



NZ GUNNER

Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Newsletter

Issue #180 - April 2019

RNZAA Presidents Report, March 2019

On Friday 22 Feb 19 I had the honour of attending the 16th Field Regiment Formal Dinner in Linton. Someone had conveniently seated me next to the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Kristian Dunne, so we had the opportunity for an excellent chat. Lt Col Dunne is very supportive of the Association and we covered off a lot of important points, including: 1) the parade to commemorate the award of the Unit Gallantry Citation to 161 Battery for their participation in the Battle of FSB Coral/Balmoral in June 1968, which will be held in Linton on Fri 5 April 19 at 12.30hrs; 2) an invitation will be issued to Assn members to attend a Live Firing Practice in Waiohuru in late July 19, nominations for attendance at this will be sought in late May 19; 3) 16 Fd Regt pers will be parading at Raglan and Paraparaumu on ANZAC Day and we would encourage all Assn members to show their support of the serving gunners. With the changeover of CO, RSM, BCs and BSMs we are looking forward to establishing new relationships with these new appointees and wish them all the best in their new positions

Ask not what the Regiment can do for us, rather, ask what can we do for the Regiment.

I was sitting having breakfast with Neville Reilly in Christchurch last month when I heard the dulcet tones of Rob Munro coming over the airwaves. Rob was being interviewed as a part of the recognition ceremonies for those who had been 'Mentioned in Despatches' in SVN. These awards were hard earned and not handed out with the morning cornflakes, but apparently that's exactly how they were handed out, so it was nice to see the recipients receive the level of recognition they so richly deserved. Now for those of us who know Rob he is well respected for his intellect, his articulation, and his excellent 'staff' work. So to hear his description of the background to his award was hilarious; 'I was an Intelligence officer. We got out and about a bit, did some figuring out, came back and did some paperwork, and then notified the units' (excuse my paraphrasing Rob but it was something like that!). It was typical understatement from a humble, capable officer who served his country well during operations, and who continues to advocate for veterans. Thanks Rob, RESPECT to you and all the others who received 'mid's in SVN. (cont overleaf)

LAST POST



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

BYRNE, Kelly Francis: former RNZA and RNZAF, Died 16 Mar 19

HENDERSON, William Robert Boyne (Boyne). 16th Field Reg. No; 206679 Gunner Passed Died 7 March 2019 at Waikato Hospital aged 88 years.

TOBIN, Heta. 382641 Died 6 Mar aged 72

BENT, Stephen . 473121. Died on Fri 1 Mar in Tauranga aged 76.

FINN, Peter Finn RNZAMC has marched off his last parade to the Gunpark in Sky on Sat 5 Jan aged 73. Peter Served In 161 Bty as a Medic.

RANCE, Gunner Andrew Ian

The New Zealand Army is mourning the loss of Gunner Andrew Ian Rance Royal New Zealand Artillery (RNZA) who passed away as the result of an off-duty accident. Andrew (21) was from Gore and enlisted into the NZ Army in August 2015. During his time at 161 Battery Andrew completed multiple trade courses and was employed in Joint Fires Teams, on Weapon Detachments, in Reconnaissance Troop, and most recently as the LAV driver for a Joint Fires Team. He was awarded the NZ Defence Service Medal Regular Force Clasp on 04 August 2018. He was a passionate field soldier and conducted numerous exercises including working with 5th ANGLICO, United State Marine Corps, in Alaska. He was farewelled from Linton Military Camp on Sat 30 March 19 in a memorial service attended by family, friends and the Regiment



RNZAA Presidents Report, March 2019 (cont)

I would encourage maximum participation at the Gunners Day activities being planned around the country. Please remember that simply by attending these functions you are playing an invaluable role in the ongoing support mechanism which is the role of our Regimental Association.

Tony McLeod

President RNZAA

16 Field Regiment Update....

It has been a busy few months for 16 Fd Regt. The start of the year saw soldiers and officers helping assist the Singaporean Artillery conduct their annual live field firing in Waiouru, which saw the unfortunate death of reservist Pang Wei Chong in a training accident. Despite this tragedy all participants agreed that a lot of valuable training was conducted. In February the Singaporeans were able to host a company from 1RNZIR and an accompanying Joint Fires Team from 161 Bty in Singapore for some valuable close country training.

Looking forward, 16 Fd Regt will have soldiers and officers deploying to Seattle in the US as part of a large multinational Command Post Exercise, and 161 Bty going to Australia as part of the annual large scale multinational Exercise, Hamel.





NOTICEBOARD

Weserved.nz

This website is an amalgamation of all the various agencies who purport to provide assistance to veterans. It is a joint venture by Veterans Affairs, RSA, No Duff, and lots of other support agencies and was organised and launched by the `Ranfurly Veterans Home` in Auckland. It is designed to be a sort of `one stop shop` for any matters relating to veteran support. Please check it out and let others know about it.

ANZAC Day 2019

As a reminder to all ANZAC day is fast approaching. This years ANZAC day will be on a Thursday post the Easter break and should provide an excellent day to commemorate those that have fallen in service of our Country. Due to the tragedy that occurred in Christchurch recently you may expect to see some of the military displays limited in scope. An example of this has been the cancelling of the Military Tattoo that was to be held in Palmerston North over the 12 and 13th of April.

Please support 161 Battery at Raglan, and 163 Battery at Paraparaumu.

Gunners Day Activities

At this stage we know of:

† A combined 11/4 Battery/ RNZA Assn informal evening at the Pt Chev RSA, Auckland on Sat 25 May

† Our Wellington Gunners Day event will be held at the Southern Cross Hotel Able Smith St from 1700. The evening will be informal - drinks from 1700 and then dinner from 1800.

- A possible luncheon at the Christchurch RSA on Sun 26 May 19.

Please show your support for these activities.

EARLY WARNING

RNZAA 85th Annual Gathering and AGM is planned for 8-10 November 2019 In Taupo

Further details will be promulgated as they come to hand

100th Anniversary of the Forming of the Levin RSA

LEVIN RSA 100 Year celebration. 10 May – 12 May 2019

Go to <https://www.levinrsa.co.nz> and click on Events for more details.

ANZAC DAY Wreath

Remember, the RNZA Assn will pay for you to lay a wreath if you provide a photo of the wreath with at least 5 gunners. The aim of this is to encourage gunner camaraderie at the local level. (Just send a copy of the Invoice/receipt with the photo to the Sec/Tres at rnza.association@gmail.com



Unit Gallantry Citation` Parade Linton, Friday 5 April 19, 1300.

Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry

The first Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry offered to a New Zealand military unit was presented to 161 Battery at a parade held by 16th Field Regt at Linton on Fri 5 April 2019.

History. 161 Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery initially deployed to Vietnam near Bien Hoa in July 1965. They moved to Nui Dat in the neighbouring Phuoc Tuy province as part of the newly formed 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) in May 1966 and provided continuous fire support to successive Australian and New Zealand battalions from that date until withdrawn in May 1971. One of the first major operations for 1 ATF was to deploy 120 kilometres from their Nui Dat base to an area in Bien Hoa province designated `Area of Operations Surfers` in May 1968. This was an area important to the North Vietnamese army offensive operations being conducted against Saigon in 1968. The Task Force established Fire Support Bases (FSB) Coral and Balmoral and the battles which ensued to defend these FSBs were amongst the largest and most protracted fought by 1ATF in the Vietnam war. The gunners of 161 Battery received high praise for the accuracy and the volume of fire support they provided at critical stages of attacks on the Australian battalion positions.

The parade was reviewed by the Minister of Defence Mr Ron Mark, and VIPs include the NZ Chief of Army Maj Gen John Boswell DSD, and the Australian Defence Attache Capt Christine Clarke CSC. (RAN). The Citation was presented to the Regimental Colonel, Colonel Matt Boggs, by the Australian Chief of Army Major General Greg Bilton AM,CSC, who also presented individual citations to sixteen veterans who attended the parade; (excusing ranks) Rod Baldwin, Woody Barrett, Jack Dodd, Ian Duthie, Jim Gilchrist, Graham Gordon, Mike Harvey, Neville Manins, Peter Miles, Richard Nathan, Mike Smith, Doc Stewart, Clyde Stewart, Dennis Wan, and the family's of John Killeen and Mike Thornton.





For those that would like a copy of images from the days activities, please refer to the link below....

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/70cuxv2wpi7kelr/AADboqLChbfsZI8STIBL5WvYa?dl=0>

Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry....

The chief organiser Mr Jack Hayes from HQ NZDF thanked Woody Barrett for his assistance in compiling the list of names of qualified recipients and helping to establish contact with them. There will be another presentation of the citations to individuals at the formal dinner at the RNZA Reunion in Taupo on Sat 9 November. It should be noted that HQ NZDF have decided that only those veterans who are eligible for the citation may wear it, it will not be worn by soldiers whilst serving with 161 Battery.

The parade was a fitting tribute to recognise those gunners who have served our Regiment so well in operations.

Tony McLeod





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
Secretary/Treasurer	Chris Pearce, 021918821, PO Box 90100, Victoria Street West, Auckland, 1142 Email: rnza.association@gmail.com
Committee:	Andrew Donellan (Q Store), Chris Morriss (Webmaster/Facebook), Colin Jansen (Op Ubique)

Committee at Large/ Regional Representatives:

Jack Mills (Waikato), Danny & Bernie McCort (BOP), Chris Morriss (BOP),
Kent Horsfield (Manawatu), Roger Newth (Horowhenua), Lyndsay
Skinner (Wellington), Martin Coomber (Wellington), Brian (Skin) Francis
(Christchurch), Robbie Gardner (Dunedin) Al Martin (Dunedin),
David Weston (RNZRSA Delegate)

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.



Behind the Lines: The Editor's Page

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 Chris: **rnza.association.gmail.com**

Items for Gunner News to Michael Doughty at: **michaeldoughty1@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 Artillery Assn, The Royal Regiment Of NZ Artillery, or NZDEF.



THE Q STORE

Quartermaster: [Andrew Donellan](#)

Orders and enquiries to: rnzaaQstore@gmail.com or go to our [website](#) for the latest items.

Polo : Gunners logo on right breast, with Gun crest on left. Black with red piping and embroidered logo's.

\$65.00 each



Fleece Beanie: \$30 inc post

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 a jacket.

\$20 each free-post in NZ



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.