



# The New Zealand Gunner

*Official Journal of the*

**Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)**

Founded 1934

Issue # 156

Dated December 2012

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Dear fellow gunners

2012 has been a significant year for the Association as it moved to re-establish its relevance for both past and serving gunners. The details are included in my report to the AGM on 10 November (later in this newsletter) so suffice to say at this point that it is just the start, and the committee of 2013 will work to build on this foundation work. Our four aims for next year will be to 1) reconnect with the WW2 and K Force gunners, 2) maintain our relevance to the Vietnam era gunners, 3) establish contact with the forty years worth of gunners since Vietnam, 4) establish relevance for the serving gunners.

Now that Full Membership is FREE, and automatic once a gunner has served in the Regiment for more than 3 months, we must use this change as a tool for strengthening our welfare/social networks and not just continue to do business as usual. The environment is now right to increase our charitable works within our own organisation (charity begins at home), and we can only do this by strong and active networks throughout the country. The website is our means of communicating with the world, but primarily it is a tool for us to use to help us to associate. So please get in behind your District Coordinators and make the networks in your District a viable means of spreading camaraderie and fellowship.

We often say the phrase `Lest we Forget`, but let's make sure we put that into practice and remember to help those who may be in need of a bit of company, a social chat, or just a phone call. I make this plea directly to our younger members, for action towards our older members.

I would like to thank all those who attended the reunion in Browns Bay over Armistice weekend;

it was a memorable occasion with Prince Charles dropping in, and I know from the feedback that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Please plan now to support the next reunion to be held in Linton/Palmerston North in Oct/Nov 2013.

Best wishes to you all for a wonderful Xmas

**Tony McLeod, President RNZA Assn**

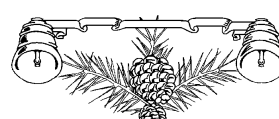
### **\*\*\* Mike Dakin Made Life Member of the RNZA Assn**

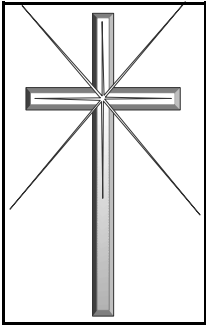
Mike Dakin rewarded for his work for the RNZA Association. (For details see Page 7)



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## 1. LAST POST

F920696 **SINCOCK** Lawrence Robert MBE, , WO RNZA, passed away peacefully on 28 November 2012, at Hamilton. aged 80 years.

**49280 MCADAM**, Francis Hardy. WWII NZ Army 17th and 6th Field Regt. NZ Artillery. Passed away peacefully on 1 November 2012 at Redwood Hospital; in his 93rd year

462698 **SMITH**, Ronald Jack (RJ). WO2 RNZA. Aged 77. Passed peacefully at home on 23 October 2012 surrounded by his family, after a bravely fought battle. As Ron wished, a private family service has been held.

730920 **McELROY**, George passed on peacefully early Monday morning, 15 October 2012. George served with 161 Bty, SVN in 1971 on No 4 Gun. His Commemorative Service was held at the Anglican Church, Queen and Wesley St, Pukekohe on Friday 19 October 2012 at 1300 hrs, attended by family, friends and comrades.

206663 **BYRON**, Arthur George Albert (also known as Arthur Albert George **Byron**), 16th New Zealand Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery, D Troop, 162 Battery Korean War

4170/3319 **DIXON**, Peter John NZD Lt RNZNVR (Air) WW; 1 Capt & QM RNZA, RF 1949-1972 Died at Wellington Hospital on 8 Sep 2012, at 90 years of age. Husband of Azela, father of Adelaide and John, grandfather of 4.

U30723, Maj Gen **REID**, Piers Martin , formerly of Logistics Support Element, deployed to Vietnam with 161 Bty June 1965, and later Chief of the General Staff, NZ Army. Died Arohanui Hospice, Palmerston North 2 Oct 2012. Father and father-in-law to Justine and Carlin, and James and Chantelle, grandfather of Holly, Jessie, Jacob and Caitlyn.

60610 Bdr **HANCOCK**, Albert Edward (Bert) , 25 Bty, 4 Fd Regt, 2NZEF. Bert HANCOCK died at Johnsonville, 3 Oct 2012. Father of Frances and grandfather of Andrew Mulcahy.

**McCONACHIE**, Doug died at home on Sunday 23 Sep at age 81, surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife Hazel, his son and two daughters. Doug's funeral was held at Terracehaven Chapel, 697 Main St, Palmerston North, at 1300 hrs Friday 28 Sep 2012.

## 2. 16 Fd Regt PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Sgt Purvis who was promoted on 27 Sept 12

## 3. REPORT FROM COL COMDT

I thought it opportune to outline where we are at as a Corps in a number of areas where there have been changes in the last year or so, or where there is likely to be change in the future. This is to serve as a background for readers and to seek any comment or guidance you may wish to give me.

I have broken down the update into notes on the Regiment, the Band, the new Heritage Trust, the RNZA collection in the Kippenberger Library, the Association, the Website, the Professional Journal, trophy guns, and the 161 Battery rock.

### 16 Field Regiment

Given the changes in the Army, the Regiment is in good shape. Regular Force manning sits at about 230. The annual intake of officers is usually between four and six and there are around 50 new recruits scheduled for 2013.

The gun numbers are little different from those that we are all familiar with. I try to spend as much time as I can with each of the batteries as they go on exercise. Earlier in the year I had a couple of days as an ammunition number on one of the guns in Waiouru. The gunners are quick into action, proud of their abilities, and as jovial as ever, while retaining the ability to produce edible food under the most trying circumstances.

The Regiment gets plenty of ammunition for live firing both their guns and mortars. Quick fire plans that I have seen had 17 or 20 rounds fire for effect as part of a two or three target fire plan. A lot of work is put into infantry/artillery co-operation and there are usually six or so live firing exercises each year involving a company and a battery combined arms live firing.

The TF are in reasonable shape with the Auckland based 11/4 Bty now back in 16 Fd Regt with an identical establishment to the RF batteries, although none are manned to scale. 11/4 Bty has just returned to Auckland a couple of weeks ago from its first LSP in a number of years.

Regiment is also looking at establishing a TF gun troop covering Wellington and Linton.

You will be aware that contact was remade with the US Marine Corps earlier this year when about 20 USMC gunners joined the regiment for a few weeks, including a live firing field exercise. Coincidentally this was the same US Marine Regiment that worked with 16 Field Regiment about a month before the Battle of Kapyong and during the third battle of the Hook in Korea.

In the last few weeks the regiment has had a detachment away with a Canadian field regiment on the east coast of Canada, a command post team in Singapore on a divisional command post exercise, and they are working on an exchange back with the US Marine Corps in Hawaii next year. Plans are underway for some exchange work with the Australians once they have withdrawn from Afghanistan next year.

The current guns are about halfway through a full rebuild to take their life out to 2030. This will

satisfy Government's Defence White Paper which requires the ability to deploy a combined arms task group anywhere in the South Pacific, operating independently from our allies, if necessary.

### **The Band**

You will be aware that the Band was disestablished at the end of July this year. With the blessing of Chief of Army, the RNZA has signed a Heads of Agreement with the Band which allows them to retain their uniforms, military embellishments, name and association with the Regiment in return for recompense from Defence when they are engaged on military activities. The Agreement was put in place on Saint Barbara's Day, 4 December 2012.

Of course this is not an ideal situation but with the present restraints was inevitable. The Band remains in good shape. They have good playing numbers, a younger group of bandsmen, and own their own building, instruments, and music library.

The relationship between Band and Regiment will have to be worked on by both parties, but with perseverance and goodwill I am sure we will continue to see the Band prosper as a gunner entity.

### **The RNZA Heritage Trust**

We have formed a charitable trust to locate, record, own and manage all of what we used to call unit private property. This covers everything from Mess silver through to archival records and trophies. The major collection is held in the Regimental Museum at RHQ in Linton.

Apart from the Territorial Force 11/4 Battery in Auckland, all of the Regiment including the School is in Linton. Regimental property however remains quite well spread out throughout the country in various stores and messes.

We need to ensure that all this property remains owned by the RNZA regardless of what happens to RNZA units in the future.

Permanent trustees are those in the appointments of Colonel Commandant, Regimental Colonel of the RNZA, Commanding Officer 16 Field Regiment, RSM 16 Field Regiment, and the President of the RNZA Association.

The trust has a number of other Regular Force and retired gunners as trustees, who have an interest in heritage. The trust is under the chairmanship of Graham Birch. The trust's work is already underway.

### **The RNZA Collection**

The collection of mostly reference and historical artillery books that was held by the Directorate was loaned to the National Army Museum when the Kippenberger Library was first being established. The collection is an extensive and valuable collection of books. The RNZA also had a large glass enclosed and rimu bookcase built to house the collection. The collection has been added to in the last few years by Artillery families such as the Burns, Roberts and Hassetts, and others.

The Museum and Kippenberger Library are now at the stage where most of the books in the Artillery Collection are surplus to their requirements as they have multiple copies of those particular books. In addition, with the Army Schools having been shifted away from Waiouru, and the pending move of the Officer Cadet School away from the camp, the Artillery Collection is rarely used.

We have agreed that the books the Museum wish to keep – 104 books, about 20% of the collection – will be donated by the RNZA to the library. As the bookcase is purpose-built for the site, that will also be donated, with an appropriate plaque attached.

The remaining 339 books will return to the Regimental Museum in Linton and be owned by the Heritage Trust.

### **The RNZA Association**

The Association – what was the Old Comrades Association – has been very active under the leadership of the late Frank Hopkinson and now Tony McLeod. The aim is to work more closely with the Regiment in terms of supporting their activities as much as possible, and to engage the serving and younger gunner communities in the Association.

Membership of the Association is now open to anyone who has worn the RNZA badge for three months – the length of the current basic gunnery recruit course. The Association is closely involved in the Heritage Trust, relieving the CO and his team from management of the unit private property and providing a curator for the Regimental Museum.

The Association has also initiated a mentors' program where each newly commissioned young officer will be assigned an experienced and retired officer as a mentor for any matters the young officer wishes to initiate. The latest crop of three young officers are in the process of meeting their mentors now. We want to extend this to newly promoted senior NCOs as well.

The Association is also looking at some form of resettlement assistance for soldiers, NCOs and officers transitioning out of the Army.

There are a range of other activities between the Regiment and the Association which will continue to develop a closer relationship. They are also building stronger links with the likes of KVA and the Artillery Officers Club, and local WWII gunner groups.

### **The Association Website**

The Association has just launched a new website. You can get there at: [www.rnzaa.org.nz](http://www.rnzaa.org.nz). The website will be the central focus and communication tool for gunners in New Zealand. It will include the content of Gus Rivers' website so the historical content is not lost.

There is quite a bit more work to do on the website, mostly developing content around current and proposed activities, and the history records. The Association team is managing the development of this.

If you are computer savvy, you should also

have a look at the Association Facebook page which has around 250 active members – a few more active than the rest. This is where the current news and stories are held and where photos are captioned and pictures identified. You should be able to get to the site by doing a search for Royal New Zealand Artillery Association in the Facebook search menu, or by going direct to: [www.facebook.com/#!/groups/RNZAA/](http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/RNZAA/).

### Professional Journal

As part of the website, we have launched a Professional Journal for gunners. We have started with two articles: the first looking at the strategic position in the South Pacific for the next 15 to 20 years, and concentrating on the relationship between China and the United States; and, the second on The Defence White Paper and the Defence Capability Plan, and where the artillery might fit into that over the next 20 or so years. The third paper should be up on the site in the next couple of weeks, together with a paper discussing the future of Artillery in the Australian Army.

You can get to the Professional Journal from the appropriate menu on the Association website.

It may be that we will need to separate the Professional Journal away from the website so that it is stand-alone and more easily accessible on the Internet - time will tell as we measure its readership.

The aim of the Journal is to develop arguments that will ensure reasoned and widely accepted views on the continued employment of artillery and other RNZA capabilities into the future.

### Trophy Guns

With the demise of the Directorate and the shift of all support activities to Defence, the “ownership” of trophy guns shifted to a staffer in Defence HQ. Additionally, the DRNZA records of where these guns were located have been lost.

Defence have been allocating guns based on a list of requests they hold, on a first in basis. This meant for instance that the L5 held by the now defunct New Plymouth RSA was to be allocated to another town which happened to have asked for a gun before anyone else, rather than staying in New Plymouth under the care of the Council, which is the wish of the RNZA.

We have been able to re-establish at least some influence with Defence over where these guns go, based on them being our colours and that some of the guns (M2A2s for instance) are still subject to end-user certificates. Defence will now seek endorsement of each allocation from the Regimental Colonel RNZA.

### The 161 Battery Rock

In Tiny Hill's day as BSM he had the 161 Battery insignia and gunner badge painted on a rather large rock near the entrance to the Battery position at Nui Dat. This rock is still there and with faint red, blue and gold paint marks still on it. A project was initiated looking at bringing the rock back to the 161

Battery lines in Linton as a memorial.

We now have a sponsor who will recover the



rock, put it in a shipping container, and get it back to New Zealand. There is another sponsor who will fund a suitable bronze plaque. It now remains to get the permission of the Vietnamese government to bring the rock back to New Zealand. I am about to initiate work with MFAT to make suitable connections at government to government level to get the required permissions.

This will take some time. However, I think it would be a suitable centrepiece for the next 161 Battery Vietnam reunion in Linton on the 50th Anniversary of the initial deployment, some time in mid-2015.

### Funding

Times have not changed. The major issue facing us is funding those activities that are not directly funded by Defence. This covers a whole range of things from silver grenades, through presentations, to funding for the development of the Heritage Trust, and, not least the Band. While the RNZA Corps Fund still has about \$25,000 in it, funding from the Central Welfare Fund ceased a long time ago.

We make up the annual operating costs of the RNZA Corps Fund by levying the Regular Force soldiers on a fortnightly basis from their pay. We are continually looking for better and fairer ways of funding.

One of the methods we could use is funding through Wills, and I seek your comments and views on this.

The idea would be for those gunners that wish to, to have a clause in their will allocating either a percentage of net assets or a fixed sum to a registered charity set up by the RNZA. The aim of the charity would be to provide welfare support to gunners and their immediate dependents where required, and funding for RNZA activities that enhance the traditions, education, and wellbeing of gunners and the Regiment as a whole – or words similar to that.

We currently have funds in trusts or charities with the 16 Field Regiment UPF, the RNZA Corps Fund, the RNZA Association, and the RNZA Band Association. These total nearly \$100,000.

Annual operating costs excluding the Band total about \$12,000. There is no scope with the present funding for any development, and at our

present expenditure capital funds will be rapidly extinguished.

We will need to reduce our activities across the wider group of gunners unless we raise more capital.

The NZSAS set up a similar trust fund a few years ago and it has been built into a significant element of the NZSAS ethos and culture. As I understand it, the fund is sufficiently large to provide fee assistance at tertiary level for the children of any soldier who has served in the SAS. The SAS fund is of course centred on welfare for needy SAS soldiers and their families, and for the funding of unit activities and presentations, but it has a sufficiently large capital base to provide its significant operational funding from earnings.

This would be a nice place for the RNZA to be.

As I mentioned above, I would really appreciate your views. No need to write – an email or phone call would suffice (b.dreyer@clear.net.nz or 09 3075692)

Have a very good Christmas and a prosperous 2013.  
Ubique. Barry Dreyer. Colonel Commandant. RNZA.

### **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

Greetings and best wishes for the festive season and for 2013. We should particularly think of those gunners from the RNZA and sister regiments deployed on active service, and for those gunner families who have lost loved ones during the year, whether on operations or at home.

On behalf of all gunners, I would like to also congratulate the CO, RSM and all ranks of 16 Fd Regt and S of A, for a good year well done, with more to come in 2013.

We have received St Barbara's and Christmas greetings to all ranks RNZA from the Colonel Commandants and all ranks of the RAA and the RCA, and expect greetings from the RA in the next few days.

Greetings and festive season wishes on behalf of the RNZA have gone to our Captain General Her Majesty The Queen, the Master Gunner St James' Park, and the Colonel Commandants of the RAA and RCA.

Ubique and enjoy the Christmas period.

**Barry Dreyer, Col Comdt**

#### **4. REPORT FROM CO 16 Fd Regt, Lt Col Matt WESTON**

##### **End Of Mission- 2012**

The Regiment is about to go on leave following another busy year. In the last two weeks we have held several big social events, most notably the 16 Fd Regiment Ball which was a fantastic occasion. We were lucky enough to host Col Dreyer and Judy who were treated to some of NZ finest reggae and hiphop/rap acts (chosen by the Gunners!). Other events have included the traditional soldiers xmas

lunch and the Officers mess hosting the SNCOs and WOs (last night).

At last night's mess event I was pleased to challenge QAMR to compete for the Cordite Cup in 2013. The Cordite Cup has not been played for in a number of years and 16 Fd Regiment is the current holder. Sport has been resurgent within the Army over the last year as the pressure of operations has begun to ease and we are making the most of the opportunities. As you may know the Gunners are particularly strong at Rugby league with many gaining Army and NZDF representational honours this year. The lads have started training for the 2013 Linton Rugby 10 aside competition and I think we have a strong chance of winning. A notable sporting achievement was 161 Bty gaining 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Commander's trophy in 2012. The trophy is competed for by 17 sub units throughout the year and 161 Bty was absent in the field when many of the events were held.

As always at year end we experience the turbulence of the posting round. BC (Maj Fortune) and BSM (WO2 Shields) of 161 Bty have handed over to their successors whilst 163 Bty and the RHQ have experienced minimal change. Maj Kristian Dunne is posted to the School of Artillery as CI.

One of the significant outcomes of 2012 has been the re-integration of 11/4 Bty with the Regiment.

The Reserves training year was capped off in November by Exercise Belhamad, a live shell practise supported by 163 Battery. It's great to have our Territorial Gunners back in the fold.

As we wind up the year with functions and sport we must remember we still have Gunners deployed overseas. Our chaps have recently been involved in the intense operations in Afghanistan coordinating air support and providing surveillance via unmanned aerial systems. The Gunners have performed admirable work and acquitted themselves with real skill, fortitude and no small amount of bravery.

I hope you all have a happy xmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

**Ubique, Matt Weston, Lt Col CO 16 Fd Regt**

#### **5. Lt Col Nick GILLARD Reports In**

A short and final report from me. I am returning to New Zealand having concluded my three year posting to the New Zealand Defence Staff London. It has been a wonderful experience both professionally and personally. That said we are, as a family, glad to be heading back to New Zealand. My next posting is as Head of Strategy Management (Army) at Army General Staff. It should be a challenging posting. May I wish all Gunners a Merry Christmas and happy new year.

Regards, **Nick Gillard, Lt Col, Military Advisor. New Zealand Defence Staff, London**



## 6. A SUMMARY OF THE 2012 REUNION

**Friday Mix and Mingle:** Approximately 40 members and partners enjoyed good company, a beer, and the sun shining through the lounge windows at the Browns Bay RSA, before moving to the upstairs restaurant for a la carte dinner.

**AGM.** 36 members enjoyed the morning tea provided by the RSA (Ladies Division) and then attended the AGM, where:

- Brig (rtd) Graham Birch was welcomed as the new Patron of the RNZA Assn, Tony McLeod was re-elected President (unopposed), 4 sitting members and two new members were elected onto the committee.
- Three other members volunteered for the committee later in the weekend, and their offer was accepted immediately!
- The appointments of Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster, will be determined at the first committee meeting.
- The motion to make Full Membership automatic and free was passed unanimously, signalling the start of a new era for the RNZA Assn.
- **Mike Dakin** was elected as a Life Member of the RNZA Assn for all his work on the blog and web sites (in addition to his efforts as Secretary/Treasurer, and Vice President).
- Three senior members of the K Force Assn attended and announced that their Assn would probably be closed down next year (October 13).

Lunch was an informal affair in the RSA restaurant, after which about 20 members drove to North Head for a tour of the Gun Emplacements. Some were privileged to travel in Colin Jansen's WW2 Jeep, and their bruised backsides were testament to the joy experienced.

Semi-Formal Dinner. 85 members and partners sat



down to a great dinner, magnificently served by the North Shore Cadet Unit. The Toast to the Regiment was proposed by Dr Wayne Mapp (ex Minister of Defence), who reassured the audience that there 'probably' is a place for the artillery in the future. Diners were treated to background music by 'D Starlights' and everyone enjoyed the warm and friendly atmosphere of the evening.

The President presented the **RNZA Assn Trophy** to Bdr Andrew Smith, for best displaying the qualities expected of a gunner through 2012. (See Citation on page 9)

The Australian group - President Kim McGrath and his six fellow members - left the diners in awe when they presented the Assn with a magnificent banner, beautifully gilt embroidered with RNZA Assn name and badge.



### Armistice Day Service

Approximately 40 members attended the Armistice Day Service held at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Also in attendance at the service were HRH Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, the Prime Minister Mr John Key and Bronagh, and the Mayor of Auckland Mr Len Brown.

Tony McLeod laid a wreath on behalf of the RNZA Association. After the service HRH and the official party moved along the row of RNZA Assn members, shaking hands and chatting with many of them. Members were then invited to morning tea at the top floor of the museum.

A memorable weekend which paid tribute to the past, provided a sound building block for the future, and which everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed. Congratulations to the organisers and thanks to all the members who attended.





**7. RNZA ASSN CITITAIION  
Life Membership - Michael F Dakin**

Mike has been involved with the Association for many years, initially as Area Rep for the Bay of Plenty area, and then after moving to Auckland as Secretary/Treasurer and Vice President.

Mike was instrumental in setting up the blogspot MuzzleFlashes, and operated as the blog master for several years. He then set up the new RNZA Association website and has been its inaugural webmaster. Mike's contribution has been very significant in terms of establishing modern communication tools which will allow the Association to keep relevant going forwards, as well as providing a platform for the preservation of historical matters.

Mike was born and educated in Tasmania, moving to Patea in 1950. He joined the Territorial

Force (CMT) in 1953 and transferred to the Regular Force in 1956, as an instructor at CD Training Battery, Waiouru.

In 1957 CMT ended and Mike, along with other instructors, were redundant. Due to a shortage of officers, he was commissioned in 1961 and posted to 16 Field Regiment. He served in 161 Battery for a time before moving to Regimental Survey Officer then G3 HQ NMD, where he was shown how to write; and then to the School of Artillery.

He completed his Army career with a tour to Vietnam in 1966, with Kenning's and Honour's batteries as Capt FO.

**8. RNZA ASSOCIATION AGM MINUTES -  
10 November 2012**

Location: RSA Browns Bay, Auckland

Start Time: 1030 hrs

Chair: Tony McLeod

Minutes Secretary: Greg Thwaite

In attendance: Colonel Commandant Barry Dreyer;  
Brigadier Graham Birch (Patron)

Members: 37, per attached list

**1. Apologies**

Advance notice: Les Wright, Russ Martin, Clyde Stewart, Paul O'Connor, Skin Francis, Pete Dawson, Russ Baron, Lindsay Skinner, Barry Cook, Lyall McGregor, Darcy Bailey, Tom Roche, Robert Smith, Hugh Vercoe

From the floor: Graham Henderson, Margaret Burke, Joe Panaho, Bill Giles, Trevor Pilcher



Current and ex Military Attendees plus Guest Speaker at the 2012 Reunion Dinner

*The Editor apologises for the latest of this issue of The NZ Gunner, unfortunately there were computer problems. A very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all. Marie JR*

## 2. Last Post

The passing of the following was recorded:

Gunners: Frank McAdam, George McElroy, Ron Smith, Arthur Byron, Peter Dickson, Piers Reid, Bert Hancock, Walter McConachie, Isaac Ken, Tony Tikao, Colin Hepburn, Jim Elliott, James O'Meara, Joe Grey, Frank Parry, Frank Hopkinson

All serving soldiers killed in Afghanistan

The grandchildren of Ron and Jo Turner, who were tragically taken in Doha.

*We will remember them.*

## 3. Minutes of 2011 AGM

Motion 1 "The last AGM Minutes be approved". Tony McLeod/ Trevor Higginson. Voice vote in favour, no opposition.

## 4. President's Report

The President read his report (copy attached).

Motion 2 "The Report be accepted". Tony McLeod/ Barry Dreyer. Voice vote in favour, no opposition.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

The President provided an overview of the statements (copy attached), and the Treasurer was available for questions.

Motion 3 "The Report be accepted". Tony McLeod/ Bob Kerslake. Voice vote in favour, no opposition.

## 6. Patron

Colonel Kenning had wanted to step down, after 8 years. Brigadier Birch has accepted appointment as the new Patron.

## 7. Elections

President. Brigadier Birch took the chair. There being only one nomination, Tony McLeod was re-elected.

Secretary. No candidate.

Treasurer. No candidate.

Committee. John Botica, Mike Dakin, Robert Down, Colin Jansen, Peter Miles, Kemp Solomon, and Greg Thwaite accepted nomination. Voice vote in favour, no opposition.

The President recorded the continuing need for a webmaster.

## 8. Honorarium

Motion 4 "Honorarium for Secretary/Treasurer be \$500". Jeff Waters/ Danny McCort. Voice vote in favour, no opposition.

## 9. Amendment to Constitution and Membership

The President spoke in favour of the written Motion. He explained that it is anticipated that members will make a donation to the Association, in the region of \$20. A question arose as to whether the changes complied with the statute. Motion 5 "The Constitution be amended per the draft, with the Committee able to make such amendments as are required to permit registration". Tony McLeod/ Mike Dakin. Voice vote in favour, no opposition. Motion 6 "The Associate Membership fee be set at \$20". Kim McGrath/ John Osborne. Voice vote in favour, no opposition.

## 10. Life Member

Mike Dakin was appointed as a Life Member, for his service to the Association. He spoke briefly of the pleasure of working with and carrying on the work of comrades such as John Rout, Denis Dwayne, and Barry Dreyer.

## 11. Items for Discussion

11.1 Colonel Commandant spoke of the RNZA Historic Trust, with its mission to identify, catalogue, and own artillery property. Key points are:

The Trust is a charitable trust

It has *ex officio* members (Col. Com., C.O. & RSM of 16th Field, and Pres. of the Assoc.)

Other members are Graham Birch, Kerry Lee (who will be the curator), Tom Roche, and David Weston.

It is working with the Kippenberger Museum on RNZA books that are surplus to the Library requirements; the surplus will be re-located to RHQ in Linton

The Band's history needs to be catalogued (going back 130 years). (With its disestablishment, the Band's future is the subject of much planning and effort.)

Records for sub-units are held at sub-unit level, and need to be catalogued on a sub-committee basis

The Trust will seek donations e.g. from ASB.

11.2 Tony McLeod spoke of the Website as Structure, noting that it was the traditional structure. David Weston spoke in brief of how the District Structure is working in Wellington, as a focus for Old Gunners.

11.3 Tony McLeod sketched out the District Structure, noting that it was the traditional structure. David Weston spoke in brief of how the District Structure is working in Wellington, as a focus for Old Gunners.

11.4 Tony McLeod spoke briefly of the way ahead, with a focus of involving Old Gunners e.g. for a lunch on St. Barbara's Day.

## 12. Next Meeting

The next AGM will likely be held in Linton. The K-Force men were specifically invited to attend, but pointed out that their AGM would occur about the same time in Rotorua, where it was expected that the K-Force Association could be wound up.

## 13. General Business

13.1 John Osborne spoke of the forthcoming 150th commemoration of the Battle at Gate Pa, which occurred in 1864.

13.2 Jerry Meyer spoke of the 60th anniversary of the 161 Bty. deployment to SVN, which should be commemorated, and of his vast communications with Old Gunners in Australasia e.g. about the NZDSM. Colonel Commandant noted that funds are held in the Association accounts as seed money for a further 161 Reunion.

13.3 Jeff Waters spoke of the 300th anniversary of the RA, and the 21st of the Papakura Gunners' Day Dinner, in 2016. He spoke of the prospect of a world-wide sequential firing of cannon on 26 May 2016,



starting with the RNZA. Perhaps in jest, he suggested that members of the Association might take command of a gun for the firing.

13.4 John Barrett expressed appreciation to Marie Roberts for the newsletter. This appreciation was greeted with applause.

13.5 Colin Stanbridge received confirmation that the \$20 charge for the mailing of the newsletter would count as a donation.

13.6 Colonel Commandant spoke of the importance of the professional journal on the website, as a way of forming opinion on Defence capability in the next generation.

13.7 Kim McGrath spoke of the National Gunners' Day Dinner proposed in Australia on 23 August 2016. New Zealand Gunners will be welcome.

13.8 Coin Jansen spoke of the popularity of the Association's Facebook as a means for Old Gunners of all ages to participate and be connected. Some 250 people presently participate.

13.9 Marie Roberts urged members to contribute to the newsletter, and sought information about a particular Army base.

The meeting finished 1204 hrs

## 9. RNZA Assn Trophy 2012 CITATION FOR BDR Andrew SMITH

Bdr Smith played an instrumental role in the incorporation of the 81mm mortar into 161 Battery and the Regiment as a whole.

Although only recently promoted he was given, and enthusiastically grasped, the challenge of helping guide battery training and identifying new TTP's or ratifying old ones (as part of a team)

Throughout the year he enthusiastically volunteered to conduct additional duties and



Col Comdt Barry Dreyer, RNZA Assn President Tony McLeod, Bdr Andrew Smith holding the RNZA Assn Trophy and CO 16 Fd Regt Matt Weston

exercises, often at little to no notice. He always performed to a very high, professional standard and conveyed this attitude to his subordinates, peers and superiors alike. He was frequently involved in guiding and teaching junior personnel and provided well considered advice

Overall, his performance was highly professional and he showed he is someone who could be an ideal mentor and role model for gunners and non-commissioned officers

## 10. RNZA Postings

In December the following appointments change:

Maj John Gordon - BC 161 Bty

WO2 Richard Theodore - BSM 161 Bty

Maj Andrew Fortune, MNZM - XO 16 Fd Regt

Maj Kristian Dunne - CI School of Artillery

WO2 Nick Shields - SMIG School of Artillery

We would like to wish these personnel all the very best in their new positions.



**11. Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Inc - Statement of Accounts  
as at 30 September 2012**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>This Year</b>
Subscriptions	\$ 4,660.00	\$ 3,630.00
Q Store Sales	\$ 222.50	\$ 382.50
Welfare Donations	\$ 513.25	\$ 1,199.80
161 Bty	\$ -	\$ -
173rd	\$ 340.00	\$ 48.00
Socials and Reunions	\$ 4,788.00	\$ 1,200.00
Raffles	\$ -	\$ -
Interest Received	\$ 847.05	\$ 981.60
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 240.00
Sundry	\$ 655.00	\$ 12.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 12,025.80</b>	<b>\$ 7,693.90</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Honoraria	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Printing and Stationery	\$ 1,963.72	\$ 3,651.62
Postage	\$ 465.25	\$ -
Q Store Purchases	\$ 12.00	\$ 266.30
Socials and Reunions	\$ 4,712.70	\$ -
173 AB Xfr from 00 Ac to 173 Ac	\$ 238.00	
Bank Fees	\$ 35.90	\$ 19.25
General Expenses	\$ 929.11	\$ -
Web Development	\$ -	\$ 1,816.94
Affiliation Fees		\$ 108.61
Wreaths		\$ 78.00
Donations	\$ -	\$ 599.10
RNZA Assn Trophy	\$ -	\$ 292.73
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 8,856.68</b>	<b>\$ 6,832.55</b>
<b>Change in Cash Position</b>	<b>\$ 3,169.12</b>	<b>\$ 861.35</b>

<b>BANK ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>1-Oct-10</b>	<b>1-Oct-11</b>	<b>1-Oct-12</b>
Cheque 00	\$ 601.60	\$ 223.67	\$ 1,803.42
Online Call 01	\$ 1,658.98	\$ 4,407.81	\$ 2,816.32
Welfare on Call 05	\$ 9,491.98	\$ 9,826.84	\$ 10,168.06
Term Deposit 06	\$ 5,225.00	\$ 5,486.25	\$ 5,745.52
Term Deposit 07	\$ 5,305.66	\$ 5,507.77	\$ 5,780.37
	<b>\$ 22,283.22</b>	<b>\$ 25,452.34</b>	<b>\$ 26,313.69</b>

Change in Nett Position to Date, Cash Profit \$ 3,169.12 \$ 861.35

161 Battery 02 \$ 6,315.07 \$ 6,534.33  
Ch 19, 173rd AB \$ 2,092.71 \$ 2,160.30

Presented as a true and accurate Statement of Accounts for the period 1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sept 2012

T Higginson, Treasurer

AR McLeod, President

These accounts have been inspected by an independent team and are accepted as being an accurate record of the accounts for the RNZA Association Inc. We are satisfied that the accounts are being kept in an honest, accurate and diligent manner.

..

EW Anker

Alistair Irving

## 12. WHAT ARE THE NORTH HEAD TUNNELS?

Ever wondered what is in the hidden tunnels in North Head? What happened to the original Boeing aeroplanes? What was the "Kaskowski"? Who was "Ali Barber"?

This volcanic mountain (named Maungauika by Maori) is strategically positioned above the shipping channel which rounds it into the inner harbour. North Head is a natural lookout and defensive position for the harbour, and has been used for this purpose for centuries. Many fortifications were built. The old gun emplacements and underground connecting tunnels have been restored and now you can explore with a guide - bring a torch!

The Auckland Coastal Defences Historical Trust are registered with DOC to conduct guided walking tours and have access to areas that are normally closed to the public.

Some of the highlights include:

- The location and history of Gun emplacements from 1870s to 1950s.
- The Russian scare and "Kaskowski" and the missing "Boeing"
- Actual guns including the 8-inch BLHP "disappearing gun" and saluting battery.
- Supporting magazines, Observation Posts, engineering, searchlight positions, stores, offices and accommodation.
- And lots of dark, mysterious and historic tunnels!!

Regular tours are run throughout the summer starting at 10 am Saturday and Sunday from the Navy Museum in Torpedo Bay. Cost \$10 per adult, \$5 per child or \$25 per family. Call 09 4455186 or email [tours@forts.org.nz](mailto:tours@forts.org.nz) to book. Group tours can be booked for other times. They can be adapted to meet the needs of your group and the time required, and can include Fort Takapuna.

**Contact** Auckland Coastal Defences Historical Trust  
Mob 027 4851273 Ph 09 4458199  
Email: [info@forts.org.nz](mailto:info@forts.org.nz)  
Web: [www.forts.org.nz](http://www.forts.org.nz)

For Tours: [tours@forts.org.nz](mailto:tours@forts.org.nz)

### Inside North Head Walking Tours

Explore the history of North Head Embedded gun batteries, Ammunition magazines, hoists and tunnels. Observation turrets, command posts and gun positions. Conclude with a short film screened inside the old stone kitchen

Guided Tours & School Groups:

Available all year round by appointment.

North Head Tours:

October – April, Saturday & Sunday 10am

Departing from: Naval Museum Devonport

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: \$10 per adult \$5 per Child

\$25 per family

Groups – Contact us

Bookings: Go to [www.forts.org.nz](http://www.forts.org.nz)

or call +64 9 445 5186

or fax +64 9 445 5046

## 13. TWIN TRIBUTE TO JAPANESE VICTIMS

Twin memorials on opposite sides of the world will pay tribute to Japanese victims of last year's February 22 earth-quake. Christchurch man David Bolam-Smith commissioned local artist Annabel Menzies-Joyce to create a kahikatea memorial sculpture, paid for by Japanese donations, for the quake's first anniversary.

The sculpture was unveiled on February 22 at the Christ's College chapel. Bolam-Smith was inspired to commission a "twin" for Toyama City, where most of the Japanese victims were students, which will be unveiled next month. The idea was conceived by New Zealand's ambassador to Japan, Ian Kennedy, at a fundraising event in Tokyo, Bolam-Smith said. "[Kennedy] was asking me if there was a memorial made for the first anniversary and I said, 'No'. He said it was a shame because there was 80 parents coming from Japan, and I said, 'Let's make one'."

The reception the sculptures had received was "overwhelming", he said. Menzies-Joyce spent about six months on the two pieces. Kahikatea was symbolic because the tress grew together and gained strength from their roots, she said. "It was really good to do something that had meaning. I put a lot of myself into this. There was a lot of nights of no sleep ... and I'm really please with the way it's come together."

Bolam-Smith, who has a Japanese wife and has been a volunteer on the Christchurch and Kurashiki sister-city committee for more than 20 years will attend the Toyama City unveiling on June 25. The original



The "Kahikatea" Sculpture in the Christ College Chapel, Christchurch

sculpture is not no display, but is expected to be installed on the “cardboard cathedral” site, on Madras and Hereford streets.

**Certificate of Commendation** from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan

David Bolam-Smith awarded Certificate of Commendation from Minister for Foreign Affairs on 22nd June 2012 in Tokyo Japan.

The Certificate translated into English reads:

*“Mr. David Bolam-Smith*

*I would like to express my deepest respect and offer this commendation to you for your distinguished service in promoting mutual understanding between Japan and New Zealand and contributing to friendly and amicable relations.”*

**Article Supplied by: B769949 LBdr SMITH DB (My surname is now BOLAM-SMITH ). 32 (E) Bty 3 Fd Regt**

#### **14. AUCKLAND GUNNERS MONTHLY GATHERING**

3 Auckland Northland Regiment Association have traditionally held a social gathering at Arch Hill on the last Friday of every month. They invite a guest speaker, generally a serving soldier recently returned from operations, and they have generously invited members of the RNZA Association to join them at these social gatherings.

The first gathering for 2013 will be at the Arch Hill Army Hall at 7.00pm on Friday 22 Feb 2013.

We would love to see a good turnout of gunners. This event will then become a regular meeting point for our members.

So pencil the last Friday of every month into your diary NOW!, and we'll see you there.

Tony McLeod, District Coordinator,  
Auckland District

**RNZA Association website: [rnzaa.org.nz](http://rnzaa.org.nz)**

#### **15. THE LIFE AND DEATH OF AN ARTILLERYMAN Lt Ralph D DOUGHTY MC – Part 3 The Illness/Injuries Sustained and Loss of Ralph D Doughty**

Along with so many other serviceman at Gallipoli (and elsewhere) Ralph suffered from Pyrexia (severe fever). Son on the 27 July 1915 he was evacuated back to a hospital ship and from there onto Lemnos to recover. He returned to duty, although not back to 100% health on the 5<sup>th</sup>

August 1915 when he was landed back on ‘W’ beach in the early hours of the morning and was then into action later the same evening.

Ralph then received an injury after he was wounded in action at Flers, France on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1916 when a shell explosion buried him and he sustained a concussion blast in the head and an injury to his shoulder and had to be admitted to the 38<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station before being transferred to the Ambulance Train No 26 on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 1916. He was then admitted to No 8 General Hospital, Rouen where it was found he was suffering from Trench Feet, which is an infection of the feet caused by cold, wet and unsanitary conditions.

From there he was transferred back to England on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1916, for recuperation. After recovering from his injuries Ralph was discharged to No1 Command Depot, Perham Downs on the 27 the December 1916 and was marched out to the Reserve Brigade, Australian Artillery at Heytesbury on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1917 and preceded back overseas to France on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1917 to rejoin the 9<sup>th</sup> Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 1917.

Ralph was to then receive his Military Cross for his service to the King after an action at HERMIES on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1917 Ralph was again wounded in action at Passchendaele, Belgium, when he sustained a gunshot wound to the abdomen while “in action’ and was admitted to the 91<sup>st</sup> Field Ambulance Station. But this time lady luck was not with him and he did not recover from his wounds, making the ultimate sacrifice for this country far, far away when he died of his wounds two days later on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1917 at the age of 26.

Ralph D. Doughty was laid to rest at Coxyde Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row F, Grave No 20, Belgium.

A whole generation of brave young men lost their lives when one 19 year old assassin from Slavic, fired two bullets. This occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1914 in Sarajevo, with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, along with his Sophie. This was the catalyst which then led to the outbreak of World War 1 and went on to cost 15 million lives, with my great, great uncle being one of them. R.I.P.

Article written by Peter Kivell and while it may be the end of the story there may be some recent revelations.....

**The above article appeared in the November 2012 issue of the RAA Association (NSW) Inc magazine “Gunfire**



## 16. NEW ZEALAND ARMY RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM 2012



In the photo above are the following "Gunnery":

Front Row L-R, 6th Person in Bdr Petersen, 7th Per LBdr S Vaivevea, 8th Per Gnr Ikahihifo, 9th Per Head Coach SSgt Joe Waiariki 16 Fd Wksp.

Middle Row L-R, 3rd Per in Bdr Pritchard, 7th Per Gnr Nanai, 9th Per Mgr Sgt Dean Cootes 161 Bty.

Back Row L-R, 2nd Per in LBdr Simmonds, 3rd Per Bdr Henderson-Potroz, 7th Per Gnr Tanginoa.

All these players are made up from 161 & 163 Bty's.

The 2012 Inter-Service Rugby League was played a couple of months ago at the Ngataranga Bay Sports Complex, hosted this year by Navy. The team included a number of gunners as well as having the Coach who is posted to 16 Fd Regt and Sgt Dean Cootes 161 Bty as their Manager. In the final, the team demonstrated good effort, however it fell short literally in the last minutes of the game, with Navy kicking a penalty to draw the game 11 - 11. As the champs from last year Navy retained the Mad Butcher Trophy for 2012.

Scores for the other games the team played:

First game 24 Army - 18 Air Force,

2nd game 16 Army - 16 Navy,

Cant remember what the score was for the Air Force versus Navy game.

As Air Force lost to Army and drew with Navy, Navy played Army in the final.

Note: The Regt is supporting us next year. We are putting a Gunnery Team together to go over and play 1 Fd Regt and 6RAR in Brisbane.

**Article supplied by Kemp Solomon**



Dec. 1953 21 Gun Salute from North Head to welcome the Royal Yacht. The Armstrong 8" Disappearing Gun in firing position

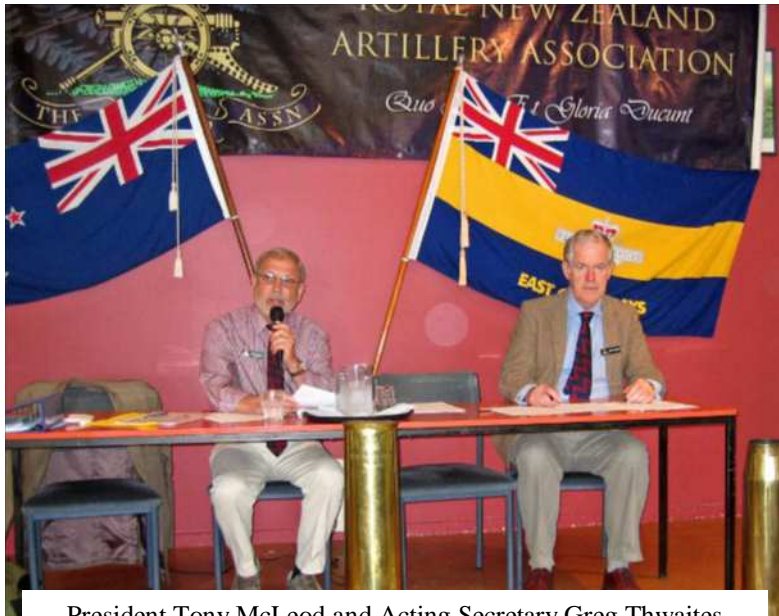


Music by `D Starlight's`

**Selection of Photos from the 2012 Reunion**  
**A. RNZA Assn Annual General Meeting**



Attendees at the AGM listening closely to what is being said!!!



President Tony McLeod and Acting Secretary Greg Thwaites



Brig (Rtd) Graham Birch the new RNZA Assn Patron



Col Comdt Barry Dreyer



RNZRSA Del David Weston



Life Member Mike Dakin



**B. The Reunion Dinner**



President Tony McLeod and Guest Speaker  
Dr Wayne Mapp (ex Min of Def)



John (Woody) Barrett, making the toast  
to "Our Partners"



CO 16 Fd Regt Lt Col Matt Weston



Australian Gunner President Kim McGrath making  
the toast on behalf of Commonwealth and other  
Gunner Groups through out the World



Brian (Jerry) Meyer, making the toast  
to Absent Friends



Lt Col Powell CO 3 Auk North Regt making a  
presentation to the RNZA Assn

***Behind the Lines: The Editors Page***

**Patron** Brig (Rtd) Graham Birch MBE 07 548 1193  
**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** Currently Vacant  
PB 110107 **rnza.association@gmail.com**  
Auckland Hospital  
**AUCKLAND 1148**

**Committee:** Kemp Solomon (Vice President) Mike Dakin  
Colin Jansen (Asst Sec Facebook Mgr) Greg Thwaite  
Peter Miles Robert Downs  
Peter Fraser John Botica  
Ken Davie Alister Irving

**Committee Members at Large:**

Graeme Black (Waikato)	Brian Jerry Meyer (Australia)	Bob Kerslake (Auckland)
Jeff Waters (Auckland)	Danny and Bernie McCort (BOP)	Tom Roche (Manawatu)
Roger Newth (Horowhenua)	Lindsay Skinner (Wellington)	Rob Hitchings (Wellington)
Rob Munro (Wgtn)	Brian (Skin) Frances (Upper Sth Island)	Bill Olsen (Lower Sth Island)
Catherine Dymock (16 Fd Regt)	Dave Weston (Wellington, RNZRSA Del)	

**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**

**Webmaster** Debbie Giles **webmaster.rnzaassociation@gmail.com**

**Blogmaster;** Kerry Lee **muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com**

**Website;** Debbie Giles **webmaster.rnzaassociation@gmail.com**

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

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

**Subscriptions:** For those members wishing to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter a \$20 fee is payable. Please forward by cheque to The Treasurer, PB 110107, Auckland Hospital, **AUCKLAND 1148**.

**Subscription Associate Members:** \$20 per annum. Please send cheque to above address.

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

**Email Addresses:** Are you on the Internet? The Secretary may not be aware of your address. If you are not getting messages from the RNZA Association and wish to do so, 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**

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

**Member Registration:** New members are most welcome. **ALL** Gunners are eligible for Full Membership, it is **FREE**, and automatic once a gunner has served in the Regiment for more than 3 months. Associate Membership is available to anyone who has been attached to an RNZA Unit or has had a close affiliation therewith, and to close family of RNZA Gunners and to Gunners of any nation around the world. Membership application forms are on-line at the new website: [rnzaa.org.nz](http://rnzaa.org.nz).

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

**Muzzle Flashes items to Kerry at:** [muzzleflashesnz@gmail.co.nz](mailto:muzzleflashesnz@gmail.co.nz)

**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