

## Napier NZ Reunion 2013

Sadly with the passing of Alex Bailey the President of the Napier Vindi Branch things did not look too good for organisation of the planned reunion. Alex had been ill for some time and mail not opened or responded to and banking of monies much to be desired. Alex's daughter came into the fray and thankfully Adrian Hornby took over the reins, but losing much sleep over the numbers of lads attending and the catering requirements. Without Adrian standing in the reunion would not have happened.

Happily his heart was warmed to the numbers that did attend. On the Friday night "Meet and Greet" with a continuous running of a DVD playing "Vindicatrix Memories". Sixty plus attended and on the Saturday "Formal Dinner" many more attended from other MN Associations. The table settings for the dinner were resplendent with Vindi place mats compliments of the RSA club and a nice finishing touch. Many speeches made and an upstanding toast made to the late Alex.

The venue being the Napier RSA (*Returned Services' Association*) and the management bending their backs to make us most welcome and would like to mention in this regard the CEO Craig Williams, managers Sue and Bev, and the bar and catering staff. Thank you, you were most professional.

One could not complain about the quality or quantity of the food, which was first class and the weather over the whole weekend was glorious with blue skies, a warm sun and gentle breeze. The evenings just requiring a light coat or jumper, so absolutely perfect. Shirley and I liked Napier so much we spent an extra day, so staying 5 days.

Nothing was planned for entertainment, though walking around myself from table to table was never lost for words to swing the lamp with old and new mates and in fact a pleasure not to have sound draining music and endless raffles strangling any chance of talk or moving around tables, That is not to say any such entertainment will be excluded in the future or everyone's choice.

As with many previous reunions Shirley, I and a few lads (Aucklanders) spent the rest of the evening swinging the lamp in a hotel room until the wee hours and am sure cured all the worlds woes, if not, we sure gave it a good go over a few drinks.

In closing will mention Norrie Day a local who attended both night on crutches, but was in agonising pain of a traumatised leg wound suffered recently in an accident with his car. And him saying "I would not have missed this for the world".

*The next down-under reunion will be held in Fremantle, Western Australia with more information to come via their web site [www.wa.vindicatrix.com](http://www.wa.vindicatrix.com) later.*

Bill Davis