

Merry Christmas!



# The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of

## The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2011 has come and almost gone

I do not intend to repeat what I have already written in my report to the AGM, I would simply like to reiterate my thanks to all those who I mentioned therein; a lot of people do a lot of work behind the scenes, and it all helps to contribute to the ongoing vitality of the Assn. The exception I would make is to mention once again the hard work which Pete Dawson and Skin Frances put in to running the Reunion in Christchurch in November. I thought Pete must have been retired, given the amount of time he devoted to organising everything- but he isn't!, he did it all on top of his regular daily workload. On behalf of all the members, thank you. It was an excellent event.

I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year, and may we all keep an ear and an eye open for anyone less fortunate who we may be able to help during the festive season.

Best Wishes. **Tony McLeod, President, RNZA Assn**



Col Comdt, Sgt Brock and Tony McLeod. Sgt Brock was the First Recipient of the RNZA Assn Annual Trophy for Outstanding Service

Note: The Citation as to why Sgt Brock was awarded this Trophy is on Page 2

### 1. LAST POST

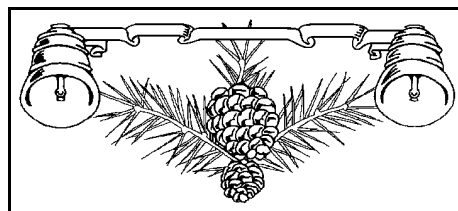


**11583 WO1 (Rtd)  
CUNNINGHAM Ian Herbert  
(Slim) RNZN and RNZA**

The Dunedin funeral service for recently passed 11583 WO1 (Rtd) Ian Herbert (Slim) Cunningham was well attended by former South Island gunners, regular and territorial. Slim's service was held on Oct 28 and he was in his early 80's. He initially joined the RNZN in the early 1950's and served in the gunnery branch both here and in Korea before joining the RNZA. He then went on to serve in Malaya as a Bombardier with the 'Originals' in that Battalion's mortar platoon. Later, during the 60's he served two tours in Vietnam as Battery Guide, (1965 and 1967). Here in NZ he continued to instruct gunners, officers and young, eager beaver cadets, in the fine and delicate craft of gunnery. (Sometimes, for a few of us, those teachings were accompanied by a well-aimed boot to the darker regions but one never forgot his lessons!) Slim was acknowledged for his good sense of humour, never bearing a grudge and for his knowledge and advice.

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Fittingly a number of people with Gunner affiliations passed on messages that were read at the service. Included were Tiny Hill who described Slim as his 'right-hand man' during the former's term as 161 Bty BSM and Graeme Black, who expressed his respect for Slim's knowledge and friendship. Graeme Henderson and Lox

Kellas were also on hand. Former RNZIR stalwart Fred Daniels read the RSA tribute. During the past four years Slim battled with the effects of a severe illness but, no surprise here, never complained. According to family his only comment when they enquired as to his health was, "Old age isn't what it's cracked up to be!" As an aside, for those who know Ethne, Slim's wife, she is well and was surrounded by her and her husband's supportive whanau. Go well Mr Cunningham. Much respect!

Article supplied by Pete Christian

**CASSIDY Gerald Joseph RNZA.** Gerald (Cass) passed away in Christchurch on 11 November 2011. Cass will be remembered by many Gunners as he worked for a number of years in the RNZA Directorate as the Chief Clerk.



## 2. NEW MEMBERS

**529086 Earle BARBARICH** RNZEME. Barby served in the NZ Army (RNZEME) from 1959 to 1980 and 1986 to 1988, touring South Vietnam with 161 Bty in 1969/70 as a member of Noel Evan's Echo Gun in addition to his EME tasks. During his service Barby worked on the RNZA guns (5.5, 25 pdr and 105mm). He and

Miriam live in Katikati.

**42091 Robin INWOOD.** Bob served the guns between 1965 and 1968, serving with 161 Bty in South Vietnam on No 1 Gun. He lives in Mid Canterbury.

The Association would also like to welcome the following Full Members who have joined following the Reunion in Christchurch:

David **BOLAN-SMITH** QSM. David served with 32 (B) Bty between 1981 and 1987.

Michael **BURKE.** Mike served with 3 Fd Regt for 17 years.

Peter **DUNNELL** Pete served with 161 Bty between 1968 and 1971.

William **OLSEN.** Bill served with 3 Fd Regt and 16 Fd Regt for 30 years.

Wayne **SEARLE.** Wayne served with 16 Fd Regt and 3 Fd Regt between 1969 and 1976.

Brian **SOPER.** Soaps served the guns between 1967 and 1987, including South Vietnam with 161 Bty in 1979 as a Bty Surveyor.

## REGIMENTAL MEMBERSHIP

We would like to welcome the following Officers and Warrant Officers to Regimental Membership of the RNZA Association:

Lt Col Matt WESTON, CO 16 Fd Regt  
Maj Dean GERLING 2IC 16 Fd Regt  
Lt Liam SHORT Adjt 16 Fd Regt  
WO1 Evan Kareko RSM 16 Fd Regt  
Maj Andrew FORTUNE BC 161 Bty  
WO2 Nick SHIELDS BSM 161 Bty  
Maj Dan SHERIDAN BC 163 Bty  
WO2 Myron Prendergast BSM 163 Bty  
Maj Kendall PEACOCK CI Sch of Arty  
WO1 Johnny WHEEL Master Gunner

Regimental Membership is free while the person fills their key Regimental appointment and it is hoped that they will continue as full members after leaving that appointment. We would like to wish them all the best in their command appointments.

## 3. CITATION FOR Sgt Patrick Thomas BROCK

Sgt Brock joined the British army in 1995 and served in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Sierra Leone. He transferred to the New Zealand Army in 2006 and was employed in 163 Bty as an FO assistant. He served in East Timor in 2008 and then in Afghanistan in 2010 and 2011 as a JTAC (Joint Terminal Attach Controller). He is currently employed as the BC ack of 163 Bty.

The Citation reads; Sgt Brock initially deployed on Operations in Afghanistan over the period March to October 2011 as a JTAC in support of 1 NZ SAS Gp. Within a week of returning to NZ after this deployment Sgt Brock was again warned out for service for the same mission he had just left, as they had identified the need for an additional JTAC. Within a period of approximately one week Sgt Brock organised his pre deployment training, travel, and all other admin for the deployment with minimal assistance and at some considerable financial cost to himself. In accepting the deployment he put aside both his personal and trade advancement needs to fill the operational requirement.

The short notice deployment saw him change his plans to spend time with his partner on an overseas holiday after his first deployment, and withdraw from the RNZA Staff Sergeants Course. It should be noted that both deployments were in a high stress environment, with Sgt Brocks role being a key one within the various operations. His reporting from both deployments was excellent and shows the high regard he is held in by 1 NZ SAS Gp.

Comments included:

"... was required to work long hours in a confined environment, often with little sleep and spare time. He maintained a positive, amicable attitude and maintained key relationships with supporting agencies."

"... showed good organisation and was calm throughout, ensuring there was no confusion and was integral to the

successful conduct of the operation."

"... has been a key element within the HQ."

Sgt Brocks performance and selfless acceptance of the second short notice deployment shows his dedication to the NZDF, NZ Army, and Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery. His cool head on stressful operations has set a high benchmark within 1 NZ SAS Gp for Gunner operators and has raised the profile of what Gunners can provide on operations.

#### 4. REPORT FROM COL COMDT

Firstly, Season's Greetings to Association members, all gunners, readers, family and friends. I hope you have a restful and enjoyable Christmas season and a successful 2012. On behalf of all gunners we particularly wish those on operations and in other overseas posts a secure and successful year, and a safe return home.

The Guns have had a busy quarter. The Regiment has been completing its training year with a series of exercises at battery and regimental level, culminating in a regimental Sports week at Burnham towards the end of November. During the period a good deal of those Army personnel you saw cleaning up the Rena oil spill were from the gun batteries.

The end of the year has seen a Regimental reorganisation with the soldiers and mortars of 39 Battery in Burnham amalgamated back into the two Regular Force gun batteries of the Regiment in Linton. This will give the gun batteries a nominal strength of around 100 each with an operational requirement to be able to deploy six guns or 12 mortars. 11/4 Battery has returned to the Regiment as the third gun battery.

The annual Regular Force posting cycle is now on with a range of new appointments in the Regiment from the Commanding Officer down, and preparations starting for the next round of operational deployments into specialist Gunner roles on active service.

Highlights for the Col Comdt include visits to 39 Battery as they worked up in Burnham and Tekapo for their final exercise, including simultaneous live firing of small arms and mortars at both the FO end and the mortal base plate position.

The RNZA Association weekend in Christchurch was superbly well-organised and well worth attending. Congratulations to the Southern Gunners. It will shortly be Wellington's turn.

The first weekend in December included a Corp Review Board (an update on organisational and equipment matters in the RNZA), a regimental dining night where there were a number of long service awards to present, senior and long serving gunners to farewell and a farewell to Brig Graham Birch from the Regiment.

This was followed by a quick visit to the 3 Auck & North Bn Charter Parade in Auckland for the change in command from the battalion to the Regiment of 11/4 Battery, and a same day trip back to Linton for the Saturday night 16 Field Regiment all ranks Ball. The Monday included a Regimental parade for the formal handover of commanding officers, and presentation of long service and operational medals within the Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Matt Boggs was farewelled with a

rousing regimental haka. This was followed by a Regimental lunch. The Association was represented at the parade by a number of local members.

I cannot go without mentioning the Auckland Charter Parade. The parade was led by the RNZA Band followed by a colour gun and a dismounted troop from the Battery, followed by the battalion. It was a typical Auckland day – hot and sticky – and a typical Auckland performance. The Mayor was about 20 minutes late – fortunately the Col Comdt was able to suggest to the master of ceremonies as he had a Band on parade he could ask for some incidental music. There was some form of "bag lady" intent on writing rude notes to the soldiers in large letters on the pavement. Old ladies were fainting in the crowd and being attended to by ambulance. There was a group of Tinorangatira protesters chanting and waving flags and occasionally stomping up and down in front of the parade. In opposition, as the parade was near the Occupy Auckland site, there was also a group of anti-capitalist chanters and noisemakers. The Mayor arrived, the parade got under way, was successfully completed, and we all then adjourned for lunch.

All in all quite an interesting morning. Apart from the Col Comdt's wife coming up Queen Street to join her husband at the parade, and linking arms with the Col Comdt who was back on the footpath and saying something like "Hello Sailor", only to find, to the surprise of them both, that it was the wrong Colonel.

**Ubique. Merry Christmas  
& good luck to all Gunners for 2012.**

**Barry Dreyer, Col Comdt**

#### Christmas Greetings

The Association would like to say a special Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to the following gunners (and their families), who are serving overseas at this time:

WO1 Steve HARVEY (Sinai)

WO2 Richard CLUTTERBUCK (Timor)

Maj Dale PARKER (SUDAN)

WO1 Damon MITCHELL (Afghanistan)

We have sent Xmas cards to these gunners to let them know that we appreciate their service overseas at this very special time of the year.

#### **Santa visits 161 Bty in South Vietnam (1966)**



## 5. COL NICK GILLARD REPORTS IN FROM LONDON

Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday have just passed and much like our own ANZAC Day I get the impression that they become more important to the British public with each passing year. The impact of a constant stream of casualties from Afghanistan is evident on the news almost everyday. There are also numerous television documentaries and newspaper reports analysing all aspects of the campaign from the tactical to the strategic. Unlike in NZ, defence and security issues do have an influence on voters in the UK.

For the second year I was again privileged to attend Armistice Day in Ypres. This year there was a link to the 2012 Olympic games with special recognition being made to those Olympic athletes killed in Flanders. The IOC President, Jacques Rogge was present as was Princess Mathilde of Belgium. The service at the Menin Gate is always the finale of the day and again this year I had the honour of laying a wreath with the NZ Ambassador, Mr Vangelis Vitalis. Thousands turn out to pay their respects in appropriately cold and grey weather.

Our second parade of the weekend was in Sunderland. The North East is a region I have not visited before and it was a enjoyable and rewarding experience. The Remembrance Sunday parade is second in size to London. Over a 1000 service personnel paraded including a large contingent who had just returned from Afghanistan. The streets were lined with people who applauded every soldier, sailor and airman who marched by. Again it was fittingly cold and damp. The night before we had enjoyed a Remembrance Concert with the usual suspects performing - a Vera Lynn type singer, brass bands, pipers and cadet forces. It was a great night made better by the fact that most of the performers were not regular force personnel.

During the evening I had the opportunity to meet Mr Andy Gaio, a old RA gunner who knew Lt Col (Rtd) John Masters ONZM, MC in Borneo. Whilst Andy was saddened to hear of John's passing he was delighted to know that he had been awarded the ANZAC of the Year Award in 2010. I shall be passing all of my back copies of 'The New Zealand Gunner' to Andy and will send him my future copies once I have read them. Andy was just one of many British soldiers I met who have served with the Kiwi's and have fond memories of the experience.

On 22 April 2012 the Defence Adviser, Brig Lofty Hayward and I will be running the London Marathon. As well as achieving personal goals we wish to make a contribution to those charities supporting service personnel in the United Kingdom. Consequently we have sought and been successful in gaining golden bond entries on behalf of ABF The Soldiers Charity.

As you may be aware ABF The Soldiers Charity was formed in 1944 as the Army Benevolent Fund and since then has provided life time support to

servicing and retired soldiers and their families. Over the last two years there has been a rise of 30% in applications from soldiers who require financial assistance. Many of these have been as a result of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Given this it is projected that the current £7 million raised each year will need to increase to £15 million by 2015.

It is our wish whilst posted to London to assist in a small way towards meeting this challenge. Therefore it is our pledged undertaking to raise a minimum of £1600 each for the charity. But of course our ambition would be to exceed this by as much as possible. We would have liked to have run for a New Zealand charity but of course that isn't possible for the London Marathon so we have selected a cause that is close to our hearts.

Here's how you can help. At the bottom this report you will find my web address for the charity (via the authorised just giving web site). By logging on you will be able to make an official donation to our fund raising efforts. There is a running total to see how things are progressing. I have only just set up the web page so your donations will be among the first.

Absolutely anyone in the world can donate on Just Giving - the only requirement is a credit, debit card

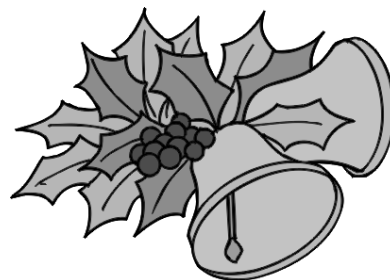
or a Pay Pal account. Donations are made in pounds sterling (£ GBP), so it might be useful to use a currency converter before donating. The rule of thumb is about 2 NZ\$ to 1 £. Once you know how much you would like to donate in GBP, you just enter this into the box under Enter an amount (for example, to donate £10, enter 10.00) and follow the donation process as normal.

Alternatively you can fill out the sponsorship form that I will send to Marie and provide it along with your cash / cheque donation to me at NZ House (Marie has the address). Cheques can be made out to ABF The Soldiers Charity. It's as simple as that. We would also request that you pass this on to your friends and colleagues and offer them the opportunity to support a worthy cause. Any small donation would be greatly appreciated and may I take the opportunity to thank you in advance for your generous and ongoing support.

[www.justgiving.com/Nick-Gillard](http://www.justgiving.com/Nick-Gillard)

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

**Lt Col Nick Gillard, Military Advisor,  
NZ Defence Staff London**





## **6. Minutes of the RNZA Assn (Inc) Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 13 November 2011 at 10.30am at Speight's Ale House, Bealey Ave, Christchurch**

**Present:** 31 members, list attached at the end.

**Apologies:** 14 members; Don Kenning, Frank Hopkinson, John (Woody) Barrett, Les Pye, Colin Stanbridge, Marie Roberts, Sherwood Young, Barry Cook, Bill Stewart, Joe Panoho, Jeff Waters, Graeme Henderson, Gary Pickering, Hugh Vercoe

**Previous Minutes.** The minutes of the previous meeting held in Taupo on 14 Nov 2010, having been circulated on Muzzleflashes in November 2010, and 1 Nov 2011, were accepted as being an accurate record; Moved Graham Black, Seconded Dave Weston. Passed.

**Presidents Report.** The President, Tony McLeod, presented the following report;

**WELFARE.** This year has seen three significant welfare initiatives.

**Operation Ubique** was initiated in response to the earthquakes in Christchurch in February. The Association organised a network of members outside of Christchurch who offered their homes for accommodation to anyone in Christchurch who may have needed to 'get away' for a while. This offer was communicated through 16 Fd Regt command channels, and via Muzzleflashes and the Newsletter. I would like to thank those members who offered their homes for accommodation, and especially to Judy Dreyer who volunteered to coordinate the operation. There is a saying that 'he also serves who only stands and waits', and this is what we did on this occasion, but the offer was real, and sincere and can be used as a model for support in the future.

The second initiative was the establishment of **the RNZA Reorganisation HR Transition Team**. In response to the upheaval caused by the Defence reorganisation in July, the Assn set up a team, of Human Relations experts (members) who volunteered to provide a days seminar/training to anyone who may have found themselves on the 'outward end' of the reorg. The plan was to provide advise on the practicalities of getting employment and assist in actual job placement. Our thanks go to John Botica, Travis Field and George Rooks for their willingness to help. This type of support will be an ongoing 'capability' of the Associations.

I must give special thanks to our Colonel Comdt, Colonel Barry Dreyer, who was instrumental in setting up these two major welfare initiatives, and who has been actively supportive in everything the Assn has done this year (including attending most c'ttee meetings!).

**The third welfare initiative** was to **formalise the structure of our welfare support on a regional basis**, and I must thank Mike Dakin (Northern), Lindsay Skinner (Central) and Pat Duggan (Southern) for their efforts. Our aim as an Association is not to duplicate the efforts of the RSA or VANZ or WINZ, but to keep our ears and eyes open for fellow members who's

welfare needs may have fallen through the cracks of these organisations, or whose cases may not have been properly handled by any of these agencies, and then to assist that member in getting the appropriate support. There are probably half a dozen of these type of cases being 'assisted' by the team at any one time.

**RNZRSA Affiliation.** The affiliation of the RNZA Assn to the RNZRSA was an important step in ensuring we keep in touch and have a formal voice in Veterans matters and I would like to thank those who have represented the Assn at the various meetings. A question in the House by Hon Ron Barker re progress on the Law Commission regarding Veterans rights was prompted by RNZA Assn query.

**Membership.** Our membership remains relatively static (around 350), with the number of new members about matching our attrition rate through older members passing away. Now that full membership of the Association is open to anyone who has worn a gunner cap badge for more than 3 months, we would hope to increase the membership figures dramatically. However we will only achieve this if we can become more relevant to the post Vietnam era of gunners.

I believe that we can achieve this through closer liaison with 16 Fd Regt; we could provide welfare support, including such things as Xmas cards to all gunners serving overseas, acknowledging promotions and awards of serving personnel in our newsletters, and then building up to transition advice and support for gunners moving to civvy street. However this closer liaison is made more difficult by the c'ttee being centred in Auckland and the Regt being based in Linton. It is a difficult problem, as the Association wishes to help, without becoming an extra administrative burden to the Regiment. However I see no reason why in the future we should not have 3000 members instead of 300.

**Activities through the year.** There have been many meetings of gunners throughout the year and throughout the country, but there are two of which I would like to make special mention. Hearty congratulations must go to **the Waikato Gunners** for their commemorative celebrations of 100 years since the establishment of K Battery in Hamilton. It was a great weekend, the physical gunner presence may not have survived in the Waikato for the full 100 years but the spirit certainly has. Hugh Vercoe, Barry Cooke, Graeme Black, Ted O'Brien and their team deserve our heartiest congratulations.

**Return to Vietnam.** I would like to make mention, and to thank, Mike Dakin for facilitating the tour to Vietnam in April. This event marked 40 years since the withdrawal of the Battery from South Vietnam, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the 18 strong group (members and families) who went. Mike refuses to accept credit for organising the trip, but it was his initiative which saw it happen. Thanks Mike.

**The Newsletter**; we continue to publish our 3 monthly newsletter, and this is the major expense of the Assn (about \$750 per issue). Marie Roberts continues to do sterling work as the editor of the newsletter and deserves special thanks. In the newsletter we are trying



Graeme Hutcheson, now 93, joined the Arty in 1937



"Skin" and Jill Frances



Graeme Hutcheson and Lt Col Matt Boggs out going CO 16 Fd Regt



Dining President Col Craig Ruane



Neil and Shelagh Rhynd



Josephine and Peter Baker



Adrienne Fraser and Trevor Higginson



Emma and Bill Giles with Bill's Niece from England and Emma's Niece and her husband from Christchurch



Bob and Betty Kerslake



WO2 Aaron Taylor BSM 39 Mortar Bty, Sgt P Brock 16 Fd Regt and Greg Thwaite



Dawn, Earl and Trevor Pilcher



"The Odd Couple" - Graeme Black and Dennis Dwane

***A Selection of Photographs Taken at the RNZA Assn 2011 Reunion held in Christchurch***



Vinnie Munro, excellent after dinner speaker (RFU Referee)



Col Comdt Barry Dreyer, Sgt Brock and Tony McLeod



Kim McGrath, President AA Assn



Newly promoted LBdr HEHJ Marsh RNZA



WO2 Aaron Taylor, Tony McLeod, Mike Dakin and Sgt P Brock



“Tiny” Hill and Bob Kerslake



Attendees at the RNZA Assn AGM



Wreaths that had been laid at the Commemorative Service



Our “ Aussie Mates” at the Remembrance Day Service



A group of “current gunners”



Ex 3 Fd Regt CO and Adjt Fred Goodall and Bob Barker



The happy and willing Cadets from No 17 Squadron, City of Christchurch

to maintain a selection of *historical articles* from across the ages, so that we do not forget the efforts and feats of those who have served in the RNZA in the past. We are also trying to link those historical articles with a relevant date, e.g. commemorating centennial links with WW1 actions, 70 year links with WW2, 60 year links with Korea, 50 year links with Vietnam. I must pay special tribute to our RNZA historian Brig Graham Birch, whose efforts in providing these articles is invaluable (as well as handling the many personal historical queries which are addressed to the Assn throughout the year). However we would like more articles from 'those who were there', especially now that the Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> commemorations are nearly upon us. The era since Vietnam is just about a forgotten era from the gunner point of view, and yet during this period (up until now) we have had gunners serving in lots of different peacekeeping and operational environments – just take a look at the medals our more recent gunners are wearing. We want input from all of these gunners. I would like to pay special thanks to Lt Col Nick Gillard and Lt Col Matt Boggs who continue to write reports for each of our newsletters.

**MuzzleFlashes** is our main communication tool, but sometimes I wonder how many members and others know of its existence. Mike Dakin launched the blogsite about 4 years ago and Kerry Lee continues as our blogmaster and I would like to thank each of them for their ongoing unheralded work. However have you noticed how the level of activity on the blog fluctuates, and now generally in a downward trend. This in part reflects the 'real' level of membership participation, rather than just a few people generating a lot of input. So if you are disappointed about the amount of activity, write in, don't just complain.

**Facebook.** We are thankful to Colin Jansen for launching our Facebook page, and we are encouraged to see that after a slow start where Colin had to generate the bulk of the input, there is now a 'mild' level of participation (about 80 members). Facebook and Muzzleflashes will become increasingly more important tools for communication for the Assn.

**RNZA Trophy.** It was my great pleasure last night to be able to make the inaugural presentation of the RNZA Assn Trophy to the 'RNZA Assn Gunner of the Year'. Sgt Patrick Brock, is the inaugural recipient and he has done the RNZA proud by his attitude and commitment to service. The purpose behind the Trophy is to help foster relationships between the Assn and the serving gunners, and I'm sure it will serve this purpose admirably.

**16 Field Regt personnel changes.** May I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing CO of 16 Field Regt, Lt Col Matt Boggs and the RSM WO1 Steve Harvey for their support to the Assn over the past 3 years, and wish them all the best in their next postings. I would like to welcome the incoming CO Lt Col Matt Weston and RSM WO1 Evan Kareko, and we look forward to strengthening our relationship over the next 3 years.

**Regional Reps/ Committee at Large.** As we move forward and try to make the Assn more relevant, the

role of the Regional Rep will become even more important. I must pay tribute to Jerry Meyer, Graham Black, Denis Duane and Lindsay Skinner, whose long term commitment and input is invaluable to an Association like ours. We have now spread the net a little wider and I would like to thank Tom Roche in Palmerston North and Skin Francis, Pete Dawson and Paul O'Connor in Christchurch, who have given great support this year, and who will have increasingly important roles to play in the coming years as we try to make the 3000 membership target a reality.

**Committee.** I would like to thank those members who gave up their time throughout the year to be on your committee, Joe Panoho, Mike Dakin, Colin Jansen, John Botica, Bill Stewart, Jeff Waters, Bob Kerslake and Denis Schofield the Artillery Band bandmaster. We meet at the Birkenhead RSA every two months, and would welcome any input from members throughout the year. The c'ttee is there to try to help facilitate gunner activities, and will never stand in the way of gunners trying to meet with other gunners, regardless of any sub-group organisation. Where sub-groups exist, we would love them to operate under the overall 'umbrella' of the RNZA Assn structure, by using our newsletter, blogsite and facebook to help communicate their activities.

**Administration.** We have now changed from a spreadsheet based system to myob as our administrative and accounting tool. This means that there will be a slight realignment of duties between the secretary and the treasurer (who have been the one person for many years anyway) and I would like to thank John Botica for his efforts as assistant treasurer and for the transition to myob. My aim as president is to make sure that not too much burden falls upon one person; we share the load.

**Future.** What does the future hold for the Assn. I am convinced that our future depends on becoming more relevant to the 'whole' gunner community. This will occur through greater use of our communication tools (Blog and Facebook) by a wider group of members, and establishing close and relevant links with the serving gunners. It will not be easy, to become more relevant) but with small steps in the right direction and a little bit of that very real 'gunner spirit', we will get there.

**Financial Position, Treasurers Report.** The Treasurers report as tabled by the Treasure Tony McLeod, and attached), was accepted.

#### **Election of Officers**

**President.** Tony McLeod was elected as President for 2012. Proposed Barry Dreyer, Seconded Bob Kerslake, Passed

**Secretary/Treasurer.** Trevor Higginson volunteered for this position and John Botica has already agreed to perform these duties. Both these members are thanked for their offers, and specific allocation of duties will be determined by agreement. Proposed Bob Kerslake, Seconded Mike Dakin, passed

**Committee** The following existing members were re-elected to the committee; Mike Dakin, John Botica,



Denis Schofield, Colin Jansen. Proposed Graham Black, seconded Dave Weston, Passed

The following members were elected as new c'ttee members; Greg Thwaite, Trevor Higginson. Proposed Bob Kerslake, seconded Mike Dakin, passed  
The meeting would like to thank those committee members who are stepping down, and thank the new members for their offer to contribute.

**Regional Reps/C'ttee at large:** The following members were elected to be the c'ttee at large/Regional Rep; Brian Jerry Meyer (Aust), Graeme Black (Waik), Lindsay Skinner (Wgtn), Dave Weston (Wgtn), Tom Roche (Mwtu), Skin Frances (Canterbury), Bill Olsen (Otago), Jeff Waters (Sth Auck), Bob Kerslake (Sth Auck). Proposed Robert Barker, Seconded Denis Dwayne, passed

**Bank Signatories:** The President and Treasurer are approved signatories of the Assn accounts. Proposed Trevor Higginson, Seconded Neil Rhynd, Passed  
**Newsletter;** Marie Roberts has agreed to remain on as Editor. Passed

**Muzzleftashes;** Kerry Lee has agreed to remain on as Blogmaster. Passed

**Subscriptions.** Remain at \$20.00. Proposed Mike Burke, Seconded Denis Dwane, Passed

**Honorarium.** Remain at \$500.00. Proposed Mike Burke, Seconded Denis Dwane, Passed

#### **General Business**

1. **Thanks for Support.** As a Christchurch resident, Brian Soper thanked the visiting members for their support.
2. **Gunner Database.** Brian Jerry Meyer offered his data base of 161 Bty names for use by the Assn. It is believed that this list is already in the Assn database, but will be checked. Action Sec.
3. **Muzzleftashes.** There was total support for the blog, and its ongoing usage is to be encouraged by all gunners.
4. **Wreaths.** The meeting felt it would be appropriate for the Assn to lay wreaths on ANZAC Day at the main centres, and minor centres where enough gunner presence warranted. Action. C'ttee 2012.
5. **Govt Superannuation Assn.** James Horne spoke to the advise ability of joining the Govt Superannuation Assn, and will provide details on Muzzleftashes.
6. **Historical items.** Barry Dreyer briefed the meeting on the need for appropriate processing of historical files/photos/records to ensure important historical information is not lost. He is currently working through RNZA Assn data, with some significant 'original' material discovered. Pete Dawson expressed some concern at the inability to access gunner historical matter originally belonging to 3 Fd Regt. Barry Dreyer urged that anyone coming across such information should send it through 16 Fd Regt HQ, where it may be held until such time as it can be

examined and processed to the best location.

7. **Thanks to the organising C'ttee.** Skin Frances, Pete Dawson, Paul O'Connor and their wider organising team were thanked for their outstanding efforts in organising the Reunion. Pete Dawson's enthusiasm and dedication permeated all the planning and communication, and was the significant factor in achieving such a good level of attendance.

**Next AGM.** The location of the next Reunion was the subject of some discussion. The value to the wider network of gunners in holding the reunion around the country rather than just in Taupo was widely agreed upon. The suitability of Taupo as a location, other than for historic reasons, was questioned from an access viewpoint. It was agreed that the reunion should be held around the country and a 3 to 4 year cycle established. The locations agreed upon for the coming years are as follows;

**2012.** Upper North Island (preferably in conjunction with major celebrations of Remembrance Day (Sunday 11 Nov 2012), possibly Papakura/Auckland City Remembrance Day

**2013;** Lower North Island, possibly Wellington, or PN in conjunction with 16 Fd Regt,

**2014;** Taupo?

**2015;** Christchurch. (In conjunction with opening of proposed new ChCh RSA).

The meeting closed at 11.30hrs.

Those attended the RNZA Assn AGM were;  
Peter BAKER, Robert BARKER, Graeme BLACK, David BOLAND-SMITH, Doug BOYCE, Mike BURKE, Mike DAKIN, Peter DAWSON, Barry DRYER, Dennis DWANE, Brain FRANCES, Emma GILES, Bill GILES, Trevor HIGGINSON, Jim HORN, Bob KERSLAKE, Kerry LEE, Mayne MASON, Kim McGRATH, Tony McLEOD, Brian EYER< Paul O'CONNOR, Bill OLSEN, Trevor PILCHER, Neil RHYND, Tom ROCHE, Wayne SEARLES, Ted SHEARS, Bob SMITH, Brian SOPER< Greg THWAITE, Dave WESTON.

#### **Condolences**

The President and Members of the RNZA Assn extend their condolences to our Patron Col (Rtd) Don Kenning on the loss of his dearly loved and loving wife and best friend Noeline, who passed away suddenly on Tuesday 11 October 2011. Noeline, Reg # 725, was a 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer WRNZS.

#### **Hurricanes Rugby**

This statement expalins all!!

"You guys line up alphabetically by height." and "You guys pair up in groups of three, then line up in a circle." **Colin Cooper - Hurricanes Head Coach**

**RNZA Assn = Treasurers Report 1 Oct - 30 Sept 2011**

We are now **\$3169.12** better off than we were at this time last year. Our income of \$12,025.80 is made up as follows:

**INCOME** **\$12,025.80**

Subscriptions		\$4,660.00	
Q Store Sales		\$ 222.50	
Welfare Donations			
	Excess Subs	\$ 63.25	
	AM Masters	\$ 40.00	
	A Lister	\$100.00	
	NZ Def (Vets Reunion)	\$310.00	\$ 513.25
173d AB 17 Members @\$20			\$ 340.00
Reunion 2010, a breakeven position			\$4,788.00
Interest Received, TD's and Savings Account			\$ 847.05
Sundry	Admin Donation, MYOB, ARM	\$ 525.00	
	Unknown Subs	\$ 60.00	
	Balancing Figure	\$ 40.00	\$ 655.00

**EXPENDITURE** **\$ 8,856.68**

Honoraria ARM Reimb for MYOB (+\$25)		\$ 500.00	
Printing and Stationery Newsletter		\$1,963.72	
Postage Newsletter		\$ 465.25	
Q Store		\$ 12.00	
Reunion 20120 Breakeven		\$4,712.70	
173 AB Xfr from 00 Ac to 173 Ac (17 @ \$14)		\$ 238.00	
Bank Fees		\$ 35.90	
General Expenses			
	MYOB	\$525.00	
	Donation to Dolores Ho	\$100.00	
	Charities Comm Ret	\$ 51.11	
	RNZA Trophy Refurb	\$253.00	\$ 929.11

**INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE** **\$ 3,169.12**

Our **Total Cash Funds** of \$25,752,34 are held as follows:

Cheque Account	\$ 223.67	
Term Deposits	\$10,994.02	
On Line Call Acs	\$14,234.65	<b>\$25,752.34</b>

The 161 Bty Acc continues to accumulate bank interest \$6,315.07  
 The 173AB Account continues to accumulate subs \$2,092.71

RNZA Association

**SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2012 ARE NOW DUE**



Name.....		Paid
Subscription 2012	\$20.00	.....
Sub 173 <sup>rd</sup> AB	\$20.00	.....
Donation		.....
Total		.....

By Direct Credit; Ac # 38 9007 0694501 00  
 By Chq, to; Treasurer , PB 110107, Auckland Hospital, **Auckland 1148**

**Help to keep the Association running by paying promptly.**

## 7. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### (A) 31(B) Battery

I was a Gunner with the Territorial Artillery Battery 31 (B) Battery (since disbanded) in Dunedin for six years. Although I am not a member of the RNZA Association, I thought that you may be interested in these two pictures that I have sent as an attachment.

They were taken in about 1993 (I can't remember the exact year), when the Territorial units had a march through the main street of Dunedin, which ended with a review by the Mayor in the Octagon.



As Artillery is the senior unit within a regiment, the members of 31(B) Battery present were at the front of the parade. I am the soldier centre in the front rank.



The picture above, with the Dunedin Town Hall in the background was in the Otago Daily Times.

Article supplied by Stephen Bovett

### (B) Re Les Wright's article, page 6, Issue 151 of The NZ Gunner

Dear Bryan Meyer

Thanks very much for your emails and the Sept. Newsletter. I was indeed the LO, seconded from 4th Fd. for the final campaign to the staff of Brig. Queree. I worked under Maj. Stan Catchpole in the planning of Operation BUCKLAND, for which we coordinated the place of all the Allied Artillery units in what was one of the biggest concentrations of fire in WW2. Stan was a great gunner and Queree a no-nonsense CRA, and I well remember his first question of the

day to me -- "What's the form, Harris?", assuming I had already studied the latest reports!

At the end of the campaign I returned to the Regt. and was promoted to Capt. to command a Troop, since at this stage we were still expecting to join the Pacific War. All of course changed with the dropping of the bombs in August.

Perhaps it would be a good idea for me to join RNZAA.

Thanks again and best wishes, Bruce Harris.

### Les Wright replies to Bruce Harris

Delighted to have your signal and to know that, thanks to the modern age of electronic wonders, someone else in 'the photograph' is still about sixty six years later. My memory let me down for I could remember your first name nor initials, when I was doing the caption. Thanks to Brian Meyer's keen observation I am able to say 'Hello' to you again. Of your colleague attachments, Wally Stenberg is in Whangarei, I lost the whereabouts of Tom Haughey about 5 years ago and Wilson I never tracked. The others Tom Chapman, Jack McSkimming, Ned Webber and Padre Marlowe are all gone. I am located at Castor Bay Auckland with my wife. Your CO Terry Nolan died last year - 92. Apart from a 'Gnr' Stan Henderson (93), with whom I play snooker on Tuesdays, I am not aware of any other 4 Fd members.

Best wishes, Les Wright

### (C) Memories from Korea

My unit 52nd was reinforcing the fire of the 16th. The 16th was in direct support of the British 27th Commonwealth Brigade. The brigade crossed the Chongchon River in their drive to take the city of Chongju North Korea. The unit was on west coast road in the drive toward the Yalu River. Just found this in one of my note books. It was dated 27-30 October 1950. Just wanted to say hi to the 16th and remember where we were on the above dates sign 40 yards

james w bolt at [jbolt3337@charter.net](mailto:jbolt3337@charter.net)

### (D) Editor Seeks

The Editor has had mail returned for the following and seeks help with a current address for them:

DS Ashley - Rotorua  
BM Atkinson - Napier  
AA Boyd - Blenheim  
J Hankey - Whangarei  
M Maunsell - Morrinsville  
W Rattray - Hastings  
WF Robson - Masterton

Many Thanks, Merry Christmas, and a very happy  
New year to You All  
Marie J Roberts Editor

*Behind the Lines: The Editors Page*

**Patron** Colonel (Rtd) Donal R Kenning MBE 06 358 2840  
**Colonel Commandant** Colonel Barry Dreyer 09 307 5692

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

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

**Secretary/Treasurer** Trevor Higginson 029 4782476  
PB 110107 [rnza.association@gmail.com](mailto:rnza.association@gmail.com)  
Auckland Hospital  
**AUCKLAND 1148**

**Committee;** John Botica (Asst Treasurer) Mike Dakin (Vice President)  
Colin Jansen (Asst Sec Facebook Mgr) Greg Thwaite  
Dennis Schofield (Co-opted, NZA Band) Jas Singh (Co-opted, 11/4 Bty)  
Bill Stewart

**Committee Members at Large;**  
Graeme Black (Waikato) Brian Jerry Meyer (Australia)  
Bob Kerslake (Auckland) Jeff Waters (Auckland)  
Tom Roche (Manawatu) Roger Newth (Horowhenua)  
Dave Weston (Wellington, RNZRSA Del) Lindsay Skinner (Wellington)  
Brian (Skin) Frances (Upper Sth Island) Bill Olsen (Lower Sth Island)

**Welfare Officers;** Northern; Mike Dakin 021 0785850  
Central; Lindsay Skinner 027 5303319  
Southern; Pat Duggan 021 02615773

**The NZ Gunner Editor;** Marie Roberts 07 3484659  
PO Box 5118  
**ROTORUA WEST 3044** [dgroberts@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dgroberts@xtra.co.nz)

**Blogmaster;** Kerry Lee [muzzleflashes.blogspot.com](http://muzzleflashes.blogspot.com)

**Website;** Angus and Catherine Rivers [riv.co.nz/rnza/](http://riv.co.nz/rnza/)

**RNZA Historian;** Brig (Rtd) Graham Birch MBE

**Facebook Site;** <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=209704013801>

**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.

**Newsletter by Email:** In order to save the Association money, please consider receiving your newsletter by email. Please notify the secretary at [rnza.association@gmail.com](mailto:rnza.association@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:dgroberts@xtra.co.nz)

**New Members:** New members are most welcome. **ALL** Gunners with a minimum of **3 months "Gunner" service** 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 [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:** [rnza.association@gmail.com](mailto:rnza.association@gmail.com)

**Items for The NZ Gunner to Marie at:** [dgroberts@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dgroberts@xtra.co.nz)

**RNZA Assn Bank Ac #** 38 9007 0694501 00