CLUB NEWS

The Wellington Club

Founded 1841

November 2009

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER 2009

A Taste of Spain – Spanish Night
Thursday 12 – 6.30pm

Martinborough Festival Sunday 15

Banquet with The Prime Minister of New Zealand – Waitlist Only
Monday 23 – 7.00pm

Thursday Theme Evening *"Darwin"*
Thursday 26 – 6.30pm

Last Friday Drinks Friday 27 – 5.00pm

DECEMBER 2009

Seniors' Luncheon Wednesday 2 – 12.00pm

Women's Luncheon Thursday 3 – 12.30pm

Family Christmas Dinner
Tuesday 8 – 6.00pm

Last Friday Drinks Friday 18 – 5.00pm

Closure after Lunch Thursday 24

JANUARY 2010

Wellington Anniversary Monday 25

All Club Services reopen Tuesday 26

Last Friday Drinks Friday 29 – 5.00pm

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 is planned to 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)

Spanish Night

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2009

The functions and kitchen team, under the guidance of subcommittee chairman Brett Newell, is planning a **Spanish Night.**

The Ambassador of Spain has offered his support to this function. He and his wife will be the guests of honour this evening.

Spanish food and wine are now internationally extremely popular and highly regarded. The Club has worked together with the Embassy in creating a "Taste of Spain" for Club members and their guests. The menu will be accompanied by a selection of appropriate Spanish wines matched by Brett Newell.

It will be a night to remember!

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

CHRISTMAS AT THE CLUB

Members are reminded to make use of their Club for Christmas functions. Your Club offers without a doubt the best venue, the best value and the best atmosphere anywhere in Wellington.

Jane Wells can arrange the menu, wine, theme and decoration for your function. Why would you go anywhere else when you get very personal service and attention from all staff at the Club? Remember the Committee has relaxed the jacket and tie rule on levels 4 and 6, making it even easier to invite your guests to the Club.

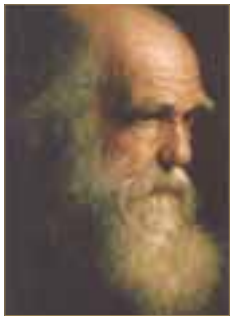
Enclosed in this month's mail-out, members will find Christmas menu suggestions as well as ideas on Christmas presents and specials on Champagne as every year at this time.

And after a good night out why not stay in the accommodation?
For Club members the price has been reduced to $140 per room inclusive breakfast the next day.
Members may also accommodate their friends, who are not members at the Club.

While some days are already heavily booked, the Club would like to have its calendar filled with events by its members. **It is *your* Club – please make use of it!**

THURSDAY THEME EVENING: *"DARWIN" BY A W BEASLEY*

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2009



2009 is *the* Darwin commemorative year: In February the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of Species* in November.

The Club's celebration will take the form of a presentation by Wyn Beasley of the story of HMS *Beagle* and the men who sailed in her.

TIME	:	6.30pm Welcome Drink 7.00pm Presentation 7.45pm approx. Dinner
DRESS	:	Jacket and Tie, Evening Wear
COST	:	$65.00p.p.

President's Message

1. Club Functions

During October, the traditional "At Home" was held with the excellent musical entertainment by Wellington College. It was a pleasure to have as guests a number of members' widows.

The Thursday Theme Evening *"Pushing the Edges – Captain Cook and Captain Bligh"* with Professor Dame Anne Salmond, DBE as guest speaker was an outstanding occasion. Her address on the lives of the two famous mariners captivated the 140 guests present and one member was so moved, he left the Club and returned with a miniature replica of a canon on HMS Endeavour, which was presented to Dame Anne.

Coming functions are:

- **Spanish Night** – Thursday 12 November
- **Banquet with the Prime Minister** – Monday 23 November (full house)
- **Theme Evening "Darwin"** – Thursday 26 November
- **Family Christmas Dinner** – Tuesday 8 December

November and December are busy months for the Club and members should book in advance for private functions.

2. Property

As reported in last month's Club News, the ANZ National Bank and the Club have agreed the terms of a new lease commencing next year.

Agreement has also just been reached with the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners as to the renewal of the lease of the premises currently occupied by them plus the premises previously occupied by the Institute of Directors in New Zealand (Inc.).

This means all the Club's rental space continues to be let.

Progress has been made in respect of planning for the refurbishment of the main dining room on Level 5 and submissions have been received from architects in respect of planning for Levels 4 and 6. The Committee will keep members informed as soon as possible - these are significant proposals.

3. Entrance fees and annual subscriptions for a spouse, widow or widower of a member

For the financial year, the following have been set in terms of Rule 12(b):

Entrance fee for a spouse, widow or widower *$203.75 (75% discount)*

Ordinary membership subscription for a spouse *$448.25 (45% discount)*

4. Obituaries

The deaths of the following long-standing members are noted with regret:

Mr N M McNaught (1969), Mr B H Tolley (1974)

Dan Stevenson, President

RECIPROCITY

Club member Bernard Hill has responded to the Committee's encouragement to report on experiences in reciprocal Clubs. Here is his second report on London's Travellers and Carlton Clubs:

"Members will recall that I wrote about two London clubs to which we have reciprocal access. This time I'll briefly discuss two more, both near the ones referred to in last month's newsletter:

I should state at the outset that I didn't visit them on this trip so there may have been changes since I was last there, but by their nature, I think this is unlikely.

The Travellers Club London

The Carlton Club London

The Travellers Club at 106 Pall Mall is next door to the Athenaeum and shares the same terrace lawn background of Carlton House Terrace. By its name it is steeped in the explorative period of the British Empire, late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Travellers Club library is a revelation for travel historians. The Wellington College library when I was a pupil many years ago had many books of exploration of that period so many of the titles were familiar. I took a guest for dinner who collects first editions and her eyes opened wide on entering this airy room. Far too many books to be reached from floor level but she clattered up the iron staircase to the farthermost gallery where she had spied a special volume. Some of the more precious volumes are kept behind locked brass rails but the librarian is very willing to assist. The public rooms are large and airy and a good standard of meal is available. The club can be a bit restrictive on which rooms may be available, as for example, the library is for members only unless the other public rooms are in use. A great central location.

The Carlton Club is on St James's Street and looks along Jermyn Street, where many famous stores are located. For example don't let your wife loose in Floris! (Sorry, I'm of an era where men had wives and the Club was exclusively men only, but you know what I mean!) I had my daughter with me at the Carlton on this occasion and we ordered a drink and salmon sandwiches. "If you would care to take a seat Sir, I'll cut the crusts off the sandwiches." Well, we did and the sandwiches were fresh and moist. A couple of small curiosities: To be eligible to join the club I understand you have to be a member of the Conservative Party, though this doesn't apply to reciprocal club members, and down in the depths of the building is a tiny 'snug bar' which when I visited only opened after 5pm and was presided over by Mollie, a formidable lady. And this room is definitely for members only. Another great location. Famous wine merchants on both sides of the street, Prince Charles down the road, St James's Park a bit further and in the other direction, Piccadilly, Old Bond Street, Burlington Arcade, the Royal Academy, Fortnum and Mason and so on and so on..."

THE NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

26 FEBRUARY – 21 MARCH 2010

The Wellington Club will as in previous years accommodate early dining room bookings for members and guests, who are attending a show during the Festival. Reservations for those early bookings are essential.

NEW ESPRESSO MACHINE ON LEVEL 6

The Committee has approved and had installed a new fully automatic espresso machine for complimentary coffees for members and their guests.

Members are now able to make their own Latte, Cappuccino, Espresso, Ristretto and American Coffee. Hot water for tea etc is also available. In addition, the Committee has authorised the purchase of a cup warmer, which is located right next to the new machine to optimise your coffee experience.

Members who do not feel comfortable using the new machine are requested to ask senior staff on duty how to operate it.

HEALTH & FITNESS CENTRE NEWS

A note from the Committee: It is not acceptable that members attach, equip, alter or interfere in any way with equipment in the Health and Fitness Centre. The Club received a bill for $180 for repairs to a bike, where someone had attempted to exchange the regular pedals with his or her own and by doing so, damaged the thread beyond repair.

Group climbing Mt Kaukau

SPRING WALKING SERIES – The Wellington Region Sections of Te Araroa – The Long Pathway

Walk 2: Ngaio to Ohariu Valley, had 19 walkers taking in parts of the Skyline Walkway, Mt Kaukau, Northern Walkway and Old Coach Rd.

Walk 3, weather forecast meant postponement to Thursday 19 November!

Walk 3: Thursday 19 November – Ohariu Valley to Elsdon Camp Porirua (via Colonial Knob) Approximately 2½ hours, this will be the steepest walk of this series. Walking poles and good walking shoes are highly recommended! Meet 9am in the Elsdon Camp car park (18 Raiha Street, Elsdon, Porirua). Allow a 30 minute drive from Wellington. We will catch a taxi van to the start of the walk. Lunch at Pataka Café, Porirua.

Walk 6: Thursday 26 November – Raumati to Waikanae River (via Paraparaumu North Beach & Otaihanga Estuary & Scientific Reserve) 3½ - 4 hour flat walk on beach and well formed paths. Meet at 9am at Vella on the Coast (café car park behind café), on left just north of Waikanae bridge SH1. Allow a 45 minute drive from Wellington. We will take cars to start of walk. Lunch at Vella on the Coast.

Costs: $8 for non-Fitness Centre members, taxi van costs divided between participants, individual café lunch costs.

Remember to wear good walking footwear, carry water with you, and walking poles highly recommended for taking stress off knees with up and down hills.

Please book at reception so I know numbers for taxis and cafés.

TE ARAROA – INCENTIVE PROGRAMME PRIZE GIVING

A big thankyou to Denis McLean, Club Member and Chair of the Wellington Regional Te Araroa Trust, who gave us a wonderful talk about the Te Araroa Walkway, including the highs and lows of what goes on behind the scenes in the organisation of such a big project.

Te Araroa Prizegiving

We had eight highly dedicated participants who completed either one or both sections of the programme, travelling from Cape Reinga to Bluff on our incentive programme map, either through averaging 5 exercise sessions (at the Fitness Centre and outside activities) a week or 250 minutes of exercise per week for the entire 12 weeks! These eight members contributed a donation to the Te Araroa Trust virtual boardwalk. 31 (or three-quarters of all participants) completed the North Island, averaging 2½ exercise sessions weekly.

The expectation of the programme is for participants to do what is realistic for them and to encourage a regular pattern of exercise. Two of the biggest challenges for maintaining regularity were bugs and holidays!

Congratulations to prize draw winners: Robert Stewart, Ollie Gilbert, Glenn Wilson, Lance Lawler and David Howden!

All the very best with getting into and maintaining a regular pattern of getting your body moving!

I look forward to seeing you there! Toni.

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 directly with the Club Office in this package. Tickets to this not-to-be-missed event are not 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.

NOVEMBER WINE SPECIALS

A WALK THROUGH THE CLUB'S WINE CELLAR	YEAR	CASE	BOTTLE
Here is a great opportunity to take advantage of Jane's stock-take of Australian Reds. Some have by now good bottle age; others will still improve with cellaring. Stocks are limited and orders will be fulfilled on a first come basis.			
Grant Burge Barossa Miamba Shiraz This wine is dark blood-red in colour with purple hues. The dense fruit is rich with red berry, plum & cherry aromas. The palate is velvety with concentrated flavours of black cherry, raspberries and dark chocolate. This is complemented by toasty oak and grainy tannins. The wine is drinking well now and has cellaring potential.	2007	$160.50 (6 PACK)	$26.75
Climbing Shiraz Produced in the Orange region on the slopes of Mt. Canobolas and so named for a climb that begins at 600 metres and ends short of 1,100 metres. The high altitude, cool climate vineyard delivers wine with rich fruit and elegance.	2005	$208.20	$17.35
Brown Brothers Victoria Cabernet Sauvignon This medium bodied Cabernet has a refined and elegant palate with a balance of fruit and natural acidity associated in cool climate conditions.	2006	$103.80 (6 PACK)	$17.30
Devil's Lair Margaret River Fifth Leg A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Shiraz, the wine is vibrant mulberry- red in colour with purple hues. With aromas of mulberries, cherries, plums and spice, the wonderful mix of complex fruit characters are gently supported by subtle spicy oak. The palate is rich generous fruit, with great length and persistence.	2003	$210.60	$17.55

	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 27 NOVEMBER 2009

This function is a great opportunity to introduce potential candidates for membership to the Club, its hospitality, other members, facilities and services.

It is an excellent way to start the evening before you go to a sports, musical or other event in town and just feel like a quick drink in good company and maybe a light bite to eat to tide you over.

Please advise Jane Wells if you would like to stay for supper as we have experienced a very heavy demand for the supper, - simply because it is of such good quality and value!

The price for the supper is $13.50 which represents excellent value.

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

Note you diary: December's Last Friday Drinks will be on Friday 18, and perhaps the Committee will have a little surprise or treat for those attending.

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

CHEF'S CORNER

By the time this newsletter will have arrived at members' homes, Liam Dollimore the Club's sous-chef would have returned from his two-week training exchange at the Australian Club in Sydney.

Over the past fortnight the buffet in the Australian Club's *Buttery* Dining Room was a New Zealand themed selection of fine cuisine, culminating in a seven-course *"Food and Wine of New Zealand Dinner"* on the 22nd of October.

The Committee of the Wellington Club is looking forward to welcoming Liam's counterpart early next year here in Wellington to stage a similar banquet.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Malcolm Douglas Bruce, Sarah Kate Gibson, Steve Alan Haultain, Richard Rhys Jones, Doug Magee, Steven Maharey, Daniel James Stavers Parker, Malcolm Ross Plimmer, Mark Woodard

The new Members will be welcomed by the Committee and the Club's Trustees in early November.

SENIOR MEMBERS' LUNCH

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

Wednesday 2 December 2009
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 3 December 2009**