

INTRODUCTION

Thirty years is only a very short time really, and some would doubt the need to record the history of such a short period.

However, in another 30 years, much of what is written herein will be forgotten. Already the list of surviving first year members is reduced to a mere handful.

What is being recorded, mainly for posterity, must also be of interest to current members, as many have been members for only a short period. I feel it should be that they know of and appreciate the efforts and sacrifices of their predecessors. It is good that current members show some pride in being part of a club with a tradition, as, in fact, I know most do.

These writings are designed to ensure that this spirit continues — hopefully for ever.
Let us all do our part.

JACK PEDEN
President.

30 YEARS ON

The Raglan Club story as seen through 1986 eyes.

Those thirty years have seen mighty changes in every aspect of human activity and behaviour and the changes that have taken place in the Club are — by comparison — no less spectacular. This booklet is an endeavour to record them for the benefit of the interested reader of today and the historian of the future.

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It would be wrong to say that the progress shown by the Club has only matched the progress of the town itself. More correct would be to say that the Club has been the leader in matters of progress. In many ways it is the hub of the town and has been for many years. It looks like staying that way too. It would be interesting to know the thoughts of those who, in 1956, took steps to form the Club and whether they thought their protegee would become such an important integral part of the town. Whatever they thought, it has become such, and full credit to them for their foresight.

Undoubtedly it was the growing general feeling of

public well-being and confidence that built up after the war years which motivated these men to seek better social amenities for themselves and other town folk. Those existing at the time were very limited. The only hotel was ill equipped and the bars small and of poor standard. Amenities like billiard tables, etc. etc. and better drinking facilities were very desirable. Somebody had to do something about it and somebody did.

A public meeting was called. It took place in the town hall supper room on Thursday, 23rd of August 1956. Twenty four persons attended. Prior to this date, much work had been done as the following extract

from the minutes reveals;—
“Mr B S Banks read to the meeting the suggested constitution and rules of the Club as drawn up by the interim committee of Messrs A T Kelk, L V Smith, T S Holmes and B S Banks. With one or two minor alterations the constitution was adopted on the motion of Mr A Donald seconded by Mr A Goodwin.”

The following Executive members were elected at this meeting;—

President H G Orr
Vice Presidents;—

	L V Smith
	F Cleave
Secretary	I Peach
Treasurer	B S Banks
Executive	R Pearce
	W Wright
	F Cleave

The position of Patron was held over until the first general meeting of the Club on 21 September 1956, when Mr F H Wright was elected as the first patron. There were 107 members who joined the club in the first year and as the mere reading of their name brings back memories to existing old members it seems appropriate to publish their names here.

(See separate page.)

Probably because it was not long after the second world war finished and “services” clubs were the order of the day and were being formed all over the country, the original minutes refer to the Club as “Raglan Services Club”. This was apparently the name the originators envisaged it would be. However the name adopted was “Raglan Services and Citizens Club”. Later still the name was changed to the present name — “The Raglan Club”.

It should be mentioned here that although the earlier names indicated an emphasis on the “services” (and the present name does not), the Club has always shown much friendliness and consideration to members of the Raglan branch of the RSA, and RSA members generally. Most Raglan RSA members are, in fact members of the Raglan Club too, and regard it as their local headquarters. They hold their executive meetings there, and are involved in games nights etc. etc. Following Anzac Day parades, the Club’s hospitality and comradeship is demonstrated to the full with the

rest of the day devoted to social activities within the Club. There is always the traditional laced coffee and an ample lunch.

For many years this lunch was provided by members of the New Zealand Army’s 161 Battery (16th Field Regiment) which, since its return from battle duty in Vietnam, has retained a very close liaison with the Club.

This association had its beginning on 25th April 1969 when the Club held a reception for members of the battery. They had paraded in Bow Street on return to New Zealand in a gesture of thanks to Raglan citizens for food parcels and other comforts despatched to them during their overseas tour of duty.

The scheme to do this was introduced by members of the Fire Brigade and the Town Committee. They “adopted” 161 Battery. In fact, you might say, the town of Raglan “adopted” 161 Battery. Since that first reception the Club has continued to keep the association alive and over the years it has been a very

pleasant contact for the Club and its members.

On 25th April, 1979, very tangible evidence of this close association was provided by the Battery’s presentation to the Club of a 25 pounder 11/1 Field gun. The presentation was made on behalf of the NZ Army by Colonel D R Kenning MBE.

The gun was installed in the Club grounds with a suitable inscription — a permanent reminder of the efforts of members and wives of members in helping to alleviate the discomforts of our soldiers then involved in one of the wars of our time — a minor war admittedly but equally ‘uncomfortable’ for those closely involved.

The preceding remarks regarding the association with the RSA and 161 Battery indicated the spirit of “community” which has always permeated the Club’s activities. But these are not the only ones deserving of mention. There is no limit. The Club has regular games evenings when other town organisations are invited to compete — Bowling Club, Lions Club, Fire Brigade

etc. etc. There are also exchange visits to and from Clubs in other towns. Senior Citizens are entertained from time to time. Sons of members have been sponsored to the Outward Bound School. This is — all in all — an indication of the keenness of a very responsible and capable team of men — The Executive.

In a publication such as this there should be a record of the evolutions resulting in the premises as they are today — if for no other reason than historical record. This will be attempted now.

The Club started in a house on the present site rented from a Mr W Jones. "Dan" Jones was a horse dealer in the district and in a public spirited gesture, agreed to purchase an old house, do it up in a way suitable, and rent it to the Club. The rent was fourteen pounds per month.

In November 1958, the Club bought the house from Jones for five thousand pounds. At that time also, chairs tables and carpet were bought at a cost of two hundred and fifty pounds. The carpet

and some of the tables and chairs are still in use today.

That the "community" spirit mentioned earlier was apparent from the start is evident from the early records which show that in those days a room in the building was set aside for the use of ladies and babies.

Admittedly this public amenity was later done away with when that room was incorporated in an extension to provide space for billiard tables. However, by then, the need for a "ladies and babies" room was not as great, owing to other town improvements having been made.

In those days the Club did not have a charter as it now does. Nor was one available to it if it had wanted one. It was illegal for a Club of this type to buy and sell liquor for profit. The only way in which Club members could enjoy drinking facilities was by means of what was known as the locker system. Each member had his own supply in his own locker or cupboard, and could replenish his stocks by buying from a supplier

and having the product put into his locker.

It was not until 1968 that the Club was granted a charter allowing it to purchase and sell liquor subject to the liquor licensing laws of the time. This system is now operating very successfully as is evidenced by the fact that membership has grown to 500.

This figure is the maximum the Licencing Authority will allow for this sized premises at the present time. There is a waiting list also.

The size and make-up of the present property is as a result of taking advantage of opportunities which came up from time to time as the needs and finances of the Club grew.

In 1968 the property alongside the original one was purchased from Mr Frank Bray. This gave a wider frontage to Bow Street.

In 1974 a section at the rear was purchased from a Mrs Wade. This was used to give the Club grounds a right of way from Wallis Street, plus some additional parking space.

Also in 1974 a house in

Wallis Street was purchased from Mr and Mrs Howe. Later the house was sold but approximately half the section was retained.

In 1977 the main building was extended to provide staff amenities and a store room with suitable refrigeration and other facilities.

It was, however, not until 1982/83 that the largest of the building extensions took place. These provided new toilets, kitchen, dining room, wine bar, committee room etc. etc. There is now ample space for dancing, indoor bowls and all types of indoor socialising. There is also an extensive beer garden next to the dining area. Needless to say these amenities are very popular with members and are made good use of.

In the creating of these improvements there was so much voluntary labour and material given so willingly by so many, it would be dangerous to start mentioning names. Sufficient is to say that current members should be (and no doubt are) very grateful for their contribution.

As originally constituted, the Club was very much a 'men only' club, but over

the years, in sympathy with the changed attitudes of the times, there has been considerable change in this respect.

The new rules which came into being with the granting of the charter gave an opportunity for this change. Since then the Club has been permitted to hold functions where members can entertain their wives and lady friends at specified times and for various social occasions.

Indoor bowls is a popular activity in this regard, and also, with the hire of outside orchestras, some very enjoyable dine and dance evenings have been held.

In line with this general change in the Club's attitude to the admission of

ladies, it has naturally followed that the use of ladies for staff has been readily accepted. At first there was quite a lot of opposition to this, but that has all changed and for the better most members will admit.

The first lady staff member was Carol Church, who took up duties behind the bar on 4th April 1981. Almost continually since then, at least some of the bar staff have been women.

With the phasing in of the new restaurant towards the end of 1983, women have also been seen in this area. The first people to run the restaurant was a man and wife team — Mr and Mrs Wilf Eady. There have been several changes to date, but for the most part it has been a man and wife team in this area.

IN CONCLUSION...

Reverting to the message of the words used at the beginning of this epistle, it is felt that the Club has continued to progress in the manner envisaged by those long-sighted people who were responsible for its establishment.

AND.....

To sum it all up, the 1986 image of the Club presents a picture of continuing activity and enthusiasm from members young and old. This augers well for the future. May it ever be so.

ED.

Appendix 1.

LIST OF FIRST YEAR (1956) MEMBERS

Amoore, E.	Henderson, H.	Pepperill, R.
Barker, G.	Halliday, J. **	Peacocke, F.
Banfield, F.	Homes, S.	Phillips, I. *
Burr, W.	Hughes, B.	Pooley, F.
Banks, B. **	Hargreaves, B.	Pooley, A.
Barry, L.	Hickman, I.	Rolandson, A.
Burrell, J.	Hayes, R. **	Renwick, J.
Brown, J.	Jowsey, B. *	Rollinson, M.
Burt, A.	Johnson, M.	Rennie, J.
Blake, J.	Jenkins, R.	Robertson, D.
Brosnan, J. **	Jackson, G.	Robertson, A.
Carryer, N.	Jameson, A.	Rodgers, T.
Cornes, J. *	Joyce, R.	Smith, B.
Cleave, F.	Kells, R.	Sweetman, P.
Cushman, H.	Kemp, R.	Shea, J.
Carryer, L.	Lelieuvre, T.	Shea, R. **
Common, R.	Leathes, E.	Smith, D.
Cleave, R.	Lovegrove, R.	Snowden, K *
Cleave, D.	Litchwark, F.	Smith, L.
Coombes, I.	McKenzie, I.	Smith, V.
Donald, I.	McGlashan, D.	Signal, M.
Dikes, L.	Marwood, W.	Shea, N.
Donn, M. **	Milne, H.	Stephens, T.
Drummond, M.	Moon, H.	Stephenson, G.
Elliot, R.	Mead, M. **	Shaw, C.
Farrell, B.	Martyn, J.	Tucker, E.
Goodwin, A.	Morrell, P.	Thomas, R.
Garrett, R.	Nichol, A.	Traill, J.
Gibbison, J.	Oliver, S.	Thompson, A.
Gordon, H.	Orr, H. **	Van-Weesel, J.
Hird, P. *	O'Connor, B.	Wright, H.
Hodson, R.	Orr, H. E.	Walters, W.
Harrop, J.	Parsons, M.	Wright, W. **
Hunter, T.	Peach, I.	Walters, S.
Hird, C.	Pearce, R.	Welch, W.
Havelock, J.	Preston, J.	

* A member for 1985/86 year also.

** A member for 1985/86 year and continuously since 1956

Appendix 2

Life Members

M. Parsons *
G. Jackson *
C. Hird *
H. Orr
B.R.Blanchard
B.S.Banks
D.Arter *

* Deceased

Honorary Members

Judge Trevor Gillies
Lord Raglan (Wales U.K.)

Patrons

F.H.Wright	-	Elected 1956
F.J.Cleave	-	Elected 1966
C.Hird	-	Elected 1970
H.Orr	-	Elected 1979
R.Hayes	-	Elected 1983

Presidents

H.G.Orr	-	Elected 1956
L.V.Smith	-	Elected 1958
W.Wright	-	Elected 1960
L.V.Smith	-	Elected 1962
M.Parsons	-	Elected 1967
B.R.Blanchard	-	Elected 1968
M. Ansley	-	Elected 1976
J.Parker	-	Elected 1978
B.S.Banks	-	Elected 1981
T.Allis	-	Elected 1982
J.Peden	-	Elected 1983

Appendix 3

Secretaries

I.R.Peach	-	Elected 1956
W.E.Rack	-	Elected 1960
S.Phillips	-	Elected 1961
M.Parsons	-	Elected 1964
G.Keyte	-	Elected 1966
L.Peat	-	Elected 1969
D.Arter	-	Elected 1970
N.Tuck	-	Elected 1980
A.Tricklebank	-	Elected 1983

Treasurers

B.S.Banks	-	Elected 1956
W.Petchell	-	Elected 1981
B.S.Banks	-	Elected 1983