The Wellington Club

CLUB NEWS

DECEMBER 2008

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 2008

CHRISTMAS FAMILY CLUB DINNER
TUESDAY 9

FOUNDERS' DAY
TUESDAY 16

CLUB CLOSURE AFTER LUNCH
FRIDAY 19

JANUARY 2009

HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTRE REOPENS
MONDAY 5

WELLINGTON ANNIVERSARY DAY – CLUB CLOSED
MONDAY 19

ALL SERVICES REOPEN
TUESDAY 20

LAST FRIDAY DRINKS
FRIDAY 30

FEBUARY 2009

BRIDGE AFTERNOON
MONDAY 2

SENIORS' LUNCH
WEDNESDAY 4

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON
THURSDAY 5

WAITANGI DAY – CLUB CLOSED
FRIDAY 6

BRIDGE AFTERNOON
MONDAY 16

Family Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 9 December 2008

If you haven't made your booking yet, it is not too late to do so! Members should bring friends and family to enjoy a festive Club event before everything becomes too hectic.

It is planned to designate one person at the head of the table to be the "Patriarch/Matriarch" carving chicken and serving it to all guests on his/her table. The Club's chefs will be present and carve as well and be available to assist should this be necessary. Vegetables will be served on platters to which all guests help themselves. Please revisit October's newsletter where the chefs's corner details the festive menu.

And as tradition prescribes for such an event, Members and guests will be entertained with Christmas Carols sung by younger Members of the Choir of the Wellington Cathedral of St. Paul under the experienced baton of Club Member Michael Fulcher.

Bookings for individual tables of eight or more are accepted.

Time	: 6.00pm Mulled Wine and Welcome Drinks 6.30pm Christmas Dinner and Carols
Cost	: $60.00 per Adult $30.00 per Child (10-15 years)
Dress	: Jacket and Tie, Evening Wear, School Uniform

Club Closure and Reopening Dates over Christmas and New Year

All Club facilities, with the exception of the car park, will close on Friday 19 December at around 3.00pm. **Members parking their cars in the car park between 20 December 2008 and 19 January 2009 will not be charged.**

Please note that Members' accounts will be closed off on Monday 15 December 2008 after dinner. Any charges incurred after that day will show on Members' January statement.

The following outlines the dates when services and facilities will be available again:

Monday 5 January 2009

Health & Fitness Centre re-open. (Bring your own towels and wear the emergency neck chain or wrist strap when exercising alone – **no staff will be in attendance**). The Club's Health and Fitness Centre Manager Toni Frow-Patchett will be back on Monday 12 January to assist Members with their exercises.

Monday 19 January 2009

Wellington Anniversary Day – Club Closed

Tuesday 20 January 2009

All services and facilities recommence.

Club Questionnaire

The evaluation of the questionnaire has now been finalised. 446 replies were received (33%) and the Committee is grateful to all those Members who put the time and effort into replying. The additional written comments are of special importance and a strategic meeting of the Club Committee will be held in early February of next year to discuss the outcome of the questionnaire.

To give Members a brief overview, here are some of the recurring themes:

- Well-liked programmes were dinners with a guest speaker, formal dinners noting a significant event, wine appreciation dinners and the Chefs' Banquet.
- A healthy level of interest was recorded for Club Packages plus new ideas were provided for this category.
- Strong support for the Club as it is run at present, with consideration to be given to changes to the 6th floor, a review of – but no drastic changes to – all current lunch arrangements and additional alternative uses for the squash court as well as squash.
- Some very interesting, specific and innovative suggestions were received on the above topics as well as on a range of others.

A full collation and analysis of the responses will be provided later.

Thank you again for the responses.

MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS CAN SPLIT THEIR LUNCH AND DINNER À LA CARTE ACCOUNTS EVENLY BY USING EFT/POS.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Club year has been busy and eventful and has passed all too quickly.

The Committee appreciates the support Members have given the Club throughout the year, and we look forward to the year ahead.

In particular, I must thank the Committee and Club staff for the contribution they all have made during the year. Throughout the year we have received many letters from visitors and Members in appreciation of the services and facilities provided.

The recent death of Commander W R Williams RNZN (rtd) is noted with regret.

The Committee wishes Members and their families a happy Christmas, enjoyable holidays and good health and fortune for the coming year.

Dan Stevenson, President

CHESS AT THE CLUB

The next chess evening is on Tuesday 27 January 2009

These popular evenings commence with drinks (sign chits) and a three-course dinner followed by two hours of Chess which gives everybody the chance to play two or three games with different opponents. Supper is served afterwards. The Club prides itself on its unrivalled playing conditions, a cause of very positive comment by many Members.

So come to the Club and enjoy a challenging evening on Tuesday 27 January 2009.

Cost is only $37.50 per person. Members are encouraged to bring along friends as their guests.

Time	: 6.15pm Drinks (own account) and Dinner followed by Chess and Supper
Dress	: Jacket and Tie
Cost	: $37.50 p.p.

Make your booking by phoning the Office on 472 0348

Bridge Interest Group

The Club used to be the host and venue for regular Bridge afternoons. It is intended to revive this old tradition and the following is proposed:

To create a regular Bridge function which is open to Members and guests who would meet at 12.30pm every first and third Monday at the Club in the Ante Room for a pre-luncheon drink before moving through to the buffet in the main dining room at about 12.45pm.

Bridge would start at 1.30pm and be played until about 5.00pm.

These afternoons are not planned to be tournaments or a competition but are available for all levels of players and, in particular, for those who want to learn this century-old game.

The Club will provide cards, tables, scorers and pencils.

There is no charge for the game afternoon, other than the drinks and buffet beforehand.

The first two Bridge afternoons in February will take place on Monday the 2nd and 16th. Please advise the Club's Office (phone 472 0348) by 11.00am on the Monday of your attendance.

THE IDES OF MARCH
A SHAKESPEAREAN EVENING

Tuesday 17 March 2009

An Elizabethan-themed soirée in association with - and in support of Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand

For the first time at the Wellington Club, actors will be entertaining Club Members between courses reciting and playing out famous Shakespearean scenes. Club Member and Member of Parliament the Hon. Chris Finlayson will be introducing the evening to Members and guests.

The following artists with various backgrounds have been invited and subject to confirmation will be present:

Peter Vere-Jones, Peter Hambleton, Jonathon Hendry, Robyn Malcolm, Angela Green, Kieran Rayner, Isaac Stone, Allan Maruera Henry and Arthur Meek, as well as other SGCNZ Alumni according to their availability.

All in all an event of quality entertainment!

Please note your diary now. Bookings will be taken in the New Year. The cost is set at $75.00 per person, which includes a donation to the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand.

LAST FRIDAY DRINKS

There won't be a Last Friday Drinks function in December. The first such event in the New Year is scheduled for:

Friday 30 January 2009

Time	: from 5.00pm onward to 6.30pm approx.
Supper	: Available from 6.30pm
Venue	: Members' Bar Level 6
Dress	: Jacket and Tie optional Tidy Casual (no denims)
Cost	: Drinks; Supper if requested

Please advise the Secretary Manager if you wish to be added to the e-mail reminder of this function or of any additional names you would like to be included.

FOUNDERS' DAY

Tuesday 16 December 2008

Come to lunch on Tuesday 16 December to raise a (complimentary) glass of wine at 1.00pm to the health of the Club at its 167th birthday.

WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS ON LEVEL 6

In addition to RJ45 internet cable access in all bedrooms and all other rooms throughout the Club, as well as wireless access on level 4, we are pleased to announce that wireless access is now also available in the Business Centre and throughout the northern side areas of level 6. The password to access the system may be obtained from the Office.

SKYPE FACILITY IN BUSINESS CENTRE

With the arrival of the new PC in the Business Centre, the Committee is delighted to announce the availability of Skype to make and receive Skype voice calls (no video). Using your own Skype login details and the provided headset, please feel free to utilise Skype. More detail on Skype is available at **www.skype.com**

MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS CAN SPLIT THEIR LUNCH AND DINNER À LA CARTE ACCOUNTS EVENLY BY USING EFT/POS.

Health & Fitness Centre News

The final newsletter for 2008! Another year has whisked on by. I'm sure that half our Members must have been overseas at some stage during our dark and wet winter! It is great to see so many back again as we head into summer.

Something special for me is seeing and working with the wonderful range of Fitness Centre participants. There are Members who thrive on challenging themselves towards personal goals and/or events (both younger as well as older!), while others workout as regularly as clockwork, maintaining a consistently good level of health, as well as Members who may be recovering from injury or illness to get back to and then retain a level of fitness and health that allows them to enjoy other interests in their lives. Every now and then I get a comment reflecting a Member's appreciation for having access to such a fabulous facility that is friendly, supportive and where they feel safe exercising. It is special to be a part of something so positive.

2008 has been as busy and as interesting as ever. One of the highlights has been the purchase of new 'pin loaded' resistance equipment. This has led to a new range of exercises, a new 'look' for the Fitness Centre, as well as creating more floor space. Updating programmes has been a high priority since the changes!

We have completed two successful walking series. It is wonderful to see participants from the beginning of our walking programmes back in 2001 still enjoying the walks, along with many new participants. This year we have walked islands, along rivers, through beautiful native bush, along with many of Wellington's hills and ridgelines. This year will be our first adventure over to the Wairarapa to walk amongst the 'Pinnacles'.

Our incentive programme this year saw Members 'climbing' their way up the highest summit of each of the four sub-continents. These programmes continue to be an encouragement to many participants to get into their exercise regularly. Above all, they are a fun focus!

We have again enjoyed the expertise of Ben Otang and Geoff Seed in leading Members for weekly self defence fitness classes. These classes continue to challenge and keep participants 'on their toes'.

Many thanks to all the Members who have let me take their photographs for the newsletter, demonstrating exercises. It is far more interesting seeing fellow Club Members involved in the Club's activities.

Holiday time is the perfect time for getting out and about to get your daily dose of exercise. You are very welcome to see me about putting together a non-equipment based exercise programme you can do at home or 'at the bach'; however I find getting the family (or friends) together for a bike ride or bush walk, a friendly tennis tournament, or some other activity, very refreshing. So aim for that combination of physical activity, relaxation and summer socialising to recharge and refresh you for 2009!

Wishing you all a great Christmas break!

Toni Frow-Patchett

What's on offer at the Club

Breakfast

A continental and/or cooked breakfast is available Monday – Friday on level 6 for Members and their guests. This is normally held in the Quadrant Room together with house guests.

For house guests having to depart early during the week or on Saturday and Sunday mornings, a tray with a continental breakfast will be placed in the bedroom the night before. Breakfast is included in the room rate.

If you require privacy, the Club can offer, at no extra charge, private meeting/breakfast rooms for 4 to 160 guests. Reservation in advance for these private rooms is essential.

In addition, some Members are still making use of the "Breakfast on the Run", i.e. 'Tea and Toast' especially when coming back from a work-out in the Health & Fitness Centre.

Time : **7.30am - 9.00am Monday - Friday Continental and/or Cooked Breakfast**

7.30am - 9.00am Monday - Friday Breakfast on the Run

Cost : **$6.00 Breakfast on the Run**

$17.00 Continental Breakfast

$25.00 Cooked Breakfast

Prices include coffee/tea

Bordeaux Wines with Bob Parker

The Duquesne Club, a member of the 'Distinguished Clubs of the World', has extended an invitation to Members of the Wellington Club to attend a historic wine event over two days with Robert Parker in Pittsburgh, PA, USA featuring the 2005 Bordeaux vintage. Vintners from first growth vineyards will be present for discussion of their wines. The event will feature a tasting of this outstanding vintage, a luncheon and a Gala Dinner. The dates are 29th and 30th May 2009. Registrations for this event must be received by 15 December. More information can be obtained from the Wellington Club's Secretary Manager Juergen Sparrer by phoning 474 0733.

Members and their guests can split their lunch and dinner à la carte accounts evenly by using EFT/POS.

Wine News

EXCLUSIVELY FOR CLUB MEMBERS FOR DECEMBER	YEAR	CASE	BOTTLE
Te Mata Woodthorpe Sauvignon Blanc This Sauvignon has fresh, ripe grassy aromas with some tropical hints on a dry, racy palate with a faint mineral grip. Less herbaceous than the Marlborough model with succulent, refreshing tropical/citrus flavours. Drink – anytime!	2008	$196.20	$16.35
Momo Pinot Gris With aromas of nashi pear, quince and apple crumble, the palate is soft and textural, rich with flavours of fig and stonefruit and a creaminess balanced by a fine acidity. Delicious with pork, Asian inspired dishes, or try it with a salad of blue cheese, pear and walnut.	2008	$226.00	$18.85
Wairau River Pinot Noir Lifted aromas of black cherry and red berries on the nose are framed with savoury oak nuances. The palate is soft and luscious with delightful varietal fruit flavours. The fleshy velvety texture is perfectly supported with ripe fruit tannins. Enjoy with a bowl of Chinese noodles topped with barbecued duck!	2007	$219.00	$18.25
Waipipi Pinot Noir From Opaki, north of Masterton, this wine is great value for money and highly recommended by Juergen!	2006	$205.50	$17.15
The following great value Club House Wines are also always available:			
Grove Mill Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc		$182.40	$15.20
Matua Matheson HB Chardonnay (six pack)		$107.10	$17.85
Te Mata Woodthorpe Syrah		$223.20	$18.60
Drylands Marlborough Pinot Noir (six pack)		$112.20	$18.70

Remember that you can also purchase all your spirits and beer from your Club. Delivery can be arranged. Allow 7-10 days for availability. Return the enclosed order form.

Senior Members' Lunch

The next monthly luncheon for senior Members (65 years and over) will be held on:

Wednesday 4 February 2009
Guests of Members welcome.
12.00 for 12.40pm

Women's Luncheon

Every first Thursday of the month, women Members meet for lunch. Please feel free to invite a guest or two to come along. Please call Jane Wells if you would like to be included in the monthly e-mail reminder for the luncheon.

Make a note in your diary for:

Thursday 5 February 2009, 12.30 for 1.00pm

Membership

The following nine candidates were admitted to the Club in November:

Thompson Bruce Jewell
Helen Ann Cull
Rupert Alistair Dodds
Deborah Jane James
Andrew Scott Murray
Warren Austad
Carmel Mary Peters
John Lewis Spencer
Roger Sutton

The new Members were welcomed by the Committee and the Club's Trustees in early December.

RSVP:

Family Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 9 December 2008

..... (Member's name) ..... (Club No) ..... (Places - Adults) ..... (Places - Children) ..... (Telephone)

December Wine Specials: *Please reserve the following WINE*

	YEAR	CASES	BOTTLES	No. PACKS	No. BOTTLES
Te Mata Woodthorpe Sauvignon Blanc	2008	$196.20	$16.35		
Momo Pinot Gris	2008	$226.00	$18.85		
Wairau River Pinot Noir	2007	$219.00	$18.25		
Waipipi Pinot Noir	2006	$205.50	$17.15		
Club House Wines:		CASES	BOTTLES	No. CASES	No. BOTTLES
Grove Mill Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc		$182.40	$15.20		
Matua Matheson HB Chardonnay (six pack)		$107.10	$17.85		
Te Mata Woodthorpe Syrah		$223.20	$18.60		
Drylands Marlborough Pinot Noir (six pack)		$112.20	$18.70		

..... (Member's name) ..... (Club No) ..... (e-mail voluntary) ..... (Telephone)

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