

# NZ GUNNER

#### **Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Newsletter**

Issue #177 - June 2018

Presidents Report; June 2018

It has been a very active 3 months for the RNZA;

Gunners Day, May I thank all those people who were involved in organising gunners day activities on 26 May 2018. The Auckland dinner in conjunction with 11/4 Battery was very successful (thanks Craig Hewett), as was the gathering at Te Aroha RSA (thanks Jack Mills); these two functions combined attracted over 110 attendees. The dinners in Dunedin (thanks Robbie Gardiner) and Christchurch (thanks Skin) were equally successful, as was the service at Wellingon (thanks Martin Coomber). Whilst I have only mentioned the primary organiser in each case, I know full well that it takes a team to organise these events and the attendees to make them successful. Based on this Gunners Day attendance, I reckon the RNZA Association is in pretty good shape across the country. It is interesting to note that whilst the TF Batteries form the 'core' of these groupings, the ex RF component is also showing more interest and it is the veterans from Bosnia, Timor, Afhganistan, Iraq deployments who we want to ensure we establish and maintain contact with. That's what the Assn is all about; maintaining networks so that we can establish whether there are any mates in need, and then putting them in contact with the agencies which can provide the help.

VSA14. This brings us to the very important issues of the Review of the Veteran Support Act 2014 (VSA 14), and the approach taken towards veterans by the new government. As everyone will be aware Prof Ron Paterson was engaged to conduct a review of the VSA14. He concluded this review in November 17 and presented his findings (a sum-

LAST

**POST** 



MAINS, Maxwell Homer (Max): 203632 16 Fd Regt RNZA Korea: Died 12 March 2018 at Auckland aged 89

**ALLEN,** Edward Forster (Ted): 206850 RNZA Korea: Died 13 April 2018 at Te Awamutu aged 91

**HAYMAN:** Ronald William (Ron): 32030 RNZA Korea: Died 19 April 2018 at Whangaparaoa aged 88

**BENNETTS,** Gregory Horton (Gregor)): U40567 Capt RNZA, 22 (D) Bty: Died in April 2018 in Hawkes Bay

**HENDERSON,** John A (Flash): 80652 Major RNZA and RNZAF, 161 Bty VN 66/67 & 68/69: Died 6 April 2018, at Nelson aged 73

**McKECHNIE,** Allan Cassilis: 1861 Lt NZ Fd Arty 1st Echelon WW2: Died 28 April 2018, at Nelson aged 99

**HOLDEN,** Henry, Curran (Harry): 4 Fd Regt 2nd NZEF WW2: Died 11 May 2018 at Wellington aged 96

**COTTLE,** Thomas James (Tom): 16th Fd Regt RNZA Korea: Died 17 May 2018, aged 93

**TAURUA,** Albert Kingi (Albie/Kingi): 304325 RNZA 161 Bty VN: Died 24 May 2018, at Auckland aged 80

**MILLAR,** Brian Edward (Dusty): 479951 RNZA: 161 Bty VN 69/70: Died 30 May 2018, at Papakura aged 71

mary of the recommendations of which is included later in the newsletter) in March 18. Representations were made to the review panel on behalf of the RNZA Assn, and by several individuals. On 17 May the Association was invited to a briefing by the new Minister for Defence and Veterans Affairs Mr Ron Mark at Parliament, which the Col Comdt attended on our behalf. Col Matt Beattie has provided a summary of this presentation in his report. The timing of Mr Mark's appointment as Min of VA, and the timing of Professor Paterson's Review, provide a limited window in which interested parties must ensure that the Review Recommendations are followed up on. We are seeking an interested veteran who may be able to lead an advocacy group to push for the recommendations. Lt Col (rtd) Rob Munro (LLB) and Mr Greg Thwaite (LLB) have both offered their services in an assistance capacity to such a group. Rob Munro has laid out the position as he sees it in an article later in the newsletter. So if there are any other veterans interested in leading/helping with this advocacy group, please contact myself or Rob, or Greg as soon as possible.

BDD Award. It was a great to see our past Col Comdt Col Barry Dreyer rewarded for his efforts by being awarded the NZ Defence Force Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his contribution to the NZ Army. There were five aspects of his contribution which were noted; 1) his contribution to the serving soldiers, 2) his contribution to the veteran community, both veterans and their families, 3) his contribution to the RNZA Association, 4) his contribution to the heritage of the RNZA and 5) his contribution to the Artillery Band, which would not exist without him. We have all benefitted hugely from Barry's time as our Col Commandant.



RNZAA President Tony MCLeod presenting our Past Col Comdt Col Barry Dreyer with a small gift at the Auckland Gunners Day Dinner.

Coral/Balmoral ceremonies and citation. As most SVN vets would know the Australian Govt has been conducting an 'Inquiry into Unit Recognition for Service at the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral'. The findings of that inquiry were announced at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle on 3 May 2018, an event which several veterans attended as well as official representation from 161 Battery. Essentially the Tribunal recommended that the 1 Australian Task Force (forward) and all units deployed in support of 1 ATF and deployed forward should receive recognition as a part of the Unit Citation for Gallantry. This included 161 Battery which was in support of 3 RAR during the period of the battles. We have been advised through official channels that certain formalities now need to be performed and then arrangements will be made for the award of the citation.

Handover of Commanding Officers. On 6 June 18 Lt Col Kristian Dunne took over command of 16th Field Regt from Lt Col Ben Bagley. On behalf of all members of the RNZA Assn may I thank Lt Col Bagley for all his support, and we wish him well as the Commanding Officer of the `Strategic Studies School?`. On a personal note, I attended Staff College with Lt Col Dunne`s father, Maj Gen Martin Dunne, so I know we will have great support during his tenure as CO.

Reunion 18. It's now time to register and make your travel arrangements for the Reunion to be held in Dunedin over Labour Weekend. It would be great to see a high level of support for Robbie Gardiner and his team of organisers who have put together a very interesting programme for the weekend.

**Tony McLeod** 

President, RNZAA

### <u>Chris Morriss gunner uncle Ken Lonmore celebrated</u> <u>his 100th birthday on 15th May 2018.</u>

On Tuesday I had the great pleasure of going to my gunner uncle Ken Longmore's 100th birthday party at his house in Wellington. Photos are of Ken, myself, and the Col Comdt, Col Matt Beattie, who also attended the party and presented Ken with a certificate from the RNZA and the RNZA Association.

Ken was very appreciative of the presence of the Col Comdt at his birthday party. Birthday flowers also arrived for Ken from the national office of the RSA.

Ken has been living in his own house in Wellington, looking after himself until six weeks ago when he had a moderate stroke, so at the moment he is in care while he recovers, but he is making an astonishingly fast recovery so far, and is back at his own house for a few nights this week. Ken's wife Bev died

Handover of Commanding Officers. On 6 June a couple of years ago, after he had devotedly cared for her at home for many years during her slow deget from Lt Col Ben Bagley. On behalf of all veloping dementia.

Ken was a pre-war territorial subaltern with 15th Heavy Coast Bty at Fort Dorset in Wellington in 1938/39, and consequently was called up full-time the day war was declared, and went away to WW2 with the NZ 3rd echelon, as a troop commander with 33 Bty, 7th Anti-Tank Regt. He served with them, equipped with 2 pounder AT guns, against Hitler's Panzers in the Greece campaign in 1941 and gets three brief mentions in different volumes of the NZ official WW2 war histories about the Greece campaign.

After leading a party including Australians over the mountains to a southern beach during the retreat in Greece, Ken was among a group that found and "borrowed" a small boat to get away, and were later picked up by a British warship off the coast of Greece and taken to Crete, then on to Egypt. Ken was transferred from 7th Anti-Tank Regt to 6th Field Regt where he became an officer in a 25 pounder Bty and fought with them at the fierce Minqar Qaim breakout in Egypt in June 1942 after the NZers were encircled by 21st Pz Div. Ken I think by this time held the rank of Captain.

He was then taken prisoner by a German tank crew on 23rd July 1942 in the desert south of Alamein, after his vehicle was blown up by a landmine. The German tank crew found Ken in the desert trying to assist a mortally wounded fellow kiwi soldier, and the tank crew and other German troops who arrived went to great efforts to help Ken try to save the wounded man, before eventually politely telling Ken he was their prisoner.

Ken was in POW camps in Italy at first, then later in Poland and Germany. At one stage he was in the same camp as Charles Upham, and observed one brazen unsuccessful escape attempt of Upham's, made in daylight in full view of astonished armed camp guards and I think equally astonished other

POW officers.

Ken's WW2 battle dress tunic and holster made a brief appearance at the birthday party yesterday. A good friend of Ken's was Brigadier John "Blackie" Burns who was a fellow troop commander with Ken in 7th Anti-Tank Regt early in WW2, and was also a POW for a time. Ken and Blackie remained lifelong friends until Blackie, who lived near Ken in later years, died in the early 2000s.



RNZA Col Comdt Col Matt Beattie presenting Ken Longmore with a certificate from the RNZA and RNZAA with his Kens nephew Chris Morriss in attendance.

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF FSB CORAL & BALMORAL

For three days, 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May, I enjoyed attending, in Canberra, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the May 1968 Viet Nam War Battle of Coral/Balmoral, courtesy of a grant from Veterans Affairs.

This battle was one of the Australian Army's most significant battles of the Viet Nam War, fought at the Fire Support Bases (FSB) of Coral and Balmoral. About 120 New Zealanders were involved in the battle, 161 Bty providing Direct Support to 3 RAR, including the provision of Forward Observers assigned to each of the battalion's four companies, and a Battery Commander Party at Battalion HQ.

The battle is remembered for the courage of the soldiers involved, who fought desperately as hundreds of troops from the NVA 7<sup>th</sup> Division hammered their positions.

The battle occurred after the bulk of 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force, including 1RAR and 3RAR, established FSB Coral 20 km north of Bien Hoa. Coral was to provide cover for foot patrols, and intercept the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong withdrawing from assaults on Saigon.

However along with the expected bedraggled survivors of the attacks on Saigon, in the area were thousands of fresh North Vietnamese troops who had come down the Ho Chi Minh Trail to launch fresh attacks in the south.

The Australians and New Zealanders, much to our surprise, landed right in the middle of these fresh troops.

Within hours of Coral being established on May 12<sup>th</sup>, the hastily prepared perimeter was attacked by the North Vietnamese, who overran several positions, including a gun of 102 Bty, and the adjacent Mortar Position of 1RAR. In grim, close quarter fighting, the Australians were able to drive the North Vietnamese back, with the assistance of recoilless rifle and artillery fire, including that of 161 Bty.

Coral was heavily attacked for a second time on the night of May 15/16, but driven off with the help of intense Australian , American, and NZ artillery support, the NZ support coming from nearby FSB Coogee, where 161 Bty had relocated in order to be able to provide indirect fire support to Coral. Less intense assaults on Coral occurred in the following weeks, while skirmishes also occurred during patrols into the surrounding area.

Later in the month, after 161 Bty had relocated to Coral once again, the Australians established FSB Balmoral on 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> May, 4.5 KM to the north of Coral. The North Vietnamese attacked Balmoral shortly after its establishment. The weight of Australian, NZ and American Firepower, bolstered by tanks brought up by road from Nui Dat, enabled the Australians to repel the assault. A further incursion on 28<sup>th</sup> May was dealt with similarly, inflicting heavy losses on the

attackers.

By 6<sup>th</sup> June, the assaults had ceased in a battle which had been costly for both sides. Australian casualties were 26 men killed and 99 wounded. A recent report in the Australian Army Newspaper states that 10 NZers and 10 Americans were also wounded, but I am unaware of any NZ casualties.

The battle was more damaging for the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong, who lost upwards of 250 men.

I had attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations of the battle in 2008, when I was one of only three Kiwis present. This year there was a better turnout, with, apart from myself, the three surviving 161 Bty Forward Observers who had been with 3RAR at Coral and Balmoral, making the effort to attend: Neil Bradley, over from Adelaide; Walter Steward, all the way from the UK, and Mike Harvey, over from Christchurch. The present 161 Bty also sent a contingent of six serving personnel over from Linton.

Several of the units involved in the battle took the opportunity in Canberra to have a reunion over the weekend while their veterans were in town.

On the Friday night that I arrived in Canberra I attended a "Meet & Greet" and Dinner put on by D Coy 3RAR, with whom I had been a Forward Observer for six months later in my tour, and well after Coral, where I had been GPO of 161 Bty.

On the Saturday morning The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery arranged a very impressive memorial service atop Mt Pleasant, adjacent to the Royal Military College, the location of an Artillery Memorial established in 2008. The service was devoted to the memory of two 12 Fd Regt gunners who were killed at Coral. I attended, along with Neil Bradley and Walter Steward. At this ceremony the involvement of NZ troops in the battle was very generously acknowledged, as it was again that night at a Formal Dinner arranged by the Royal Regiment. Neil, Walter, Mike and I all attended the dinner, together with all the personnel from the 161 Bty contingent.

Sunday was the big day of the Commemorations,

with a major event on ANZAC Parade, involving a march past of the vets of the battle. At this ceremony the formal announcement was made of the awarding of the Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry to all personnel who were at Coral/Balmoral, with a recommendation that the Kiwis and Americans who were there should also receive the award. We now await a decision by the NZ Government on whether we can accept the award.

Unfortunately, while the involvement of NZ troops got full recognition at the artillery events, NZ received not one mention at the main ceremony on Sunday morning.

After the main ceremony on ANZAC Avenue all Coral/Balmoral vets were invited to a Reception at the National Convention Centre, where finger food was provided, and drinks were available to purchase.

At the Reception it was sadly announced that Brigadier J.J.Shelton, DSO,MC, had died that afternoon. As CO 3RAR in VN he was to lead the march of the veterans that morning, but fell seriously ill of pneumonia and was hospitalised. While in hospital he was awake and watched the morning ceremonies on line, and heard the Minister of Veterans Affairs announce the award of the Unit Citation for Gallantry to his troops. He died following the end of the ceremony, his death being announced at the Reception.

Commemorations culminated on Sunday evening with an impressive Last Post ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, where the 26 Australian dead from the battle were specially remembered. I am pleased to report that 161 Bty did at least get a brief mention at this ceremony.

I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to attend these events, and for the financial support by VANZ. I am also very grateful for the warm welcome I received from my Aussie comrades, in both D Coy 3RAR, and 12 Fd Regt.

#### **Rod Baldwin**





The Last Post ceremony in Canberra

The Coral Veterans

<u>Unit Citation for Gallantry Awarded by the Australian Government for the Battle of FSB Coral/Balmoral</u>



At the recent 50th Anniversary of the Battle of FSB Coral/Balmoral in Canberra, it was announced that the Australian Government had authorized the award of a Unit Citation for Gallantry to those units that were part of I Australian Task Force (Forward) who participated in the Battle of FSB Coral & Balmoral. The award is made for "Extraordinary gallantry in action in Dinh Duong/Bien Hoa Provinces of South Vietnam from 12 May 1968 to 6 June 1968, during Operation Thoan Thang( Complete Victory)." The award has been made to all those units that were part of the First Australian Task Force (Forward) and includes US and NZ units that were present at the FSB'S during the battle.

The award still has to be offered to NZ and the NZ government must accept and authorize the award to NZ personnel. Once decisions have been made information will be promulgated.

In conjunction with Col Matt Beattie our Col Comdt, I am compiling a list of those who were present on the FSB during the battle. Unfortunately, many of our

compatriots have passed away in the interim.

I would like to, urgently, hear from anyone who was present during the battle and also any names that you can remember, especially names of gun crews. Please contact me at editor.rnzaa@gmail.com
John (Woody) Barrett

#### **REMINDER**

The 84th Annual gathering and AGM of the RNZAA will be held in Dunedin 19-21 October 2018. See the end of this newsletter for more details.

#### **Review of VSA14 by Rob Munro**

A new Report "Warrant of Fitness" has recently been tabled in Parliament which highlights a range of deficiencies in the newish 2014 Veterans Support Act. [See newsletter page 9 for a short summary of its recommendations]. We don't want Professor Ron Paterson's detailed report to be filed and forgotten. But it will need work with policy makers to gain the needed improvements. VP Greg Thwaite has agreed to lead the work on our behalf but he needs help from one or two younger gunners with experience and knowledge of recent deployments. The Associa-

tion will put together a small team (including me) to

highlight and urge action on the significant improvements shown to be needed in the 2014 Act.

We need to consider what is urgently needed (and thus first in line on our list of improvements) what else needs early action, and what is nice to have, but could wait.

A younger cohort with recent service from Somalia Timor Afghanistan Iraq and other recent problem areas will inevitably need help after discharge just as soldiers, sailors and airmen have after past conflicts. Those from the Malaysia/Borneo/Vietnam era are sadly passing on. Help frequently came too late. Many did not ask or simply even know what was available. The type of help needed is also changing. PTSD problems and delays in obtaining DHB surgery for hips knees and backs affect many. Medical opinions on causation can differ. Evidence and a fair interpretation to what is or was "service related" – ie essentially attributable to military service perhaps decades ago - can be contrasted with the inevitable routine aging process. Hospital public waiting lists can be lengthy. Veteran's health problems frequently show up more acutely decades after service when the individual may be living in an isolated area with limited medical or family or mates to help with advice and advocacy.

After WW2, the War Pensions Act 1954 was enacted by Parliament. NZ had in place the Rehabilitation Act 1941 to help ex-servicemen and women. A wide range of assistance was provided under it for homes, for farms and for education into new careers after discharge. The 1941 Act was finally repealed in 1991. Sadly no comprehensive review of the 1954 provisions began until 2007 when the Government referred the matter to the Law Commission. New law was then not finalised for another seven years. Clearly we do not want another five to six decades delay to obtain fair and reasonable improvements

to law which is in force for the 21st century.

The ex-Ombudsman's March 2018 Report now presents a stand-out opportunity. He has highlighted many problems. But as is obvious, many groups in NZ are currently very actively seeking "more" from the Government. Minister of Veterans Affairs Ron Mark, an ex RF Cadet is keen to help, but he is unlikely to be able to do everything needed or recommended by Prof Paterson just as was the case with the June 2010 Report from the Law Commission. Improvements usually cost extra dollars. So which of the Patterson recommendations should be given priority or in gunner terms placed at priority call? The recently announced Veterans Rehabilitation Strategy from the Minister and run essentially by VANZ will assist, but only within what the 2014 Act presently authorises in law. Many of the wider suggestions in the Paterson Report need law changes which are yet to be addressed.

Increased staffing for VANZ as a unit of NZDF is an area needing attention says the report, as are improvements to the overall priority to be given to Veterans by NZDF. CDF appoints the General Manager of VANZ and he or she works under the control and direction of the CDF (and his delegates) as Chief Executive of the NZDF. Inevitably VANZ and NZDF must apply and interpret the law and must also do as directed by the Government. Any change to the law inevitably requires a Treasury Report. Thus Treasury pressure overhangs most decisions which are finally taken by Cabinet. The formation of the independent and active NODUF recently suggests that some younger vets now want and seek to take more active steps to help mates in difficulty.

We are looking for a former serviceperson (or persons) to assist Greg so we can put modern views forward. We need younger blood who have been with one or more relatively recent deployments and know about the problems - so the system can best help

younger cohorts in the years ahead. Where are the squeaks most commonly heard? What are the crucial gaps at present? How might they be overcome? Perhaps:-

- <u>Proactive</u> identification of possible PTSD and similar problems rather than a largely reactive approach after discharge. Arranging medical treatment promptly and with minimal bureaucracy for those with operational service, attributable injuries, and service-related illness
- Active steps to Identify <u>Widows</u>, Partners and Children in need
- Creation of an Independent <u>Advocacy</u> and assistance service to help complete paperwork and in some circumstances provide independent legal assistance for appeals

- <u>Private Hospital</u> Treatment paid for by VANZ where public waiting lists for attributable problems are excessive
- Easier access to medical assistance as part of the <u>"extra margin of support"</u> for all veterans such as those over 80 as recommended in 2010 by the Law Commission More flexible funding by VANZ is now suggested.

There are of course dozens of possibilities for improvements but the 64 Paterson recommendations can be a beacon. Not every wish can be met. But what should be done that will most help?

Ubique

**Rob Munro** 



Horowhenua Gunners Day luncheon

#### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PATERSON REPORT

Professor Ron Paterson, a former Ombudsman has made 64 recommendations in a comprehensive 135 page report. His Independent Review ("Warrant of Fitness") was recently tabled in Parliament by the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Hon Ron Mark. It is available on the VANZ website in pdf format.

Considerable detail is contained in the Report but it raises a number of concerns following NZ wide consultation and concludes with 64 recommendations. Its broad terms suggest:-

- More focus on the Needs of Veterans. Greater legal flexibility to meet both veteran and family needs. A single point of contact with veterans/families.
- Strengthen Support for Families . Explicit authority given to meet the needs of family/whaanu as well as those of veterans.
- Surviving Spouse and Partner Pension. Improvements in Eligibility
- Children and Dependants. Extension of eligibility
- Entitlements on Death. Increase in funeral grants and upgrades to ACC levels
- Enhance Independence Support (the VIP Programme) including for partners and spouses
- A Fairer Clearer Act. In plain English.
- Improving the System . NZDF as a whole to give "greater priority" to veterans issues. NZVA Resources Increased so it is able to "carry out the job it was set up to do." Establish a Register of Veterans. Investigate Advocacy models. Add a new principle A moral duty of care.
- Rationalising Statutory Bodies. Closer links with Australian Repatriation Medical Authority and merging of NZ Advisory Bodies
- Review the Existing Levels of Support. A further look at the practical level of an <u>"extra margin of support"</u> in comparison to what is available/payable by ACC/NZ Superannuation/ Other Govt Agency entitlements. What should be the earliest age of pension eligibility?
- Rethinking Eligibility for Assistance. Who is a "veteran" and how should NZ recognise such service?

Future Reviews Needed – five yearly.

#### **GUNNERS DAY 26 MAY 2018**

Gunners Day was suitably celebrated in centres throughout NZ



#### Te Aroha

← 4 Mdm ex BSM Barry Cook & exBC Hugh Vercoe

The RNZAA Q Store in 

→
action





Skin Francis and Dick Wilson Gunners Day Christchurch

On Queens Birthday weekend 1-4 June a reunion of Vietnam Veterans, at Waiouru was attended by a number of gunners.



Reunion Breakfast Waiouru

Eddie Naden and Pat Killalea ex 161 Bty Vietnam at Vietnam Veterans reunion in Waiouru



## **Behind the Lines:** The Editor's Page

Patron HE The Governor General, The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, GMNZN, QSO.

Vice Patron Lt Col (Rtd) Barry Dreyer RNZA

Colonel Commandant Colonel Matt Beattie. The Col Comdt is an ex officio member of the Association

President Lt Col (Rtd) Tony McLeod, 09 486 0910, 027 269 8472

Vice President Gregory Thwaite

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Email: rnza.association@gmail.com

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John (Woody) Barrett (NZ Gunner editor), Andrew Donellan

Committee at Large/Regional Representatives:

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Kent Horsfield (Manawatu), Roger Newth (Horowhenua), Lyndsay

Skinner (Wellington), Martin Coomber (Wellington), Brian (Skin) Francis (Christchurch),

Robbie Gardner (Dunedin) Al Martin (Dunedin),

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Facebook Site: <u>Facebook,RNZA Assn</u>

**Member Registration:** New members are most welcome. **All** Gunners are eligible for Full Membership, it is **FREE** and automatic once a gunner has served in the Regiment for more than three months. Associate Membership is available to anyone who has been attached to an RNZA Unit or has had a close affiliation therewith, and to close family of RNZA Gunners and to Gunners of any nation around the world. Membership application forms are on-line at the website: rnzaa.org.nz.

Associate membership: No annual subscription is payable, but any donations are gratefully received.

**Donations:** All charitable and welfare donations over \$5 are now tax deductible as the Association is a Registered Charity. Donations can be made by Internet Banking to the Associations Bank Account, or by cheque to the secretary (address above). If you wish to receive a receipt, please let the secretary know by email.

**Email Addresses**: Are you connected to the Internet? The Secretary may not be aware of your address. If you are not getting messages from the RNZA Association and wish to do so, please forward your address.

**Death of a Member:** If you know of the passing of someone who was a Gunner or a member of the Association, please advise the Secretary. Where possible a representative of the Association will attend the funeral.

**Input into Gunner News:** Short stories, especially with accompanying photographs, are always welcome for inclusion. The Editor's email address is: **editor.rnzaa@gmail.com**. Please send contributions as an attachment in MS Word format.

Muzzle Flashes & website items to Chris at: webmaster.rnzaa@gmail.com

Secretarial/Treasurer matters to Bernie: rnza.association.gmail.com

Items for Gunner News to Woody at: editor.rnzaa@gmail.com

RNZA Assn Bank: Ac # 38 9007 0694501 00

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Royal NZ

### **THE Q STORE**

Quartermaster: Colin Jansen

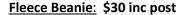
Orders and enquiries to: rnzaaQstore@gmail.com

Polo: Gunners logo on right breast, with Gun crest on left. Black with red piping and em-





broidered logo's.





Gunners Tee Shirt:

Quick-dry breathable
sports fabric.

\$25 each free-post in NZ



Gunners Hoodie Sweatshirt: \$75 each free-post in NZ



**Baseball Cap:** Black with red piping and embroidered Gun crest \$35 each.



RNZAA Blazer Pocket Patch:

Edged and ready for adding to

\$20 each free-post in NZ

a jacket.



13 Tac Sign Bumper sticker:

90mm x 90mm UV resistant for up to two years.

\$5 each free-post in NZ



**RNZAA Coffee Mugs:** 

Cobalt blue with gold print

\$25 each



RNZAA Lapel Pins: \$10 each



**RNZAA Name Tag:** 

Laser etched with gold lapel pin permanently affixed. Note: Remember to advise preferred name to be etched on it.

#### \$35 each



**RNZAA Bumper Sticker:** 

70mm x 70mm UV resistant up to two years

\$5 each free-post in NZ

#### Ordering details and other useful information:

- Post is included on all items within New Zealand. Please enquire for costs to post overseas.
- Please include all relevant details when placing an order, including correct name, size where relevant and delivery address. Purchasers will have 14 days from placement of order to complete payment. If payment is not received within that time, the order will be deemed void. When making payment, remember to include your name and the item being purchased: in the reference fields of the RNZAA account, so that the treasurer can identify who and what the payment refers to.
- Some items are made to order, and requests for items such as name tags or special sized articles will not be placed with our suppliers, nor items dispatched to prospective purchasers until payment has been identified as received from the purchaser.
- We are working on additional items as well as future promotion of items available from the 16th Field Regt UPF, to create a central point of purchase. Keep an eye on this and the website Q-Store pages for future developments.

# The Royal NZ Artillery Association Inc **84**<sup>th</sup> **Annual Gathering & AGM**

## 19th October - 21st October 2018

### To be held in

## Dunedin

#### **Programme Outline**

Friday: 1800hrs - Registration, relax, mix and mingle at Kensington Army Hall

Saturday: 0930hrs- time for a quick 'warmer' at Kensington Army Hall

1000hrs - Association AGM at KAH

(Please Note: Lunch own arrangements).

1230 – 1730hrs - Bus / boat departs for a trip to Taiaroa Heads - Armstrong Disappearing Gun - Albatross Colony. Harbour boat trip to Taiaroa Heads - <u>this will depend on numbers</u>. If a trip down the fantastic Dunedin Peninsula is not your thing, Dunedin has many other attractions close to the city centre:

Chinese Garden

Sports Hall of Fame Railway Station

Catch train - Taieri Gorge

Walk to town - shops

Toitu Museum

Otago Museum - Butterfly World

**Speights Brewery Tour** 

1830 – 1900hrs Assemble at the Victoria Hotel, 137 St Andrew Street, for semi-formal dinner. Please note The Victoria Hotel does have accommodation.

**Dress:** Gents – Tie, jacket with medals /miniatures. Ladies, semi-formal.

<u>Sunday</u>: 1000hrs - fire gun / guns in the Octagon, Dunedin, 10 rounds to commemorate 100 years of the end of WW1 and to celebrate Dunedin's - B Battery's 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Then -

#### Church Service also in the Octagon at St Pauls Cathedral.

Lunch at a local café depending on numbers for the conclusion of the weekend celebrations.

Departure. Remember Monday is also a NZ Public Holiday. (Labour Weekend)

# **Accommodation Options**

The Victoria Hotel, 137 St Andrew Street, Phone +64 3 477 0572 – toll free NZ 0800 266 336 Email reservations@victoriahoteldunedin.com

97 Motel Moray, 97 Moray Place, Phone +64 3 477 2050

Email info@97motel.co.nz

Kingsgate, 10 Smith Street, Phone +64 3 477 6784

Email kingsgate.dunedin@milleniumhotels.co.nz

Motel on York, 47 York Place, Phone +64 3 477 6120

Email <u>info@motelonyork.co.nz</u>

Alternative options which you could google which are another couple of blocks away are:

Scenic Hotel Princes Street

**Distinction Hotel** 

Scenic Hotel Southern Cross

# YES! Register me for AGM Weekend 2018

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) & Initials:		Name for Label		_
Contact Address:				_
Phone Number:				_
Email:				
Your Service Number:		DOB:		
Operational Service In:				_
	Sched	lule of Costs		
Day/Time/Date	Event	Price	Num-	Total
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>		\$95 per person		
Payment: (Tick the preferre	ed option)			
_	t credit to the Otag	go Gunners, name of tl 063-000.	he account	at Westpac is Ubio
Ensure your name is tion as per address b	recorded with Re below.	eunion in reference bo	x. Mail thi	s form to the Assoc
☐ My cheque is enclose dress, noted below).	ed. (Mail cheque t	ogether with this forn	n direct to	the Association's a

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY!

Contact Details: email: rnza.association@gmail.com

Postal address: 18 Walford Dr, Rotorua 3010 Local Contact: Robbie Gardiner – 021 289 9121