

## Anzac Day parade with Lions Club of Titahi Bay

President John Linschoten reports.

Each year, Lions Club of Titahi Bay has been honoured to be included in both the Dawn Parade and the Civic Parade. This year there were three additions to the parades that have never happened before.

Two battalions joined the parade, usually there is just the one battalion, flyovers from Iroquois helicopter and Orion plane was a wonderful addition, and this year the inclusion of a Labrador was present to honour the four-legged soldiers used during the war for finding landmines. Their keen sense of smell to find explosives is still used in today's time.

The Firing Party for the Dawn Parade was Wellington / West Coast / Taranaki 5<sup>th</sup> battalion & Wellington / Hawkes Bay 7<sup>th</sup> battalion for the Civic Parade. Vice President John O'Hara from Titahi Bay RSA says 'this is the first year we have had two battalions at the parade, usually we only get just the one.'

The flyovers from the Iroquois helicopter for the dawn parade was a good touch, unexpected by many, and giving the slight feeling of really being there at ground-zero. This continued with a flyover from an Orion during the Civic parade and in the distance both Iroquois and Orion were seen circling out at sea.

Escort Retriever Labrador Kennels breeder Perin Gajadhar paraded with Titahi Bay Lions at the Civic Parade with one of his pedigree Labradors, Champion Escort Anzac. Mr. Gajadhar said 'he felt honoured and privileged to be included in the parade to show support for the dogs that fought beside our soldiers.'

Over time the attendance of onlookers and those on parade has grown and continues to grow year by year. There is now a new addition to the parades that will hopefully grow next to the humans, dogs to honour our soldier dogs.

We Will Remember Them... We Will Remember Them... LEST WE FORGET

