CLUB NEWS

The Wellington Club

Founded 1841

December 2009

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 2009

Family Christmas Dinner Tuesday 8

Founders' Day Wednesday 16

Last Friday Drinks Friday 18

Closure after Lunch Thursday 24

JANUARY 2010

H & F Centre reopens Monday 11

Wellington Anniversary Monday 25

All Club Services reopen Tuesday 26

Last Friday Drinks Friday 29

FEBRUARY 2010

Bridge Monday 1

Seniors' Lunch Wednesday 3

Womens' Luncheon Thursday 4

Bridge Monday 8

Evening with Lissa Twomey Wednesday 10

Bridge Monday 15

Bridge Monday 22

Squash Prize Giving Dinner Tuesday 23

Chess Evening Tuesday 23

B.Y.O. Dinner with Brett Newell Thursday 25

Gustav Mahler – Symphony No. 8 – Transport and Dinner Package Friday 26

Last Friday Drinks Friday 26

MARCH 2010

Bridge Monday 1

Seniors' Lunch Wednesday 3

Womens' Luncheon Thursday 4

Golf at Heretaunga Monday 8

Bridge Monday 8

Club Speaker Breakfast (t.b.c.) Tuesday 9

Bridge Monday 15

University Link (t.b.c.) Tuesday 16

Wairarapa Harvest Festival Saturday 20

Bridge Monday 22

Italian Night Thursday 25

Last Friday Drinks Friday 26

Bridge Monday 29

Chess Evening Tuesday 30

NZ INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

AN EXCLUSIVE INSIGHT INTO THE 2010 PROGRAMME

PRESENTED BY

LISSA TWOMEY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2010

The Wellington Club, through the assistance of its Vice-President Mr Ian Fraser, is delighted to welcome Lissa Twomey, the artistic director of the New Zealand International Arts Festival, to give members and guests an overview of the Festival programme.

Lissa will present a unique insight into the "behind the scenes" of this year's Festival programme. Her presentation will be accompanied by short video clips to preview and tantalise members. Those who were fortunate enough to have been present at her 'appetisers' in previous years were actually tempted to attend events they would have previously never contemplated attending.

Of additional interest will be her talk about her role in selecting and arranging the overseas artists for the Festival.

Please note that this is the only notice members will receive in advance for this exclusive and exciting Club function (unless you are on the Club's email list)

Book now for the function or later for the wait list! – This will be another full house!

TIME	:	6.30pm Welcome Drinks 7.00pm Presentation 7.45pm approx. Dinner
DRESS	:	Jacket and Tie, Evening Wear
COST	:	$75.00p.p.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dear Members,

The Club is endeavouring to compile an email list of all members. The impetus for this is to establish another means of communication with members in addition to the currently used newsletter and telephone.

Most will have experienced at some stage the disappointing scenario of having read the Club newsletter and made a mental note to diary a Club event but the function or event comes and goes before we action a booking.

Once an email list is compiled it will be possible to forward a reminder of Club functions a few days prior to the event.

Also should a notable speaker or an event become available to the Club at short notice, an email notification to all members will make it possible to take advantage of this opportunity. Currently this is not possible as the newsletter is published only on a monthly basis.

We are also investigating software to enable bookings to be made and confirmed on line.

We would be grateful if all members would forward their email addresses to Jane Wells at: jane@wellingtonclub.co.nz so our Club email list can be completed.

It is hoped that we can finalise our database by the end of 2009.

With many thanks

Tony N. Crutchley,
Publications Subcommittee

President's Message

1. Prime Minister's Banquet

The banquet with the Prime Minister was a special occasion, with the dining room beautifully appointed and full to overflowing. He spoke without notes for a little over half an hour and was totally at ease, entertaining and informative.

He moved throughout the dining room and met many present.

2. New Year Programme

The committee is arranging a programme for 2010 which will include the usual fixtures - Annual Dinner, Members and Daughters, Members and Sons, etc. New features will be held incorporating music, theatre, the Arts, and a Club/Victoria University evening with the speaker provided by the University. Details will be circulated to members early in the New Year.

3. The Australian Club (Sydney) Exchange

The Club's assistant chef, Liam Dollimore, recently spent a week on exchange with the Australian Club in Sydney. A New Zealand dinner was featured during the week. In the New Year it is planned that a chef from the Australian Club will spend a similar time with us, and the feature will be an "Australian" Dinner at the Club.

4. Chess

The Club has a chess group which meets each last Tuesday of every month. There is a regular group of participants and more would be very welcome regardless of their level of experience. Those interested should communicate with the Secretary/Manager who will provide further details.

5. Club House Maintenance and Redevelopment

The committee has interviewed three firms of architects as to current and long-term property planning requirements. One of the firms will be appointed before the end of this year to report to the Club early in the New Year. Sir Miles Warren has been asked to provide a proposal for the redecoration of the Main Dining Room.

The committee will report further early in the New Year.

6. Obituary

The death of Her Excellency Miss A Boogaerdt, the Dutch Ambassador is noted with regret.

7. Christmas/New Year

The committee extends its best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to members and their families. The committee particularly appreciates the members' support of the Club during this year, and looks forward to the coming year.

Dan Stevenson, President

BANQUET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND

The Club Dining Room was filled to capacity with over 150 members and guests to hear the address given by the Rt Hon John Key, PM. A delicious menu matched with fine New Zealand wines, together with a light-hearted, 'off the cuff' yet inspirational speech contributed to an unforgettable night at the Club.

The Prime Minister John Key was welcomed by Club President Dan Stevenson and his wife Prue (left) and the Club's Senior Trustee Mr Graham Valentine and his wife June (right)

The table settings

CHRISTMAS DINNER TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2009

Members together with their guests and family are invited to celebrate the traditional annual pre-Christmas Club dinner in early December. After many years of choir performances, this year's entertainment will be provided by a string quartet playing festive melodies and songs throughout the evening and dinner.

TIME	:	6.00pm Welcome Drinks 6.30pm Christmas Dinner and Entertainment
DRESS	:	Jacket and Tie, Evening Wear, School Uniform
COST	:	$65.00 per adult $32.50 per child (10-15 years)

THE NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

26 FEBRUARY – 21 MARCH 2010

The Wellington Club will accommodate early dining room bookings for Members and guests who are attending a show during the Festival. Reservations for those early bookings however are essential.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOOD, WINE AND FUNCTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR 2010

Your subcommittee has developed an exciting calendar of events for the Club year 2010! Included in this mail out you find an outline of planned functions in diary form. Please note that some dates are still subject to final confirmation and that more functions will be added as events with guest speakers or other subjects of interest can be sourced.

AND A REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS:

Due to their popularity, numerous recent Club events were over-subscribed and unfortunately many Members were therefore unable to attend and were disappointed. Given the exciting programme for next year, we would advise you to make early bookings to avoid disappointment. Members will receive a confirmation of their bookings within 4 days of booking provided it is not only a couple of days before the function. Should you not receive such a confirmation, please call the office and request a confirmation.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

The Club has secured 20 tickets to this year's Wairarapa Harvest Festival at Gladstone on Saturday 20 March 2010. Bookings for this alternative event to the Martinborough Wine and Food Festival are already being taken. Members who went last year were full of praise. The cost for the ticket will be approximately $55- $60 per person and includes the return trip by train to Carterton and shuttle bus to the site. More detail will follow in February's newsletter.

HEALTH & FITNESS CENTRE NEWS

I look back as another year comes towards its end and seriously do not know where 2009 has disappeared to. The sun is finally showing itself more often and the temperatures are reluctantly coming up. Many Health & Fitness Centre members have 'hung in there' over our long cold winter with more now back with enthusiasm, getting ready for summer activities.

The past month has been a busy one, fitting in our final three walks plus the postponed Walk 3. From Paremata to Pukerua Bay we were pushed along by a rather cool southerly. The walk from Paekakariki to Raumati was lovely through Queen Elizabeth Park. Ohariu Valley to Porirua over Colonial Knob proved to be the most challenging, with a couple of serious inclines in the first half, but well worth the views (and the drink stop) at the top! Our final walk is from Raumati to the Waikanae bridge, the flattest of the series taking in beach, scientific reserve and river bank.

Thank you to all my walkers, and the Wellington Te Araroa Trust members for your support and making this series such a wonderful success. These walks have given a good feel for the fabulous Wellington region section of the Te Araroa Walkway.

The Self Defence Fitness Class has continued this year, led by Karate expert Ben Otang along with Club member Geoff Seed. Thank you to both Ben and Geoff for their energy and continuing to challenge our small yet dedicated group. Anyone else thinking of trying another exercise challenge in the New Year come and see me about joining this class.

Finally I would just like to wish everyone a fabulous Christmas with friends and family. Remember to get outdoors and make the most of what this beautiful country has to offer, keeping active with bush and beach walks or runs, cycle rides, beach cricket, family tennis tournaments, gardening and the many other fun things out there. I may be a bit crazy, but one of the things I look forward to in holiday time is that I have more time to get out and be active.

Very best of the season wishes to you all! Toni Frow-Patchett

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CLOSURE

With the exception of the car park, all facilities at the Club will be closed after lunch on Thursday 24 December around 3.00pm.

The Health & Fitness Centre will reopen on Monday 11 January 2010. Members are reminded to wear the alarm band for their own peace of mind. Members are also reminded to bring their own towels during the first two weeks as no service will be provided in that area until January 26 when all facilities will reopen again.

CLUB DINNER AND TRANSPORT PACKAGE

GUSTAV MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO. 8

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2010

World-renowned conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy joins the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and some of the world's finest soloists in delivering an electric performance of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No 8.

Often referred to as Mahler's Symphony of a Thousand due to its vast instrumental force, this epic collaboration offers Festival audiences the opportunity to hear what has been deemed Mahler's magnum opus and one of the greatest musical experiences of our time. Both Ashkenazy and the NZSO have unmatched reputations for the performance of late-Romantic masterworks and Mahler's work has remained a central part of the Orchestra's performance repertoire since its establishment more than 60 years ago.

Members are invited to register their interest with the Club Office to avail themselves for this package. Tickets to this not-to-be-missed event are <u>not</u> available through the Wellington Club but the Club can provide a leisurely dinner beforehand, hassle-free transfer to the Michael Fowler Centre and a safe return after the concert to the Club for a light supper and refreshments. Numbers are limited to the first 43 bookings.

"...ALL THE REST OF MY WORKS ARE NO MORE THAN INTRODUCTIONS. I HAVE NEVER WRITTEN ANYTHING LIKE IT." *Gustav Mahler*

TIME	:	5.45pm Arrival and Welcome Drinks 6.00pm Dinner 7.20pm Transport to the Michael Fowler Centre 8.00pm Concert 10.30pm approx. Return to Club for Supper
DRESS	:	Unless otherwise requested: Jacket and Tie, Evening Wear
COST	:	$60.00 p.p.

DECEMBER WINE SPECIALS

VARIETALS IN A 6 PACK	CASE	BOTTLE
Gewürztraminer 2 x Cross Roads – Hawke's Bay – 2005 2 x Fossil Ridge – Nelson – 2008 2 x Seifried Würzer – Nelson – 2006	$116.60	
Pinot Gris 2 x Cypress – Hawke's Bay – 2008 2 x Moncellier – Marlborough – 2008 2 x Two Sisters – Central Otago – 2008	$132.40	
Pinot Noir 2 x Matariki – Hawke's Bay – 2007 2 x Nautilus – Marlborough – 2006 2 x Te Kairanga – Martinborough – 2007	$159.20	
Red Blends 2 x Grant Burge Barossa Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot – 2005 2 x Chapoutier La Ciboise Coteaux du Tricastin – 2005 2 x Xabregas Mount Barker Cabernet Merlot – 2004	$109.60	
	CASE	BOTTLE
The following great value Club Wines are always available:		
Grove Mill Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc	$182.40	$15.20
Hunter's Marlborough Chardonnay	$187.20	$15.60
Te Mata Woodthorpe Syrah	$223.20	$18.60
Drylands Marlborough Pinot Noir (6 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.

LAST FRIDAY DRINKS

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2009 AND FRIDAY 29 JANUARY 2010

What better way for many to mark the final day at work before the Christmas break than at the Club together with other members! While it is not really the last Friday of the month, it is the last Friday for the Club in December as the Club will close on the 24th after lunch.

And in order to get back into the swing of things, make a note in your diary for Friday 29 January for the first such function in the New Year.

TIME	:	from 5.00pm onward to 6.30pm
SUPPER	:	available from 6.30pm
VENUE	:	Members' Bar Level 6
DRESS	:	Tidy casual (no denims)
COST	:	Drinks; Supper $13.50 if requested

CHESS AT THE CLUB

TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2010

The next chess evening is planned for Tuesday 23 February 2010. Please remember that these evenings are open to all Members and their guests. Conviviality and friendship have priority over skills on the chess board. Numbers over the years for this Club function have shrunken and the Club encourages all chess players to at least try it out one evening. Note the 23rd in your diary!

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.

ACCOMMODATION

Please note that the accommodation special of $140 for members ($154 for non-members) is valid until and including 23 December 2009.

A slight adjustment will be applied when the Club reopens on 26 January 2010. The cost then will be $160 ($176), which is still below last year's $180 ($198). No services have been removed.

The rate includes breakfast, the use of the car park, and GST and is for single or double occupancy of the room.

SENIOR MEMBERS' LUNCH

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

Wednesday 3 February 2010
12.00 for 12.40pm.
Guests of Members are welcome.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

Every first Thursday of the month, women Members meet for lunch. 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 email reminder for the luncheon.** *Make a note in your diary for:* **Thursday 4 February 2010**