



The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of the

Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)

Founded 1934

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1. VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Our intrepid President, Tony McLeod, is somewhere on a motorbike east of Gallipoli. Nevertheless, his well-trained Committee continue at their posts. (See Page 5 for what Tony has been up to)

Recently we lost two distinguished sons of the Regiment.



Colonel Don Kenning, a former Patron of the Association, passed away on Gunners Day. Colonel Kenning served in the Korean War with 16th Field Regiment, and commanded 161 Battery on its initial

deployment to South Vietnam in 1965. He held a number of senior Gunner posts, including that of Director, and CO of 16th Field Regiment. He was an inspiration to a generation of young officers.



Earlier in the year, **Trevor Pilcher** also passed away. He joined the Army just after the Korean War, and served in the Malaysian theatre on an attachment to the Battalion, and later as a Gun Sergeant in South

Vietnam. His last posting was as the RSM of 16th Field Regiment. He was held in awe by All Ranks, for his dynamism, steadfastness for high standards, and devastating humour. *Kua hinga te totara i te wao nui a Tane*: the mighty totara has fallen in the forest of Tane.

We will remember them.

Anzac Day was attended by Gunners in their various towns and cities. Wherever five Gunners gather around a wreath and send a photo

to the Association, the costs of the wreath will be reimbursed.

This year marked the Centenary of the landings at Gallipoli. 4th Howitzer Battery was the first New Zealand artillery ashore, and went into immediate action in support of the Infantry. At least one Committee member has a grandfather who served the guns at Gallipoli, and no doubt others have such an immediate connection with that campaign in the Balkans (as it was then described).

Gunners Day was celebrated a little prematurely in Auckland on Saturday 23 May. Continuing the tradition started by Jeffrey Waters, some 80 Gunners and guests sat down for the annual dinner. A special guest was Brent Catchpole, whose late father Brigadier Stan Catchpole was a Colonel Commandant, and was awarded the MC for gallantry at Takrouna in 1943 in Tunisia [page 503 of the Official History]. The hardy Southern Gunners, and those in the Waikato heartland of the Medium gun, had their dinners on the precise date, while the Wellington Gunners assembled at noon. The Committee applauds the initiative of those who take up the time-consuming task of organising these important events in the cycle of the year for Gunners.

16th Field Regiment is, from all reports, in

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good health. The BC of one Battery is an officer & a lady. Both the CO, Lt. Col. Andy Shaw and the RSM, WO1 Wayne McAsey, are reaching the end of their postings. The President and Committee are very appreciative of their support to the Association during their postings.

Some Gunners are presently serving in Iraq. Our thoughts are with them in these perilous times.

In July Gunners from the Vietnam era will commemorate the first "Gun Ready" report from the Vietnam theatre. The Reunion will take place in Palmerston North, and be centred around Linton Camp. There are still places available, and enquiries should be directed to Woody Barrett. For those who might be discouraged by the cost, there may some flexibility in pricing.

Exercise Ben Cat at Waiouru is coming up on 8 August. This is a once-a-year opportunity to smell the cordite, and to measure today's soldiers and equipment against the standards of old. Places are limited. Please email the Secretary to place your name on the list.

The Southern Gunners are preparing for the Reunion in Christchurch. This will be held over the weekend of 13-15 November. This is the yearly opportunity to catch up with old comrades, meet new ones, experience a different city, and maybe add on some vacation time. While the organisers stand fully ready for a last-minute rush of registrations, early registration would ease their anxiety. Registration forms can be found on the website. Encourage old comrades to come along.

Our quartermaster Colin Jensen continues to maintain a store of Gunner products, at reasonable prices, with prompt delivery. Orders can be placed, and payment can be made, through the website.

The long-serving editor of our newsletter, Marie Roberts, is about to publish her last edition. In the age of the Internet, the newsletter remains the link within the Association, full of stories either old or new, serious or amusing, historical or perhaps less so. Marie has consistently produced a top-class publication, and the Association is indebted to her.

We are now into the winter months. The rain and the cold can be a trying time for the more elderly among us. Those who can, may think of visiting Old Gunners at home or in a rest home facility. For them, a conversation over a cup of hot tea or something stronger, can make a real difference to the week.



Ubique,
Gregory J Thwaite, Vice President RNZA Assn



2. LAST POST

E345303 **BROWN**, Thomas George (Brownie). Dvr RNZASC. Toured SVN with 161 Bty in 1968 as a Cook. Passed away in Auckland on 19 May 2015 aged 77 years.

41336 **FOLEY** N E (Norman). L/Cpl RNZE. RF Cadet 65. Toured SVN

with 161 Bty 68/69 as Fd Engr. Passed away in Christchurch May 2015.

442265 **HAYSOM**, Bevan Valletort, RNZA. A Tp, 27 Bty, 5th Fd Regt WW11. Passed away 23 April 2015 at Auckland in his 93 year.

203542 **JEFFERY**, Albert Earnest Young. L/Bdr 16th Fd Regt Korea. Passed away 28 May 2015 at Tauranga 3 days before his 87th birthday.

653033 **KELLIHER**, Patrick Francis. RNZA, Gnr WW11. Passed away 26 April 2015 at North Shore, aged 89 years.

3. COL COMDT REPORTS IN

Most of you will be aware that Colonel Don Kenning died on the evening of the 26th of May. Although he had been ill for some time he had been in good spirits and had entertained a number of Gunners at his home in the last month or so. He will be sadly missed.

Colonel Don had a distinguished career with active service in Korea and Vietnam, Regimental and formation command appointments, as well as significant staff roles in New Zealand, and a number of overseas attachments, courses and postings. He was also a much loved and respected Colonel Commandant. He led 161 Battery to war in Vietnam in 1965.

His career will be remembered for his Gunner tasks. He was an excellent technical and tactical Gunner with a wide range of experience, probably better than any Gunner of his generation. He was a master of passing on his knowledge, gently getting others to do things the right way. He was widely respected for his skills and manner in New Zealand, Australia and in the USA.

On a personal basis he was my main mentor from the time I was a young subaltern until only a short few months ago, when I last saw him.

His contribution to the RNZA over the last fifty or so years has been immense. We owe him a debt of gratitude, and so does the nation.

Activities

The Regiment has been busy over the period as usual, with field and overseas exercises, and support for the School as the coursing season gets underway. A number of key appointments have been engaged overseas either on courses or in preparation for international exercises. We do of course have a number of gunners deployed operationally as well.

For Anzac Day, the Army policy was to have most of its staff return to home location's for Anzac Day, so most of the Regiment was dispersed throughout the country. A troop of 161 Battery paraded in Raglan, and 11/4 Battery provided a minute

gun and a troop of Gunners for Dawn and civic services in Howick and Hamilton.

The Commanding Officer and I attended a World War I 100 commemorative public concert performed by The Band of the RNZA for the Auckland City Council in Titirangi. There was a good crowd, well entertained by the Band, who were in fine form.

Gunners Day was well celebrated throughout the country. Significant dinners were held in Papakura and Christchurch, and gatherings in Dunedin, Wellington and Palmerston North. Papakura was certainly a pleasant evening, and by the looks of the photographs so were the other gatherings. I would encourage all Gunners to try to attend the functions. These gatherings are gaining momentum, and are always well organised and good fun. This is all good to see.

Reunions

The main Gunner reunions in front of us are the 161 Battery Vietnam veterans reunion in Linton and Palmerston North 14 – 16 July, next month, and the RNZA Association reunion in Christchurch 13 – 15 November.

For those that would like to attend and support the Vietnam veterans there are two suitable functions.

The first is a Regimental parade at 14:00 hours on 15 July, on the Regimental parade ground at Linton camp. The parade will include service presentations to Regimental personnel, and the dedication of the Regimental Memorial for those who have died while serving in the Regiment. This Memorial sits in the centre of the front of the Parade ground under the flagpole. There will also be ceremonies around the Vietnam veterans during the parade.

The second event is the Memorial Service at the Palmerston North Cosmopolitan Club at 10:30 hours on July 16.

I am sure all the veterans would welcome any participation in these two events by serving and retired gunners and their families.

And there is also **Exercise Ben Cat on August 8 in Waiouru**, where Association members can join serving gunners on a live firing exercise in the field. You need to register for this – see the Association website., or contact the Assn Secretary Bernie McCort

Finally, it has been a good few months for the Corps, with plenty of work, functions, gatherings, offshore work, and operational postings. 16 Field Regiment and the School are as busy as ever and doing what they are good at – producing world-class Gunners.

Ubique

Barry Dreyer, Col Comdt RNZA

HAPPENINGS

1. 161 Bty SVN Vietnam Reunion Palmerston North 14-16 July 2015, see page 10 for further details
2. Ex Ben Cat, see page 4 for further details
3. RNZA Assn Reunion and AGM Christchurch 13-15 November 2015, see page 13 for further details

4. RNZA BAND UPDATE

Steven Booth takes Artillery Band baton

The RNZ Artillery Band has appointed Steven Booth as their first professional conductor, in a major step to take the Band forward and upward since being disestablished by the NZ Defence Force in 2012.

Steven came to New Zealand from the UK in 2006 and was Musical Director of the 'A' Grade Waitakere Brass for 8 years, until stepping down to concentrate on his own playing and his young family. He is also an internationally renowned baritone player, having performed with such famous bands as Black Dyke, Grimethorpe, Faireys and Foden and has appeared in countries as far afield as Denmark, Japan, Canada, Australia and many others. Since coming 'down under' he has been three times Australian and six times New Zealand Baritone Champion.

The Band consider themselves extremely fortunate to have attracted someone of Steven's calibre and he is already having a considerable impact on the music quality. The members are relishing his input, and hope that Steven's involvement may also encourage new recruits, as they undertake a challenging programme through the next few years of World Wars One and Two concerts and commemorations under his leadership.

www.nzartilleryband.co.nz

Article Supplied by Bob Davis

5. RNZA ASSN PRESIDENT REPORTS IN FROM HERE AND THERE

- (i) A couple of gunners receive a farewell from the Mayor of Rimbach, Germany as they set off on their journey to Iran.



Above L-R Herr Holger Schmidt, Tony McLeod, Reiner Geiss, Anthony McLeod

(ii) Very sad to hear of Don Kennings passing: he played an important part in the lives of many of us gunners.

Gunners are not the only ones who celebrate 26 May; Georgia celebrate their independence from Russia (1991). Tony and Anthony in Tblisi, capital of Georgia, birth place of Joseph Stalin.



Note Tony's safety shoes ideal for riding his bike in (Yeah Right).

(iii) Tony and Anthony McLeod placed a red flower in remembrance of Anzac Day in the hills above Trieste in Italy, where the NZ Divisional Artillery finished operations in WW2. The flower was placed with fond thoughts for all WW2 vets, including the Auckland WW2 group; John Foote, Lloyd Bell-Booth, Ray Cranch, Brig Les Wright, and in special memory of Bevan Haysom who passed away on 23 April 15. *Lest we forget.*



6. THIS AND THAT

(i) "Ex BEN CAT" 8 August 2015

This is the Annual Day to join the serving soldiers on Exercise in Waiouru. From all those that have attended in the past, it is not to be missed,

Further details on this will be published as they come to hand, but the list is open with the **Secretary** now.

(ii) **LOOKING FOR 161 BTY SVN PERSONNEL FROM MAY/JUNE 1968**

I am wishing to make contact with any 161 Bty Gunners who were present at the Battle of FSB Coral and Balmoral, Vietnam, May/June 1968. I am constructing a nominal roll of all those present at the Battle.

Regards **Jack Parr** (parralanj@hotmail.com)

(ii) The RNZA Assn would like to extend its warmest congratulations to Ron Turner on receiving a Queens Service Order in the June Honours List 2015.



(iv) **Current Editor Passes her "Pen" on.**

Today I have completed my 31st issue of your The NZ Gunner newsletter and I now pass on these responsibilities to Gunner Archie Moore.

I have had a lot of enjoyment from "putting" together these issues of stories/information and thank each one of you who contributed something to me during my time from December 2007 to now.

As I sit here writing this piece I think about a number of the Gunner characters I had the opportunity to socialise with and hear the stories from when attending the annual reunions at Taupo from the mid 1970's. "Gunners" like: Bill Langvard (Napier). At one AGM an elderly gunner stood up and asked Bill if he remembered when on parade at Trentham in the 1930's he had fallen off his horse. The gunner told Bill that he had cut the girth strap of Bill's saddle and he told me later that he had waited all those years (around 50) to admit to Bill what he had done because he knew that Bill finally wouldn't have punched him for doing so. Up until then he said Bill would have.

Dick Healy (Dunedin), David Jones (Wanganui), George Miln, Wally Ruffell, Crafty Boyd, Terry Transom, Des O'Connor, all Auckland, Jim Gilbert (Napier), Dan Foley, Bill Powrie, Ian Rountree, Ian McLean, Tan Vine and Vic Meyle.

One year the Committee excelled and we had four of your generals sit at the top table at the reunion held at the Taupo Yachting Club. The RNZA Generals being,

Lt Gen Sir Leonard W Thornton KCB, CBE, mid,

Lt Gen Sir Richard JH Webb, KBE, CB

Maj Gen Walter McKinnon CB, OBE, mid,

and Maj Gen Ron Hassett. CB, CBE, mid.

It was a wonderful to be part of a piece of RNZA history. Wouldn't be great if in the not too distant future another Gunner was the leader of the NZ Army.

Marie J Roberts

7. ANZAC DAY AND GUNNERS DAY AROUND THE COUNTRY

Auckland Gunner's Gather – pictures from their dinner





ANZAC DAY 2015 ROTORUA
Above L-R “Teach” Macown, Danny McCort and Bunny Tumai

Christchurch Gunner's Gather. 40 assembled at the new Christchurch Memorial RSA where a small commemorative service was held in fore courtyard, followed by pre dinner drinks and hors-d'œuvres (and yes, of course oysters). Sonny Manuel was the Dining President for the evening. The evening progressed in a convivial style with "stories and reminiscences" from the diners (some were even true). There were two special guests at the top table, Graeme Hutchenson (ex WW2 gunner – now 96) and Graham Henderson (he flew in from Riverton/Invercargill there at the top table, both who shared memories with diners. For Graham Henderson it was his 65th celebration of Gunners day.



Graeme Hutchenson (ex WW2 gunner – now 96)



Graham Henderson and Skin (telling a tall tale



Sonny Manuel (Dining President), Skin Frances and Mickey Fitzgerald. In the background Pete Dawson & Paul O'Connor.



Les Pennal , Ruru Hona & Mike Burke



Ted Shears & Wayne Searle. In the background Malcolm & Trish Corkin.



Pre dinner drinks



Mike Harvey & Pete Dawson.



Pre dinner drinks group



Helen & Gordon (Tree) Forrester & Ray Brown



Sonny (Dining President), Liz, Craig Ruane & Graham Henderson. Another of Sonny's "stories"



Terry Hutchinson & Kevin Dugan



Max Newman & Graham Henderson



For Absent Friends	Adrienne Fraser saying some nice words. In the background Mickey Fitzgerald, Mike Dennis & Willie Wilson
	
Top table -- what a pity – no Regimental Silver	The empties
	



Above Chch Gnrs on ANZAC Day (Gnrs Frances, Dawson & Bolams)

Wellington Gunner's Gather

About 20 Wellington-based Gunners gathered at the recently re-opened National War Memorial for the traditional Gunner's Day commemoration service. The service was led by our Honorary Padre, Rev David Bahler and include a short reading by Major Josh Wineera from "NZFA in the Field 1914 – 1918" describing the first deployment of 4 (How) Battery NZA at Gallipoli on 26 April 1915 – the first deployment on operations of a NZ Battery

during World War 1. Col (Rtd) Roger Pearce MBE laid a wreath on the Regiment's behalf, and Lindsay Skinner recited the Ode. A bugler from the 7 Battalion Band played Last Post and Reveille most effectively.

Following the service, we gathered at the Cambridge Hotel for the obligatory socialising. The only mishap from the day was forgetting to take the camera!!

"Ubique" David Weston



161 BATTERY RNZA (VIETNAM 1965 - 1971)

161 Battery RNZA Vietnam Veterans will be gathering in Palmerston North on 14 -16 July 2015, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the battery reporting 'one gun ready', at Bien Hoa in the Republic of Vietnam. The reunion events will be centred on the Palmerston North Cosmopolitan Club at 22 Linton St, Palmerston North. The programme for the event is still a work in progress, however it will include:

Tuesday 14th July – Registration and mix and mingle at the Cossie club

Wednesday 15th July – Final Registrations and a Powhiri at the Cossie Club

Visit and parade with 161 Bty/16Fd Regt at Linton Camp Reunion

Dinner at the Awapuni Events Centre

Thursday 16th July – Commemorative Service in Palmerston North

Light lunch at the Cossie club before return to home

Buses will be provided for the visit to Linton and the dinner.

The reunion is open to all personnel who served with or were attached to 161 Battery RNZA, in the Republic of South Vietnam, between June 1965 and July 1971, including the wives, partners and descendants of 161 (Vietnam) Battery veterans. An invitation is also extended to veterans of allied units that had close ties with 161 Battery in Vietnam.

Sponsors: Some of our fellow veterans are suffering from financial hardship and although eager to attend the reunion, are not able to afford it. If you wish to make a donation towards sponsoring a fellow veteran, we would be more than willing to facilitate this. Any donations received will only be used to defray the registration of veterans in need and will be accounted separately from the reunion operating fund. If there are any surplus donations at the end of the reunion, they will be donated to an RNZA or Vietnam Veteran charity.

Car-pooling : I am willing to coordinate a car pooling arrangement if there is a need. If you are able to provide a ride or are looking for a ride, please indicate on the registration form. If there is a match I will advise both parties and they can complete arrangements between themselves. No guaranties but I will try.

I look forward to catching up with you all in Palmerston North.

John (Woody) Barrett Reunion secretary

Accommodation Suggestions

Hotels and Motels are offering a range of discounts for those attending. The facilities listed below were given 'thumbs up' for the RNZAA reunion here in 2013.

The Masonic and Café De Paris Inn, are older smaller style facilities, but most rooms have ensuites and comfortable surrounds..

When making bookings attendees should make it known that they are attending the “Reunion” to secure the appropriate discount.

The Cosmopolitan(Cossie) Club in Linton Street, one block away from the Square is readily accessible to the accommodation listed.

- 1. Ambassador Motel:** Fergusson. Street Upmarket facilities. Good rates. Phone 06 356 7074. Tariff \$95 couple or \$110 family. ambassmotel@ihug.co.nz
- 2. Aubyn Court Motor Lodge:** Fergusson. Street Upmarket facilities. Rates from \$150. Phone 06 354 5758. www.aubyncourt.co.
- 3. Awatea Park Motel:** Fitzherbert Avenue. Mix of studio & family units. Rates from \$120. Phone 06 356 5366. www.awateapark.co.nz
- 4. BK'S Motor Lodge:** Cuba Street. Offering Studio Units @ \$135 (1-2 persons) , which is discounted by \$15. Ph 06 353 5995 <mailto:info@bkspalmerstonnorth.co.nz>
- 5. Café de Paris Inn :** Main Street. 20 plus rooms, most with ensuite. Range \$65 1 person; 2 people \$80; Small number of rooms accommodate 3 persons @ \$95. Phone 06 355 2130 info@cafedeparisinn.co.nz
- 6. Camelot Motor Lodge:** 295 Fergusson St. Mix of executive and studio suites. Tariff \$120. Phone 06355 4141. www.camelotmotorlodge.co.nz
- 7. Chancellor Motor Lodge & Conference Centre** 131 Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North, New Zealand
Phone: +64-6-354 5903 | Fax: +64-6-354 5083 | Reservations Freephone: 0800 370781
Email: info@chancellormotel.co.nz | Internet: www.chancellormotel.co.nz
- 8. Copthorne** previously the Kingsgate: Offering more affordable accommodation in the older motel facilities. awaiting refurbishment. Hotel rooms range from \$130 plus. Phone 06 356 8059.
Email: caitlyn.veerbeck@milleniumhotels.com
- 9. Coachman:** Fitzherbert Avenue. Range of Motel - studio & family units and Hotel - standard & delux rooms. B& B rates \$138, \$158 , \$196. Phone 06 356 5065 <mailto:functions@coachman.co.nz>
- 10. Distinction Palmerston North** previously the Travelodge: Cuba Street. Range of accommodation options. Room rate \$130. Phone 06 355 5895. conference@distinctionpalmerstonnorth.co.nz
- 11. Masonic Hotel:** Main Street . All rooms with ensuite. Single \$70 or twin share \$90 per night. Phone 06 353480 info@masonichotel.co.nz;
- 12. Palmerston North Motel:** 66 Linton St (A block away from the Cossie Club). Affordable accommodation. Ph 06 358 0681. www.pnm.co.nz
- 13. Palmerston North Holiday Park.** Dittmer Drive. Approximately 4kms from the Cossie Club. Range of tourist flats and cabins; plus 60 powered sites. Phone 06 358 039 Check the website: [holiday park, holidayparks, holiday parks nz, family holiday parks, camping grounds, palmerston north accommodation](http://holidaypark.holidayparks.nz) >[home](#).



161 BATTERY RNZA (VIETNAM 1965 – 1971)

50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION – PALMERSTON NORTH

REGISTRATION FORM

Regimental Number : _____ Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Dates of service with 161 Bty in Vietnam: _____

Partner's Name: _____

Contact Details: Address _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

Registration Fee: - \$140 per person: No: _____ Total : \$ _____

Sponsor Donation: - \$ _____

Total Remittance: \$ _____

Payment:

Cheques enclosed for full amount: _____

Or

Deposit into the Reunion Bank Account: Kiwibank 38-9016-0359350-00. By Internet

Banking Amount paid: _____ Date paid _____

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PUT YOUR NAME AS A REFERENCE WHEN MAKING AN
INTERNET PAYMENT**

All registration fees must be paid by 30th JUNE 2015

Post to: 161 Battery RNZA Vietnam Reunion

c/o P O Box 311,

Katikati 3166,

New Zealand

or email: jonlynbar@yahoo.com

Contact: John (Woody) Barrett Reunion Secretary: ph (07) 549 4829

Mobile 027 583 1338 or email: jonlynbar@yahoo.com

Car-pooling: I am able to offer _____ person/people a ride from _____
to Palmerston North and return.

I would like a ride for _____ person/people, from _____



**Royal New Zealand Artillery Association
81st Annual General Meeting and Reunion
Christchurch Memorial RSA, Christchurch,
13-15 November 2015**

The 81st Annual General Meeting and Reunion of the Royal New Zealand Artillery Association will be held over the period 13-15 November 2015 in Christchurch. (Friday 13 November is Canterbury Anniversary Day, a public holiday).

The weekend's events will be centred in the new Christchurch Memorial RSA, 74 Armagh Street. The RSA is centrally located in the CBD, close to Hagley Park, hotels/motels, shopping and the casino. (You can view the RSA and facilities on line at "www.christchurchrsa.org.nz")



The RSA provides a full range of services including the "Trenches Restaurant and Bar". The lower level bar and restaurant facilities are open to the public and the upper level provides similar services for RSA members. Those attending the Reunion will receive discounted beverage and food prices in both the public and RSA areas.

The Registration Form is available on the RNZA Assn Website (rnzaa.org.nz) and may be returned by downloading the Registration Form and returning by email or post. Full details are on the Website.

Costs:

- Registration \$120 per person which includes the Reunion Dinner and all activities **except** the Friday Guided Vineyard tour, which is an extra \$35 per person.
- 'Dinner only' Registration is \$75

(These costs deliberately allow for a small profit which will be donated to the RNZAA, to cover running costs of the Association over the next year)

Registrations will close on SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2015.

REUNION 2015 PROGRAMME

Thursday 12 November

0730 – until late Trenches Restaurant and Bar, plus the upstairs RSA facilities, will be available. There should be a few Gunners around.

1600 1800 Registration Packs available, 1st floor

Friday 13 November (Public Holiday)

10.30 – 1600 *OPTIONAL ACTIVITY* **Guided vineyard tour of the Waipara area.** A separate cost of \$35

A minimum 24 persons and a maximum of 40. Costs cover transport and a guided vineyard tour. Tour includes:

Meet the guide at Amberley, Jed Williams, ex RNZA and now local vintner.

Lunch, purchased at your own cost at the Waipara Springs Winery and Cafe.

(See more at: www.waiparasprings.co.nz).

Guided Tour of Crater Rim Winery.

The Crater Rim Ltd is a family-owned boutique winemaking company situated in the rolling hills of North Canterbury, in the South Island of New Zealand. Crater Rim grows, makes and markets limited quantities of terroir-specific wines from around the country, in particular the various sub-regions of the Canterbury province. (To see more go to: www.thecraterim.co.nz)

Seats will be allocated on a “first in – first served basis”

If there are insufficient people booked (i.e. less than 24) at close of registration on 1 November, a full refund can be collected at registration.

1600 – 1900 1st Floor. Uplift Registration pack. Mix and Mingle. RSA Bar open. Bar snacks provided.

Dinner Own arrangement. Meals are available in the “Trenches” restaurant.

Saturday 14 November *Breakfast* Own arrangement. Meals are available in the “Trenches” restaurant.

0945 – 1130 Morning tea and AGM, 1st Floor.

There are two activities planned for the afternoon:

1. MAIN ACTIVITY. Visit Godley Head, either by bus direct to Godley Head **OR** get the “early bus” (and a cut lunch) and walk the 50 – 75 minutes from Taylors Mistake to Godley Head. Both groups return to the RSA by bus.

(Godley Head was a WWII coastal defence battery that sits atop sheer 120 metre-high cliffs. Built in 1939, it is ranked in the top ten New Zealand coastal defence heritage sites.) The visit will include a short history brief then options to visit batteries sites, and have a hands-on play with various artillery guns and other equipment.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTION FOR PARTNERS, not wishing to go to Godley Head. Visit Rossendale Vineyard. *(The Vineyard at Rossendale is located on the Old Tai Tapu Road 30 minutes out of the city. Rosendale offers the not-so-ordinary true vineyard experience in a picturesque garden setting. The wines and food can be enjoyed any time of the day.)* There will be ample opportunity for a drink and conversation after the tour.

1A. Walk to Godley Head option. 1145 (bus departs **RSA**)

Maximum of 40 persons, allocated on a “first in - first served basis”.

Walk Taylors Mistake to Godley head. Maximum of 40 persons. A cut lunch will be provided. Meet main body at by 1400 at Godley Head. 1600 return by bus to the RSA, ETA 1700.

(Walk duration 50 – 75 minutes, depending on fitness. The walkway sidles around the hill above Mechanics Bay, past the historic military buildings including the Battery Observation posts at the entrance to Lyttelton Harbour. There are precipitous unfenced cliffs near the track, and care should be taken. To find out more about the track go to:

www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/canterbury/places/godley-head/things-to-do/godley-head-walking-tracks/)

1B. Bus to Godley Option. 1245 (bus departs RSA)

Approximately 1 hour bus trip. 1600 return by bus to the RSA with an ETA about 1700.

2A. Partners Option – Rossendale Vineyard. 1300 (bus departs RSA)

Approximately 30 minute bus trip. Depart Rosendale 1515 with ETA at the RSA about 1545.

Lunch Own arrangement. Meals are available in the “Trenches” restaurant.

1800 – 1900 Pre-dinner drinks are available from a cash bar, 1st Floor.

1900 Reunion Dinner, 1st Floor

Sunday 15 November Breakfast *Own arrangement. Meals are available in the “Trenches” restaurant.*

1000 - 1030 Morning tea, 1st Floor.

1030 - 1100 RNZA Association Commemorative Service, at either RSA Forecourt or Bridge of Remembrance

Dispersal. Refreshments and meals are available in the “Trenches” restaurant.

**Accommodation near the Christchurch Memorial RSA,
74 Armagh St, Christchurch**

Discounts:

When contacting accommodations providers explain the booking as part of an RSA activity. All have agreed to try and offer a “special rate”, where possible.

1. **Rendezvous Hotel** 166 Gloucester Street
reservations.christchurch@ rendezvoushotels.com (64) (03) 943 3888
10% off the best available rates when “RSA” is mentioned at the time of booking. Booking must go through our reservations department.
2. **Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square (Hotel)** 52 Cathedral Square
h6592@accor.com (64) (03) 3722111 OR (64) 0800-440982(Central reservations)
3. **ibis Christchurch (Hotel)** 107 Hereford Street
h5983-re02@accor.com (64) (03) 3678666
10% off the best available rates when “RSA” is mentioned at the time of booking.
4. **West Fitzroy Apartments** 66 Armagh Street
www.booking.com/west-fitzroy- apartments (64) (03) 372 3408
5. **YHA Christchurch** 36 Hereford Street
groupsch@yha.co.nz(64) (03) 379 9536
The YHA will offer the cheaper “members rate” when “RSA” is mentioned at the time of booking.
6. **Amross Court Motor Lodge** 61 Bealey Avenue
www.amross.co.nz (64) 0800 4267677
7. **Tudor Court Motel** 57 Bealey Avenue tudor@xtra.co.nz (64) (03) 379 1465
8. **53 Southern Comfort Motel** 53 Bealey Ave bookings@southerncomfort.co.nz
(64) 0800 655 345
9. **136 On Bealey Motel** 136 Bealey Avenue 136onbealey@gmail.com (64) 0800 500 283
Also offers Gold Card holders a special rate.
10. **The Grange Boutique B & B and Motel** 56 Armagh Street ww.thegrange.co.nz
(64) (03) 366 2850 Freephone: (64) 0800
11. **Orari Bed and Breakfast** 42 Gloucester Street orari.bb@xtra.co.nz (64) (03) 365 6569



81st Annual Reunion and AGM

13-15 November 2015

Registration Form

Number Attending: _____ Initials and Name: _____

Contact Address: _____

Email : _____ Phone: _____ (Mobile preferred)

Service No: _____ Active Service theatre and years: _____

(This information assist in gaining funding from VANZ)

Names for Name Tags: _____

Registration fee:

\$120.00 per person which includes all activities, (except the vineyard tour)

\$155 per person which includes the Guide Vineyard Tour; this is a separate cost of \$35.

·\$75-00 per person Dinner only

Day	Time	Event	No's Attending
Fri 13/11	1030	Optional Activity Vineyard Tour A separate cost of \$35	_____
	1600	Registration Meet and Greet	_____
Sat 14/11	0945	Morning Tea and AGM	_____
	1145	WALK to Godley Head	_____
	1300	Rossendale Vineyard Option	_____

Special dietary needs for the Reunion Dinner? e.g. gluten free or vegetation.

For whom: _____

Dietary Need: _____

Sun 15/11 1800/1900 Reunion Dinner _____
Sun 15/11 1000 Morning Tea and Commemorative Service _____

TICK THE METHOD OF PAYMENT

I have paid \$ _____ by direct credit to the
Association's Kiwibank Account (38 9007 0694501 00).

Ensure your name is recorded with Reunion in referencebox. Fill out the Registration form on
www.rnzaa.org.nz and return by email or post.

• My cheque for \$ _____ is enclosed

Mail cheque with this form completed to: RNZA Assn, 18 Walford Drive, Rotorua3010

Registration Matters contact: rnza.association@gmail.com

Queries about the weekend's activities contact: skin_frances@outlook.com

Registrations will close on SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2015

AVAILABLE FROM THE RNZAA Q STORE



RNZA Baseball Cap
New Style Sold Out
New Supplier sought



Polo Shirts Dual logo
(Gunners and RNZA crest)
(Limited stock)
mail Colin for available sizes and
before making payment.
\$65.00 each



RNZAA Baseball Cap
Old Style (made to order)
\$39.00 each



RNZA Pocket Patch
(Made to order) **\$20.00 each**



RNZAA Name Tag (Made to order) \$35.00 each



RNZAA Bumper Sticker
(In stock) **\$5.00 each**



RNZAA Coffee Mugs
(In stock) \$25.00 each



RNZAA Lapel Pin
(In stock \$10.00 each)

To place your order or make enquiry contact Colin Jansen on email
rnzaaqstore@gmail.com

When making your payment, deposit or computer transfer to: RNZAA Account **38-9007-0694501-00**;
remember to state your name and "Q-store payment" in the reference fields so we know whom and what the
payment is for. Goods will only be dispatched or ordered placed with our source of supply once your
payment has been made, identified as received by the treasurer, and a postal address has been provided.

Behind the Lines: The Editor's Page

Patron

Colonel Commandant

Colonel Barry Dreyer 09 307 5692

The Colonel Commandant is an ex officio members of the Committee

President

Lt Col (Rtd) Tony McLeod 09 4860910, 027 2698472

Secretary

Bernie McCort 07 345 3643

18 Walford Drive

ROTORUA 3010

rnza.association@gmail.com

Committee:

Greg Thwaite (Vice President)

Colin Jansen (Asst Sec Facebook Mgr and Quartermaster)

Andrew Donellan

Peter Miles

Committee Members at Large:

Graeme Black (Waikato)

Bob Kerslake (Auckland)

Tom Roche/Steve Harvey (Manawatu)

Lindsay Skinner (Wellington)

Rob Munro (Wgtn)

Chris Diedrichs/Al Martin (Dunedin)

Catherine Dymock (16 Fd Regt)

Brian Jerry Meyer (Australia)

Danny and Bernie McCort (BOP)

Roger Newth (Horowhenua)

Rob Hitchings (Wellington)

Brian (Skin) Frances (Upper Sth Island)

John Osborne (Northland)

Dave Weston (Wgtn, RNZRSA Delegate)

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RNZA Historian:

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[Facebook, RNZA Assn](#)

Subscriptions: For those members wishing to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter a \$20 fee is payable. Please forward by cheque to The Secretary 18 Walford Drive, Rotorua 3010. **Subscription Associate Members:** \$20 per annum. Please send cheque to above address.

Donations: All charitable and welfare donations over \$5 are now tax deductible as the Association is a Registered Charity.

Email Addresses: Are you on 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. Have you changed ISPs? Have you updated your Internet address? Some mail is being returned.

Input into *The New Zealand Gunner*: Short stories, especially with accompanying photographs, are always welcome for inclusion. The Editor's email address is **dgroberts@xtra.co.nz**

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 3 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 new website: rnzaa.org.nz.

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

Muzzle Flashes items to Skin at: **muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com**

Secretarial/Treasurer matters to: **rnza.association@gmail.com**

Items for The NZ Gunner to Marie at: **dgroberts@xtra.co.nz**

RNZA Assn Bank Ac # 38 9007 0694501 00