

Royal New Zealand Artillery

Old Comrades Assn Inc. Reunion, Spa Hotel, Taupo, 10 -12 November 2006.



Anne and I were invited to attend this Reunion, I as the guest speaker. On Friday 10 Nov. I captured these Images



The cottages and church still appear much as they were in the Armed Constabulary days



The old accommodation blocks still retain their original look but are being restored with modern motel layouts



On Saturday morning the AGM was held in the main conference room. Sturdy tie bolts reinforce the walls and ceiling. Early electric light fittings and ceiling fans add to the ambiance. Old photos and paintings tell the history.



On Saturday afternoon some members visited the sacred Opepe historic bush camp-fort site on the Napier-Taupo Road. Sherwood Young spoke to the group on the strategic importance of Opepe during the troubles with Te Kooti.



On Saturday evening the Reunion Dinner and raffle draw was held at the Taupo Bowling Club at which several members spoke. I as Commandant NZACFRS spoke on some of the unforeseen and hilarious incidents during the NZACFRS's 24 years of engagements as a living history organisation including Filmmaking, Street Parades, Guards of Honour, Tattoo Performances and Gun Salutes, using horse drawn Armstrong Field Guns, Coehorn Motars and Snider carbines.



Standing together in front of the Spa Hotel old meeting house are Graeme Black BEM RNZAOCA secretary/treasurer and organizer of this reunion and Denis Dwane MBE RNZAOCA President, his message "This weekend marks the 72nd Anniversary of our Association and the Committee trusts that you will enjoy the comradeship of the weekend where many tales, some tall and some true, will be exchanged".

On Sunday morning Padre Derm Buchanan MNZM conducted the church service in the old meeting house. Maori carvings and images depicting the history adorn the walls and ceiling.

Anne and I thank the RNZAOCA for inviting us to such a very memorable and wonderful weekend, John Osborne