, he said the possibility of disturbances could not be ignored.

Mr McCormack told the meeting that a meagre sum of \$13,150 had been spent on beer last year and some of this had gone stale. He felt that this was not even the equivalent of many home users.

Mr Fowler said that over the years the R.S.A. had done a great deal for the beach and he challenged petitioners to state publicly what they had done.

The chairman thanked the members of the public who had attended the meeting and shown their concern.

## UNREASONED ATTACK

Sir, Mr Fowler's emotional and unreasoned attack upon those petitioning against the proposed R.S.A. Club in Shaw Road, Waihi Beach, brings little credit on himself or the organisation that he represents.

May I ask how many of the 30 R.S.A. members were "shocked and hurt" in expressing a contrary opinion "steeping low"? Can Mr Fowler name one person who objects to the R.S.A. having a decent clubhouse? "Does the list of petitioners contain the names of people who have not served the community well?" Am I not correct in assuming that the R.S.A. let their hall for financial gain? And our area of the Beach is aptly named "Grisler's Box" is it? Is this responsible argument from the president of the local R.S.A. branch?

I built a house in Shaw Road with retirement in view because I considered this area the best residential part of the Beach. I do not want an R.S.A. Club opposite me because:

1. Parking facilities are already stretched during holiday periods.

2. I believe Waihi Beach will develop and in doing so R.S.A. membership will increase.

3. I do not want to live near a Club (be it R.S.A. or retired Quakers).

4. Close proximity to a club would certainly detract some prospective buyers should I ever want to sell.

Many prospective R.S.A. members lost their lives fighting to defend our right to express an opinion. Those of the 30 R.S.A. members who want their club-house in Shaw Road have a right to approach the council with this end in view, but the 30 petitioners (of which I am not one having not heard of the club proposal till this morning — Sunday 24th January) have an equal right to oppose — as indeed I shall!

Mr Fowler's attack is, however, very poor defense and to my mind, at least, the complete antithesis of everything the R.S.A. has and does stand for.

# Petition move by residents upsets Waihi RSA men

Staff Reporter

**WAIHI BEACH** — Executive members of the Waihi Beach RSA are "shocked and hurt" that after all the RSA has done for the town 30 home owners at the beach are trying to block their plan to convert a beachfront house into a new clubrooms.

The first notice informing the public of the association's intentions and calling for any objections had barely been published when it became known that a petition opposing the scheme had been handed to the Ohinemuri County Council.

Executive members say this is just another example of the mania for petitions at Waihi Beach which has caused it to become known as "Grizzlers' Bay" in some quarters.

They intend to fight the objectors to the bitter end and at a special meeting on Saturday decided to challenge those who signed the petition to meet them face to face at a public meeting next Saturday night.

Members of the RSA had done much toward running the town in the 23 years the association had been in operation, they said, and if it was not for their generosity Waihi Beach would not have a dance hall.

## Dance hall

The RSA hall had for many years doubled as the town hall and was regularly hired out for use as a dance hall over the holiday season.

With nightly dances being held there from December 26 right through to January 10 and the adjacent clubrooms being used as a cafe, the RSA was completely without facilities at a time when they were most needed.

It was because of this lack of facilities and the decline in membership which had resulted that the RSA was looking for new clubrooms. In doing so it hoped to revive interest in the club.

Members considered the two storey brick house in Shaw Road, for which they were applying to the Ohinemuri County Council for a change of use, ideal for their purposes.

The 1400 sq ft building, at present used as a holiday bach, is of modern design with a large lounge, two bedrooms and kitchen, toilet and storage facilities.

Right on the beachfront it is handy to the shopping area and commands an excellent view of the Waihi

## Residential

But it is in a residential area with houses on three sides and the neighbours, all but two of them holiday bach owners, have their own ideas about the scheme.

A spokesman for the group told me the 30 who signed the petition were all "within noise distance" of the house.

Paradoxically many of them were RSA members or returned servicemen themselves but though they conceded the club's need for a new clubrooms they were not willing to see it established in their own area.

Their major objection was that although the present RSA membership was small it could well increase greatly once the clubrooms were opened. Members would bring their friends and the numbers would be increased by visitors from other RSAs.

Neighbours felt with little room for parking on the section there could also be a traffic problem and a danger to children, particularly at holiday time.

## Retired

One of the two permanent residents and a close neighbour said she and her husband had retired to the

at the beach and she did not think they should have to put up with this.

It was not the RSA members who objected but the people they brought with them.

Another close neighbour said he could only assume that with the club's present low membership it would do no harm.

But once the clubrooms were in use there would be a rise in membership and in the number of visiting members. An RSA member could walk into any RSA clubrooms in New Zealand.

"I can only see it escalating and to escalate to that extent they must apply for a charter. If they apply for a charter what in turn does that do to my property?"

"I have been coming to the beach for 40 years and as an RSA member myself I appreciate their position.

"But are they doing the right thing by going into a residential area?"

"Some people may not fully appreciate what they have done for the town but this doesn't necessarily tie in with having their club-

rooms in a residential area. I would think they are asking too much."

For its part the RSA executive has been mystified as to why people should think the new clubrooms would mean a big increase in membership or in visiting members.

It pointed to the fact that only about one-third of the 30 members were active and if each took along a friend the number would still be very small.

## Ample room

It said the building would not take many people anyway and there would be ample room for parking on the grass verge. Nor did members drink much.

In 1989, the club's bill for refreshments totalled exactly \$40.79, prompting a quip from one of the executive that: "If any RSA in NZ drinks less than our crowd they must all be total losers."

Any suggestion of the club applying for a charter was dismissed as sheer nonsense. Even if the club wanted a charter it would not be able to get one, the executive said.

# Beach hall up to residents

**Staff Reporter** WAIHI  
 After seeking information from the Local Authorities Loans Board concerning a proposal for the purchase of the Waihi Beach RSA Hall as a community centre, the Ohinemuri County Council is to advise the RSA that it is not interested in purchasing

the hall at present. The council has decided to suggest to the Waihi Beach County Town committee that fundraising efforts be set up for the provision of a community centre in the future. The council recalled that at a public meeting at the beach, there had been a large majority in favour of build-

ing a new hall, if any. Since the Waihi Beach RSA moved to smaller clubrooms some time ago, its previous headquarters have been run as the Surfside Dance Hall, and is the only building to serve the purpose within the county town.

The county clerk, Mr M. W. Parker, said that one could go along with the thought that Waihi Beach needed a hall. However, if the council purchased the hall at its present valuation, there would be something like \$1010 in annual loan repayments to be met by the county town account, which was already heavily committed.

If the council took over the hall, it would also mean setting up a committee, employing a caretaker and meeting maintenance expenses on an old building.

The county engineer, Mr S. W. Didabury, said that Waihi Beach was at saturation point as far as loans went. The Waihi Beach riding member, Mr G. McAlister, agreed that drainage and reservoir work must come first.

"When Waihi Beach residents are prepared to get behind a hall project, themselves and raise some money, then it will be time for the county to come in and help," said Cr B. B. W. Fisher.

## MR BUILDER

You get more than  
 Aluminium Joinery  
 From

## NEBULITE

Installation that is fast -  
 simple - dependable and  
 inexpensive. Service that is  
 given where and when  
 you want it.

DELIVERED ON SITE  
 PAY FOR THE JOINERY  
 — GET THE REST —

"FREE"



Only the signs remain of a familiar land mark on Te building was hijacked by crons this morning. Taxi Office built

111

TAKING OVER OF R.S.A. HALL BY OHINEMURI COUNTY OR CITIZENS OF WAIHI BEACH.

1970

Price \$15000.

Rates. \$95 - 00

G. Rent \$85 - 00

At Nil. Deposit and 15 years Table Mortgage. at 7%.

Yearly repayments of \$1623 - 24.

Total interest over 15 years. \$9348

Hall could be managed by Waihi Beach Progressive Assn or by a Hall Committee.

Past performance of revenue from the Hall would more than cover outgoings.

Organisations who would use the hall,

Indoor Bowling. Table Tennis. Christmas Dances. Other Dances.

Weddings. Various entertainments. Kiddies Fancy Dress Parties.

Public Meetings. Surf Club Functions. Wet nights at Concerts., to be able to transfer a high priced intertainment group on a wet night is a very important point.

A township the size of Waihi Beach must have a Hall to function.

The existing R.S.A Clubroom would be very functional as a meeting room for County Town Meetings.

Price being asked by the Waihi Beach R.S.A is certainly not over priced and the ratepayers of Waihi Beach will be receiving very good value for their money.

IN THE MATTER of the Town and Country  
Planning Act, 1953 and its amendments

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by the  
Waihi Beach Branch of the Returned Ser-  
vicemen's Association under Section 28C  
of the said Act,

APPLICATION

Application for a Conditional Use of the land referred to hereunder  
being permission to convert an existing dwelling into a clubrooms.

The land to which the application refers is zoned "Residential" in the  
Council's draft district scheme which has been advertised for public notifica-  
tion and objection and is situated on the seaward side of Shaw Road at No. 67  
and is described as Lot 101 D.P.S. 1263 Waihi No. 5 Block.

HEARING

A hearing of objections was held in the Council Chambers, Belmont Road,  
Paeroa on Monday 15th March, 1971 commencing at 7.45 p.m.

Counsel for the objectors were Messrs. D.D. McLeod of Hamilton and P.J.  
Edwards of Auckland.

Mr. Boughton appeared for the applicant association.

Witnesses called for the applicant were Messrs. E.J. Fowler and W.R.  
Williams.

The County Engineer, Mr. S.W. Bidsbury, gave evidence in a private cap-  
acity.

Witnesses for the objectors were Mrs. E. Koretz and Mr. E.R. Dyer for  
the Estate of Karl Koretz and Messrs. J.T. Cullen, M.J. Thorn, P.R. Longden,  
and H.D. MacKay who appeared for J.T. Cullen and 24 others.

OBJECTION

The stated grounds of the objection were as follows:-

- (a) That the site for the proposed conditional use determined by ref-  
erence to the provisions of the District Scheme is not suitable  
and
- (b) That the proposed use is likely to have an adverse effect on exist-  
ing and foreseeable future amenities of the neighbourhood and on  
the health safety convenience and the economic and general welfare  
of the inhabitants of the district.
- (c) That the proposed use would substantially alter the wholly resi-  
dential nature of the area which comprises holiday cottages and  
permanent homes.
- (d) That the noise traffic and traffic disturbance particularly at  
night attendant on club functions would be detrimental to the pre-  
sent residential environment of the area.
- (e) That the increase in traffic and noise



- 16
- (f) That other and more suitable sites are available to the Applicant,
  - (g) That it is contrary to the principles of good town planning for such a use to be permitted upon this site.
  - (h) That the proposal would downgrade the market value of properties nearby.

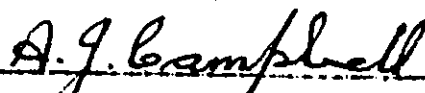
DECISION

"That the application under Section 280 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1953 by the Waihi Beach Returned Servicemen's Association in respect of Lot 101 D.P.S. 1263 of Waihi No. 5 Block being No. 67 Shaw Road, Waihi Beach for the establishment of a clubrooms be granted subject to the following conditions:-

- (a) That the front fence of the property be removed and a parking area be developed on that portion of the property between the first buildings and the road edge; such parking area to be not less than 4 inches of compacted all-in metal and sealed.
- (b) That the Association at its own cost erect and paint a suitable fence of not less than 4 feet 6 inches in height along the boundary between No. 67 Shaw Road and No. 65 Shaw Road.
- (c) That no additions be permitted that will enlarge the building in any way and that the Association be required to comply with any Health Department requirements regarding the installation of minimum toilet facilities.
- (d) That the Association at no time apply for a Club Charter or provisional liquor license in respect of this premises.
- (e) That the premises remain open not later than midnight on any one day.

AND FURTHER that the objections be dismissed."

Dated at Paeroa this 22nd day of March, 1971

  
A.J. CAMPBELL, COUNTY CHAIRMAN.

  
R.M. MALCOLM, COUNTY CLERK.

We were to have these new rooms for over two years and during those two years they were extensively used by all members and many visitors.

The clubrooms were the real love of our dear old secretary Arthur McCormack who was the main contender for the idea of securing a small meeting place and the disposal of the big hall to the community through the council.

Perhaps readers may now ask was that venture really justified and were we really crazy in venturing into such a proposal. In hindsight I can assure all readers that that venture was indeed a very good idea and the club was to have many of the members patronise the new rooms who had never been in the old clubrooms for years.

It was a delight to just spend the odd hour in those delightful surroundings and all facilities for making tea and even a meal was always available as was always liquid refreshments with the honours system in operation and it says a lot that only on few occasions did someone breach this system.

We had no objections from the near residents over rowdy behaviour as they had anticipated and indeed I really believe many were sorry when just over two years after the purchase of the place we sold it.

The main reason why we had to dispose of it was because we were unsuccessful in our endeavours to have council take the hall over as a public hall even after we made them the offer at the reduced price of \$10,000.

In those two years the value of real estate was rapidly increasing and when the decision was made to dispose of the place and I suggested a figure of \$18000 most of the fellows thought that I was over optimistic but in fact we had several buyers interested at that figure and we were delighted that when we found a suitable purchaser it was to be a returned service man and we were not to know then of how lucky we were to secure a lovely new couple in the form of MR and Mrs Foreman.

This is of course old history now and there is no need for me to write of just how much Mick Foreman has contributed to the well being of our club and his many years on the executive and his 5 years as president and now his final honour as our Patron. It is only too sad that he was to have lost his lovely wife Keitha some years after arriving at Waihi Beach. Mick continues to reside at NO 67 Shaw Rd and I think he shall continue to do so for many years to come.

Just in case there are some doubts over John Fowler's part in the dealing over the buying and selling of the property I can assure all readers that not one penny was ever received by me in the way of commissions and indeed the further sale of subsequent property that was to be bequeathed to the RSA by a fellow RSA member.

Here is another story in this rather drawn out epistle but as it has effected the club so much I must relate the story of David Neave.

David Neave arrived at Waihi Beach around 1968 and purchased a cottage on Marine Ave the cottage is still there and is next to the Plunket rooms.

David did not enjoy good health and had for many years suffered as a chronic Asthmatic I got to know David very well as did Arthur McCormack and we both spent many spare moments with David. David suffered terribly from insomnia and would pass the nights long sleepless hours away doing crossword puzzles.

One day he confided to me that he did not have a living relative in New Zealand and it was worrying him that he had not made his will out for many years.

His wife had deserted him many years ago and his mother had just passed away in England. He remarked to me that he would be interested to leave the proceeds of his estate the house and contents and his older 1959 Nash Continental car.

I introduced David to Keith Grant the solicitor and Keith drew up a will for David and naming the Waihi Beach RSA as the sole beneficiary.

David Neave passed away peacefully April 1972 and as stated the whole of the proceeds of the estate was passed on to the RSA. I have managed to find a copy of the list of chattles and it is interesting to note the low values of the various articles at that time. The old Nash car was purchased by Norm Phelps and he had the old car for many years, it was a two seater coupe painted red and ticked over like a clock. The house was sold for \$8000. and to this day the proceeds of the generous gift from David Neave continue to provide the main revenue for our Welfare Funds.

Most of the furniture was installed into the Shaw Rd clubrooms and were a real godsend to us at the time. Especially the television set and radio. All the other furniture and kitchen fittings were also put to good use and what articles not required were

INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

ESTATE DUTY

FURNITURE, EFFECTS, JEWELLERY, PRIVATE MOTORCARS

Estate of DAVID RICHARD NEAVE., deceased. Date of death 16 / 5 / 19 72

SEE NOTES FOR GUIDANCE ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM

<p>I, <u>Everett John Fowler.</u> (Full name)</p>	<p><b>CERTIFICATE</b> A.R.E.I.N.Z</p>	<p>Real Estate Agent (Occupation)</p>
<p>have inspected the articles described and certify—</p>		
<p>(a) That the value set opposite each article was the fair market value as at the date of death.</p>		
<p>(b) That the total value is <u>\$967 - 00</u></p>		
<p><u>E. J. Fowler J.P.</u> (Signed)</p>		<p><u>31 / 5 / 1972</u> (Date)</p>
<p><u>79 Main Road. Waihi Beach.</u> (Address)</p>		

Description of Asset	Value at Date of Death	
1 Nash Continantal Motor Car. 1959.	400	00
1 Kelvinator Refrigerator.	70	00
1 H.M.V. Television	75	00
1 Phillips Radio	10	00
1 Phillips Radio.	15	00
1 Wall clock	10	00
1 Wall clock	6	00
1 Bed with mattress.	12	00
1 Wardrobe.	6	00
1 Chest of drawers.	6	00
1 China cabinet.	8	00
1 Dinnerwaggon.	5	00
1 Writing cabinet.	10	00
1 Kitchen table and 4 chairs.	20	00
1 El jug. \$4. 1 El. Frypan. \$4. 1 El. blanket. \$8.	16	00
1 Travelling rug. \$8. Sundry blankets \$10. Sundry Linen \$8.	26	00
Sundry crockery. \$3. Sundry cutlery. \$4. Sundry pots \$12.	19	00
Sundry Clothing, shoes, personal effects	40	00
2 Motor mowers.	30	00
Sundry tools, screws, bolts etc.	8	00
Garden tools,	10	00
1 Set of bunks and mattresses.	15	00
1 Stretcher bed and mattress	8	00
1 Ultimate rangette	10	00
1 Washing machine.	45	00
1 El. Toaster. \$5. 1 El. Iron. \$5.	10	00
2 Fireside chairs. \$25. 2 Fireside chairs. \$6.	31	00
1 Round table. \$2. 1 Standard Lamp. \$3. 2 Mirrors. \$4.	9	00
1 Hoover Vac. Cleaner. \$15.	15	00
1 Display cabinet. \$4. Curtains. \$10. 2 Carpet squares \$8.	22	00
<b>Total value of furniture Etc.</b>	<b>\$567</b>	<b>00</b>
<b>Motor car.</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$967</b>	<b>00</b>

sold mostly to RSA personal and by way of interest the wrist watch that David wore at the time I made an offer to the Trustee, Keith Grand of \$25. After months of Keith trying to obtain a higher price offer for the watch he finally rather ungratiously let me buy the watch.

I still wear that old watch and now it is well pitted and a lot of the gold imitation gilt has disappeared but for sentimental reasons I keep wearing the old watch it keeps reasonable time and never requires winding.

The club still has some of David's chattels but most of them have been disposed of now with the passing of the years and the continuing upgrading of the clubrooms. Long may David Neave be remembered and if readers are interested his medals are permanently on display in the display cabinet.

With the sale of the Shaw Rd to Mick Foreman for the good price of \$18000 the RSA club was now for the first time in a very sound position and the committee was in a position to effect some well needed repairs to the old clubrooms and hall. A name I must mention at this stage of my writing is that of Stanley Hardwicke. Stan was club secretary from 1973 - 76.

Stan and Margaret arrived at Waihi Beach around 1970 and purchased a section on Queen St. Next to the School. With the aid of a relative they built their own house and Stan and Margaret completely did all the interior of the house by their own efforts.

On returning to our old very untidy clubrooms it was mainly Stan Hardwicke who did most of the refurbishing of the place. He put in place the leatherboard which is still in use today and then proceeded to replace the old painted walls with wall-paper. The first attempts at a bar was also started and for the first time we were to have the luxury of a nice carpet in the club room.

A ten foot billiard table was purchased as was a pool table and then a second pool table. Also the servery into the kitchen was introduced and finally a much larger entrance to the main hall which was later widened to how it is today. Tragically poor old Stan was to suffer a brain tumor and was a very sick man for about two years before he passed away. Yes; We owe a lot to the late Stanley Hardwicke.

With the new improved standard in the clubrooms and the fellows now being able to enjoy a quiet beer ?? Quiet it had to be because of course we had no licence did we and discretion had to be exercised.

John Fowler had had enough as president by 1974 and those 4 years had been indeed very busy times and I was relieved when Cliff Burns took over the chair for the next two years.

Harold Dowrick was the next president 1976 - 77 and Harold proved to be a good chairman and his past services with the Tokaanui RSA in which time that club had been granted its Club Charter Licence.

It was at this time that we all began thinking about the possibilities of a RSA Licenced Club.

Mick Foreman was the next president from 1977 - 82 and it was in Mick's term of office that many events were to come about.

Many new improvements were made to the clubroom and hall, with improved bar facilities and the opening into the hall being extended and more carpetting.

Then came the day when the application for a Liquor Licence.

The Licensing Control Commission was represented by G.B.Fea. S.M. Chairman and R.S. Austin. The hearing was held in the Waihi Borough Council Chambers and the Waihi Beach RSA was represented by M.Foreman, H.Dowrick and H.Eades.

Our three representatives put up a good case and we were all completely dumfounded when the decision arrived back later to inform the club that the application had been declined.

In the following copies of this epistle I have enclosed firstly the copy of the decision. Then the letter that I wrote to Mick Foreman as a protest of that Decision. This letter was widely circulated and a copy sent to RSA Dominion Hq Wellington Readers of this epistle will appreciate that I was really deeply shocked by these events and my main annoyance over the upset was directed to the chief opponent of the application. One Mr. E.C. Pipe the owner of the Waihi Beach Hotel who was a returned man himself but was so venement towards our RSA that he would engage a private detective to crawl his way into our clubroom to gather evidence for the case against us.

LICENSING CONTROL COMMISSION OF NEW ZEALAND  
(Sale of Liquor Act 1962)

IN THE MATTER for an application  
by the WAIHI BEACH R.S.A. CLUB  
(INC) for a Club Charter author-  
ising the club to sell and dispose  
of liquor to members for consump-  
tion only on the Club's premises  
situated at Brighton Road, Waihi  
Beach.

HEARING

Before :

G.B. Fea, S.M. (Chairman)  
R.S. Austin

At :

Waihi Borough Council Chambers,  
Waihi

On :

12 March 1980

APPEARANCES

W.G. Henderson

for

Applicant

C.J. Harding

for

E.C. Pipe





DECISION

1. The applicant club, originally the Waihi Beach R.S.A. sub-branch has been in existence for 35 years and after a somewhat chequered career was incorporated as the Waihi Beach R.S.A. Club Inc. in July 1979. The Club has a membership of 96 returned service members and 5 home service members and if a charter is granted the rules would provide for service members, womens section members and social members. Under the category "social members" the Club would expect the Commission to approve a total of 30. The Club is at present providing a reasonable range of indoor activities for members including television but does not have a quiet room. The library appears from the evidence to be merely a bookcase, or similar facility, of books.

2. The application was opposed by Mr Pipe, the holder of the premises and keepers licences of the Waihi Beach Hotel.

3. The Health, Fire, Police authorities have all advised us that they have no objection to the grant of this application and the report of the Inspector of Licensed Premises is favourable.

4. We now turn to the evidence placed before us on behalf of the objector. Mr Pipe in his evidence told us that the resident population of Waihi Beach is approximately 1200 and no substantial increase could be expected in the near future. Age beneficiaries were estimated to comprise between one third and one half of the total population. He then went on to detail existing outlets in the area and the possible effect a new outlet could have on the viability of the hotel, and presented two reports, prepared by a Licensed Private Investigator, relating to the present activities of the Club. The author of these reports Mr R.A.O. Williams was then called and read the reports as his evidence.

5. The reports indicate quite clearly that the applicant Club is now trading substantially and illegally and that any control relative to the admission of visitors appears to be unsatisfactory to say the least.

6. Under normal circumstances and in the absence of any trading figures from the Hotel we would be inclined to the opinion that the Club, small as it is insofar as membership is concerned, and having been in existence for a considerable period, would have little effect on the Waihi Beach Hotel. However the evidence of Mr Williams persuades us otherwise. We are not persuaded that the activities of the Club to date illustrate that a sufficient degree of responsibility has been shown to exist to justify the granting of this application.



The application is declined.

DATED at WELLINGTON this 26th day of March 1980.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "G.B. Fea".

G.B. Fea, S.M.  
(Chairman)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R.S. Austin".

R.S. Austin  
(Member)

Dear Mr.Foreman,

I have perused the copy of the Licensing Control Commission's Report in which they notified that the application for a Charter Club to sell and dispose of liquor to members for consumption only on the Clubs premises at Waihi Beach had been declined.

To merely say that I am astonished would be the understatement of the year.

As I read the report of the decision as it stated. The applicant club,originally the Waihi Beach R.S.A has been in existence for 35 years and after a somewhat chequered career was incorporated as the Waihi Beach RSA Club Inc.

A SOMEWHAT CHEQUERED CAREER. I would suppose that one could say that Winston Churchill had also had a Somewhat Chequered Career as indeed for that matter the British Empire. The same British Empire that we all fought for for freedom and honest British Justice.

How can I adequately briefly describe that Chequered Career.

In the beginning when the men were returning home after four years of fighting for country and freedom it was decided to purchase the two only available sections on which the first hall was constructed, mostly out of car cases and second hand timber and all by voluntary labour. Then the tragic fire some eight years later with the total loss of all the club's assets. The keen resolve of the men to have another go and the enormous task of the reconstruction of the existing hall in 1955. Only two men were paid wages for the job, all other work was performed voluntarily by RSA men and other generous citizens.

I can say with pride that the history of the past 35 years of the Waihi Beach Returned men has been of a very high standard and would be second to no other district in N.Z.

Some of the performances of past and present members of the RSA I would like to mention. Service on Fire Brigade, County Council, County Town Committee, Justice of the Peace, Church Committees, and the assistance given in the construction of three churches. Boy scouts, Civil Defence, Rotary, Lions clubs, and many other fields of service in our somewhat chequered career.

How many loads of firewood have been cut up and delivered to the aged and widowed over those 35 years and how many trips to hospitals. Waihi, Tauranga, Hamilton, Thames and yes, Tokonui. How much from our welfare fund has been distributed to members in distress.

The hall has doubled as a town hall over the years and how lost our town would be if it was to be suddenly removed. No reasonable request for its use has ever been denied to anybody or any organisation. However with the ever rising cost of living it is becoming ever more difficult to survive and with the recent cost of refurbishing to bring the hall up to a standard of decor to enable an application for a club charted to be made it is now becoming very difficult financially to survive.

The report at least acknowledges that the hall complies with Fire, Health, and Police regulations but states that it provides only a reasonable range of indoor activities and that from evidence produced to be merely a bookcase and that there is no quiet room.

If the two gentlemen who heard the Application could have seen for themselves what the hall contained they would have found that the facilities provided were much more substantial and included, 1 new 12 foot billiard table, 1 new 10 foot billiard table and 2 new pool tables. A dart board, 12 card tables, 8 Formica top tables, some 60 padded chairs, some 150 stacker chairs. Indoor bowling mats and bowls, a very good stage suitable for concerts etc. a good piano, a new stereo record player, table games, large stock of crockery, cutlery, new double stainless steel sink good kitchen facilities suitable for catering for any functions.

Weekly games of five hundred, house and indoor bowls are arranged and our ladies section are always active in all manner of social activities.

Recently the whole of the club area has been fully body carpeted.

It would appear that the application was upset by the evidence of a Licensed Private Investigator, a person answering to the name of R.A.O. Williams who was employed by Mr. E.C. Pipe to spy on the club and by fair means or foul secure evidence detrimental to our securing a charter. His whole movements during his visit are highly open to investigation and should be investigated further. As I have been informed the position was that Williams first went into the Waihi

R.S.A.Club and introduced himself to the duty barman who was Tom Petterd and that he was an R.S.A member from Auckland and that he had left his identification card at home and also that he was interested in looking over R.S.A clubs in the area. He had a drink and after a period proceeded down to Waihi Beach but only before he had arranged for a phone call to be made to the Waihi Beach club that he was coming. This phone call was received by Noel Lind who was the duty officer of the day and on his arrival Noel checked him and a friend into the club. ( a photostat of the page of the visitors book is inclosed) I would say that any individual so introduced would be admitted under similar circumstances to any service club in New Zealand or any other country.

Conrary to the report that any control relative to the admission of visitors appearing unsatisfactory I would say quite irrefutably that this is not the case and that the Waihi Beach R.S.A has a very strict enforcement rule governing the admission of visitors.

I will say that Mr.Pipe should have little reason to complain of the club effecting to any great degree his livelihood. It has been reported to me from a very reliable source that during the past holiday seasons in no way could his hotel facilities cope with the patrons requiring service and that seating accommodation was completely inadequately. Disposable drinking glasses were provided at a cost of five cents and Mrs. Pipe was in the habit of gathering up these plastic glasses and washing them for further recycling until some of the patrons and staff forced her to desist. Later she changed her policy and instead of the surcharge of five cents for the plastic glass she made a surcharge of five cents on the drink. Patrons were sitting on beer crates in the beer garden and anywhere else they could fit in the completely inadequate surroundings.

I have many times been told of the underage patrons that have little trouble in securing drinks at the hotel or precuring bottled drink to take away from the bottle department.

Mr Pipe has little cause to employ a professional spy to belittle the R.S.A and would have been a much nicer person if he had joined and assisted his fellow returned servicemen in helping with the rehabilitation of his fellow men.

I trust that with a reheating of the Application and with the services of an experienced solicitor that the application shall be successful and that justice shall prevail.

Yours sincerely,

E.J. Fowler. JP.

My full name is Everett John Fowler and I am a Real Estate Agent living at Main Road, Waihi Beach. I am a Justice of the Peace and a Life Member of the Waihi Beach R.S.A. with which my association goes back to its founding 36 years ago. During that time I have held many offices in the Association, including that of President.

Although no wovser, I am not a drinking man and my concern is with the provision of attractive amenities not only for ex-servicemen and their wives but for all of the residents of the district. Not all R.S.A. members go to their Club for the drinking nor does the Waihi Beach R.S.A., for one, restrict the use of its facilities to its members. After the servicemen began returning from World War II it was decided to take a lease from the Waihi Borough Council of the only two adjoining sections available and this was effected in 1946. The first hall was then constructed, mostly out of car cases and second-hand timber and utilising solely voluntary labour. Unfortunately, that building was destroyed by fire in 1955 and the small group of members, assisted by other local citizens, began the construction of the present building.

This building has served ever since as the only public hall in the whole Waihi Beach area. No reasonable request for its use, for both public and private functions, has ever been refused and on a great many occasions no charge has been made. For many years the Association ran nightly dances during the holiday season to provide income for the upkeep and upgrading of the hall and assisting with the Association's welfare work.

As their years advanced and their numbers dwindled the members felt unable to continue these fund-raising activities and in 1970 endeavoured to induce the Ohinemuri County Council, which is one of the local authorities having jurisdiction over Waihi Beach, to purchase the hall on exceptionally favourable terms and thus ensure its continued availability to the public of Waihi Beach generally. Unfortunately, the County elected not to accept the offer and the responsibility of maintaining this public amenity remains with the Association.

I believe that although the availability of liquor is not the sole attraction for members it is a very important consideration and that if this facility is not available at Waihi Beach many of the members will transfer their allegiance to Waihi and the Beach Association will cease to exist. Indeed, many of our members have shown since the first application failed that distance is not necessarily a deterrent and they will take their cars into Waihi for their socialising if they cannot be accommodated at the Beach.

Thus I fear that the failure of the Waihi Beach R.S.A. to obtain a Charter will inevitably result in the closing of the hall, to the detriment of those who use it for indoor bowls, cards, wedding receptions, 21st birthday celebrations, private dances and public meetings. Here again I emphasise the non-drinking aspect of the use of the premises and by way of example I quote my experience of card evenings I have

26  
have never seen so much as one glass of beer. Even at R.S.A. meetings themselves when our members were more numerous and much younger than they are now drinking liquor was not a strong feature. For example, in 1969 the Association's annual bill for refreshments of all kinds was only \$40.79!

Much was made at the first hearing of the possible effect upon the viability of the Waihi Beach Hotel of the granting of the Charter but in my view this concern was misdirected. The two establishments cater for entirely different types of patrons. The Hotel is run along tavern lines with the barest of amenities. At busy times patrons have been served their beer in plastic glasses for which they were charged 5 cents and have had to sit on beer crates when all available chairs have been occupied. On most Saturday nights throughout the year and on week nights as well during the holiday season very loud music is played. It is clear from the type of music provided and the numbers of teenagers one sees entering and leaving the premises that the Hotel caters for the younger age group.

The Club, on the other hand, is intended to cater for the older person who enjoys his comfort and the companionship and amenities which he cannot reasonably expect from a hotel. It is for this reason that the premises are fully carpeted and a piano, a television set, a stereo with a supply of music more to the taste of my age group, a dart board, 12 card tables, indoor bowling mats, 2 billiard tables, 2 pool tables, some 60 padded chairs and 150 stacker chairs have been provided.

There is a place on the Beach for both types of establishment and it certainly does not follow that one draws its patrons at the expense of the other. The desires of the two groups are different - one goes to a hotel to drink but one goes to a club for fellowship and relaxation in comfortable surroundings. If those seeking the latter are denied it at Waihi Beach they are more likely to seek it at another club elsewhere than at the hotel.

C. J. Lowe, J.P.



While all those proceedings were taking place John Fowler was doing what he was supposed to be doing fulfilling his task as Patron of the club and enjoying his new office in that position with contentment and happy to be free of all club worries and grateful that the committee were going along so nicely. Our solicitor George Gay was as astonished as we were because after all of all the vast number of RSA clubs throughout NZ we were the first club to be turned down. From here on the Patron ceased to be a figurehead and he became very much more involved in the oncoming second application for a licence. I have always been proud to have been a returned soldier and to now find that I was a member of the only RSA club in New Zealand was a real affront to all what I believed in.

I have always considered that Waihi Beach citizens have been second to none anywhere in this country and anywhere else for that matter and I considered that the efforts of our returned men in this community was second to none.

I was pleased to be able to assist George Gay our solicitor prepare an affidavit (25 - 26) and so start the ball rolling towards our recovering our self respect and also our Liquor Licence.

The rehearing for our second application was to be held in Hamilton and this necessitated two trips over to the courthouse before the hearing proper was held. George Gay had appointed Mr A.E. Hassall a well known Hamilton Barrister to present our case and George Gay had prepared the brief for Mr Hassall and was to be present at the hearing to assist with the evidence.

Unfortunately all does not always work out as is planned and our delegation of some 20 Waihi Beach members had a few anxious hours as we awaited firstly for Mr Gay, secondly for Mr. Hassall and thirdly for our club president Mick Foreman. We were very relieved when a flustered Mr Hassall arrived and introduced himself to us. On learning the Mr. Gay had not shown up he was to say the least not amused neither were we. Then a hurried consultation with Harold Dowrick, John Fowler, and Harry Eades. I being the most longer serving member and probably on account on my having lengthier knowledge of past events and I suppose being a long serving Justice of the Peace was selected by Mr Hassall as his assistant and I sat with him on the front bench.

I was in fact the first witness to give evidence and to a large degree the evidence was being taken from my pre prepared affidavit.

Mr Ted Pipe was the sole objector against our application and he was indeed a lonely figure as he stood unassisted except for his young council who was not very outspoken.

I really was all fired up that afternoon against Mr Pipe and I did not spare him in any way as I drew the attention of the presiding Chairman of the Licensing Control Commission to the many deficiencies of the Waihi Beach Hotel and its management.

I will serve no purpose in raking up any unpleasant evidence at the hearing but when it was over the Waihi Beach RSA had its Liquor Licence and honour was satisfied and once again I could become the peaceful Patron once again and let the new inthuisastic younger club members get on with the job of building a really good clean and spacious clubrooms and as you all see them today everyone must agree that they certainly have done a most magnificent job of this and today we have clubrooms that we are proud off.

I could relate a considerable story over the splendid work done by our present office bearers however I shall refrain from this story as this may swell their egos and rest on their laurels, however it certainly was a fortunate day for Waihi Beach and especially the RSA when Len decided to retire to This community. Did I say retire ??? This guy has more energy than 10 ordinary blokes and the talents of the same number.

Our club owes a vast debt to this extraordinary man and since his arrival and his taking over the administration in so many ways the old clubroom with its so many ugly spots have gradually disappeared and we have just so many more facilities that we are all proud off.

Long may you remain Len Nicholson and enjoy the fruits of your labours and I trust the before long Len can be rewarded by some suitable honour in recognition of his stirring efforts.

In writing this rather lengthy narrative I have tried to keep to the affairs of the RSA and as how I remembered them.

There is just so much to be told of past events in the settling of Waihi Beach. To relate the many diverse activities of past citizens would take many further pages and therefore I am resisting the temptation to get involved in that story. Perhaps at a later date I may find the desire to write further.

I am sure that some readers will find that I have omitted some events that they could recall. For this I am sorry and can only plead a failing memory and trust that some readers can gain some knowledge from my ramblings.

FINIS