



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



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Meetings held at Chatswood RSL

The Month That Was

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Remembrance Day



It was a very moving service at the Cenotaph this year with an ever increasing attendance of dignitaries which is understandable due to it being the 90th anniversary year. However, attendance by the general public was also large with

viewing room extremely limited. Attendance was so large that Wreath laying was not individually announced but rather laid in larger groups than normal. Furthermore, other country representative groups had to lay wreaths separately after the main event. But if such large groups attend Remembrance Day then that can only be a good thing and as always NZ veterans attend (picture above left to right: Neville, Greg, John, Sarah, Luke, Lindsay).

NZ veterans were again selling Poppies at Martin Place station. This year Luke (nephew of Brian) was allowed a day off from school to help us which was very much appreciated. Poppy selling occurred on both the Monday and Tuesday mornings with the general public very supportive as they are every year (picture above: Barrie).



(Picture top left: Luke and Greg, top right: Janet, bottom left: Lindsay and Neville, bottom right: Barrie, John, Luke, Lindsay, Janet, Neville, Linda)

LEST WE FORGET

Margaret Snows Visit

Thank you to those veterans that attended a workshop with Margaret Snow. The workshop was a result of Margaret giving some of her private time whilst in Sydney. It was certainly very much appreciated, well attended and I hope veterans got some valuable information and support needed.

Other Notices

The War Pensions Act 1954 Review 28 November 2008



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Veterans, the review is extremely large to be sent by email. Therefore, I will send the Summary of Issues separately for your consideration and/or comment which can be sent directly to the Law Commission, PO Box 2590, Wellington 6011, New Zealand or email veterans@lawcom.govt.nz

Or I am happy to receive any comments and consolidate them as one response.

The deadline for responses is 28 November 2008.

If possible it would be best to view the documents on the Law Commission website
<http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/ProjectGeneral.aspx?ProjectID=151>

The Xmas Lunch 14 December 2008

It has been a busy year again and we finish the year with a lunch at the Chatswood RSL Club. Hopefully some of you can make the lunch and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow kiwi veterans. A notice is attached to this NewZletter but if you can attend, I look forward to seeing you. **Please let me know if you are attending the lunch no later than 3 December as I need to advise the caterers.** The cost is \$25 and includes three course meal and drinks (beer and wine).

New Zealand Reunion at the Bondi RSL: Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home March Sydney, 3 October 1987

On the 3 October 1987, I had the honour and privilege of being actively involved in the [cinemaphotography] production, that involved certain aspects of the Vietnam Veterans' Welcome Home March, Sydney. This film footage comprises: 3 hours of continual audio/visual colour 16mm cinemaphotography [now converted to DVD and Digital Betacam D321 Tape] which includes: the FUP: Domain, the march focusing on 4 RAR, and other units; with particular emphasis determined in capturing numerous personal and collective interviews of Vietnam Veterans, either on the Sydney Streets, or later at their respective reunion venues.

The last few chapters of this historical film depicts the NZ reunion venue at the Bondi RSL! Quite historical 20 -22 minutes of ceremonial footage, that includes the opening address in Maori, by a distinguished and eloquent Maori representative, followed by the Maori Hymn: 1, 2 & last verses; including the formal acceptance of a plaque and reef presented by the Cabramatta Vietnamese Community, followed by the presentation of a very special Maori carving on the stage venue [see attached snapshot6.jpg pic] Bondi RSL, which is described in Maori tradition, as a solemn and sacred thing [expressing the unity between Australia and New Zealand forces].

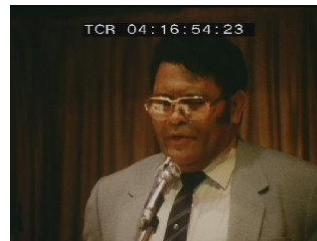
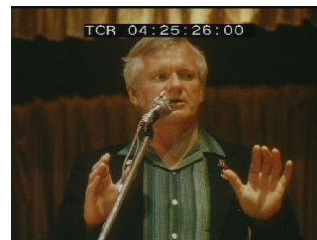
This film footage captures the audio address of some obviously very distinguished NZ Veterans, addressing the audience from the Bondi RSL dais, that continues for about 20 minutes; notwithstanding the preceding film footage that symbolically represents each of the 37 fallen NZ warrior's Vietnam War, by the march past of 37 memorial NZ flags; whilst the whole NZ contingent takes the salute at the Sydney Town Hall by Prime Minister Bob Hawke, accompanied by many other military personnel and political, church dignitaries!

I would appreciate wide distribution of these pictures for the purpose of identifying the gentlemen depicted on the dais of the Bondi RSL.

This film was produced by Sue Wild, with cinemaphotographer Preston Clothier, and Mark Arbict Director, and has only just recently been recovered from storage.

Best Regards,

Ted Colmer
(02) 47 214139
183 Jamison Road
PENRITH 2750
NSW





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

For all Naval communicator veterans there is to be a RNZN Communicator Reunion in 2009 in Nelson. Nelson is so absolutely beautiful and I do wish you all the best for your reunion. I have included the Notice at the end of this NewZletter. However, the reunion contact details are:

Jeff Brown - 0408 621 493

Registration on Website - www.rnzncomms.org

RNZN Reunion Sydney (9-13 April 2009)

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.

1RNZIR band tour to South Vietnam in 1969 (Courtesy of Roger Carter)

Greetings all,

Most of you will know about the great work that Paul Diamond is doing to preserve our military heritage, and the work that he did with Jim Carson early this year. I highly recommend a look at the website, which is given below in Paul's email to myself. There is more to be done and I am pleased to see that others will be asked to offer stories etc of their experiences. Other stories by soldiers that many of us knew well, are well worth a look also.

I ask the NZ Army Band to include the information below in the next edition of the Esprit de Corps please?? so that those 120 ex members not on email, can look up the site at their local library or their children's or friends computers.

Cheers - Roger.

----- Original Message -----

From: Paul Diamond

To: carterspest@bigpond.com

Sent: Friday, November 21, 2008 12:42 PM

Subject: 1RNZIR band tour to South Vietnam in 1969

Dear Roger,

Here's an update on progress we've made since you alerted us (via Chris Mullane) to the 1RNZIR band tour to South Vietnam in 1969.

With your help I was able to contact Jim Carson and do an interview with him earlier this year. Jim generously made his photos, letters and other material available to us and we've been able to use this as the basis for a slideshow that my colleague Gareth Phipps has put on the website we've set up as part of the Vietnam War Oral History Project.

You can find the slideshow here:

<http://vietnamwar.govt.nz/memory/1rnzир-band-tour>

I wondered if you could let people know about the slideshow through your email networks?

We're going to encourage others who were on the tour to contribute their own memories and memorabilia as well. I'm also keen to include other material like audio recordings of the band around the time of the tour, as well as some film footage which was recorded by one of the members.

Many thanks for alerting us to the tour-it's great to be able to include it on the website, and it was a privilege to be able to spend time with Jim before he passed away.

Yours sincerely

Paul Diamond

Senior Oral Historian

Te Manatū Taonga/Ministry for Culture and Heritage

PO Box 5364, Wellington, New Zealand

DDI 00 64 4 496-6338

Fax 00 64 4 499-4490

www.vietnamwar.govt.nz

www.mch.govt.nz

RF Cadet 50th Anniversary Reunion 2013 (Bennett Class)

Dear Greg,

Thanks for your NewZletter. I attended the 60th Birthday celebrations for the RF Cadet School. I was in the 1963 intake. This was Bennett Class. There were 14 there from that class and we decided to see how many ex Bennett Class members we could all contact with the view to arranging our 50th anniversary in 2013.

Would you mind passing on this request for any who belong to your association to please contact either me or Ben Hadfield.



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Ben's email address is benzza@iprimus.com.au. Mine is royvjones@dreamtilt.com.au.

Thanks.
Regards,
Roy Jones.

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, both the Parade Marshall and I will be more controlling next year so that Veterans are at the front of the contingent with descendents behind and any other matters that need addressing based on your feedback.

Upcoming Events

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

Committee Meeting Matters

The next Committee meeting is on the Sunday 30 November at 1030 hours. 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.

Ex-Vietnam Services Association Inc

www.evsa.org.nz

NZ Soldier on ANZAC Bridge in Bronze

Alan Somerville will do the NZ Soldier in Bronze for any veteran interested in obtaining one. Please go to the following website to www.bronzeaussie.com.au to get more details.



NZ Sub-Branch Victoria

Welcome to Ron Hornblow the Honorary Secretary of the NZ Sub-Branch in Victoria. Ron has a membership of about 16 veterans so whilst this NewZletter goes to veterans in NSW, if you know of any veterans in Victoria, please ask them to contact Ron on (03)9309 3002.

NZ Veterans in Australia

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. Anyway, if you have any views on this please let me know.

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 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:-



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- 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.

J E & A Millar
44 Kaiwara Street
Hoon Hay
Christchurch 8025
Ph: 03-942-6388
Fax: 03-942-6376
Email: the44millars@clear.net.nz

38543 SSgt Valentine (Val) William LITCHFIELD

As per my previous emails, some of the veterans are attending Val's funeral so I will include an article in the December NewZletter.

Just a reminder, 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

Acknowledgements / Personal Notices

Happy Birthday to Trevor Philip, Mark Allingham, Mike Hannan, Ron Martin, Sir Brian Dudley, Kathleen Kerehona, John Finnie, Francis Thurston, Bryan O'Hanlon and Lindsay Taylor.

The Last Post

71115, 30212 William Henry (Bill) DYSON, MBE

From: "John and Annette" <the44millars@clear.net.nz>
To: "Undisclosed Recipients" <the44millars@clear.net.nz>
Sent: Wednesday November 5, 2008 06:48 AM
Subject: Last Post

We have been advised of the following:

71115, 30212 William Henry (Bill) DYSON, MBE, ex RNZ Signals, RF, passed away peacefully at Mary Potter Hospice, Wellington, on 3 November 2008.

Bill's funeral mass is to be celebrated at the Church of St Anthony, Falkirk Avenue, Seatoun, Wellington, on Friday 7 November 2008 at 1300hrs, thereafter interment at the Makara Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Parkinsons Wellington, PO Box 30082, Lower Hutt 5040, or Mary Potter Hospice, PO Box 7442, Newtown, Wellington 6242.

Messages may be placed on Bill's online Tribute Book at www.tributes.co.nz or posted C/- PO Box 14366, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6241.

Regards,
John and Annette
Kura-takahi-puni

Other News



Willie Apiata VC - The Reluctant Hero

Media Release courtesy: Penguin NZ

WILLIE APIATA
- VC -
THE RELUCTANT HERO

Paul Little



Due to overwhelming public interest in New Zealand's newest hero, the life story of Willie Apiata will now be told, including the incredible heroics which led to him being awarded the highest military honour.

On 10 November under strict embargo, Penguin Group (NZ) will release the much anticipated biography of New Zealand's newest hero, Willie Apiata, VC.



'I knew we had to move. With the wagon being on fire it could only protect us for so long. There were that many RPG rounds rocking it, hitting it one after the other ... sooner or later one of us was going to take a round if we stayed there.'

Lance Corporal Willie Apiata, a New Zealand Special Air Service trooper, was trapped at the front of a major fire-fight with suspected Taliban insurgents on a dark and desolate Afghan hilltop. One of his mates was bleeding to death and they were pinned down under intense enemy fire.

For Apiata there was no choice. He fell back on the values instilled in him by his mother, the skills learnt during a tough pig-hunting life in the bush on the East Coast of New Zealand, and the knowledge won from years of training with the NZSAS.

With the lives and safety of his mates his only priority, Apiata performed an act of courage that has now become part of New Zealand history – an act that saw him become the first recipient of the Victoria Cross for New Zealand and just the 14th holder of the Commonwealth's highest honour for bravery since the end of the Second World War.

From his early life in small town Te Kaha, to his actions in the deserts of Afghanistan, this is his story in his words. This is the story of Willie Apiata, VC.

An ordinary kiwi bloke, a very reluctant hero, just doing his job.

Voted the most trusted New Zealander

ENDS

[Penguin Media Release: Willie Apiata - VC - The Reluctant Hero \(.pdf 776kb\)](#)

Viking HB | \$50.00 | EMBARGOED until 10 November 2008

PLEASE NOTE: WILLIE APIATA, VC, WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

Review and promotional copies will be available upon request.

For all publicity enquiries please contact:

Gina Harrison, Senior Publicist | Penguin Group (NZ)
DDI: (09) 442 7462 |



Chief of Army launches Devil's Own War

Historian John Crawford signs a copy of his latest book, the Devils Own War (OH-08-0787-07tn)

11 November 2008

Family members of Brigadier General Herbert Hart, New Zealand Defence Force personnel, researchers, historians and other guests attended a special function to

launch *The Devil's Own War* edited by NZDF historian John Crawford at Defence House, on 11 November, Armistice Day.

The Devil's Own War contains the diary of Brigadier General Herbert Hart, which is now widely regarded to be one of the most important personal sources relating to the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

The book, which was officially launched by the Chief of Army, Major General Lou Gardiner, includes gripping descriptions of both combat and life behind the front line during World War I.

Brigadier-General Herbert Hart left New Zealand in 1914 as a major in the main body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and returned in 1919 as a much decorated brigadier general. He commanded the Wellington Battalion during the closing stages of the Gallipoli campaign, and then served as a battalion and brigade commander on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918.

MAJGEN Gardiner said in his speech that, "like many soldiers, Hart had a dark sense of humour that helped him deal with the horrors that surrounded him. Hart, who was a keen cyclist, informed his much loved wife Minnie that he had been wounded at Gallipoli with a telegram that read: 'Double puncture; being vulcanised; well soon'."

For many years Hart's diaries have been one of the key sources used by New Zealand historians writing about the Great War. In the Wairarapa where Hart was born and lived, when he was not serving our country, his qualities have always been appreciated.

"The publication of *The Devil's Own War* will make his insights and experiences much more accessible to a wider audience, and will help New Zealanders appreciate what a significant figure he was," said MAJGEN Gardiner.



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"The Defence Force is delighted to be contributing to this process by donating a copy of The Devil's Own War to every New Zealand secondary school.

"Herbert Hart was an outstanding military leader who always enjoyed the respect and trust of both his superior officers and the men he commanded.

Many of the attributes that made him one of New Zealand's greatest citizen soldiers are still relevant to the men and women of today's Defence Force. The values of courage, commitment, integrity and comradeship continue to be central tenants of our organisation.

"The Devil's Own War is a fine book and a fitting tribute to an exceptional New Zealander. I would like to congratulate John Crawford, our Defence Force Historian; Exisle Publishing; and all the other people involved in its production.

The book again brings home to us how much we all owe to the men and women who served our country in the First World War," MAJ GEN Gardiner said.

A number of Brigadier General Hart's descendants travelled from Northland and the Wairarapa to the launch. Hart's granddaughter, Merrilyn Bartram of Masterton, spoke of her special relationship with her grandfather who taught her to drive and to shoot.

The book launch was part of Coming Home Te Hokinga Mai, an official programme of government events to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Armistice Day.

[NZ troops arrive home from the Solomon Islands](#)

[Farewell to Timor Leste bound troops](#)

[Defence Minister farewells Kiwi contingent](#)

[Army shooting competition in soldiers' sights](#)

[Kiwi troops depart for Christmas in Timor Leste](#)

[More troops bound for Solomon Islands](#)

[Send a Christmas message to Kiwi Defence Personnel](#)

[Anzac clash first up in Defence League world cup](#)

[National commemorative service for 90th anniversary of](#)

[Armistice Day](#)

[Remembrance Sunday service honours military personnel](#)

[Defence Force on show at waterfront event](#)

www.army.mil.nz

Nov 08 - Navy on Parade in North Shore City

The North Shore City Council invited the Royal New Zealand Navy to exercise its Charter with North Shore City on Wednesday 5 November.

The Charter Parade is about granting

freedom of the city. It is a long standing custom stretching back to the time of the Middle Ages. It recognises, cements and fosters the close association North Shore City has with our naval ships and those who sail in them. It entitles the Navy the right and privilege of marching through the streets of North Shore City with drums beating, bands playing, colours flying, bayonets fixed and swords drawn.



Above Image: 50-man Guard of Honour, six 24-man platoons and the Band of the Royal New Zealand Navy in the vicinity of The Strand in Takapuna during the Charter Parade (MC 08-0433-01).

The Charter Parade stepped off at 10:45 am in the vicinity of The Strand in Takapuna and featured a march past and salute to the Mayor of North Shore City, Andrew Williams. The parade comprised of a 50-man Guard of Honour, six 24-man platoons and the Band of the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Addresses to the public were provided by the Mayor of North Shore City and the Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Ledson.



Above Image: 50-man Guard of Honour, six 24-man platoons and the Band of the Royal New Zealand Navy in the vicinity of The Strand in Takapuna during the Charter Parade (MC 08-0433-01)

Nov 08 - Navy's Survey Vessel assists Tongan Ferry





Hot on the heels of an earlier rescue mission involving

ing a 53ft yacht which ran aground on a reef outside Nuku'alofa in mid October, personnel from the Navy's hydrographic survey vessel, HMNZS RESOLUTION, again put their damage control skills to good use in making temporary repairs to another ship in distress. At 2:00 pm on Saturday 1 November RESOLUTION responded to a call for assistance from the merchant vessel Olovaha, a ferry used to maintain supply chains to the outer islands in the Kingdom of Tonga.

RESOLUTION was carrying out hydrographic survey work when its Commanding Officer answered a call for assistance from the vessel Olovaha which was taking on water as it headed from Vava'u to Nuku'alofa. Within an hour of hearing of the vessel's plight, a team of Navy personnel were aboard the Olovaha armed with construction materials to 'shore up' several gaping holes in the bow of the vessel.

Above Image Right: Tongan Ferry OLOVAHA and RESOLUTION Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat (WN 08-0141-02).

RESOLUTION's Commanding Officer, Commander Murray Tuffin, and his ship's company of 49 men and women have been surveying in the South Pacific for the past six weeks with the task of updating navigational charts, some of which are dated as far back as 1898. Commander Tuffin says, "The methods and expertise applied to the problem onboard Olovaha were skills taught to all naval personnel and exercised regularly on all naval vessels. Refined over decades of experience of warfare damage and lessons learnt from other nations, the damage control skills are equally applicable and important for civilian vessels".



Above Image: HMNZS Resolution Damage Control Party - XO of HMNZS Resolution Lieutenant Commander Julian Conway, LMT Ru Ruland, CPO Wayne Freeman and AHSO Matthew

Barber and AHSO Joseph Shepherd onboard OLOVAHA (WN 08-0141-01).

After applying temporary patches to ensure that the vessel was in no danger, the Olovaha was farewelled to continue onto Nuku'alofa with its precious cargo of supplies and people. Meanwhile RESOLUTION will continue surveying in the Kingdom of Tonga before proceeding to Samoa and the Cook Islands destination of Pukapuka. RESOLUTION is programmed to return to New Zealand in mid-December after completing three months of survey work.

[Send a Christmas message to Kiwi Defence Personnel](#)
[Naval Reserve fine tune skills at Whangaparaoa](#)
[National commemorative service for 90th anniversary of Armistice Day](#)
[Remembrance Sunday service honours military personnel](#)
[Navy's survey vessel assists Tongan Ferry](#)
[Navy Band on the road for tours and concerts](#)

www.navy.mil.nz



New training agreement to benefit Air Force pilots



Defence Minister Hon Phil Goff, with the German Ambassador to New Zealand, His Excellency Mr Jörg Zimmermann, sign a Status of Forces

Agreement that will foster training and exercise opportunities between New Zealand and Germany. (WN 08-0035-53tn)

4 November 2008



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Today's signing of a Status of Forces Agreement between New Zealand and Germany marks a significant step in the future relationship between the both nations' defence forces.

The agreement, signed by the Minister of Defence, Hon Phil Goff and German Ambassador to New Zealand, His Excellency Mr Jörg Zimmermann, sets out the conditions for the temporary stay of New Zealand Defence Force personnel in Germany for the purposes of all training, exercises and exchanges.

Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Graham Lintott says the agreement is of particular significance for the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) as it will cover the pilot exchange with Germany set to begin in early 2009.

"RNZAF pilots who will be operating the new NH90 helicopters will be among the first to benefit from this agreement.

"The arrival of the NH90 helicopter into the service will be an exciting milestone for the Air Force and working alongside other NH90 operators, such as Germany, will be of invaluable assistance in terms of training opportunities."

Initially, the RNZAF intends to send one pilot and one helicopter crewman for a 2 to 2 ½ year exchange to Germany in early 2009 and conversely will support German training programmes in respect of the NH90 in New Zealand.

Background Notes

The NH90 is an advanced medium utility helicopter, and will be used for frontline military and civil operations. It has the capability to support ground operations, counter terrorism, disaster relief, search and rescue and counter-drug operations.

Ten years in development, the NH90 represents current state of the art technology. It will be the cornerstone of the Defence Force capability over the next 30 years.

The total cost of the NH90s is \$771 million. More than a third of this cost includes logistics and support, comprising of spare parts, project costs, training, software and equipment, as well as currency hedging.

The RNZAF will introduce eight NH90 helicopters between 2010 and 2011 to replace its Iroquois fleet.

There are currently 855 New Zealand Defence Force personnel are deployed on 14 operations, UN missions and defence exercises around the world

Abandoned Ship Sparks Air Force Call Out



[A Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3K2 Orion has been deployed to undertake a search and rescue \(SAR\) mission for 29 missing fishermen.](#)

The Air Force, in coordination with the New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC), became alerted after a Taiwanese Long Liner was located by a Korean fishing boat in a burnt out condition, still afloat but with no one on board in the Fiji SAR region.

[Abandoned ship sparks Air Force call out](#)
[Send a Christmas message to Kiwi Defence Personnel](#)
[National commemorative service for 90th anniversary of Armistice Day](#)
[Remembrance Sunday service honours military personnel](#)
[New training agreement to benefit Air Force pilots](#)
[Defence Force on show at waterfront event](#)

www.airforce.mil.nz

IN REMEMBRANCE



Changing Guard at the RSA

New Chief Executive Dr Stephen Clarke at the New Zealand Memorial, Chunuk Bair, Gallipoli.

Today marks the end of an era when Mr Pat Herbert retires as Chief Executive of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association after 17 years of loyal and dedicated service - the second longest





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tenure in the 92-year-old history of the organisation founded by Gallipoli veterans.

During Mr Herbert's tenure the RSA did not fade away but is today still one of the largest voluntary organisations in the country with over 200 RSAs and 125,000 members. Over the period there have been significant change in terms of the demographic of the membership with the passing of the last World War One veterans and demise of the World War Two veteran population, but largely offset with the growth of Service membership as well as Associate members, without military service, that now number over 60,000. Through this transitional period for the organisation Mr Herbert has strongly guided the RSA to the strong and respected position that it enjoys today.

"Pat Herbert has always dealt with issues as they arise, with a straight bat, a high sense of right and wrong, and in the same, even-tempered way," said the RSA National President Mr Robin Klitscher. "His great leadership skills and compassion have been applied at all levels throughout the organisation. All done with great humility which explains the very obvious regard in which he is held by everybody out there in the RSA community, the public service, and by politicians."

"Pat has been an exemplary advocate and representative of the RSA and we wish him some well-earned R&R in his retirement," said Mr Klitscher.

For Mr Herbert the greatest and most rewarding change has been the growing numbers of New Zealanders wishing to honour and remember our past and present servicemen and women as highlighted by the resurgence of interest in ANZAC Day and also Armistice Day, with the 90th anniversary of the latter taking place next month.

"To see so many families and young children attending Anzac Days and at the RSA afterwards is wonderful as our veterans deserve this recognition. There are so many great personalities and stories in the RSA which is what makes it such a wonderful organisation," said Mr Herbert.

Mr Herbert's successor, Dr Stephen Clarke, who takes up the position from tomorrow (1 November 2008), is no stranger to the RSA. Dr Clarke has been associated with the RSA from university days when his study of the observance of ANZAC Day was supported by the RSA. He returned from further overseas study in 1999 to take up the role as the Association's official historian and since 2001 has been based at RSA National Headquarters in many roles such as research officer, commemorations, web manager and most recently public relations.

"We welcome Dr Clarke into his new position in full appreciation that he will be taking up an appointment left vacant by a particularly well-respected and skilful Chief Executive, but confident also that he will discharge the duties entailed in an equally effective manner," said Mr Klitscher. "We know that Stephen brings with him an obvious and deep understanding of what we are all about."

A graduate from the University of Otago and the Australian Defence Force Academy, Dr Clarke has specialized in military history and is an expert on the history of the return of service personnel and war remembrance in New Zealand. He is a frequent consultant on film television as well as contributor to newspapers and books both here and overseas.

Over the last eight years at National Headquarters Dr Clarke has launched and managed the Association's website, poppy projections on Parliament and the Auckland War Memorial Museum, as well as the first mobile phone Poppy Appeal this past year. He was closely involved with the return of the Unknown Warrior in 2004 and has represented the RNZRSA in London for the dedication of the New Zealand Memorial in 2006 Memorial and in Turkey where he fulfilled a lifetime ambition to visit Gallipoli.

At 40, and married with a young family, Dr Clarke is the youngest permanent head of the RNZRSA since World War One. As the first Associate member to be appointed to this position, Dr Clarke is looking forward to assisting and guiding the RSA movement forward in the 21st Century.

"It is an exciting time to be involved with the RSA and the veteran community at a time when we enjoy such generous support from the community. The respect and connections we see each ANZAC Day is a reminder that veterans are treasured members of our society and that their stories is a part of our story as a nation," said Dr Clarke.

"I look forward to providing New Zealanders with new opportunities to connect and support the RSA, whether it be on ANZAC Day or Poppy Day, through our welfare and youth support programmes, or 'down at the Razza' itself."

From Kaitiāia to the Bluff Dr Clarke envisages the RSA will long continue to play an important role in local communities as it has done over the last century.

"There's plenty more history left in us yet," said the historian and new Chief Executive.



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Media Advisory: Dr Clarke's first official duty will be to lay a wreath in remembrance of all those New Zealanders that did not return at the National War Memorial, Buckle Street, Saturday, 1 November 2008 at 1100 Hours.

Chatswood RSL [Committee Members, Official Invites: Consul General, Presidents Chatswood RSL/Sub-Branch]

Contact:

Dr Stephen Clarke
027 3645687

www.rsa.org.nz

2009

January Sunday 25th

1030 Committee Meeting

February Thursday 5th

1100 ANZAC Participants Meeting (Lindsay)

March Thursday 5th

1100 ANZAC Participants Meeting (Lindsay)

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 Service and March (Wear Medals)
1000 St Stephens ANZAC Church Service Willoughby (Wear Medals)
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)

Sunday 26th

1030 ANZAC Church Service Te Wairua Tapu Maori Anglican Church Redfern (Korowai/Lemon Squeezer/Medals)

May Sunday 31st

1030 Committee Meeting

Sunday 11th

1030 ANZAC Church Service Te Wairua Tapu Maori Anglican Church Redfern (Korowai/Lemon Squeezer/Medals)

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
Ken Frank
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

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.

December Sunday 14th 1200 NZ Sub-Branch Xmas Lunch



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



- July Sunday 5th 1100 Reserve Forces Day Hyde Park (Banner/Flags/Medals)
- Sunday 12th 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)
- Saturday 16th 1100 Battle of Long Tan Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flag/Medals)
- Sunday 17th 1130 Vietnam Veterans Day Springwood (Banner/Flags/Medals)
- September Wednesday 2nd 1100 Battle of Australia 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 Day Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)
1100 Remembrance Day Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flags/Medals)
- Sunday 29th **1030 Committee Meeting**

Sunday 14th December,
at 12:00 p.m. Chatswood RSL Club
Sydney NSW



The President and Committee of the NZ Sub-Branch cordially invite you to partake in some Christmas cheer, storytelling and general camaraderie this year with like veterans old and young, near and far.

Every year, the Sub-Branch holds its' annual Christmas lunch which is always well attended.

This year as with last year, for a small cost of \$25, there will be good food, drinks and great relaxing background music provided by Alfie Tarawa.



It has been another great year of activities, commemorations and services and is a nice end to the year as we reflect and prepare for another year ahead (2009) and again promoting NZ veterans involvement in conflicts and presence in New South Wales.

Lest We Forget

RSVP: Honorary Secretary, (02)83149510, 0408166586,
nzsubbranch@virginbroadband.com.au

You can also direct credit the NZ Sub-Branch bank account BSB: 032083 Account: 682866.

NZ SUB-BRANCH XMAS LUNCH



Celebrate Christmas!

Let's enjoy Christmas with good friends, great food, and holiday cheer!