



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



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Meetings held at Chatswood RSL

The Month That Was

Dear veterans. Another month has gone with no activities, services or commemorations. Therefore, the focus was on preparations, coordination and planning for upcoming activities. However, there is one service which will be a small but significant and that is the Ceremony of Remembrance Service for our ANZAC Fallen at ANZAC Bridge.

Ceremony of Remembrance for the ANZAC Fallen Announcement



For years NZ veterans in NSW did not own facilities with which to conduct its business. All those years ago and even now we have had to rely on our great relationships with other RSL Clubs for the use of their facilities. Whilst there is no problem with

this arrangement, it made it difficult for NZ veterans to conduct its own services, commemorations or activities because all the events we attended were at the invitation of other organisations. With the NZ Soldier Statue we have an exciting opportunity to conduct our own events. Therefore, this year there will be a Ceremony of Remembrance Service for our ANZAC Fallen held at the NZ Soldier Statue on ANZAC Bridge. Preparation and Planning has already been underway for the service. However, it will be a smaller affair than last year and will be conducted under the Bridge because shutting the bridge down was never going to be an approved option. Nevertheless, confirmation of attendance has been received from Sarah Craig (NZ Consul General in Sydney), John Haines (NSW RSL State Vice President), Chris Perrin (NSW RSL State Secretary) and Maj Gen Morrison (Land Commander Australian Defence Force). We have yet to receive confirmation from the Premier and the Chief of the New Zealand



Defence Force. So whilst it is a smaller service the high level attendance is confirmation of the high regard they hold NZ veterans here in NSW and is very much appreciated. All NZ veterans are welcome to attend so please come along and join us in our very own Ceremony of Remembrance for our ANZAC Fallen. Details are as follows:

Date: Sunday 19 April 2009
Time: 1100 hours
Location: Under ANZAC Bridge
Dress: Medals

Important Notice: Parking is limited around the immediate vicinity of the walkway to the Statue. Therefore, you may have a small walk to the service. When wreaths are laid at the Statue please be mindful of the limited space available and make room available for our distinguished guests. Furthermore, the RTA has reiterated that time at the Statue for Wreath-Laying is to be kept to an absolute minimum to ensure minimum distraction to motorists.

Brisbane ANZAC Day March 2009

I have had enquiries regarding the ANZAC Day March in Brisbane so for those that are attending, please contact Larry Southern, Parade Commander (07)3207 9603 or Lt Col(Retd) Norm Fry (07)3348 6273 for further details.

Other Notices

Lew Whiting

The local community newspaper published this article on Lew. He is getting some community support and some generous donations from various sources but it will be a long road back for him.



NZ Veterans Visiting and Marching in Sydney on ANZAC Day

There are a small number of NZ Veterans visiting Sydney and marching with us on ANZAC Day this year. They served in Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam so for those veterans that served in these conflicts please make them feel welcome and join us for the march. The key contact person is Bob (Bukit) Hill. Not quite sure of their schedule but if you want to catch up with them let me know and I will pass your details to Bukit.

RNZN Communicators Association Reunion Matai Club Nelson RSA (21-22 March 2009)

Reminder for all Naval Communicator veterans there is to be a RNZN Communicator Reunion in 2009 in Nelson as advised in the November NewZletter. The reunion contact details are:

Jeff Brown - 0408 621 493

Registration on Website - www.rnzncomms.org

RNZN Reunion Sydney (9-13 April 2009)

Reminder for all Naval veterans there is to be a RNZN Reunion in 2009 in Sydney. I included the full information on this in the March NewZletter. However, the reunion contacts are:

Bill Tahu - btahu@aapt.net.au

Ken Johnston - ken.johnston7@bigpond.com

Alistar MacAskill - alister9@tpg.com.au

Happy to email you the application form if requested.

2nd Canterbury Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Battalion Group (2 Cant NMWC Bn Gp) 150th Anniversary (26-28 June 2009)

Members of the 2nd Canterbury Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Battalion Group (2 Cant NMWC Bn Gp), in conjunction with the Regimental Association of the Unit, are planning the 150th Anniversary of the Unit, which will be celebrated in Christchurch over the period 26-28 June 2009.

One of our major tasks is publicising the event to ex members of the unit and those who have association with the unit, then creating a contact list to allow us to pass more detailed information about the event to them.

To assist me with this task, could you please:

- Display the attached/enclosed information about the event in your RSA. (I have attached a basic "poster" which may also be suitable in WORD and PDF format)
- Include information about the 150th Anniversary in any newsletters/communications you have with your members.
- Forward/distribute this information to any other organisation, business, group or individual who could assist with the wider dissemination of information about the 150th Anniversary.
- Encourage people to respond to the Unit, so we can capture their contact details, to either, echoes150@yahoo.co.nz, or write to:

2nd Canterbury, Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast Battalion Group
(Attention: 150th Anniversary Registration Clerk)
Burnham Camp
BURNHAM 7600

Many thanks.

BS ("Skin") FRANCES
Captain
HQ Coy
2 Cant NMWC Bn Gp



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



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 royvjones@dreamtilt.com.au.

ANZAC Day 2009

ANZAC Day in 2009 will more than likely be the same format as this and previous years with descendents marching with us.



However, just to clarify, 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. Furthermore, I will be more 'pushy' this year so please form up early, be smartly dressed and stand proudly in your ranks and files.

Ex-Malaya Veterans

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

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

NZ Veterans Association of Australia NZVAA

There is still talk about how we as a collective group of NZ veterans in AU can best be served by the RNZRSA, NZDF and AU/NZ governments or maybe we are best served from within our many collective organisations such as EVSA, RNZA Association and the many others. Some discussion around this could be to create a New Zealand Veterans Association of Australia (NZVAA). With technology the way it is management

of NZVAA could be relatively easy but of course personally time consuming. Furthermore, it was thought that in the beginning at least, veterans would stay within their own organisations membership and by default also be a member of NZVAA from a whole-of-Australia perspective which has the potential to have more sway in future negotiation on veteran matters. To provide a more fairer and unbiased approach to its management, the President of the NZVAA could be shared on a rotational basis between each of the States regardless of the population base. There will be a lot of work to do to become established such as developing a constitution, policies and also building relationships. Anyway, if you have any views on this please let me know.

Committee Meeting Matters

The next Committee meeting is on the Sunday 8 March 2009 at 1030 hours at the Chatswood RSL Club followed by the AGM. Therefore, if you have any ideas or suggestions even if you are not a financial member, then please let me know as we continually look to improve how the Sub-Branch operates. One of the issues is around how to standardise and identify us as NZ veterans. We attend services, commemorations, activities and march on ANZAC Day but have no common identifiable element of clothing. Some ideas up for discussion are: NZ Veteran Logo, Pocket, T-Shirt and Polo Shirt. If you have any ideas please let us know. Obviously we will not please everyone and the cost needs to be kept to a minimum hopefully taking advantage of economies of scale but at least it's a start.

Upcoming Events

Veterans please note changes to dates and timings of activities at the end of this NewZletter. Changes have been highlighted in yellow.

Membership 2009

NSW Veterans are reminded that the 2009 RSL and Sub-Branch membership renewal is due. As stated in my email, the NZ Sub-



Branch would welcome your contribution to the operations of the Sub-Branch 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 (Hini Komene receiving his membership badge from Neville Berridge 2007). So for \$5 please send in your application form for Associate



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



Membership. For current full service members please send \$29 (of which \$24 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.

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

Please note the following:

- 1. Interstate veterans can join the NSW Branch of the RSL via the NZ Sub-Branch 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 in 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.

Acknowledgements / Personal Notices

Happy Birthday to John Osbourne, Norma Osbourne, Alex Wilson, Sid Porter, Wally Butt, Gary Keenan, Gil Brogden, Paul Kitney, Lee-Ann Taylor, Tony Bullock and Dave Hyland

The Last Post

215243 Chaplain Harry Ivan SHAW

215243 Chaplain Harry Ivan SHAW, ONZM, RNZ Chaplains' Department (ret), ex 1RNZIR 1963-65 Malaysia, Borneo, SVN and Singapore, passed away at his home in Hamilton on 5 February 2009, aged 80.

A celebration of Harry's life is to be held at Melville Methodist Church, Bader Street, Hamilton on Monday 9 February 2009, at 1330hrs.

In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to the 7th Hamilton Boys Brigade Company, and may be left at the church or posted to: PO Box 21100, Flagstaff, Hamilton 3249.

All communications to:

*The Shaw Family,
C/- Pellows Funeral Directors,
138 Grey Street,
Hamilton East,
Hamilton 3216.*

36419 Lieutenant Colonel David Albert DAWE

36419 Lieutenant Colonel David Albert DAWE, ex 1NZ Regiment 1961-63 Malaya, and 1 ATF SVN, passed away peacefully at Christchurch Hospital, on 8 February 2009.

A celebration of David's life will be held at the John Rhind Chapel, Christchurch, entry from London and Whitmore Streets, on Friday, 13 February 2009 at 1400hrs. Flowers respectfully declined.

Messages to:

*The Dawe Family,
C/- 19 London Street,
Christchurch 8013.*

39424 Francis William (Frank) TOWNSEND

39424 Francis William (Frank) TOWNSEND ex RNZE Det SVN, passed away at Christchurch on 9 February 2009.

The celebration of Frank's life is to be held at the Lamb & Hayward Westpark Chapel, 467 Wairakei Road, Christchurch, on Friday 13 February 2009, at 1330hrs.

Messages to:

*The Family of the Late Frank Townsend,
C/- PO Box 9259,
Tower Junction,
Christchurch 8149.*

Memorial Service for Greg McIver family - 20 February 2009 - Ballarat

A Memorial Service for the McIver family will be held at 2PM on Friday, 20 February 2009.

The Service will be held at the Wendouree Performing Arts Centre located on the Corner of Howlett and Forrest Streets, Ballarat (Opposite Ballarat Grammar School).

Dress : Shirt/slacks/jacket and medals are preferred.

DViets.



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



A Mess Bus will leave the Greensborough Memorial Park at 11 AM from the McDowell St carpark entrance (Park your car in this carpark and transfer to the Bus)

At the completion of the Service the bus will take us to the Ballarat RSL (2 Lyons Street South, Ballarat - just off Sturt

Street) for refreshments for an hour or so. All Veterans are welcome to attend the RSL.

The bus will leave the Ballarat RSL at approx 5PM to return to Melbourne.

Bookings for the bus, first come first served basis, by email to David Fry at dfry3@optusnet.com.au or by phone 9459 0294 or 040 000 8509

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.

Lest we forget

Other News



Fresh Focus for National Army Museum

10 February 2009



By Bas Bolyn

On 3rd February 1915 New Zealand suffered its first fatal casualty of World War One: 6/246 Private William Ham of the Canterbury Infantry Battalion was

killed in a clash against the Turks at the Suez Canal.

To coincide with the date, some 94 years later, the National Army Museum launched their new brand, which included a special guest in attendance at the official function in Waiouru.

Ashley McKenzie-White represented her family as the great, grand-niece of Private Ham.

Ashley said the 3rd was very much a day of remembrance for the family and it was great to acknowledge Pte Ham's sacrifice as part of the museum's day.

The family were aware of Pte Ham's conspicuous honour but it was yet to be officially acknowledged she said.

"It's been a long struggle. We've always known about this date, but it's never really been recognised until now."

Despite the early search for a family member proving difficult, a well-placed media release by the museum found its way to Ashley's father, Larry White - a news editor for Radioworks in Otago - but importantly, also a descendant in-law of Pte Ham.

Pte Ham came over with his family from Bray, Ireland in 1904 and settled in Ngatimoti near Motueka. Two of the boys from the family fought in WWI, only one came home. The other four brothers were too young to fight but joined the territorials, where the military played a big part in their lives

"The Ham boys never thought twice about going to war," Ashley said.

A month after hearing of his eldest son's death, Private William Ham's father died; thought to be of a broken heart.



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



The family's service in the military did not end at the Great War. One of the Ham brothers that fought in WWI, returned to Europe to fight in WWII (where he died) and Ashley's grandfather was also a member of Bomber Commander for 75 Squadron, RAF, in WWII.

The military tradition continues today with Ashley's father a Corporal in 4 Otago Southland Battalion Group. The third consecutive generation to serve the country.

The personal story of Pte Ham exemplifies the intent of the National Army Museum: Te Mata Toa. The literal translation of Te Mata Toa is "through the eyes of the warrior".

Out of an eligible male population of only 240,000 New Zealanders, Ham was the first of a staggering 16,697 who lost their lives in the conflict.

Chairman of the Museum Charitable Trust, Chief of Army Major General Lou Gardiner said: "It is the personal stories of men and women who've served New Zealand with outstanding courage and bravery that are told in the National Army Museum, and they are for all New Zealanders to remember.

"Te Mata Toa reflects the continuing close relationship between the NZ Army and the National Army Museum, a relationship that is inextricably linked by our past."

The National Army Museum operates as a registered Charitable Trust which was first established in 1977 as a National Museum Trust Board set up to launch a National Army Museum.

The National Army Museum retains its official name: 'Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum', only its popular or trading name has been changed.

Commendation for Outstanding Achievement

10 February 2009

Gunner William David Johnson of the New Zealand Army has been awarded a commendation for outstanding achievement by Brigadier Mark Holmes, Commander of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF), Timor Leste.

Gunner Johnson was awarded the commendation for his handling of two serious traffic incidents in Dili during December 2008.

The award ceremony took place at the New Zealand barracks located in Dili in front of the majority of his fellow Kiwis.

The commendation praised Gunner Johnson's behaviour while dealing with the two road accidents, one of which resulted in a fatality, saying his actions maintained and enhanced the good reputation of the ISF in Timor Leste. His performance on his first operational tour of duty was especially remarkable given his junior rank and short length of service.



After the parade was called to attention and Gunner Johnson's name read, the 21 year old from Linton marched forward to accept the commendation. Following a brief personal exchange with the Commander, the parade honoured him with a traditional congratulatory haka.

"If it wasn't for all the training provided to me, I couldn't have acted the way I did," he said. "I was careful to pay attention in training and observe how my seniors reacted to certain situations. Like anything that you train hard for, it becomes instinctive."

Assisting in the commendation ceremony was the Commanding Officer of New Zealand forces in Timor Leste, Wing Commander Rory Paddock.

Brigadier Holmes said as a representative of the New Zealand Defence Force, Gunner Johnson had demonstrated that the force had the right people and the right training. "It's one more example of how capable the New Zealand Army is and the skilled and talented personnel they have on this operation."

Gunner Johnson deployed to Timor Leste in November 2008 as part of Task Group Gyro 6. He is serving with the International Stabilisation Force under operational control of Timor Leste Battle Group 5 as a rifleman in Support Section, K Company.

- ["I'd Do It All Again..."](#)
- [A Nation Scarred By Atrocities](#)
- [Kiwis Take Out Top Honours At Duntroon](#)
- [Fresh Focus for National Army Museum](#)
- [Weft's Woollies Warm World's Poorer Children](#)
- [Commendation for Outstanding Achievement](#)
- [It's Snow Time!](#)
- [Signal Corps Training Course](#)
- [Army Dominate at Softball Champs](#)
- www.army.mil.nz



Feb 09 - Recovery of the Former HMNZS Tui's Anchor



On 11th February HMNZS MANAWANUI sailed from Devonport with the Operational Dive Team (ODT) embarked.

Destination: Tutukaka.

Task: To recover the anchor of the former HMNZS TUI.

Jeroen Jongejans, Managing Director of Dive Tutukaka, had initiated the project to see the anchor placed on the shore as a commemoration to the

ship's sinking 10 years ago. MANAWANUI arrived on the scene early in the evening and were met by Jeroen who embarked and gave some further information on the location, seabed type and depths the ODT could expect. After a tricky anchoring procedure the dive team got straight down to work. The task progressed well with the anchor being cut from the chain relatively easily. The difficulty then came when the attempt was made to float the anchor. First one, then two, finally three float bags were attached to it – a combined lifting weight of 3 tons (the anchor weighs 1.6 tons) but the seabed kept its grip. By now it was 0200 Thursday and the ship's company and the divers were exhausted. The decision was made to leave the site and recover during daylight hours.

Image Above: TUI's anchor is transferred to Dive Tutukaka (WN 09-0052-03).

MANAWANUI remained underway overnight and at 1000 Thursday, utilising the ship's unique TELMEC anchoring system, the ship was positioned exactly over the submerged anchor. The ODT re-entered the water using the dive bell and with the divers and the ship's crane, the sea finally gave up its treasure and TUI's anchor broke the surface. It was a great moment for all as we looked at the barnacle coated piece of history. The operation had taken 5 hours and once it was on board, MANAWANUI anchored for the evening in the lee of the Whangarei Heads to shelter from the strengthening northerly wind.

Friday dawned with sunshine and light winds and MANAWANUI weighed anchor and sailed back up the coast to

Tutukaka to transfer the anchor to Dive Tutukaka. After a carefully executed pilotage through the narrow inlet of Tutukaka Harbour, the ship was met by the Dive Tutukaka boat and the anchor was transferred without any difficulties. All in all, this was a very successful operation and one that was a privilege to be involved in.

Feb 09 - Back to sea for Naval Tanker



Monday 16 February marked the return to sea for the Navy Tanker, HMNZS ENDEAVOUR. The ship had been alongside at the Devonport Naval Base since March 2008 undergoing modifications to her fuel cargo tanks. The modifications were required to ensure she is able to operate as a 'double sided' tanker.

ENDEAVOUR is now good to operate until 2013 when International Maritime Regulations will require tankers to be fully double hulled; a procedure that will not be possible for ENDEAVOUR and will most likely result in her retirement from the Navy.

ENDEAVOUR sailed on Monday 16 February for sea safety and readiness checks in the Hauraki Gulf prior to a period of navy sea training. This preparation period is in anticipation of a scheduled deployment which will include a port visit to her affiliated homeport of New Plymouth from 13 – 16 March, thence Wellington on 20 – 23 March in company with frigate HMNZS TE KAHA.

Image Above: HMNZS Endeavour (MC 03-0554-26).

Early April 2009 will see ENDEAVOUR, in company with frigate HMNZS TE MANA; depart for China and South East Asia. The ships will participate in a Chinese Fleet Naval Review in Qingdao in late April and thereafter participation in the annual Exercise Bersama Lima Five Power Defence Arrangement exercise.



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



Commanding Officer of HMNZS ENDEAVOUR, Commander David Toms, credits with pride the team effort of his crew to prepare ENDEAVOUR for her return to sea, with all the 49 men and women in his 'team' displaying a fine example of the core values of the Navy - courage, commitment and comradeship.



Background:

The Fleet Replenishment Ship HMNZS ENDEAVOUR is the third ship to bear the name in the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN). The first two, both ex US Naval vessels, were originally used in support of the NZ Antarctic Programme from 1956 to 1962 and 1962 to 1971 respectively, and the original being the HM Bark ENDEAVOUR that carried Captain James Cook, RN, on his first voyage to New Zealand.

Unlike her predecessors, the present ENDEAVOUR has been built specifically for the RNZN. Although built essentially to a commercial tanker design and standards, she has been fitted with a variety of specialised equipment to permit her naval role to be fulfilled.

HMNZS ENDEAVOUR carries supplies and fuel for RNZN, Commonwealth and Allied surface units. She can resupply ships at sea, or in overseas ports from the 7,500 tonnes of fuel in her eight tanks, or the supplies held in the four containers on deck. Additionally ENDEAVOUR can provide fuel to helicopters fitted with in flight refuelling.

On 8 April 1988, ENDEAVOUR was commissioned for service with the RNZN and departed Ulsan, South Korea on her delivery voyage to New Zealand on 14 April 1988.

ENDEAVOUR's motto 'Nil intentatum' means 'Nothing unattempted'. Her crest features a navigator's compass and the stars of the Southern Cross, symbolising the pioneering navigations and survey work of Captain Cook.

Her home port is New Plymouth and she is affiliated with the IHC charity, New Plymouth.

[Change of Command Ceremony for Naval Ship Navy returns for Art Deco Weekend](#)
[Back to Sea for Naval Tanker](#)
[Presentation of Service Medal by President of Timor-Leste](#)
[Delivering a modern, relevant, professional Defence Force](#)
[Minister announces NZDF appointments](#)

www.navy.mil.nz

Air Force band steps up for Annual tour



The Royal New Zealand Air Force Band (WN09-0047-01)

12 February 2009

The 65 members of the Central Band of the Royal New Zealand Air Force will be winging their way through the heart of the North Island, presenting school and public concerts, street parades and workshops during their annual tour, between 16 – 22 February.

Residents in Auckland, Hamilton, Rotorua, Taupo and the Hawkes Bay will get a rare opportunity to see New Zealand's largest professional symphonic band in concert.

The concerts will be jam-packed with something for everyone, with musical variety ranging from the classics to modern hits, from Tchaikovsky to ABBA. Guest vocalists include singers Bella Kalolo and Stephanie Paris.

"Prices have been kept as low as possible to attract a large and varied audience," said the Royal New Zealand Air Force's Director of Music, Squadron Leader Owen Clarke.

Schools around the regions will also have the chance to see the band perform special concerts for them during the tour.

"The children love seeing and hearing the different instruments, especially the saxophones and of course the drums!" says SQNLDR Clarke.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for student/child.

The tour itinerary includes the following concerts:



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



Mon 16 Feb 11.00 am Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna
Book at the Bruce Mason Centre – Tickets only \$3

Tue 17 Feb 7.30 pm Founders Theatre, Hamilton
TICKETDIRECT 0800 224 224

Wed 18 Feb 7.30 pm Civic Theatre, Rotorua
TICKETMASTER 0800 111 999

Fri 20 Feb 7.30 pm Great Lakes Centre, Taupo
TICKETEK (07) 377 1207.

Sun 22 Feb 12.30 pm Hawke's Bay Opera House, Hastings
TICKETDIRECT (06) 873 8969 or 0800 224 224

Double the Capability as second Air Force Boeing returns



The second of the RNZAF's upgraded Boeing 757 aircraft, NZ7572 lands at Air Force Base Whenuapai. (AK 09-0060-002)

12 February 2009

The second of the Royal New Zealand Air Force's Boeing 757 aircraft has returned to New Zealand from Mobile Aerospace Engineering, Alabama after a significant airframe and avionics upgrade.

The modifications that have greatly improved the B757's capabilities include:

- Updated military and civil communication and navigation systems
- The installation of a main deck cargo door
- Strengthened floors New cargo handling system
- The ability to carry a mixed payload of cargo and passengers on the same deck greatly enhances the deployability of the NZDF.

"The return of both of the Air Force's Boeing 757s is a reward to all those who have worked so hard on this project," said Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Graham Lintott.

"The modification is the latest step in improved air support capability for New Zealand. The increased versatility of the Boeing 757 will see the aircraft able to support a wide range of tasks around the world."

The upgrade of the 757 is part of a modernisation programme that will see the introduction into service of more than thirty new or significantly upgraded aircraft across six different fleets of the RNZAF.

Background Notes

The modifications of the B757s were completed by Singapore Technologies, Mobile Aerospace Engineering (based in Mobile, Alabama, USA) and Boeing Integrated Defence Systems (based in Wichita, Kansas, USA).

The total cost of acquisition and modifications of both aircraft was \$220 million.

The first upgraded aircraft (NZ7571) arrived back in New Zealand in August 2008, where it commenced its introduction into service and operational evaluation by the RNZAF, before returning to the USA for final upgrade work on its communication system.

This significantly reduced the overall downtime this aircraft experienced, and subsequently meant it was available for use at the earliest available opportunity.

The second aircraft (NZ7572) has had the complex communications changes completed prior to leaving the USA, but will still need to complete its introduction into service by the RNZAF in New Zealand.

[Air Force Officers Wing in](#)
[Air Force band steps up for Annual tour](#)
[Double the Capability as second Air Force Boeing returns](#)
[Delivering a modern, relevant, professional Defence Force](#)
[Minister announces NZDF appointments](#)

www.airforce.mil.nz



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



IN REMEMBRANCE



RNZRSA Submission to the Law Commission

Last December we forwarded to the Law Commission our submission on the War Pensions Act re-write, but only in interim form. The timing of the Law Commission's "roadshow" and the complexity of the issues meant we had no opportunity to obtain the internal constitutional approvals that would be necessary before we went public.

But that has now been done. Since January our interim document has been under consideration by our Affiliates, by the large Steering Group we set up, and by the NEC. At its meeting on 23-24 February 2009, NEC approved it unanimously.

I am very pleased therefore to be able to publish the document. As it happens, there have been no major changes to the interim version, except that some points suggested by Messrs David Cox and Larry Boyle from the World War II contingent have been included; and a few other points of clarification have also been made.

This has been a challenging task. As the submission itself remarks, it has involved extensive consultations with welfare officers, Affiliates, the large Steering Group and others, over many months. The Law Commission's seminars at RSAs and within the Defence Force have also been vital. The issues are both wide and deep. Naturally, in the course of these consultations a very wide range of views has been expressed on a very wide range of topics. In not a few cases it was difficult to harmonize the results because, basically, the views of some clashed directly with the views of others. We thank those who sent us copies of individual submissions, but because they were submissions to the Law Commission not the RNZRSA, the snapshot we have of them is not necessarily complete.

An age-old risk appeared - try to please everybody but end up pleasing nobody. And so, decisions had to be taken knowing that they would not please everybody equally. Out of all this, therefore, what we have tried to do is express a representative view as accurately and constructively as possible. As the submission points out, it is particularly important that what we propose is achievable and is a good fit with the New Zealand support system, a major part of which is ACC. We also know that

anything we might achieve rests wholly on public acceptance of our special position in society.

In that regard, on the one hand we had the Law Commission's view that those who have served do occupy a special place; and that those who have been damaged in harms' way should have the same entitlements as other citizens, plus something. On the other hand, if we stretched public sympathy too far, we would risk losing support altogether. This has been a difficult line to walk.

The RNZRSA submission attempts to present the best possible case. But it is not the end of the process. Indeed it is scarcely the beginning. Over coming months there will be ample opportunity to change, add to, or subtract from what is in our submission, and others, as the Law Commission works on turning what it has learned into new and better law. We look forward to the next stages alongside the Commission.

Robin Klitscher
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Note: The submission is attached as a separate file.

NZ Sub-Branch Executive Appointments 2008

President	Lindsay Taylor
Vice Presidents	Brian Meyer Taawhi Kerehona
Honorary Secretary	Greg Makutu
Honorary Treasurer	Greg Makutu

NZ Sub-Branch Delegates 2008

Honorary Auditors	Janet Barclay Barrie Leslie
Trustees	John Rayner Margaret McInroy David Winkelmann
Publicity	Greg Makutu
State Congress Rep	Lindsay Taylor Taawhi Kerehona
Pension/Welfare	Barrie Leslie
Chaplain	Archdeacon Malcolm Karipa
Returning Officer	Barrie Leslie
Solicitor	Not Needed
Patron	Bob Wood
IMDC Rep	Lindsay Taylor Taawhi Kerehona



New Zealand Sub-Branch



NewZletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Veterans please note that the dates are tentative and subject to change as invitations and confirmation of activities are received. **Yellow** highlight indicates there has been a change.

March Thursday 5th 1100 ANZAC Day Participants Meeting (Neville)

Sunday 8th **1030 Committee Meeting**
1100 AGM

April Friday 17th 1900 Chatswood RSL Dinner Invitation Only (Wear Medals)

Saturday 18th 1400 Kapyong Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flag/Medals)

Sunday 19th 0930 Coogee/Randwick ANZAC Service
1000 St Stephens ANZAC Church Service Willoughby (Wear Medals)
1100 NZ Soldier on ANZAC Bridge

1500 North Sydney ANZAC Service and March (Banner/Flags/Medals)

Thursday 23rd 0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)

Friday 24th 0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)

Saturday 25th ANZAC Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banners/Flags/Medals)

May Sunday 10th 1030 ANZAC Church Service Te Wairua Tapu Maori Anglican Church Redfern (Korowai/LemonSqueezer/RNZAF Hat/RNZN Hat/Medals)

Friday 29th 1100 Indigenous Veterans Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)

Sunday 31st **1030 Committee Meeting**

July Sunday 5th 1100 Reserve Forces Day Hyde Park (Standard/Flags/Medals)

Sunday 19th 1200 Mid-Year Lunch Chatswood RSL (Wear Medals)

Sunday 26th **1030 Committee Meeting**

August Friday 14th 1100 Victory in the Pacific Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)

Sunday 16th 1130 Vietnam Veterans Day Springwood (Banner/Flags/Medals)

Monday 17th 1100 Battle of Long Tan Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flag/Medals)

September Thursday 3rd 1100 Battle of Australia Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)

Friday 4th 1100 Merchant Navy Day Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)

Friday 11th 1100 Battle of Britain Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)

Sunday 27th **1030 Committee Meeting**

November Tuesday 10th 0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)

Wednesday 11th 0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)
1100 Remembrance Day Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flags/Medals)

Sunday 29th **1030 Committee Meeting**

December Sunday 13th 1200-1500 Xmas Lunch Chatswood RSL Club (Wear Medals)

January Thursday 21st 1100 ANZAC Participants Meeting (Barrie)