



The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of

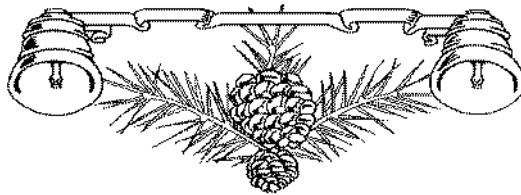
The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)

Founded 1934

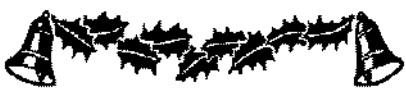
Issue # 144

December 2009

Merry Christmas!



Christmas Message from the President



Greetings to you all at this festive season of 2009.

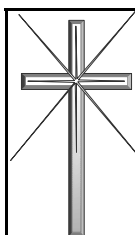
I'm pleased to report that the 75th reunion was a great success with more attending than for some years past. Your new Committee members have fresh ideas to bring forward and we are making a big effort this year to recruit more serving members.

Remember our Gunner comrades who are serving overseas and I pray that they all come back safely to NZ and their families. I hope all our clan here and away have a happy and enjoyable Christmas and that we all look forward with anticipation to the year of 2010.

**Frank Hopkinson, President
RNZA Assn (Inc).**

LAST POST

BARKLE, Des
McCAIG, Jim
MORGAN, Jim
PRIESTLEY, Charlie
VALINTINE, John
WILSON, Allan

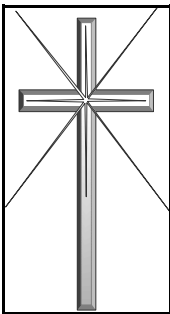


See pages 5,6,7 and 8 for coloured photographs of the 75th reunion



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1. LAST POST

*The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make.
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.
Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.*

36854 BARKLE, Desmond Taylor (Des). On October 1, 2009 aged 82 years at Te Aroha. Des served with 161 Bty in Vietnam in 68/69 as the BQMS. He was the father of the late John Barkle RNZIR, who also served at the same time in SVN with W2/W3. *Mike Dakin writes:* I remember Des well from our days at CD Trg Bty, under Dutch Holland and Spencer Cocks, where he was OR clerk. In the Instructors' Room, Des was the undisputed domino champ. One of the highlights of that time was the running banter of a war of (sometimes cutting) words between Des, Bill Giles and Icky Wright, a great introduction to gunner camaraderie.

330023 McCaig, James (Jim), Gunner RNZA, passed away at Northbridge Private Hospital, Auckland, on 30 September 2009, aged 76. Unfortunately we have no details of Jim's military service, and it would be appreciated that, if confirmed details are known, this information is forwarded to the Association

42677 MORGAN, James Mita (Jim). SSgt RNZAC ex 161 Bty SVN 1967 (Dvr Op), passed away in Rotorua on Thursday, 5 November 2009, aged 60.

X552205 PRIESTLEY, Charles Pomare (Charlie), WO1 RNZA, passed away peacefully at Elderslea Rest Home, Upper Hutt, on 2 December 2009, aged 74. Charlie did a TOD with 2NZ Regiment Malaya, between 1959-61 and he toured Vietnam with 161 Bty in 1967 as a Sgt on No 6 Gun.

203429 VALINTINE, Edward John (John). Brig (Rtd). John died peacefully in Hamilton on 8 December 2009.

WILSON, Richard Allan (Allan). Lt Col (Rtd) 2nd Expeditionary Force. Suddenly on 6 October 2009 in his 89th year, at Auckland.

CONDOLENCES

The President and Members extend their condolences to:

Henry and Wayne Salt on the passing of their loved wife and mother, Thelma. She passed away on 8 October 2009 in Gatton, Australia, and had turned 90 in March of this year.



2. NEW MEMBERS

KAYE, Donald V.B. Donald served the guns with 16 Fd Regt for 8 years from 1952. In 1984 he joined the RNZAF. He and Patricia live on the North Shore.

IRVING, Alastair M. Alastair served the guns between 1969 and 1973 with HQ Bty at 11a Bty. He and Wendy live on the Hibiscus Coast.

LESLIE, David Hugh. David has been a member of the RNZA Band since 1977. He and Rayma live south/west of the Bombays.

McCORT, Bernadine M. Bernie served the guns from 1977 to 1985. Her postings included 161 Bty, HQ 16 Fd Regt, Defence HQ, Army General Staff, 22 (D) Bty and NZ Cadet Forces. Bernie was one of the first female soldiers to join the gunners when the NZWRAC was disbanded. She and Danny live in Rotorua.

McGRATH, Kim Ian (Kimbo).

Kim served the guns in the Royal Australian Artillery Regiment between 1965 and 1998 and had an association with NZ Locating Artillery and IRNZIR.

He has had a number of interesting postings during his military career including a TOD to Singapore and attending the school of languages to learn Mandarin.

Kim is currently the President of the Australian Artillery Assn. He attended our 2008 Reunion at Taupo. Kim and Tracey live in New South Wales.



McLEOD, Anthony R. Tony has rejoined the Assn. He served the guns between 1969 and 1989, holding various appointments including CI Sch of Arty and Director of Artillery. Tony and Mary live on the North Shore.

OSBORNE, John C. John is the Commandant of the NZ Armed Constabulary Force Renactment Society and has been a member of the society since 1982. He and Anne live up Kaitia way.



Sound Familiar:

The Army made him a cook pronto, and he cooked for the ASC Unit through the war. Sure, he'd been a cook in civilian life "in a brickworks, cooking ruddy bricks."

3. U-BOAT FAR FROM HOME - The epic voyage of U862 to Australia and New Zealand. (Part 2 of 2)

There is no darkening anywhere. You can see the street cafes illuminated with bright red lights, couples move to the old tunes played by the dance music. The town lies on a hill and glitters with a thousand lights. We do not go completely into the roadstead because the beacons, for inexplicable reasons are not burning and there is very bright and unpleasant phosphorescence. We lie there stopped and want to first examine the store.

With no other shipping movements obvious, Timm decided it was safe to remain on the surface. He even allowed those men normally confined below to briefly come up on deck in small groups. They looked around in astonishment at the forgotten signs of a town at peace. Only half a mile from the shore and with the diesels quiet, the breeze brought them the unaccustomed staccato of jazz rhythms still forbidden in Germany. It was a unique experience – one they would never forget.

After a short time a small steamship comes out of the harbour, he even has his peacetime steaming

lights set. They appear to feel very sure of themselves in New Zealand. Ah, well! What is simpler to pursue a steamship burning its steaming lights. We follow him out from the harbour ... Dived to attack at dawn- the *Kommandant* misses the shot. At this short range the steamship has probably seen the brief exposure of our periscope or the torpedo track and sped off. Immediately he began to telegraph the signal station on Portland Island. Now we have been noticed and must get away.

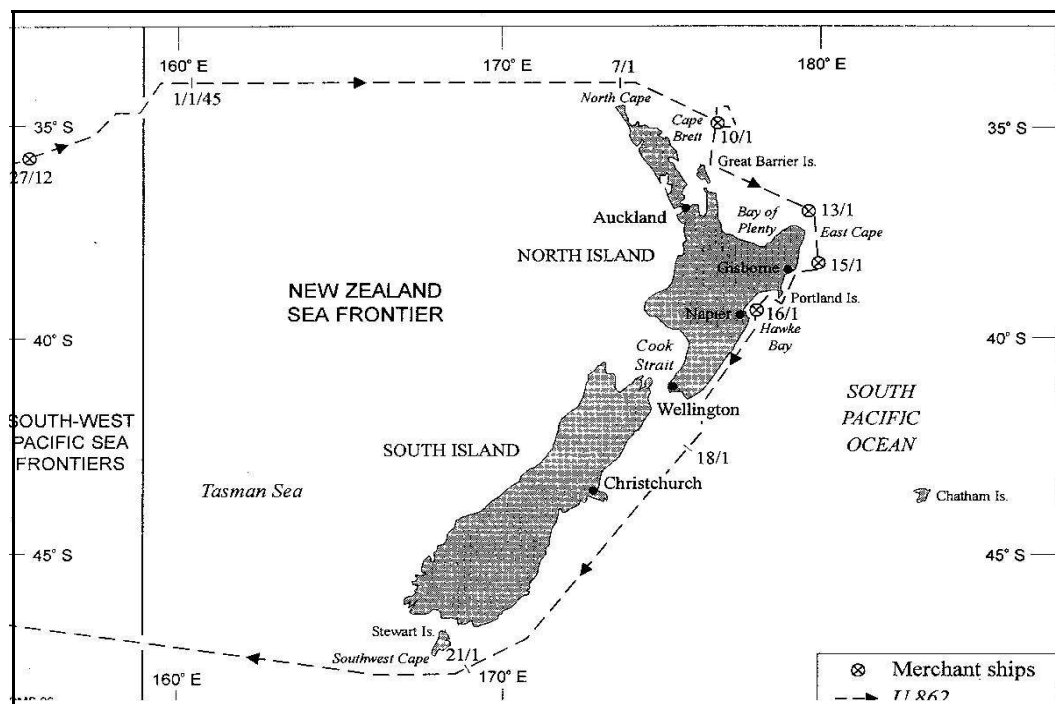
Once again the Germans were mistaken. The New Zealanders remained unaware of their presence., and since they had no previous evidence of patrols, either by aircraft or warships. Timm seems to have missed the perfect opportunity to stir up trouble in a distant area. A few well-placed rounds with the deck gun would almost certainly have caused a public outcry, conceivably lowering enemy morale and no doubt forcing the redeployment or reinforcement of New Zealand's limited assets. Overall it would have had little military significance, but such missions were a staple of British submarines in both Mediterranean and Far Eastern backwaters, particularly when seaborne targets failed to appear. Even the Japanese had engaged in submarine gunnery attacks on

isolated Pacific outposts as a diversionary measure. If *Timm* was being honest with himself, there was little else he could realistically hope to achieve. It was only conjecture, but perhaps he had already shifted his viewpoint to his prospects after a German defeat. The 'terror' shelling of civilian property might be unfavourably considered by the triumphant Allies. As it was, the extended operation had been a waste of effort and, save to a small group of cryptanalysts, U862 journey around New Zealand would remain unknown until after the war.

Thinking that aircraft must be now looking for them, the Germans moved further out to sea and sailed southwards parallel to the coast. Timm planned to continue to Wellington, but the day after their sojourn in Napier, a message from *BdU* brought *U862's* New Zealand operation to an abrupt conclusion. The signal came directly to the point. 'Von der Esch, Ganzer, Schrewe, *Timm* return to Jakarta **immediately**.' Along with the commanders of U862 and U537, the names were those of the commanders of U863 and U871, supposedly still on intermediate operations on their way out from Europe.

However, unknown to *BdU*, Timm was the only of the four still alive. There was nothing else in the message to explain the recall and, as Timm later explained, 'If it had said, "return", then that would have still left me a little bit of more time, but that "immediately" forced me to do the same'. By 21 January 1945 U862 had rounded New Zealand's South Island and began her battle back to the west".

Henry Salt writes "the concrete gunners, what they might have got with e 3" 20 cwt Ack Ack".



4. COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE NZ WING

Regimental Silver Comes Home:

At the recent 75th Anniversary celebrations of the formation of the Royal New Zealand Artillery Association, held at the East Coast Bays Returned Services Association Club Rooms on Auckland's North Shore, an historic silver trophy cup found in a junk shop, was presented to the Colonel Commandant RNZA Brig (Rtd) G D Birch MBE by Mr Colin Jansen on behalf of the Commemorative Air Force New Zealand Wing (CAFNZW)

The cup started life in the 1920s as a boating trophy but within two years was being awarded to the "Most Efficient Section" within 15th Battery RNZA and continued to be awarded until about 1939. It is inscribed with the sections and their commanders each year. Mr Jansen believes the 15th Battery may have been a non regular unit based in the Hutt area north of Wellington.

The CAFNZW members had organized a display of historic New Zealand, American and German Artillery uniform and artifacts including Vietnam era howitzer from their collection for the anniversary celebrations, as well as a Dodge truck of the 169th Field Artillery Battalion US 43rd Division, who were based in Warkworth during World War Two, to carry those association members who could not march in the ceremonial parade.

Mr Jansen says "The CAF membership has been involved in many events like this with the most memorable to me being our helping build the Jeep for the Long Range Desert Group Memorial at Papakura Camp at the direct request of the Special Air Service CO of the time – until now. I felt very proud as both a Gunner and Commemorative Air Force member to facilitate a homecoming for this trophy, even though it would be nice to retain it in the CAF Museum collection we felt it belongs with its fellow brothers in silver at Regimental Headquarters".

The CAF is an American based organization with "Wings"



worldwide who are involved in the preservation in flying condition of historic Military Aircraft. The Auckland based

New Zealand Wing is establishing a museum and workshops for the restoration, operation and display of their presently held artifacts and vehicles and eventual aircraft. The C A F motto being: "Commemoration and Education through preservation and operation".

D Atchinson Wing Leader CAF NZ Wing

Who is Colin Jansen?

Colin Jansen joined Defence Force as a Cadet in the mid eighties and was located in Freyburg Building Def HQ in a logistics role. Soon after joining the Gun line working on the M101A1, at 32 (E) Battery, the L5 with 22(D) Battery and the L119 Light Guns with 11 (A) Battery until the late nineties. he has always collected WW2 militaria, historic military weapons, and vehicles. He spent a fair number of years volunteering at Motat Military section and has for the last decade been a member of the Commemorative Air Force who are striving to establish a "Live" Military museum where all artifacts, aircraft, vehicles, etc are operational for purposes of commemoration and education.

SECS IN THE CITY

Mike and Tony handing over the secretarial duties at Rotorua on 11 December 2009.



5. 82nd ANNUAL GUNNER DINNER 2009-Australia

The 82nd Gunner Dinner was held at the City of Parramatta Returned Ex-Serviceman's Club on Saturday 8th August, 91 years to the day since that memorable concentration of artillery commencing at 0420 hrs that forced Ludendorff to sum up in the following words. *"August 8th was the blackest day of the German Army in the history of this war [WW1]. This was the worst experience I had to go through..."*.

The British, Canadian and ANZAC assault, with the French covering the flank was the first success following the Battle of Hamel. With 324 18 pdr guns under the command of Brigadier-General Walter Coxon firing a predicted barrage 200 yds in front of the infantry, CCRA 1 Aust Corps, the ANZAC objectives were achieved.

A legend, that Coxon commanded more guns in action than any one man, grew that day.

Coxon did command between 520 and 550 guns on that day but in the previous month, 732 guns had supported the Australian Corps' operation carried out by the 4th Australian Division at Hamel. In 1921, a group of Coxon's staff met for dinner and that tradition is perpetuated today in the Annual Gunner Dinner.

Article taken from the November 09 issue of the RAAA (NSW) Gunfire magazine.

DID YOU KNOW THIS:

Those plaited gold cords worn over the shoulder by Senior Military Officers on ceremonial occasions are called aiguillette and were originally pieces of cord used for tying up bundles of fodder by cavalryman.

Fact of Fiction?

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY Association Inc. 75th Reunion, 30 Oct - 1 Nov 09.
Pictorial Report by John Osborne

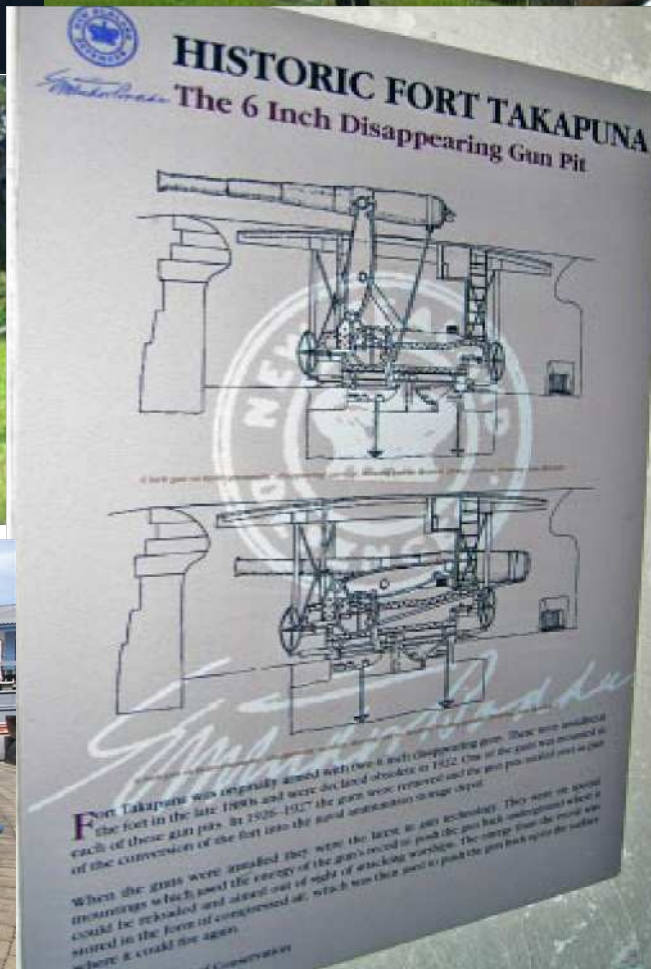
**Saturday 31st November visit the Passchendaele Exhibition
 and view the restoration work at Fort Takapuna**



Field of Remembrance-Passchendaele: 'The Belgians Have Not Forgotten'.



A group of ladies enjoying the reunion activities



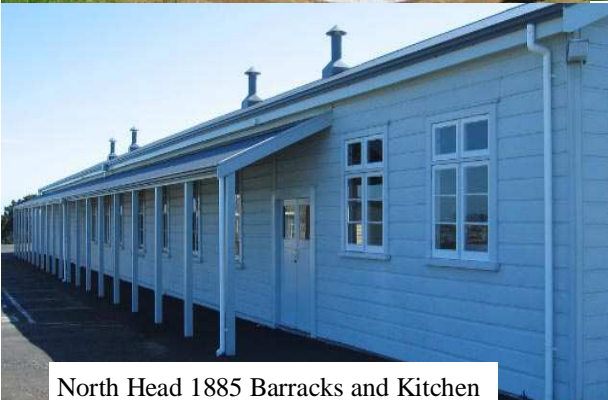
North Head Historic Reserve



1888-92 South Battery is installed with a “new” 8 inch Armstrong disappearing gun.



WW 1 12 pounder field gun now pedestal mounted



North Head 1885 Barracks and Kitchen



North Bty 7” rifled muzzle loading Armstrong Gun Pit



North Bty Gun Pit for 8” Armstrong disappearing gun

**75th RNZA A Reunion Dinner at East Coast Bays RSA
Saturday 31 October 2009**



Reminiscing??



President of EC Bays presents the Assn with the first round fired by 46 Bty at Waimate 1942



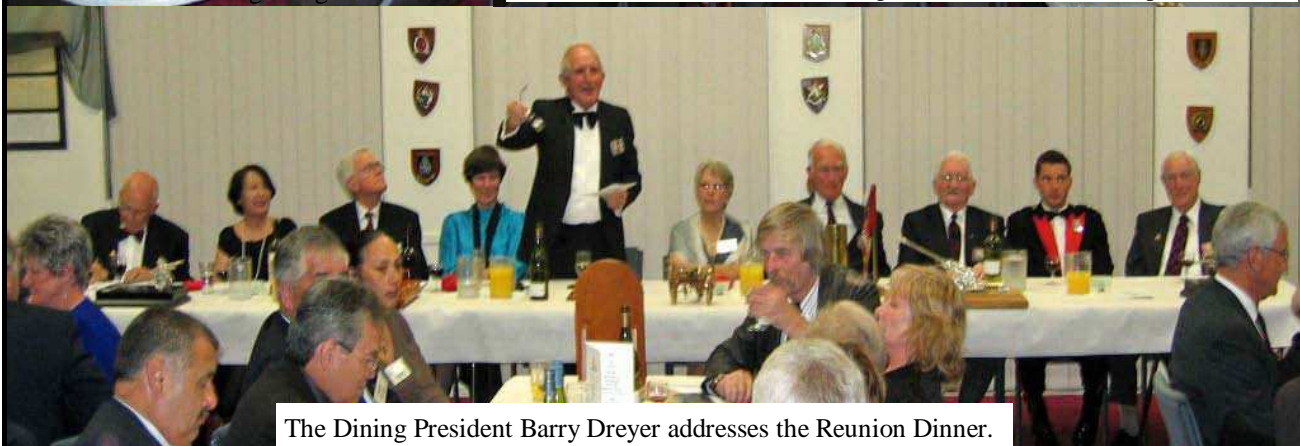
Just one for the newsletter



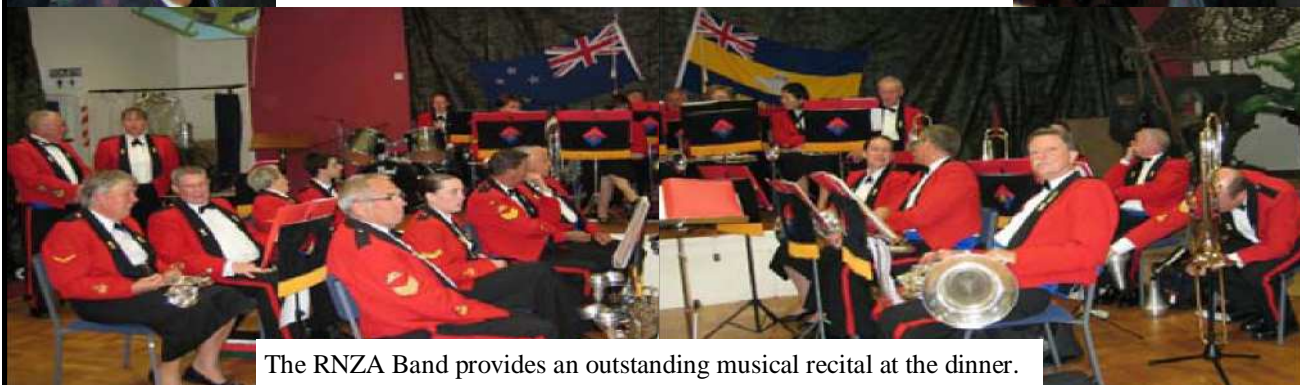
Golf or caravanning being discussed?



The Assn Patron Col Don Kenning with senior association personalities.



The Dining President Barry Dreyer addresses the Reunion Dinner.



The RNZA Band provides an outstanding musical recital at the dinner.

Reunion Parade, Service and AGM



March past through the main street of Browns Bay lead by Maj Anthony Mitchellson (BC 11/4 Bty)



Colin Jansen presents a piece of Regimental Silver to Col Comdt Brig (Rtd) Graham Birch. See page 4 for details.



(L to R) Sherwood Young, Ross Goldsworthy and Graeme Black



75th Commemorative Service on the foreshore at Browns Bay

6. The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Incorporated)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1 November 2009, at East Coast Bays RSA, Bute Road, Browns Bay, Auckland

Present

The President, Frank Hopkinson, (Chairman), Mike Dakin (Secretary), Don Kenning (Patron), Graham Birch, (Col Comdt) and 43 other members.

Apologies

Apologies were received from 30 members

Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the 2008 AGM, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

To encourage closer ties with 16 Field, the Col Comdt, Graham Birch, suggested that people in selected roles be accorded Honorary membership while they hold those appointments.

Resolved: That the committee put this into practice forthwith.

President's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the Presidents Report to the AGM in this our 75th Anniversary year. This years report covers a 15 month period, 01 July 2008 to 30 September 2009, following a decision to bring our financial and membership years to run concurrently from 1 Oct to 30 Sep.

It has been a busy year for your Committee, and I hope our reports will bring to your attention some of the work done on your behalf this year.

Your Association is now registered with the Charities Commission as a charitable entity (No CC37284) from 30 June 2008. This means that donors are now entitled to claim tax rebates on donations over \$5.

I encourage those with internet access to go and read the documentation about your Association and its aims on the Commissions web site.

We Gunners pop up everywhere.

During the year, the Auckland Coastal Defences Historical Trust was formed, with the aim of the developing the historic sites at North Head and Fort Takapuna, as significant tourist attractions, and ensure their ongoing preservation.

Your committee became interested early on, as we Gunners, more than anyone else, have a vested historical interest in those sites.

The upshot was, that we were invited to fill two of the seats on the Trust Board, the writer and Barry Dreyer being elected, and subsequently, Barry was elected Chairman, and our Colonel Commandant, Graham Birch, accepted the position of Patron.

Another initiative this year has been a proposal to establish an Association Trophy to be awarded annually to:

That badged member of the RNZA whose actions in the year (June - May), whatever they were, best epitomised and enhanced the traditions and reputation of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery.

Discussions are continuing on the shape of the trophy and the establishment of an awards Committee who will propose selected nominations (if any) to the Association's Committee who will make the final choice.

This year your Association became affiliated to the RNZ Returned Services Association giving us the right to attend and speak at meetings of that organisation, and to be involved in the annual elections.

Your reps. are continuing to be very involved in reunion and welfare matters. There is a growing need to keep informed as to what is being proposed in the areas of Veterans Affairs e.g. allowances for travel, disability criteria and like subjects. There is also a rewrite of the War Pensions Act 1954 being undertaken by Sir Geoffrey Palmer and we want to be in a position to put our 'tuppence worth in' whenever able. The above shows we are moving back to the original intent of the association – that of the welfare of the Gunner clan.

There is no organization such as KVA or EVSA to cover the needs of Gunner veterans since those conflicts, and over recent years an increasing

number of New Zealand Gunners are becoming veterans from many overseas operational deployments.

We must prepare ourselves to become the advocate/advisor for them to ensure their needs are kept in front of the Government of the day.

OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE, THEY SIMPLY FADE AWAY.

Will this be what happens to us? I wish to bring to the members urgent attention my concern that we are a rapidly aging organisation with very few "young 'uns" joining us.

- **What are we doing wrong?**
- **Only 7 serving members!**

It could be that after the initial formation in 1934 a lot of serving and retired regular young and old chaps joined, and numbers were boosted again after WW2 in a similar manner. Since then however only Korea and Vietnam have involved the Gunners and our colours.

Both those conflicts quickly formed their own Associations, and because we were closed to all except ex-RF until 2003, the opportunity was lost to recruit younger members from those conflicts. It also seems that the need to continue to recruit even RF personnel was lost sight of and the members average age kept going up and up

Our present membership is on the Financial Statement of Position but this year we only enrolled 24 new members and lost 10 to God's Gun park.

Not enough younger people are coming to our ranks. Your retiring Committee has only **one member under 65!**

Should we consider moving the "Administration team" to another district e.g. Palmerston North or Wellington?

What about using Video/Skype conferencing for committee meetings?

What do you suggest?

Please consider standing for the positions being voted for today. The jobs are not too onerous and many hands will make the task lighter and hopefully bring fresh ideas for consideration

Thanks are due to the members of your committee, for the work they have put in this year, and especially those members of the sub-committee

responsible for organising this weekend.

Thanks also to Marie, "The NZ Gunner" editor, for her work in putting together the magazine. Please continue to support her with the provision of appropriate articles for publication, especially those of personal interest.

To Angus and Catherine, go our thanks for their continuing work with the web site.

It would be remiss of me before closing my report however, not to particularly mention the sterling work of your Secretary/Treasure, Mike Dakin. His continuing work after the setting up last year of the "Q" store for fund raising and "Muzzle Flashes" for "spreading the word", have been a great success, and his work relating to welfare matters has kept your Association in the forefront and up to date on what's happening in those fields.

On behalf of us all, thank you Mike.

Financial Position

Resolved: That the financial summary, as passed by the Examiners and circulated to members, be accepted as a true record of the Association's financial position.

Webmaster's Report:

Catherine Rivers annual Webmaster report was received by the meeting.

Election of Officers

The Chair was passed to Don Kenning, Patron, who conducted the election of officers.

Elected: **President** – Frank Hopkinson; **Secretary/Treasurer** – Tony McLeod; **Committee members** – Jeff Waters, Alan Taylor, Bill Stewart, Colin Jansen, Barry Dreyer, Mike Dakin. Frank Hopkinson resumed the Chair.

Subscriptions

Resolved: That annual subscriptions remain at \$20.

General Business

- Hugh Vercoe said the Association needs to be more influential in matters affecting

organisation and disposition of gun batteries, especially into the Waikato. The Col Comdt responded. After further discussion about the anniversary of the first gun battery being established in the Waikato, it was resolved: That the Association supports a commemorative reunion being held in Hamilton in 2010.

- Colin Jansen presented an old Gunner trophy he had recovered from a secondhand shop, the Association to decide on its appropriate use.

- John Osborne spoke about the bicentennial of the *Boyd* massacre, the battle of Kororareka, and commemorative events in the Bay of Islands.

Next AGM

The Secretary said that reunion planning needs to look further ahead than just one year. After discussion, it was resolved: That the next AGM be held in Taupo, on dates decided by the committee. It was further resolved: That the committee explore the pros and cons of holding reunions/AGMs in other centres and make recommendations to the next AGM.

RNZA Association. Changeover of Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Dakin stood down from the position of Secretary Treasurer at the AGM in November after 2 years of invaluable service and contribution to the Association. His 'electronicising' of the systems is a great step forward for the ongoing functioning of the assoc, and we greatly appreciate his efforts. Mike will continue to hold the Welfare and Pensions Portfolio and the editing of Muzzle Flashes. His replacement as Secretary /Treasurer is Tony McLeod Lt Col (Rtd), an ex CI at the School (82/85) and Director RNZA (87/88). Tony has been off the gunner radar since leaving the army 20 years ago, and in that time he has been a self employed businessman with forays into the grocery industry in Wellington, property development in Auckland, hands-on house building and property management, and ownership and management of book and gift retail outlets in the Auckland area. He and Mary live in Auckland and have three children; Anthony a Captain in the RNZA, Catherine a Yale graduate and squash coach in New York, and



Above your 2009/2010 Committee:

(Back Row L to R) Alan Taylor, Bill Stewart, Colin Jansen and Mike Dakin (with Bella)

(Fron Row L to R) Barry Dreyer, Frank Hopkinson (President) and Tony McLeod (Secretary/Treasurer)

Absent: Jeff Waters.

Rachel completing her MA at Auckland Uni. Tony is happy to be back on the radar.

7. NOTICE BOARD

A. Last year I came across my Grandfather's diary that he kept for part of World War II. The diary is now at the Army Museum in Waiouru but I transcribed it in full first. My Grandfather (Philip M Barclay, 607765) was in the artillery in the 5th Fd Regt. The diary covers the period from June 1944-August 1945, mainly encompassing his time in Italy. It starts a little slowly but he warms into it, so be patient. Please let me know if you find any errors or corrections that need to be made. You may be particularly helpful with people's names - I have attempted to verify names & spellings as well as I can through ship embarkation lists and other military records but it was a hard job starting with just nicknames for a number of people.

I have copies of a number of the sketches that my grandfather mentions as well as newspaper clippings, postcards, tickets, programmes, gear lists, instructions, fire patterns etc that really make the diary more interesting (the originals are all with the diary at the museum).
Gwyn Lewis gn_lewis@yahoo.com

B. Barry Dreyer visited Somes Island in Wellington Harbour for 24 hours a few weekends ago and writes: Somes Island was the country's main people & animal quarantine station for more than 100 years, as well as serving as a WWI POW camp, an internment camp for "local aliens" in both Wars, a degaussing station (for those with long memories), and the site of a heavy ack ack battery in WWII - 106 Bty I think The island has been handed to Iwi recently as part of a settlement process but is run and administered by DOC. It is run as a wildlife sanctuary and historic

precinct, and is well worth a visit. The quarantine station - a large secure building able to hold upwards of 100 cattle etc - has just been opened to the public. It is a time capsule - old telephone books still hanging on the wall, files still in the filing cabinets, miscellaneous stores still on shelves in the store rooms. However, for gunners, the prime site is the 3.7inch heavy anti aircraft battery - still in reasonable knick. And for any Wellington gunners, a prime site for some restorative work.

C. Matt McMillan, Pensions & Welfare, Auckland District RSA, has the personal effects of the late Victor William **McCarthy**, and he would like to deliver these to Vic's family/NoK. Vic served in the Navy, then in the Army in the late 50s, early 60s. He moved to Australia where he died some years later. If you are able to provide the missing link, contact Matt (027 286 0536), or Jim Perry (+65 (0)9 266 0289

D. Vietnam Veterans are now entitled to a free annual review medical each year - contact your case manager to arrange - source NEC RNZRSA

E. National Archives - the digitisation of the 120,000 personnel records from the services prior to 1922 proceeds. So far about 4000 of those KIA have been completed. If you are researching any family history from this time you can (or will shortly be able to) see the records online at www.archives.govt.nz and then use the Archway link to get to the databases. There is also a very good collection of War Art digitized on the website

F. To Purchase a copy of John Masters Book

To purchase a copy of "**A Bridge Over**", by Allan Marriott, the story that tells the extraordinary life of

John Masters send :

\$35 by cheque. (cheque made out to 'JM & AM Masters'), and delivery address to:
'A Bridge Over'
PO Box 13834
Christchurch 8014

G. VANZ Case Histories

The RNZA Association, as an affiliate of RNZRSA, is researching instances of war disablement pension claims that have been **declined**. Mike Dakin, our War Pensions Adviser, is handling this process.

Have you or someone you know been turned down for a claim that you think ought to have been accepted?

We need specific case histories to build a file of decisions that are wrong and in many cases simply ignore logic.

For example, one claim, for a very rare cancer, was declined with the 'reason' that 'there is no record of this disease in your medical file'.

What did they expect on a file that was written in 1968? And a cancer that only became evident in 2008? Gee, how could the examining doctor have missed a cancer's precursors forty years before it showed it?

Consider these two gunners, both with knocked-out knees, injured, treated and recorded during service. Then, a 'No medical record' decision. But that's funny, how did our two gunners get a copy from their medical file when the claims panel apparently could not?

If you think your claim has been screwed by VANZ, let Mike know about it **in confidence** at Mike.
Dakin.NZ@gmail.com.

Pass the word along to your mates!

Behind the Lines: The Editor's Page

Patron	Col (Rtd) Donal R KENNING MBE	06 358 2849
Colonel Commandant	Brig (Rtd) Graham BIRCH MBE	07 548 1193

The Patron and Colonel Commandant are, *ex officio*, members of the Committee

President	Frank HOPKINSON	09 446 0944
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Secretary/Treasurer	Tony McLeod	09 486 0910
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	Mike DAKIN
	Colin JANSEN
	Bill STEWART
	Alan TAYLOR
	Jeff WATERS
	John GLACKIN (Co-opted)



Committee Members at Large	Graeme BLACK
	Bob KERSLAKE
	John MASTERS
	Brian Jerry MEYER (Australia)
	Paul O'CONNOR

STOP PRESS

The log on for Muzzle Flashes
has changed, it is now
MuzzleFlashes.blogspot.com

The NZ Gunner Editor	Marie ROBERTS
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<u>Website</u>	<i>riv.co.nz/rnza/</i>	<u>Blog</u> <i>MuzzleFlashes.blogspot.com</i>
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Subscriptions: *Accounting policy* - The 2008 AGM endorsed the Committee's policy of accepting only 'full year' payment of subscriptions, that is, \$20 or multiples thereof. This action is necessary because the accounting process does not cater for fractional years. Odd sums will be credited to the Welfare Fund in the donor's name.

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

Receipts: Receipts are issued for all incoming monies and sent out quarterly with the next issue of *The New Zealand Gunner*.

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, let him have 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***

New Members: New members are most welcome. **ALL** Gunners with a minimum of 3 years service *or* an Operational Tour are eligible for Full Membership. 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. Membership application forms are on-line at www.riv.co.nz/rnza/folk/join.htm, or MuzzleFlashes.blogspot.com.

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 Mike at: ***muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com***

Secretarial/Treasurer Matters to Tony at: ***RNZA.Association@gmail.com***

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