



New Zealand Veterans in Australia Incorporated NEWZLETTER



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The Month That Was

NZ Veterans in AU is now on Facebook

After unsuccessfully attempting to generate NZ Veteran discussion using an online forum from within the NZVIA website (www.nzvia.com.au) it was decided that Facebook may be better forum as it is used by many other Veteran organisations including the RNZRSA not to mention that Facebook is immensely popular. Therefore, whilst most information including pictures will be on the website, please use NZVIA Facebook as a possible form of discussing issues regarding NZ Veterans [NZVIA Facebook](#)

New Zealand Defence Service Medal



Dear Veterans, please be advised that applications are now being taken for the NZDSM.

You can apply directly online, or download the application form. Click on the following link

<http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdsdm/index.html>

For those that can assist, please help our Veterans complete their application if

they are not in a position to do this. Brian Meyer has been very active advising NZ Veterans of this entitlement and I have been assisting some older NZ Veterans apply with the easiest method being online.

NZ Veterans in Australia (New South Wales) Notices

NZ Veterans in NSW Attend Battle for Australia Commemoration

Dear Veterans, Greg Makutu attended the Battle for Australia Commemoration on Wednesday 7 September 2011. The commemoration started with a fly-past of an RAAF FA/18 Hornet based at RAAF Base Williamstown and ended with the playing of the Last Post. The guest speaker was Flt/Lt Fred Cassidy who was a Navigator on the Beaufighter Bomber and flew 78 missions during the war and the threat to Australian soil.



Maori Battalion Production 24-26 September 2011

Maori Battalion This breathtaking production is based on a true story called, 'Our Journey to the Other Side of the World'. The story attempts to bring to life the experiences of Edison Te Kanae Wineera of D Company, a direct descendant of the Maori chief Te Rauparaha. Edison, like many of his comrades served in the

New Zealand Armed forces under the mantle of the 28th Maori Battalion. Tickets \$30.

NGA URI O RAHIRI PROUDLY PRESENT

MĀORI BATTALION

CASULA POWERHOUSE ART CENTRE
Sat 24th Sun 25th Mon 26th
September 2011
TIME: 7:00pm

TICKET SALES
E: ngauri@live.com.au or P: 0409 394 955
\$ 30.00

An overwhelming performance encapsulating the awe-inspiring narrative of **EDISON TEKANAE WINEERA** No.805274, a direct descent of Maori Chief Te Rauparaha. A true story that emulates commitment, determination & sacrifice that communicates life & death

WORDS OF TE RAUPARAHA
Ka mate ka mate ka ora ka ora
I live I live I die I die

Director: Kiri Barber

This play is part of the Niu Warrior Exhibition that will be at the Casula Powerhouse from 24 Sept – 4 Dec 2011, Maori Battalion play will be in the theatre on 24,25 & 26th September. To book your tickets you can go the this link: <http://www.casulapowerhouse.com/booknow/>

Te Wairua Tapu Ball Saturday 8 October 2011

\$120 No. 0053

Sydney
Maori Anglican Fellowship

Church of Te Wairua Tapu Annual Ball

To be held on October 8, 2011
at La Mirage Reception Centre
18 Fairlight Street, Five Dock NSW 2046

6.30pm Pre-Dinner Drinks | 7.00pm Dinner

Dear Veterans, if you are looking for a nice evening of food, drink and dance at a very good venue, please be advised that The Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu are holding a Ball on Saturday 8 October 2011 at La Mirage

Function centre and Restaurant, 65 Ramsey Road, Five Dock. Tickets are \$120 each and the Ball starts at 1830 hours.

The NZ Veterans in NSW have partnered with the Church to host the ANZAC Church Service and the Remembrance Day Church Service both of which are held the first Sunday after ANZAC and Remembrance Day.

Please contact me if you are interested in attending.

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Reminder: Remembrance Day Poppy Selling at Martin Place Station 10-11 November 2011

Just a reminder that NZ Veterans in NSW sell Poppies at the Martin Place Station from 6:30am – 9:30am on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th November 2011. Anyone is welcome to join us at the station and for breakfast afterwards.



Reminder: Remembrance Day Church Service Sunday 13 November 2011



The Remembrance Day Church Service is on Sunday 13 November 2011 at 1030 hours, the first Sunday after Remembrance Day. The service is held at the Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu,

587 Elizabeth Street, Redfern and includes Laying Poppies at the altar.

Important Notice (NZDF Medal Presentation):

However, this year it is hoped that some of the NZ Veterans that have received their NZDSM will have them formally presented at the service this year which would be great. The service is always followed by Coffee/Tea and something to eat.

If you have received your NZDSM can you please advise me so I can make suitable arrangements for the presentation; inviting dignitaries, guests and families of Medal recipients, briefing the Archdeacon, inviting the Bishop and Mayor of Sydney, NZDF representative from Canberra and High Commissioner Maj Gen (Retd) Martyn Dunne.

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Reminder: ANZAC Day March Wednesday 25 April 2012

The ANZAC Day March next year will be the same format as every other year. However, just a further reminder, the term 'veteran' in today's context refers to all serving and ex-service personnel not just those that served overseas. So whether you have a medal or not, as long as you served in the military you are considered a veteran and I would be very privileged to march alongside you at ANZAC Day every year.

Reminder: ANZAC Day Church Service Sunday 29 April 2012

The ANZAC Day Church Service will be held at the Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu, 587 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, on Sunday 29 April 2012 at 10:30 hours, the first Sunday after ANZAC Day.



NZ Veterans in Australia (Tasmania) Notices

News From Port Huon Tasmania Part One

To all members and ex members of the New Zealand Army Band, families and friends.



Well done the Band: May I congratulate the NZAB for publishing such a magnificent newsletter called the Esprit de Corps. The editorial content and coloured photographs are fantastic and it is a pleasure to read all about the many exciting happenings that go on in the ranks and within the sacred halls of the James Carson Bandroom. I am sure that there are many happenings that we do not get to hear about but it has always been the same....."What goes on tour stays on tour!!!!".....what a pity I hear you say.....well one day I might send you some really juicy stuff that will make your hair curl, if you have any left that is!!! Patrick McCarthy

certainly has a way with words and I look forward to his next contribution. Unfortunately some individuals do not like a bit of humour and there is one pommy cornet player who doesn't want to speak to me over an innocent article the EDC published a few years ago. Those ex members with negative minds can only blame themselves for always looking glum and sad.

Spill the Beans: My file on the NZAB is getting far too full, so this is a chance to empty much of it out and share some of the knowledge with all of you. It was once the policy of the NZAB EDC editorial wallah to ask for contributions from ex members. I see that this practice has stopped and we have heard no news from ex members since April 2010 when a short list of rehearsal music was placed on one quarter page. Then in July 12 months ago, me ole mate Graeme put his eupho down for a short while, had a rush of blood to the head and offered 25 questions. Now I must say they are bloody good questions and had me thinking, which is an achievement at any time in the past or present, but I couldn't answer most of them. I have been sitting down here in the South Island of the West Island for 12 months waiting for the answers. There have been three EDC's since then, so come on someone, give me the answers?? Don't be a tease all your lives!!

Old huas speak: Can I venture to say, that if you can not print a bit of news about the ex members then why send us the EDC???. Some old huas that I know say that they don't very much care about the present EDC, even though it is a better publication than ever. They say that it means nothing to them, as they don't know any one in it!!! This is a negative attitude and I don't agree with it, but those old buggers certainly have a valid point, and should be listened to!!

Vanishing Bands: It is certainly the decade for rumours about bands being disbanded. A couple of years ago it was said the RNZAF was disbanding the base bands which was proved wrong....but only at this stage. Australia cut out all of its pipe bands but now they can start up again if the regiment pays for them..... Just like the officers did when military bands were first formed in the British Regiments.



A NZ white paper early this year said that the NZDF bands need to be cut and it is rumoured that one band will provide the music for all ceremonial functions and it will be a TF band at that!!!! The British are cutting 5,000 troops and several bands are getting the chop and then on ANZAC Day this year a



NZ naval officer I was speaking to said that the RNZ Navy Band is to go. He got it all wrong I am told, but he believed what he said as he heard it in BS Castle in Windy Wellington. I doubted the veracity of this guy anyway as he didn't know one NZ Navy musician.....well I mean to say, if he didn't know any of those wonderful musicians then what could he know!!!! I think many of those blimps in WW (Windy Wellington)

might be pushing shite up hill, as from what I hear the NZDF Bands are bigger and better than ever. Recently the 2nd NMWC Regimental Band played for a very important reunion in Greymouth (V3) and everyone, including some very smart veterans, thought it was the NZ Army Band. The standard was so high. Apparently David Fiu who is the NZAB deputy conductor is also the MD of the band and he was a hit where ever he went in Greymouth. I also hear that the solo horn player, a beautiful young lady, of the band was recently crowned the Champion of Champions brass player in Western Australia and before you start laughing; WA has some very good musicians.

Save our Signals Band: Many years ago nearly every large town in NZ had some sort of military band attached to the civic or regimental purse strings, even if it was only for the period during conflict either overseas or internally. One of them is The Signals Pipes and Drums based at Point Chevalier. If you live outside Auckland you probably do not know about this band but a poignant story on NZTV featured this great band on Anzac Day this year. The members are growing old and they need new blood to keep the band going. They have led the Point Chevalier Anzac Day parade for over 52 years and a couple of the original pipers are still there.....not a bad record. This could make them the second most senior band in the NZ Army after the Band of the Royal Regiment New Zealand Artillery. The story on NZTV was billed a "story of community change and regeneration. It is a slice of social history" Isn't this what banding is all about.....its ok having your champion bands but the real nitty gritty of banding is all about the smaller bands in those smaller towns all over the country. I hope the NZAB are doing their bit to keep this wonderful Signals Band in operation well into the future. They have supported the army for many decades and now it is the turn of the NZDF to help the band.

Pete's lust for music: Peter Adams that brilliant horn player is in England at the moment and enjoying the proms most nights. He is soaking up all the great music on offer over there and he was at Knellar Hall a couple of nights ago listening to a concert by the RAF, Coldstream Guards and the Royal Marines. Julie Maxton (Carson) has changed jobs but is as fit as ever and doing well.

Lest We Forget: It was tragic to hear that Rosalie Riach had left us, but I thought it was wonderful that the music of Jim Carson's 74-76 battalion band was played at her funeral. Rosalie always loved the music that the band played and it is fortunate that recordings still exist of our wonderful musical past. Rosalie always had a smile for everyone and a delightful sense of humour and fun. This gracious lady will be missed by us all.

Bring it On: The NZ National Band Contest held last week in Auckland must have been an exciting time for many ex army bandmen. I hear that the Drum Majors meeting is like an army band reunion, and that is a good thing to see that the experience gained in the army is used constructively to enhance the standard of the band movement as a whole. I see that nearly all of the placed bands in the marching contest were lead or trained by ex army bandmen. I notice a couple of guest conductors from Blighty, but it didn't stop Captain Graham Hickman and Woolston taking out the top honours on the musical stage and marching again. I have met and feel I know Howard Taylor and Russell Gray and have the greatest respect for them as gentlemen and musicians, but I have always believed that the conductor at the contest should be the one who has trained the band all year, as that person should get the rewards that come with winning. Allan Brown won a deserving 2nd with Roxburgh and Ian Levien led his triumphant Papakura Brass to a well deserved 1st place in the C Grade. Me ole mate Trevor Bremner, chased along by brother Graeme won the Masters and came 2nd in the Champion of Champions. That most consistent of trombone players Russell Boyle won the Bass Trombone solos and Phil Johnston the unequalled bass player of the decade romped home by one point over Leigh Martin to win the Bb Bass title again. Tyme Masters did well on his flugel and a couple of ensembles and Dwayne nearly won the eupho solos against the mighty Australian Champion. I know that there will be many other achievements by serving and ex army musicians but for the moment lets say well done to everyone, even those ex Drum Majors still busy supervising everyone and keeping things in order.....some of you old timers like Tony and Steve never stop but we still need you and you are appreciated.

Credit given to old troopers: Talking about appreciation, or maybe I should say length of service, but the NZ Army Band is now presenting a 20 year certificate to those lucky enough to have lasted 20 years in the band. I think you have to be at the annual dinner to receive a certificate but no doubt some one will correct me if I am incorrect, or talking out of turn again. The lucky recipients this year were Ian Cotton, Graeme Bremner,

Graham Hickman, Dwayne Bloomfield, and ex members Wayne Shears, Chris Campbell, Martin Bremner, Gordon Riach and Bruce Kenyon. Apparently the highlight of the dinner was a hot speech by the inimitable Tony A Cowan, some exquisite wines and cold beers for all, and a hot menu, but it was served cold!!!! There was no music!! Hot or cold!! But I guess the vocal chords were put into good use later in the evening! Especially if Chris did his Louis Armstrong impersonation. With Bruce the Big Bopper, or the raucous Sergeant Major and Chris singing Whispering Grass what else could you ask for. Both Chris Campbell and Bruce Kenyon performed some wonderful musical acts in their army career and were always ready to help out at any time. Their motto was "The Show must go on" and for this we are all truly grateful to these two magnificent troopers. And who can forget the tremendous success of Chris when he took 2 Cants from D Grade to the top of the B Grade. I must admit that I won a street march cup with 2 Cants once, but then left for the warmer climes of the Bay of Plenty.

That's it for now, I'll do another newsletter tomorrow to finish cleaning out my files.

Kindest regards to all

Roger Carter

[NZ Veterans in Australia \(Queensland\) Notices](#)

Vietnam Veterans Day on the Gold Coast

Hi Guys, A report from the Gold Coast for Vietnam Veterans Day 18th August. There were about 200 people who attended the ceremony at the Kirra Sports Club Coolangatta. Fortunately the weather was fine during the proceedings and there was a good service. The Vietnam Veterans Garden is located at the Kirra Sports Club and we are well looked after by the staff and management. The Vietnam Veterans Garden is truly an ANZAC garden. It is in a great position set in a small hill with a large gum tree in the centre of the garden. The photos of the garden can be viewed on our website www.vvanz.com We are currently awaiting for a M2A2 gun to represent the Army. We have the Anchor from the HMS Sydney (Vung Tau Ferry) representing the Navy and a Propeller representing the Air Force. There is a rock and plaque dedicated to all the New Zealand Personnel who served in Vietnam. All in all a great day and a good turnout.

Cheers Bruce

Unveiling Dedication and Consecration of Poona War Memorial

Dear Veterans, as you know Alistair Martin has been a strong supporter and organiser of a memorial in Poona. Therefore,

please be advised that there will be a Unveiling Dedication and Consecration of the Poona War Memorial on 28 October 2011. I hope some of you Veterans can support Alistair in this event.



[Reunion and Other Notices](#)

Vietnam Veterans Reunion 2012

REUNION UPDATE #2

Planning for the 2012 National Reunion to be held at Waitangi over Queen's Birthday Weekend 2012 is well underway under the able leadership of Rihari (Dick) Dargaville (V2). Dick is ably assisted by an enthusiastic team determined to make this the best reunion ever especially given the historic significance of Waitangi as the birthplace of our nation.

This is the second of a series of updates designed to keep you informed of developments prior to the opening of the registration process scheduled for early 2012.

The reunion will be centered on the Copthorne Hotel & Resort just across the bridge at Waitangi and adjacent to the Treaty grounds which will play a prominent part in proceedings.

RNZN Reunion in Melbourne 2013

RNZN Veterans, please be advised that the next reunion will be held during the Melbourne Easter weekend in 2013. The reunions are blessed with a large attendance of RNZN Veterans and I am sure the 2013 reunion will also be the same.

Will advise RNZN Melbourne contact person once notified.

RF Cadet 50th Anniversary Reunion 2013 (Bennett Class)

Reminder for any RF Cadet Bennett Class veterans to please contact Roy Jones or Ben Hadfield as follows:



Ben Hadfield benzza@iprimus.com.au.

Roy Jones royejones@dreamtilt.com.au.

Ex-Malaya Veterans



Please be advised that the NZ Malaya Veterans Association Inc has a new website
<http://www.malayavets.co.nz/>

Please be advised that our NZMVA National Executive Elections to be on the Committee at the Bi-Annual General Meeting to be held at the Hamilton RSA Saturday 22nd October 2011, is now open for nominations. Should any member want to apply please contact me for an application form or information.

The following members have made themselves available for re-election:

Hiro Hamilton National Secretary
Terry Bennett National Vice President
Howard Wilson
Barry Allison

New Applications:

Muka Mayes Christchurch Branch
Robert Wood Mid Canterbury Branch
Doug Smith Mid Canterbury Branch (Pending application)
Russell Byrne Tauranga Branch

Please also note: That nominations for patron/s is also open.

Hiro Hamilton NZMVA National Secretary
hirohamilton@xtra.co.nz or Telephone (06 838 7770) P.O. Box 90 Wairoa 4160 New Zealand

Dennis Coleman, ex 1RNZIR has kindly made a selection of his photo collection available on the website
<http://www.malayavets.co.nz>

Go to the home page and click on "PHOTO ALBUMS" then click on 1RNZIR on page 2. Scroll to page 6 to 10 for the new additions

You do not need to be logged in to access these albums.

Cheers to all

Bob Kingsley
Webmaster
NZMVA

Ex-Vietnam Services Association Inc

Reminder for all NZ Vietnam Veterans to keep in touch with your fellow comrades and keep up to date with the latest information through your association.



The website address as follows:

www.evsa.org.nz

Dr Michael Benton

Dear NZ Veterans, just a quick note. I am an Australian archaeologist conducting research in Crete. I have recently found and identified two British vessels that carried wounded NZ Soldiers from Souda bay at the end of May 1941. These vessels have apparently been 'lost' for 70 years (at least from the British records) but my work has now led me to concrete conclusions on these vessels. Should you have any members who are interested or would like me to speak to your group one day/evening please get in contact. Thank you and best regards
Michael Bendon cheersmichael@hotmail.com

NZVIA NSW Veteran Membership 2011



NSW Veterans are reminded that the 2011 RSL and NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) membership renewal is due.



As stated in my email, the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) would welcome your contribution to the operations of the association regardless of whether you retain your voting and speaking rights with your parent Sub-Branch and remain as an associate member of the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) (picture above new Members Peter and Jan Dicken receiving their membership

badge from Lindsay Taylor 2009). So for \$5 please send in your application form for Associate Membership. For current full service members please send \$30 (of which \$25 goes to the NSW RSL). For new members wanting associate or full service membership let me know and I will send you an application form. Application forms are also on the NZVIA NSW page of the www.nzvia.com.au website. Just scroll down to the end of the Membership column or email nsw@nzvia.com.au

Now that the NewZletter goes to Veterans in other States, I have been asked how they can become involved in the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW).

Please note the following:

1. Interstate veterans can join the NSW Branch of the RSL via the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) as Service members, if you are not currently Service Members interstate;
2. If you are currently Service Members interstate you can:-
 - a. transfer to the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW); or
 - b. become "Associate" members of the NZ Sub-Branch for \$5 BUT you can only speak, vote & hold office at one RSL sub-Branch in Australia.

Whilst we would gladly accept your membership I would request you contact me so we can discuss your expectations against what is achievable.

Just a reminder, the NZ Sub-Branch is the legal entity for the NZ Veterans in Australia NSW so membership must remain with the NZ Sub-Branch in regards to its association with the NSW RSL.

NZVIA VIC Veteran Membership 2010



VIC Veterans are reminded that the 2011 RSL and NZ Sub-Branch (Vic) membership renewal is due. As stated in my email,



the NZ Sub-Branch (Vic) would welcome your contribution to the

operations of the association regardless of whether you retain your voting and speaking rights with your parent Sub-Branch and remain as a member of the NZ Sub-Branch (Vic). So for \$35 please send in your application form. Forms are available from the NZVIA Victoria page of the www.nzvia.com.au website. Just scroll down to the end of the Membership column.

Just a reminder, the NZ Sub-Branch is the legal entity for the NZ Veterans in Australia VIC so membership must remain with the NZ Sub-Branch in regards to its association with the VIC RSL.

Acknowledgements / Personal Notices

Happy Birthday to: **Wally Butt, Janet Barclay, Frank Harlow, Maj (Retd) Bob Wood POW, Vaughan Malins, Allan Watt, Valarie Brae, Bob McKemzie, Ken Stevenson and Ken Frank.**

The Last Post

Last Post Reminder

Veterans, I can honestly say (albeit with great sadness) that after attending many funerals in NSW, the families have been overwhelmingly grateful, appreciative and welcomed our ability to coordinate the military aspects of the funeral for our fallen comrade. It is incredibly moving to see the pride in the families not only when they hear and sometimes first learn of our fallen comrade's military service, but also when they see the Casket covered with the NZ Flag, respective service hat (Army, Airforce or Navy) and Korowai. Furthermore, all the families I have coordinated funeral details with have also been very comfortable with photos being taken knowing the reason for such photos e.g. veteran only distribution. You would have seen such photos in previous NewZletters.

Therefore, please let us know as veterans pass away in Australia so I can advise all the veterans in Australia. For NSW veterans, we try to attend wherever possible funerals of our comrades so please keep us informed.



Other News



STATEMENT BY CHIEF OF NAVY, REAR ADMIRAL TONY PARR ON CORONER'S FINDINGS ON THE DEATH OF BYRON SOLOMON

3 August 2011

Byron Solomon's death was a tragedy for the Solomon family, the Carkeek family and for the Navy community. Byron was a popular and valued member of the Navy and almost four years later his loss continues to be felt deeply by all those who knew and worked with him.

Byron's death happened during the routine launching of a seaboat from HMNZS CANTERBURY. Launching and recovering seaboats is an operation that Navy ships carry out almost every day. On this day a combination of unlikely occurrences, related to equipment and events, resulted in a fatal accident.

The Navy is committed to providing a safe working environment for its personnel. We have worked closely with the Coroner on this inquiry to ensure he had access to all the information necessary to make an informed decision. The Coroner's findings are largely consistent with those of the Navy's own Court of Inquiry and we support his recommendations.

As noted by the Coroner, the Navy has taken significant steps to eliminate any future possibility of the same tragedy happening again. The seaboats used by the Navy in the Protector ships have been replaced and the system for launching and recovering the boats changed.

Since the accident the Navy has safely launched and recovered seaboats from its ships at sea hundreds of times. Every time one of our Inshore and Offshore Patrol Vessels undertakes a Fisheries or Customs patrol they launch and recover their boats many times.

The steps we have taken reflect the Navy's commitment to providing a safe working environment. We work very hard to reduce risk to a minimum by providing our people with training and skills, working with proven standard operating procedures, and having equipment and systems which are designed, built and certified as fit for purpose. Nevertheless, because we operate complex machinery in an unforgiving environment we can never guarantee zero risk.

On behalf of the Navy I offer my sincerest condolences to the Solomon family and Carkeek family at the loss they have

suffered, and reiterate my ongoing commitment to building a safe, effective and operationally excellent Navy.

[New Governor-General of New Zealand to be sworn in](#)
[NZDF release name of SAS trooper killed in attack - Statement 3](#)
[NZSAS TROOPER KILLED IN KABUL](#)
[Sixty year olds can now apply for new medal](#)
[Kiwi Commander tasks warship to assist vessel](#)
[Vietnam Veterans' Commemoration](#)
[LOCAL INSTRUCTOR STUDIES OVERSEAS TO HELP](#)
[YOUTH AT HOME](#)
[STATEMENT BY CHIEF OF NAVY, REAR ADMIRAL](#)
[TONY PARR ON CORONER'S FINDINGS ON THE](#)
[DEATH OF BYRON SOLOMON](#)

www.navy.mil.nz



Corporal Grant farewelled at Linton

Funeral of CPL Douglas Grant killed in Afganistan. Service Funeral held a Linton Military Camp with family and soliders in attendance. (20110829_OH_K1028040_0003).

About 1500 people gathered at Linton Camp yesterday (29 August) to farewell SAS soldier Corporal Dougie Grant, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on 19 August.

CPL Grant died when he was hit by a bullet fired by insurgents while trying to rescue civilians following an attack on the British Council building in Kabul. Despite the efforts of New Zealand and Coalition medics at the scene he died en route to Bagram Air Base hospital.



The Prime Minister, John Key, gave a eulogy at the funeral, as did CPL Grant's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Parsons, his father, brother, and wife, Tina Grant.

Mrs Grant, who is also a soldier in the New Zealand Army, said her husband loved many things – being an SAS soldier, being a member of the Defence Patriots

Motorcycle Club, being a carpenter – “but the most important thing in his life was his children,” she said.

LTCOL Parsons spoke about how he and CPL Grant began their Army training together in 1996. He recalled how they were mounted troopers together, how they had been shot at together, and how they had been together with their Australian counterparts when they helped rescue 600 East Timorese from the militia. “He was selfless, fearless and a free spirit – that was our Doug. The Prime Minister, Mr Key is right – Dowie Grant was a hero.”

LTCOL Parsons said he had been in a Kabul restaurant with Doug the night before he died, “and he was full of enthusiasm for the mission, and to be once again on operation with his SAS mates.”

He said CPL Grant had told him he believed the SAS's contribution in training the Afghanistan Crisis response Unit and passing responsibility on to that unit was “doing it right” “It is often tempting to ask can we win or not, and thereby weigh up the merits of helping the Afghans. But perhaps there's a more important question to be asked: who are we if we do nothing to avert brutality?

He said New Zealand had always been a country that had helped others less fortunate.

“As a nation our finest hours have been when we have calculated the need rather than the odds. And it was this great sense of purpose in which Dowie Grant epitomises the indomitable Kiwi spirit.”

CPL Grant is survived by his wife Tina, and two children, Jemma, 7, and Jaden, 5.

[Man appears in court on medal theft charges](#)
[Corporal Grant farewelled at Linton](#)
[Funeral arrangements for CPL Douglas Grant - Linton Military Camp, Monday 29 August.](#)
[Return of CPL Grant - Ramp Ceremony](#)
[Return to NZ of CPL Doug Grant](#)
[Corporal Grant carried home](#)
[NZDF media conference on NZSAS action in Kabul - Statement 2](#)
[Khaki and Black](#)
[NZSAS opportunities opened to all](#)
[NZ troops return from Solomon Islands deployment](#)

www.army.mil.nz



NZ Airman Honoured at French Ceremony

Wing Commander Barry Nelson pays his respects to the fallen RAF airmen at a memorial ceremony in Sassenay, France.
22 August 2011

A solemn ceremony to honour eight members of an RAF Lancaster bomber crew who were shot down during World War Two was held on Monday at Sassenay, in eastern France.

Flight Lieutenant Royston Taylor, an RNZAF airman, was

one of eight flight crew from England, Canada, Australia and New Zealand who died in the crash who are remembered by the people of Sassenay at a ceremony held on the 15th of August each year.

FLT LT Taylor was born in Wandsworth, London in 1915 but grew up in New Zealand. He attended Hastings High School and before the war worked as an electrical engineer in Hastings and Gisborne.

In 1941 he joined the RNZAF and was trained in New Zealand and Canada before finding a place with a crew at No. 7 Squadron where he flew operational missions from December 1942 to August 1943. On August 14 1943 he was part of a No. 7 Squadron RAF Lancaster crew which took off from RAF Oakington, near Cambridge on a bombing mission to Milan. The aircraft came down in a field near Sassenay after being attacked by a night fighter.

The ceremony held this week was attended for the first time by a representative from the New Zealand Defence Force, RNZAF Wing Commander Barry Nelson.

The remarkable part of the story is the courage of the people of German-occupied Sassenay. After the crash they decided to hold a funeral for the eight airmen, as an act of resistance against the Germans, despite having been directed not to.



A great crowd from the surrounding neighbourhood assisted, bringing flowers. A collection was made for a low marble wall to surround the graves. The Mayor of Sassenay was arrested by the Gestapo for allowing the time of the ceremony to be known and the public collection made. He was condemned to two years in prison and deported to Germany. A number of other local people were also imprisoned for a time by the Germans. This act of defiance in the face of occupation forces was truly courageous.

WGCDR Nelson said, "The service was a poignant time to reflect on service and sacrifice. I am proud to honour the bravery of the people of Sassenay and those who are responsible for the memorial that marks the fallen members of the RAF Lancaster bomber including Flight Lieutenant Taylor."

At the same time the service also remembers a young Frenchman who was electrocuted and killed by downed power lines as he tried to approach the crash site to see if he could assist any members of the crew.

In 1988 the village of Sassenay invited representatives from Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand to the unveiling of a memorial for the eight men. New Zealand declined to attend then as members of the Embassy staff were unavailable.

"Having learnt that no official visit had yet been made by a New Zealander, I was pleased to be able to represent the people of New Zealand at this ceremony. The genuine respect shown by the French citizens to these gallant men by conducting these annual

services underlines our warm relationship based on common values and historical ties," WGCDR Nelson said.

[Air Force wins top place in US exercise](#)
[NZ Airman Honoured at French Ceremony](#)

www.airforce.mil.nz



31 August 2011

[Merchant Navy Day](#)

In Britain, New Zealand and other commonwealth countries, 3 September is Merchant Navy Day.

20 August 2011

[RSA deeply saddened by death of SAS soldier](#)

The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association National President Don McIver says that the tragic news of the death of another New Zealand soldier while serving his country in Afghanistan will be received with great sorrow by all members of the RSA.

15 August 2011

[RSA pays tribute to Sir Paul Reeves](#)

The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association is greatly saddened by the death of Sir Paul Reeves.

08 August 2011

[RSA mourns WW2 heroine Nancy Wake](#)

The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association's is greatly saddened by the news of the death of New Zealand veteran Nancy Wake in London yesterday, aged 98.
