



CHAPTER TWO
THE RSA MOVEMENT

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THE RSA MOVEMENT

2.1 Introduction

The phrase - “the RSA Movement” - describes two entities. One is the Royal New Zealand Returned And Services’ Association which is a society duly registered and incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The other entity comprises the numerous Local Returned Services’ Associations which are incorporated societies, with their branches, women’s sections, sporting, licensed and youth clubs.

This paper briefly describes the composition and objects of the two entities

2.2 RNZRSA

One of the Objects of RNZRSA is to promote, foster and generally supervise Local Returned Services’ Associations throughout New Zealand. Membership of RNZRSA comprises:-

2.2.1 Affiliated local Returned Services’ Associations

2.2.2 Affiliated local RSA Clubs

2.2.3 Affiliated overseas Returned Services’ Associations

2.2.4 Affiliated kindred ex-service associations which preserve and perpetuate ideals that are in harmony with those stated in the RNZRSA rules.

2.2.5 The Life and Honorary Life Members as detailed in RNZRSA rule 9 (f)

2.3 Patron

Her Gracious Majesty – Queen Elizabeth II

2.4 Administration

The affairs of the Association are managed by the National Executive Committee which comprises:-

2.4.1 The Officers of the Association

- The National President
- Two National Vice Presidents
- The Eight District Presidents
- The Immediate Past President (for one year only)

2.4.2 Four members elected at National Council

2.4.3 One member representing Maori ex-servicemen and women

2.5 Objects

The Objects of the Association are:-

Loyally to uphold the sovereignty of New Zealand as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and as a member of the United Nations.

To foster and maintain the welfare and security of New Zealand within the concept of the establishment and maintenance of international peace with honour.

To inculcate in the individual a sense of responsibility to his fellow citizens, to his local community, and for the well-being of mankind.

To perpetuate the comradeship born of service and to promote the general welfare of servicemen and former servicemen, their respective dependants and the former dependants of deceased servicemen or ex-servicemen.

To promote, foster and support the charitable objects of local Associations.

2.6 Local RSAs

Each local Returned Services' Association (the second entity of the RSA movement) is an autonomous society registered and incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

2.7 Admittance to Membership

The admittance to membership of RNZRSA of a local RSA is provided for in RNZRSA rules 10 and 11.

Once admitted as a member each local RSA is bound by the provisions of RNZRSA rule 77 to abide by and loyally support the resolutions of National Council.

The local RSA, consists of:-

2.7.1 A Patron (where this office is provided for)

2.7.2 The Officers (for example)

- A President
- A Vice President(s)
- An Honorary Treasurer

2.7.3 Financial Returned, Service, Associate and Junior members.

2.7.4 Branches (where applicable)

2.7.5 Women's Sections (where applicable) formed by custom as an affiliate to the parent local RSA.

- 2.7.6 Licensed and sporting clubs (where applicable) established for the benefit and convenience of members of the parent local RSA.
- 2.7.7 Youth clubs (where applicable) formed under the aegis of a local RSA or group of local RSAs.
- 2.7.8 The objects of the local RSAs are generally the same as those of the RNZRSA and are listed in RSA Standard Rule 6.

2.8 Legal Obligations

Both the RNZRSA and a local RSA have legal obligations and various matters to attend to, to fulfil the purposes for which the RSA movement exists. These requirements are dealt with in more detail elsewhere in the manual.