



# The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of

## The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members.

Your current committee has now been in place for 3 months, with some activity but not a lot of go forward - yet!. We have had two full meetings, and several smaller meetings and I am very thankful to Colin Jansen for taking on the duties of Assistant Secretary, and John Botica the duties of Assistant Treasurer. Mike Dakin has continued his active contribution on the welfare front with continued liaison with the RNZRSA and individual welfare issues. The role of `Welfare` in the Association is a challenge to define, as we do not wish (or have the ability) to duplicate services provided by WINZ, VANZ, and the RNZ RSA (to which we are affiliated). Our contribution can be more in the area of identifying people who have `fallen through the cracks` of the established welfare agencies and need some help to get in touch with those who may have the ability to help them. Mike Dakin is very good at this in the Auckland area, and we must rely on similar `eagle eyes` from our members throughout the country. At the committee level we have organised ourselves on a `decade` basis, whereby committee members who served during a particular decade will try to establish liaison networks for members who served in that decade. It's not precise, but it is an attempt to establish some welfare connection for those gunners who have served since 1970, whilst never forgetting those who served earlier in Korea and Vietnam. The whole existence and relevance of the Assn is very dependent on maintaining networks across the country and across the years, and effective Regional Representatives are critical to achieving this. We are very thankful to Tom Roche in Palmerston North, Lindsay Skinner in Wellington, and Brian Jerry Meyer in Australia for their willing and active participation as Regional Reps. We also salute Graham Black and the Waikato gunners, Roger Newth and the Horowhenua Gunners, and Pat Duggan, Skin Frances, Paul O'Connor and the Canterbury contingent who continue to maintain strong regional networks in their areas. We could still do with about 20 more regional reps so please don't be shy, especially if you are a more recently retired member.

We have also been doing some thinking about how we may be of use and relevance to serving gunners. Avenues which are worthy of further

examination are; 1) linking in with the existing NZ Defence welfare agencies to provide some support for individual gunners deployed overseas (a la Betty May, or Raglan during SVN), 2) Provision of support for gunners in their transition to civilian life, 3) ongoing interaction between serving and ex gunners on a regular social basis. These are `works-in-progress` and will be addressed at some stage this year.

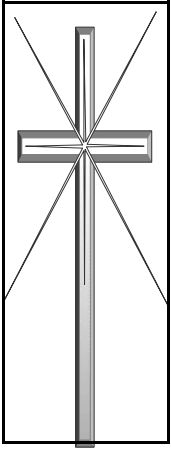
The terrible earthquake in Christchurch has been felt across the country and I know everybody's thoughts and prayers continue to be with those who have been affected. We have set up a network of support which we intend will provide accommodation to anyone in Christchurch who may need to get away for a break (see the back page for details of Op UBIQUE). I would like to thank all those who have offered their homes, and in particular Judy Dreyer who has volunteered to coordinate accommodation. It is a simple gesture of `Gunner helping Gunner`, and it will be ongoing. As you will know, the Reunion this year is scheduled to be held in Christchurch 11-13 November. This plan is now up in the air, to be confirmed or otherwise at a later date.

I did not intend the sole subject of this message to be welfare, but since it is our most important objective I think it does warrant most of our attention.

**Best wishes to all gunners. Tony McLeod, President**

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## 1. LAST POST

*Our father who art in heaven;  
Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven;  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass  
against us;  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom.  
The power and the Glory.  
For ever and ever.*

### MILLYNN, Brian Donald ('Scratch').

Capt RNZA died Middlemore Hospital 18 February 2011. Brian was an ex RF Cadet (Symons Class 1953) and also served as a Sgt with 1 Bn in Malaya (1957-59).

The following is a summary of the speech Graeme Black gave at Scratch's funeral:

I have been told to keep this short and that reminds me of Brian and I on Army Schools Parade and Lt Col Kim Morrison ordering "Say prayers Padre and make them short, it is going to snow any minute!" And it did.

Brian Donald Millynn, I don't know why but I always thought it was David, now I know. Even their dog's name was Donald

Dosing strip in Waiouru, Millynn's dog does not respond – "boys take the dog for a walk" – along comes the Commander Colonel Brian Poananga known as the 'Bond St. Maori' and has a chat to Brian and Wanda when from a distance came a loud voice "Dad – Donald's had a poo!" Poor old Brian wanted to die Jan 1953 Brian joined the Regular Force Cadets in 'Symons Class', this was my second year and as I was in the senior class Brian and I had our first difference of opinion which was religious - I thought I was God and he didn't agree. Here I leaned over Brian's casket then stood up and remarked "I distinctly heard Brian say SO WHAT HAS CHANGED."

Brian had opted as his Corps the RNZA as a bird gunner (Anti Aircraft) as so had I, so we had a long history together.

1957 Summer inter district tournament I was competing in the NMD team and met a beautiful Maori Army nurse from the SMD team who I took a shine to but when I went looking for her in Burnham I was politely told that Wanda was Brian Millynn's girlfriend – whoops !!!!

1957 Anti Aircraft Technical Assistants Course, when Brian was taking a period of instruction he would frown like someone was in serious trouble, turned to write on the blackboard I thought he was going to impale the chalk into the blackboard.

1966 Ssgt –WO course together

1968 NSTU Brian RQMS, I was BSM A Battery

1971 back to the School of Artillery and here is Brian as the School Sergeant Major

When we went to Singapore in May 1978 Brian and Wanda were the first ones to greet us in our house with a

six pack of coldies and some Asian food, by then it was dark and Candy asked "Aunty Wanda do we live next to a farm?" – Singapore ??? – Wanda looked quite amazed by this strange question and replied no but why "Well I can hear cows mooing!" – they were bullfrogs.

Even when I retired and joined Securitas I kept on bumping into Brian because he worked for Armourguard. When we were handling currency at the International Airport Brian seemed to be there too.

Very special condolences are from my daughters, life long friends of the Millynns, Jackie Black, Adrienne Black, Candy Morgan and Connie Black.

Messages also received from Robbie & Dee Church, Col Don & Noeline Kenning, Tiny & Marge Hill, Slim & Ethne Cunningham, Paul & Linda O'Connor, Jock Robertson (Symons Class), Fergie Fergusson, Dinga & Carole Bell, Lindsay and Lynn Skinner.

## 2. THE DOLORES CROSS

Several thousand of the 30,000 New Zealand military personnel graves overseas now carry a personal and uniquely New Zealand tribute of a 'Dolores Cross' thanks to the inspiration and hard work of a Waiouru lady, and National Army Museum Archivist, Dolores Ho. The Dolores Cross is a simple, hand-made, woven Harakeke (New Zealand flax) cross designed through trial and error and a bit of creativity. So far Dolores has personally made over 7,000 crosses.

The Dolores Cross Project is a not-for-profit memorial initiative started by Dolores which aims to place a cross, 'a piece of home', on all New Zealand soldier graves overseas, a small tribute to the sacrifices made by so many ordinary Kiwis who gave their lives in times of war. When a Dolores Cross is placed, a photograph of each grave is taken and these will be available as a keepsake for the families often unable to travel to their loved one's resting place. The Project desperately needs poppies, which are attached to each handmade cross. If you have any poppies please send them to: National Army Museum, PO Box 45, Waiouru 4861, Attention Dolores Ho. Contact us for more information.

## 3. NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to the Association Gunners:

**CULL**, Allan Hunter.

**MEIKLE**, Bowen James Shannon.

Both Allan and Bowen live in Palmerston North



## INVOICE/STATEMENTS

If you are unsure about the invoice or statement that has been enclosed with your newsletter please call the Secretary to discuss. We have received two membership payments and one for the reunion at Taupo and a Q Store purchase but have no idea who they are from, if it is you, again please contact the Secretary.

#### 4. REPORT FROM COL COMDT

Greetings all!

The first quarter has been particularly busy for the Royal Regiment and the Association. Both the CO 16 Fd Regt and the Association President have their reports in this Newsletter, along with the London report and many other articles of interest to gunners everywhere.

Our Association blog – go to [muzzleflashes.blogspot.com](http://muzzleflashes.blogspot.com) – continues to update us and provide interesting gunner family information on a daily basis. This blog is an important information tool. I urge all readers to make sure they look at the site regularly, pass on the site details to other gunners and friends, and where you have a story, contribute it.

The very sad and major gunner matter is the recent shattering earthquake in Christchurch. One of ours has tragically lost a family member and there will also be lots of gunners and gunner families in the region with difficult living conditions, broken houses and injured, missing and dead friends. On behalf of all gunners, we extend our sympathy and support to our Canterbury colleagues, families and friends.

The Association has launched Operation Ubique to organize any required support for those gunners and families in the region who might want respite and support now and over the next few months. I urge readers to have a look at the outline of Operation Ubique on the blog and respond by either asking for or offering support. It is the least we can do in tough times. On more routine matters I visited both 11/4 Battery in training and 16 Fd Regt at work, in February. The Regt visit was centred on the presentation of long service and operational medals. Congratulations to those who received their awards. Further comment is on the blog.

I was to attend the major formation level exercise in the South Island in late Feb, but as Matt Boggs says the exercise turned into real and serious aid to the civil power. The best place for me was staying in Auckland.

At the Linton visit, Tom Roche very kindly gathered a group of local gunners for a catch up in Palmerston North – the group ranged from pre-WWII TF gunners to familiar faces from Vietnam and Papakura days. It was a useful and enjoyable catch up. I intend asking a local gunner to gather similar groups as I get around the country – we get together like this as gunners far too infrequently. Next visit is Wellington 22/23 March – so there is a Wng O for the Wellington readers.

There are a couple of things coming up: the centenary of the formation of the first gunner TF battery in the Waikato over 18-20 March, with the celebrations all day on the Saturday and on Sunday morning – it's not too late to sign up; if you are just visiting make sure you support the parade. Regt, Band and lots of gunners will be there. Graham Birch has done an excellent article on our foundations which can be viewed both on the blog and on Page 6

24 April also marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong in Korea, the seminal blooding in battle of 16 Fd Regt. There will be detail out on some activities shortly. Keep an eye on the blog.

That's about it. Greatest sympathy, support and prayers

to our Christchurch family; best wishes for some important gunner functions; good work and congratulations (that is not quite the correct word) to the regular gunners working so hard down South; and I look forward to catching up with at least some of you in the next couple of months.

Best regards & Ubique

**Barry Dreyer, Col Comdt RNZA**

#### 5. REPORT FROM COL 16 Fd Regt

Consisting of 3 Sub Units: 161 Bty and 163 Bty in Linton, 39 Mortar Bty in Burnham (plus associated support units and RHQ), the well oiled machine that is 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment has had a busy start to 2011.

The focus for the start of the year has been on individual training, and as such much effort has been put into the sometimes dull but vital work of compliance training (making sure that all the legal briefs have been conducted, medical and dental checks, anti-harassment training etc). Along with compliance training there has been a focus on making sure everyone is up to scratch in regards to various fitness tests. All members have been participating fully in some hearty PT training, ranging from circuits, and runs, but with a heavy focus being on battle PT. It has been good to see the Command teams getting involved and setting a high standard for all concerned.

Much of the Linton based elements have had their SNCO's away on the RNZA Staff Sgts' course, meaning that the Bdrs' have had to step up to fill the Troop Sgts' role, and it has been mentioned that some Gunners have even seen Officers doing work.

But the Linton based elements of 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment have not just been resting on their laurel's, with both UAS and the gun batteries being actively involved in supporting the lads heading overseas on operations, by providing both assistance to the training units, and also providing some devious and well bearded enemy party.

16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment is also looking forward to accepting 21 new Gunners into the Regiment, with the School of Artillery Guns Basic having almost reached completion. The 3 new Young Officers that graduated from OCS at the end of 2010 have also been getting an eye opening introduction to the hard work that occurs at 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, and are eagerly awaiting the start of their officer training course. 161 Bty assisted by elements of 163 Bty will be assisting the School in exercise HELLFIRE and BRIMSTONE later in the year also.

The main focus for the Regiment during the first part of the year was to take part in Exercise SOUTHERN KATIPO, which was to be the largest tri service exercise conducted by the NZDF for the last 20 years. The Ex was focused on the NZDF's ability to project a task force to an offshore failed state and was to be conducted in the South Island, including a force projection to the Chatham Islands. 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment contributed a number of JOSCC and JOST parties as well as propping up the Brigade HQ. The exercise had been running for 4 days, with the bulk of the fighting

forces being embarked in Lyttleton port when the tragic Christchurch earthquake took place. The focus of the exercise quickly changed from a theoretical exercise to practical disaster relief. The elements in the Brigade main HQ assisted in organising units to support the stricken city from Linton, but the most praise must be reserved for 39 Mortar Bty, which provided sterling assistance to the people of Christchurch, not only in the immediate aftermath, but also in assisting the civil police and other NZDF units in maintaining the cordon around the CBD. It was with deep regret that it was subsequently revealed that one of the victims was the wife of a 39 Mortar Bty SNCO. It is likely that in the near future 163 Bty and 161 Bty will be deployed south to provide relief in place for 39 Mortar Bty.

With such a busy year so far it has been good to see the Regiment overcome some challenging times with verve and good humour, and we look forward to assisting both the New Zealand Army and the people of Christchurch in the coming months.

**Lt Col Matt Boggs, CO 16 Fd Regt RNZA**

## **6. Lt Col Nick Gillard MNZM reports in from London**

New Zealand normally makes the news in the UK for sporting or tourist related reasons. However our country has been centre stage here recently for reasons that can only be described as tragic. The Pike River Mine disaster and the latest Christchurch earthquake have hit the New Zealand ex-pat community hard here in the UK. For those with family and friends affected the gap of 12000 miles is even more wide today. May I first say on behalf of Brig Phil Gibbons, DA London and the defence staff that our thoughts are with all of those who have been affected by the earthquake and mine disaster.

We had the privilege to attend a memorial service at Westminster Cathedral last week. Upwards of 5000 New Zealanders and friends from around the world attended. It was a moving service that brought the reality of the situation home to many. Over £30,000 was raised to support those in need. Another more formal memorial service is planned to coincide with the official New Zealand services on 18 March. New Zealand House has had a book of remembrance in the foyer available to anyone who wishes to leave a message. Thousands of people have taken the opportunity to do so inclusive of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, HRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, Prince's William and Harry, Katherine Middleton and the Prime Minister David Cameron.

I am aware that personnel from 16 Fd Regt have been part of the rescue and recovery operations. Whilst we never expect to conduct such tasks on such a scale in our own country I am sure that they are performing their duties with the usual professionalism and can do attitude. I am sure that lessons learned in Bosnia, Timor and Afghanistan will come to the fore when working with people who may have lost everything.

On February 16 I was part of an NZDF contingent that took part in the reburial of a New Zealand soldier from the First World War. He had died on the Somme

sometime in September 1916 and had lain undisturbed until a farmer uncovered his remains in late 2009. He was identified as being a soldier from the Auckland Regiment by the collar dogs that were with the remains. He was reburied with full military honours at the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery Longueval within sight of the New Zealander's objective in September 1916. It was a bitterly cold day and all of the ploughed fields around the cemetery were muddy and flooded.

It seemed appropriate and provided a poignant reminder. Representatives from the Auckland Regiment, Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), the Royal British Legion and the New Zealand Embassy's in Paris and Brussels were also there to pay their respects. No formal attempt has been made to identify him beyond his regiment. However there is no doubt that his name appears on the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery Memorial Wall along with the names of the other 1200 New Zealanders who died in the battle but have no known grave. A memorial to the New Zealand Division stands on a ridge line which formed the primary objective about 1500m from the cemetery where you can still pick up shrapnel balls in the ploughed fields.

Northern France and Flanders contain many similar memorials to New Zealand soldiers. All of them are maintained by the CWGC and local authorities with the utmost care and respect. No more so than in Arras where the New Zealand Tunnelling Company linked up a series of underground quarries to shelter 24,000 allied troops prior to their assault on the German lines in April 1917. I had the privilege to visit the La Carriere Wellington and spent several hours walking through the caves and tunnels. The tunnels are named after stops on the New Zealand Main Trunk Rail Line and are covered in graffiti made by the Kiwi tunnellers. The 20 km of tunnels housed the troops for nine days and also included a 700 bed hospital.

In a more contemporary reminder of the consequences of war the DA and I recently visited the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Surrey. Headley Court is the facility where all MOD casualties, both battle and non battle, receive their rehabilitation and reintegration care. Our intent was to formalise a relationship between the NZDF and the facility in both a professional and social manner. After a tour of the facilities and the chance to meet many of the patients, including IED amputee's from Afghanistan it was obvious that this was a facility with a very positive feel about it. Even the worst of the casualties, including triple amputee's had an incredibly positive attitude about getting on with life and adapting accordingly.

The facilities and staff were first class with a combination of the MOD, National Health Service (NHS) and soldiers charities such as Help for Hero's working together. Interestingly many of the civilian physical therapists working there were Kiwi's. It is our intent to try and get NZDF personnel posted to Headley Court in 2012. There is much we can learn about rehabilitating all injuries from the most minor to serious battle casualties.

NZDS London staff have also been involved in

providing welfare and administrative support to several NZDF casualties evacuated from Afghanistan. Unfortunately this also involved assisting in the repatriation of Pte Mila who was killed in a road accident in Bamyan. All casualties are evacuated through the US Medical Facility at Landstuhl in Germany and NZDS London will always deploy an officer across to act as the soldier's friend and help co-ordinate the process.

Next week we have service at Westminster Abbey to commemorate Commonwealth Day. The service is attended by Her Majesty the Queen and pays tribute to those who have died in the service of the Commonwealth. ANZAC Day is also rapidly approaching a number of services being conducted across the UK and Europe.

A quick review of my report reveals a summary of events centred around loss and remembrance. It certainly was not my intent when I started but it is a fitting reminder of the past and present effects of disaster and conflict. Particularly so in the UK where we are constantly reminded of both our history and current role in the world. That said, its a bright sunny day for a change and the daffodils are coming through. Spring must be here.

## 7. INTERMENT OF AN UNKNOWN AUCKLAND REGIMENT SOLDIER

Below is the 3ANR contingent with the London DA staff at the interment of an unknown soldier from the Auckland Regt whose remains have recently been found. Authorities believe he was killed at one of the Somme battles. The remains were buried at the Caterpillar Farm War Cemetery.



### *From left to right they are:*

Lt Col Chris Powell, Commanding Officer Auckland and Northland Battalion Group  
 Lt Col Nick Gillard, Military Attaché, **RNZA**, New Zealand Defence Force, London  
 Brigadier Phil Gibbons, Defence Attaché, New Zealand Defence Force, London  
 Lt James Grigor, 11/4 Bty, **RNZA**  
 Capt Tim Mitchelson, 11/4 Bty, **RNZA**  
 2Lt Isaac Holliss, Auckland and Northland Battalion

## 8. ANZAC OF THE YEAR

Nominations for the award of ANZAC of the Year are being called by RNZRSA. The detailed explanation is available in their website at [www.rsa.org.nz](http://www.rsa.org.nz).

Last year's recipient (the first recipient) of the award was the late Lt Col John Masters

## 9. OPERATION UBIQUE - Calling All Christchurch Gunners

The Association encourages all Gunners in the earthquake affected area to think hard about taking a break – or having the family take a break – if only for a short period. The Association has a number of members with spare space and we are keen to assist our gunner community and provide any support we can – its gunner helping gunner and providing a friendly supportive environment.

If you are in Christchurch and interested in heading away for a break at any time, or getting your family out, can you please email to Judy Dreyer who is co-ordinating the Operation for us.

Judy's email is [j.dreyer@clear.net.nz](mailto:j.dreyer@clear.net.nz).

Or you can give her a call, her contact details are:

09 534 7900 (Home)

09 307 5692 (DDI)

021 644 823 (mob)

Please provide Judy with the following detail:

1. Names
2. Tele number
3. Email
4. How many adult bed spaces
5. How many children & age
6. Do you want cot(s)/portacot
7. About how long do you want away
8. Ideal dates if any
9. Any particular location
10. Any other detail

We will then put a gunner host in touch with you directly to work out the detail.

For those Gunners outside of Christchurch who are able to offer accommodation we would be grateful if you could give us some details:

1. Names
2. Address
3. Tele number
4. Email
5. How many adult bed spaces
6. How many children's bed spaces
7. Do you have a cot(s)/portacot
8. How long can you take someone for
9. Ideal dates if any
10. Can you uplift from nearest airport
11. Any other details as you consider appropriate



## 10. CENTENARY OF THE TERRITORIAL FORCE ARTILLERY 1911 – 2011

1911 was a key year in the development of our reserve forces. Up until then New Zealand's military organisation, other than the small primarily artillery regular element, was based on a largely unpaid and ineffective Volunteer Force. It was inward looking, focussing on local defences. But in 1909 far reaching changes occurred. The catalyst for this was the growing strategic tension in Europe, which led to the Imperial Defence Conference of that year recommending New Zealand commit to providing an Expeditionary Force suitable for possible employment overseas. After considerable political objection and infighting this recommendation was accepted, and resulted in New Zealand adopting its first compulsory military training scheme and the raising of a paid Territorial Force. Artillery wise it was proposed that the mobile deployable force comprise four Field Artillery Brigades (Regiments in modern terminology), each Brigade comprising three Batteries and an Ammunition Column, plus the fixed armament Garrison (coastal) Artillery.

This organisation was almost achieved, the new 1911 artillery order of battle being:

<u>Pre 1911 Unit</u> (Name changes occurred over the years)	<u>New TF Unit</u>	<u>Raised/Earliest Linkage</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Auckland FA Bde</b>			
A Bty	A Bty K Bty redesignated G Bty Ammunition Column	Dates from 1864 19 Mar 1911	Auckland Hamilton Auckland
<b>NZGA</b>			
Ak Naval Artillery Volunteers	No1 Coy	Dates from 1864	Auckland
Ponsonby Naval Arty Volunteers	No 6 Coy	Dates from 1885	Ponsonby
Devonport Coastguard Arty Volunteers	No7 Coy	Dates from 1898	Devonport
<b>Wellington FA Bde</b>			
D Bty	D Bty F Bty J Bty Ammunition Column	Dates from 1866 17 Apr 1911 1912	Wellington Napier Palmerston North Wellington
<b>NZGA</b>			
Wellington Naval Artillery Volunteers	No 3 Coy	Dates from 1879	Wellington
Petone Naval Artillery Volunteers	No 5 Coy	Dates form 1883	Petone
No 3 Coy Electric Light	No 9 Coy	Dates from 1903	Wellington
<b>Canterbury FA Bde Christchurch</b>			
E Bty	E Bty	Dates from 1867	Christchurch
Nelson City Artillery Volunteers	H Bty Ammunition Column	Dates from 1873	Nelson Christchurch
<b>NZGA</b>			
I Bty NZFA Vols then No 1 Coy Westport GAV*	No 4 Coy No 8 Coy	Dates from 1885 Dates from 1901	Lyttelton Westport
<b>Otago FA Bde</b>			
B Bty	B Bty	Dates from 1864	Dunedin
C Bty (Timaru)*	C Bty Ammunition Column	Dates from 1866	Invercargill Dunedin
<b>NZGA</b>			
Dunedin Naval Artillery Volunteers	No 2 Coy	Dates from 1884	Port Chalmers

It can be seen that the old Volunteer units formed the basis of most of the Batteries, although some had spent periods in recess(\*), with only G Bty in Hamilton, F Bty at Napier and J Bty in Palmerston North being raised completely from scratch. With the commencement of compulsory military training the numbers of trained soldiers rose quickly. There was also a requirement to purchase new field guns, the old Armstrong field guns being worn out and in a poor state of repair, and orders were placed in 1911 for twenty-four 18 Pounders and eight 4.5in Howitzers. These were delivered promptly. Thus by the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914 New Zealand was able to field eight batteries of up to date modern well manned artillery. Equally the NZGA was well manned and reasonably equipped The new TF gunners provided the bulk of the manpower for the initial gunner unit raised for 1 NZEF, the 1<sup>st</sup> NZFA Bde, consisting of three 18 Pdr Btys, a 4.5in How Bty and an Ammunition Column.

2011 is the centenary of the raising of G Bty in Hamilton and F Bty in Napier, the effective dates being 19 March and 17 April respectively. J Bty in Palmerston North followed. All three Btys were issued with new 18 Pounders in 1912,

G Bty camped for the first time 10-18 Mar 1912 at the A & P Showgrounds, Hamilton; F Bty 16-24 Mar 1912 at Marakeke, and J Bty 6-14 Mar 1912 at Greatford.

It is of interest to note that with the transition of our reserve forces from a volunteer basis to a CMT based territorial system the Government was required for the first time to provide accommodation for the permanent Battery cadre staffs, guns, horses (previously volunteers provided their own), and stables. Special Field Artillery buildings, generally known as the Artillery Barracks, were built in Devonport, Hamilton (Knox St), Palmerston North (Main St), Napier (Owen St), Nelson, Christchurch (Addington), Dunedin and Invercargill. These barracks were all completed by 1914 and were considered very suitable for purpose. To the best of the writer's knowledge only the Napier Barracks (much modified) remains.

**Article supplied by Brig (Rtd) G. Birch**

## 11. HISTORICAL ITEM—Operation of 2 NZ

**Div: 9-12 April 1945, including crossing of the SENIO (Part 2)**

**Previously** "This was a set plan, with deception taking the form of additional lanes worked out on the flanks".

### Superimposed Concentrations.

A barrage was always supported by concentrations selected targets within the barrage area.

Stress was laid on the importance of keeping a full and accurate RA Intelligence map on which known and likely enemy positions and strong points were marked and continuously bought up to date. All available intelligence sources were tapped for this purpose, and constant liaison with MATU (WEST) was found to pay a good dividend. Prior to an attack, Infantry Brigade Commanders were consulted as to their requirements for flank protection and concentrations were laid on accordingly.

### TIME.

12 hours was considered a suitable time to allow the artillery after receipt of the Divisional Commanders orders for the preparation of a barrage with supplementary concentrations in support of a divisional attack under normal conditions.

### Calibration.

A successful attack under a barrage is governed by the accuracy of the shelling.

The following methods were recommended in checking and maintaining the accuracy of guns during operations :-

1. Comparative calibration carried out whenever possible by OP Officers.
2. Use of the Air OP who can be particularly useful in spotting a "rogue" gun.

The 2 N.Z. Division has always specialized in the quick barrage and the degree of accuracy maintained by the artillery is such that the troops advance very close to the barrage with perfect confidence.

During this offensive there was not a single report of a short round, in spite of the weight of shell fired.

It was considered that this speed and accuracy was governed by the speed with which the Regiments got forward, and that, to ensure this, the following points required special consideration.

- (i) Early reconnaissance of the next forward positions, based on accurate appreciation of the rate of advance of the infantry.
- (ii) Expert gun drill and handling of equipment. In this connection, a high state of physical fitness is required of the men and it was emphasized that physical training is as important to gunners as it is to the infantry.
- (iii) Early work on routes and close liaison with provost.
- (iv) Priorities for movement laid down by Division in light of future commitments.

### Administration

- (i) Prior to the crossing of the SANTERNO, ammunition points were established on the FAINZA - RUSSI road behind the R. SENIO.

On 13 April, when the advance continued from SANTERNO, ammunition points were moved forward to the vicinity of LUGO and later, on 16 April to MASSA LOMBARDA thus ensuring that only one major obstacle lay between them and the forward units.

- (ii) The following gives in detail the dumping and carrying of ammunition undertaken during the period prior to D day up to 16 April.

**2 Apr 45** Ammunition points were established vicinity MAIN 2 N.Z DIV on FAENZA - RUSSI road.

Dumping programme of 25 pr and 105mm carried out. All ammunition being uplifted from 501 AAD CESANA and delivered direct to gun positions.

25 pr	800 rpg	76800 rds
105 mm	600 rpg	14400 rds
Total of over <b>1500 tons</b> ;		300 NZASC vehicles employed over 3 nights.

**on 12 Apr 45** Following was uplifted from AAD and delivered to Ammunition Points.

25 pr	61100 )	
105 mm	25240 )	
3.7	2800 )	<b>1412 tons</b>
5.5 HE	4400 )	
4.5 HE	3200 )	.....

**To be continued in the next issue of The NZ Gunner**

## 12. SON OF GNR JBT KEREHONA, No 2 Gun, 1967, visits Vietnam

My father James (Jim) Bruce Taawhi Kerehona, known to some as 'Boxer' and 'Mr Karate' to others; served in Vietnam with 161 Bty, RNZA, from September 1967 to September 1968

From the information I have been able to gather, he was involved in assaults at the following places: FSB Andersen, FSB Coral/Balmoral, and FSB Herring, During the Tet Offensive

Initially, I wished to travel to Vietnam with my father; however due to his poor health, this was not possible. I may return to Vietnam with my father sometime in the future, if the situation improves; I would love to hear his stories and share his experiences In a peaceful, post-war Vietnam

The itinerary which I had planned, was extremely intense; it had the potential to be a disaster, had something (anything) gone wrong. My research trips are always busy, numerous activities and tours are always a feature of my travels; even family holidays overseas sometimes resemble forced-marches (my wife and children can bear testimony to this).

### Arrival:

I flew into Tan Son Nhut International Airport, Ho Chi Minh City; remembering not to refer to it as Saigon (this upsets certain people, mainly government officials). As I walked across the tarmac, I couldn't help but think of my father and what he saw on arrival; same place, different look, but then, it was 40 years later and Vietnam has changed markedly. Straight to the hotel for a rest, as I had an early start the next morning; consisting of a private tour to the former locations of FSB Andersen, FSB Coral and FSB Balmoral

### Day 1

Dark o'clock - Shit! I forgot to charge the camcorder's spare battery and began to panic, would I be able to get it charged up before the tour operator arrived. I quickly looked at my watch and realised that it was only 0230 h local time - wake up time at home. "I know where is FSB Andersen, near Trang Bom" the driver says, so at least we're going the right direction. "We visit the Dong Nai Museum in Bien Hoa" the guide suggests "They will know more about the site", ok. We arrive at the museum and the guide enters and speaks with the Museum Director, I spot a gun in the yard and head straight for it. Yes! It's an M1A2 155mm Howitzer, the first real one I've seen. I had gone out to the Singleton Range with A Fd Bty, RAA in July 2010, as part of an exercise where I undertook on-site research; even fired off a few rounds from a current in-service gun, but here was the same type of gun that my father had used - I pictured the name 'Bub's Bebe' (No 2 Gun) painted on the barrel. "Come in, the director want to speak with you" the guide called from the door. I spoke with the staff and they showed me their maps, confirming the location of FSB Andersen. We're definitely on track I thought, let's go (I'm extremely impatient, everything has to happen yesterday). "You want see Long Tan Cross?" the guide offers, "Yeah

that's on tomorrow's itinerary" I reply "No that copy, the real one upstairs" he added - "Yeah for sure!" I blurt, and head up the stairs. Apparently, the original cross was removed from the memorial site years ago; as a result of a local farmer taking it to use in his own family cemetery. Local authorities took back the cross and it is now held in the Dong Nai Museum. "We turn left at next street, we go up and we speak to someone to find exact spot ok" This was not so much a question, but a comment - does this guy actually know where Andersen is? The vehicle stops and the guide jumps out "I get out here and check, I think we are here" he says. I check my compass as the guide speaks with a street vendor, just north of Trang Bom, noticing that we are not where we should be; we haven't yet crossed over the small white bridge that the museum director had mentioned. The guide returns to the vehicle "Yes we are here, just over the road, over there" he claims. "No, this is the wrong place mate" I respond non-plussed, showing him the compass and referring to the bridge on the map "We need to keep going up this road until we get past the bridge" I say (more like demand). The guide looks at the map and tells me that we have already crossed the bridge and says that I am holding to compass incorrectly; I place the compass on the ground and orientate the map "There, we need to be further up this road" I urged, pointing to the north-east. I didn't come all this way to Vietnam for someone to dupe me. "Ok, we go more" the guide says and we drive off. As we approach the site, I can see the red dirt/clay that dad had spoken about as well as a slightly raised area (bulldozed hill) - I'm here! I walk the ground, referring to my map, and using the compass to get my bearings; noting the different directions the VC and NVA forces had approached from on three separate occasions during Tet. I imagine a hail of mortars, RPGs and small arms fire raining down upon the position - what would it have been like? Explosions reverberating nearby, thousands of illuminated tracer-rounds flying into the position, flares lighting up the night sky with the accompanying ever-moving shadows and the putrid smell of cordite. What an experience! On return to Ho Chi Minh City, I visited the War Remnants Museum; where I viewed displays depicting victims of Agent Orange, a number of massacres (the My Lai Massacre being a classic example), and the vast exhibitions of weapons used during the war. I also met Quy, a guide and landmine victim; he had lost a lower leg, both lower arms and an eye, yet went to work everyday to educate visitors about the horrors of war - I have never felt so humble in my entire life

### Day 3:

"This you father?" the guide asks, as he flicks through my research folder, settling at a photograph of my dad and his mates at the Horseshoe, near Nui Dat. "Yeah, he was at Nui Dat, the Horseshoe and at FSB Herring as well" I reply, adding "They were firing the guns from FSB Herring at the VC in the Long Hai Hills". The guide looks at my map and says "I not know where Herring was before, now I can show others we they come - if we have time, I take you up into the VC caves



in Minh Dam secret area ok?" You bet! We travel to Ba Ria (formerly known as Phuoc Tuy) and pick up another guide, a local with a more comprehensive knowledge of the area and history. Our first stop is a Vietnamese Memorial cemetery, where the guide explains the meaning of the words on the monument; a touching moment, sometimes we forget that our former foe is no different to us and lost loved ones as well. We arrive at the South Gate to Nui Dat, the two brick pylons stand by themselves. "Soldiers call these gates called 'Pearly Gates' because soldiers say they not know if they return safely after they leave them" the local guide told me; as we walked into the rubber-tree plantation to the right, where 161 Bty was located during the war. Immediately, I noticed a rock sitting by itself and began a bee-line towards it. "That Kiwi Rock" the local guide said, as I approached it, noticing the faint trace of the unit logo (red and blue paint) on its northern face. I looked around for more evidence of a former base and saw an overgrown concrete bunker; I jumped into it and pictured a few layers of sand bags, over-head protection and an M-60 sighted there. I looked out towards the southern perimeter and imagined the guns in position, barrels lowered, ready for imminent fire-missions. I tried to imagine the accommodation lines (tents) that were here before the more permanent blocks were built later - nothing but rubber-trees remain. A little further to the north, and past the 'dust-off' area, lies a pile of rubble; rusted metal pins protruding from slime-covered chunks of concrete - this is all that is left of Headquarters. I move off toward SAS Hill and reach Kangaroo Pad (helicopter landing zone); it isn't how I envisaged it would look, it isn't flat at all, there are huge chunks missing. The guide tells me that the area had been used as a quarry previously, however this mining activities have now ceased. A young shepherd boy approaches silently and stares up at me, mucus encrusted around the nose - his, not mine. I smile, extend my hand towards his in order to shake his hand, but he stands mesmerized by my moko (traditional Maori facial tattoo). He reaches up and traces the lines on my face, smiles and then poses with me as the guide takes a photo.

I make my way up the feature that is Nui Dat (known as SAS Hill to allied veterans) and find the going tough; it is steep, hot but worse than that - it's as humid as hell. During my ascent, I stopped a number of times to take photos and video footage; but to be honest, there were more stops than necessary - as I was simply stuffed. The view from the top of the feature was commanding, notice that I use the word 'commanding' rather than breathtaking or stunning; the view itself was pretty uninspiring, however it would have given a great all-round vantage point from which to observe any enemy movement.

My former unit, 3 RAR, also served here during 1967-68, and I thought about their role and tried to locate their old position from up on the hill. Next up was a visit to the Long Tan Memorial, where I felt a great deal of pain; not only for the Australian soldiers that had lost their lives here in August 1966, but also

for the numerous VC who did likewise. The local guide conducted a personal service and at the conclusion, I placed a red rose (poppies not available) at the base of the memorial cross. The rubber-tree plantation was eerily silent, except for the short, sharp sound of the tree nuts as they fell from the canopy above. Although my father was not involved in the Battle of Long Tan himself, his unit provided fire support to 6RAR during the battle. Also, I was a member of Long Tan Platoon during my time at the School of Infantry; where I was awarded the prizes for 'Most Outstanding Soldier' and 'Best at P.T. (Physical Training)' - my name and that of Long Tan Platoon being placed on the awards board.

This visit to the memorial, as well as the opportunity to view the original cross in the Dong Nai Museum, has transformed the way in which I view the significance of the battle. As a former Australian soldier, I always held this battle in high regard, however it is so much more than that to me now. Next up was a visit to what used to be Luscombe Air Field, however it is now just a pothole-ridden road beside a rubber factory. The short visit to the Long Phuoc Tunnels was interesting, it wasn't quite the 'tight' authentic experience that the Cu Chi Tunnels provide, however it did give me a basic understanding of the below-ground experience.

The view of the Horseshoe was saddening, the site (which is actually a dormant volcano) has been used as a quarry for blue-metal and the guide informed me that it will be gone within five years; so if you want to visit it one last time - go soon. As we drove around towards the coast, the guide said "The Australian soldiers used to come out here for entertainment, they called it 'Dat Do Dogs' you know 'Dapto Dogs'" (a reference to the dog racing in Dapto, near Bulli). Yeah, I got it. We came to the base of the Long Hai Hills and turned at a sign stating 'Minh Dam Military Zone'; we drove up to a temple in the hills and began to walk up the hills (more like mountains) until we came to a large system of caves - the same caves in which the VC troops took refuge when faced with the aerial and artillery bombardments by allied forces (including 161 Bty). "In officer's letter, it say the VC name the New Zealand artillery the 'Kiwi Orchestra' because they hear 'boom-boom-boom' when they safe in caves" the guide says, as we negotiated the small openings and tight crevices.

The guide begins to warn me, saying "Watch the low" "#\$@\*" I exclaim, too late; I slam my forehead into a rock face and ceiling. We visited the conference room (where orders were devised and given), the documents library, a hospital ward, and the kitchen - all contained within caves. A fantastic day. As we returned to Ho Chi Minh City, there was a deluge of rain; the roads were covered knee-deep in water and the local fields and parks were swamps - monsoon time.

#### Day 4

"Oh yeah" I sighed, as I fell into bed; I had just arrived in Siem Reap, Cambodia, after a 14 hour bus ride from Ho Chi Minh City and an interesting border-crossing. I had planned to visit the infamous Khmer

Rouge 'Killing Fields', the Cambodian Landmine Museum, as well as do a quick trip to the temple complexes at Angkor. Beep! Beep! Beep! "You've got to be shitting me" I whinged, as I slammed the alarm and got out of bed. It was 0430 h and I was off to visit Angkor Wat and the Bayon Temples at sunrise. The anticipation of viewing one of the world's wonders at dawn was exhilarating; but what I didn't expect were the impressive bas-reliefs depicting ancient battles. I recalled viewing the hieroglyphs, carvings and paintings in Egypt, China, Thailand, and Europe and thought 'mankind has waged war upon each other for centuries, even millennia, and still we do not learn our lesson - war is futile exercise...'

As I walked through the grounds of the Ta Prom Temple, I heard the most beautiful music; I turned the corner and came upon a musical band on the side of the walking track, musicians missing arms, legs, eyes - landmine victims. Hauntingly beautiful music - horrific injuries... I visited one of the 'Killing Fields' just north of Siem Reap, where I sat and pondered the mass loss of innocent lives - simply tragic. The highlight of the trip however, turned out to be my visit to the Cambodian Landmine Museum; set up by Aki Ra, a former child soldier in the Khmer Rouge forces. He has spent the past 10 years of his life, clearing his country of landmines and other Un-exploded Ordnance (rockets, bombs, etc). Today, the Cambodian Landmine Museum Facility comprises of an orphanage and a school for victims of landmines, as well as the museum itself. It is headed by Bill Morse, International Project Manager - Cambodia Self Help Demining, a former Military Policeman and teacher (like myself).

I was given a personal tour of the facility, where I learnt about the orphanage, school (where I spoke with the teacher and asked how I could contribute towards their project), and conducted research in the museum. Finished the day with a sunset cruise along the canals of Kompong Phluk and out into the mighty Tonle Sap. Out for a late dinner with a few Aussie and Kiwi tourists and back to bed

#### **Day 5**

Another 14 hour bus ride through the Cambodian and then Vietnamese countryside, ending with a HUGE bowl of Pho and a comfortable bed with a fan - until the fan blades hit the fan motor and shattered.

#### **Day 6**

Research completed! I took a day trip to the Mekong Delta and relaxed.

Normally, a researcher is happy if they get three-quarters of what they set out to achieve; fortunately I was able to do everything I wanted - a fantastic experience on many levels. Despite an extremely busy schedule, and a tiring itinerary, this has definitely been one of my best trips overseas; after hearing dad's stories about Vietnam as I was growing up, it was so fascinating, and satisfying, to finally experience what is Vietnam.

Photographs of my father can be viewed in the 'Vietnam War' album at <http://tumatauenga.webs.com/apps/photos/album?albumid=7199458> whilst

photographs of my research trip can be viewed in the 'Vietnamese Research Trip' album on my research website, which can be viewed at <http://tumatauenga.webs.com/apps/photos/album?albumid=7201271>

I wish all of the veterans and family members who are participating in the April 2011 trip to Vietnam, a safe and enjoyable time. Here's hoping that your experience surpasses mine and that it is something that you'll remember and treasure for life.

**Brent Kerehona, BA, MTeach**

### **13. THE 'ARTY BAND' - an occasional Newsletter (No.5)**

It's a bit longer than I would have wished since the last Newsletter, but it has been a mega-busy year for me including nine weeks overseas on different visits, to Europe, South Korea, Sydney and Melbourne.

It also been a busy and successful year for the Band, and 2011 is already looking like being even busier - and this at a time when New Zealand's military bands are under threat yet again from the current Defence Review 'Value For Money' White Paper. Rumours and speculation are rife, and none of them very palatable. Let us all earnestly hope that New Zealand's oldest band survives any cuts.

It has also been a sad year, with the loss of Brig John Valintine, a vice-Patron of the Band; Ross Andrews, whilst a stalwart playing member; former band-member Alan Pringle; and Don Knight, grandfather of young band-member Nick Harris - with apologies if any others may not have come to our notice.

2010 saw the award of eight BBANZ long-service awards, to Neil Hilton (25 years)\*, Debbie McKinley (35)\*, Tony Brooke (35)\*, Paul Davison (35), Doug Rose (40)\*, Ivan Burgess (45), Dennis Schofield (50)\*, Ross Andrews (50)\* and Dave Leslie (55)\*. Those marked\* were presented on stage at the Bruce Mason Centre during 'Morning Melodies' in August - Ross Andrews' was accepted by his son Darren. Ivan Burgess' award was presented to him in the band room by Brig Ray Andrews in November.

Dave Leslie recently arranged for the honours board in the band room to be brought up-to-date by adding the names of all Life Members. I have the task of producing new boards for Presidents, Bandmasters and 'In Memoriam' (those who passed away whilst active playing members). Thankfully Ross Andrews had compiled the actual lists of Presidents and Bandmasters earlier this year.

There had been considerable discussion regarding the tiger skin owned by the Band, which is no longer worn on parade, and was in need of potentially-expensive restoration. It has since been agreed that it will be entrusted to Papakura Camp on permanent loan, to be displayed amongst their other memorabilia.

In mid-June, the Band held a weekend camp at Papakura with the considerable assistance of senior members of the Army Band. This was judged a great success, with very favourable reports from the Army

Band hierarchy. Our musicians got a great deal out of it, and it did a lot for bonding, confidence and morale. The intention is to hold at least one similar camp each year.

The Association is currently conducting a major and comprehensive assets review to establish every item of clothing and equipment held by members and in store - this is a big but necessary task. You may have noticed, incidentally, that the familiar white belts have been consigned to history and that the members now wear the modern black webbing belts.

Another task ahead of us is to sort through several decades of band archives which have unfortunately been somewhat neglected in the band room loft. Some of these date back over 40 years and could prove very interesting as the Band approaches its 150th Anniversary in 2014. The records will probably reveal important references to familiar events and people. The sorting process could either take place as a group in the band room in Panmure, or files could perhaps be transported to private homes. If this task would interest anyone, please contact me at radavis@clear.net.nz or tel. (09) 413 5322 or write to Box 14182, Panmure, Auckland.

There is no specific news on the band premises, except that we have re-registered our interest in possible alternative properties with the new Auckland Council, in the event that our present building falls victim to the proposed road scheme. In the meantime, a sturdy security grille has been fitted to the main door.

As mentioned earlier, the Band has a very busy programme in prospect in the New Year, although a lot of actual dates have yet to be confirmed. Three events which you may, however, wish to put in your diaries are:

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>March 19/20<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Waikato Artillery Centenary, Hamilton</b>                   |
| <b>May 30<sup>th</sup></b>      | <b>'Morning Melodies', Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna</b>        |
| <b>Sept 17/18<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Massed Bands Commemorative Concerts, Bruce Mason Centre</b> |

This Newsletter is being sent to all members on recent files. If you have not paid your \$10 subscription for 2010/11 we would be most grateful if you would please send this to Mike McKinley, Treasurer at the Box

#### 14. STUDY OF VIETNAM VETERANS

I had better introduce myself, Dr David McBride, Lecturer at the University of Otago and (for the next three years anyway) LtCol and Medical Officer with 3 Health Services Company at the Medical Treatment Centre, Burnham Military Camp. For the past year or so, we have been trying to get a study of Vietnam Veterans under way. This is funded by VANZ through the Medical Research Trust Fund, but is independent of Government apart from that.

The aims are to see if Vietnam Veterans are at greater risk of dying from any cause, including cancer. Rod Baldwin was kind enough to arrange a meeting at Papakura RSA in June 2010, where a number of you were good enough to come along and talk about it.

There seemed to be agreement that the study would be valuable: It would raise the profile of Vietnam Veterans at a Governmental level, for the public and for Veterans themselves; It would indicate where screening measures, such as for prostate cancer, might be of benefit to this group; It may highlight specific issues which we do not know about and It would help to indicate what future resources might be necessary.

We also discussed the impact of negative findings and any risks that this might pose: I acknowledged that the results of one study will not provide conclusive proofs; We will not be investigating any specific associations, such as smoking or other service data; and lastly that the findings should not influence the presumptive list.

We have made some progress since, and the study is finally about to start. The starting point was an accurate list of those who served in Vietnam, and VANZ have done a great job in working on this for us. We have 3,249 records with dates of birth as against 3,304 on the "Flinkenberg" list. There are likely to be a number of reasons for this. We propose initially to "flag" the individuals who appear on both lists and those appearing only on one.

We have managed to find 2362 (68%) of Veterans on the list. Manual searches will have to be done for the other 1087. Some of you will be living in Australia, that might turn up a few of the AWOLs!

We then need to know who has passed on. As you are well aware, "Last Posts" are well reported on the "brave pages" by researcher Tame Turinui and webmaster Victor Johnson.

Sometimes the underlying cause of death is uncertain, but we are going to check on this through the New Zealand Health Information Service, who will give us this information from death certificates. We will then be able to compare the rates with the New Zealand "average". We will also be able to examine rates of hospital admissions and cancer registrations to see if these occur more often than is usual.

In other words it is looking good so far. This is the first letter keeping you up to date with what is going on. I will let you know as soon as we have any further information, and will front up and face the music at your next reunion!

**David McBride, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

#### 15. RNZA Assn FACE BOOK Page

The web address for the Assn Facebook page is:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=209794913801>

That is a mouthful for someone to type but once logged into Face book, users can also find our page by merely typing Royal New Zealand Artillery Association in the face book search bar and it should bring up the group page in the resultant listing. On the assn page members are able to post comments, video, comment on other peoples comments, photos etc as well as take part in discussions on the discussions page. Events can be listed and attending guest lists created, most of this can be done without having to go through an administrator. The page is there for members to actively use as a live forum.

*Behind the Lines: The Editor's Page*

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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. **Save the Assn costs and receive your newsletter by email.**

**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 months "Gunner" 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 and to Gunners of any nation around the world. Membership application forms are on-line at [www.riv.co.nz/rnza/folk/join.htm](http://www.riv.co.nz/rnza/folk/join.htm), or [MuzzleFlashes.blogspot.com](http://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 Kerry at: [MuzzleFlashes.blogspot.com](http://MuzzleFlashes.blogspot.com)  
Secretarial/Treasurer Matters to Tony at: RNZA.Association@gmail.com  
Items for The NZ Gunner to Marie at: dgroberts@xtra.co.nz