



New Zealand Veterans in Australia Incorporated NEWZLETTER



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The Month That Was

National President NZVIA

Greetings to all Veterans both here and in New Zealand.



2011 Has been an interesting year as well as a busy but rewarding twelve months. All across Australia there is a strong support to the many ANZAC Day marches across the country from smaller marches such as Poona to the larger marches in Brisbane, Melbourne, Camberra, Perth and Sydney. Thanks to the sustained commitment of our Veterans in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and

Melbourne, NZ Veterans have pride of place at the front of the march. However, Kevin needs our support in Perth where alphabetical precedence still takes place. Furthermore, even the rain heavy at times did little to deter the Veterans who marched with pride coupled with their usual enthusiasm.

In Sydney, following the annual ANZAC Church Service at The Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu, NZ Veterans were joined by the Australian Veterans of the Mortdale RSL Sub-Branch and together presented to the Australian and New Zealand Soldier Statues on ANZAC Bridge. Furthermore, NZ Veterans in Sydney also rememberd their fallen at their annual Remembrance Day Church Service. However, this year the service also included the formal presentation of the NZ Defence Service Medal (NZDSM) by HE Maj Gen (Retd) Martyn Dunne CNZM the New Zealand High Commissioner to Australia and Councillor Phillip Black the Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney. Also in attendance was Sir Ian Turbott Kt AO CVO CMG who in spite of his age and indifferent health was delighted to join in our service and the NZ Veterans were most grateful for his attendance. There was a further opportunity to present the NZDSM to a number of Veterans at the Christmas Lunch. On this occasion The New Zealand Consul General for NSW and Queensland Martin Walsh did the honours which received grateful thanks from those presented on the day including Queensland based NZ Veteran Reg King.

In Queensland Alistair Martin achieved his goal of establishing a memorial in Poona with the unveiling celebrated on 28 October and well attended from NZ Veterans in

Quensland and New Zealand including Lt Col Darren Beck from the NZ Embassy in Canberra.

During the Year I was honoured to attend the Sydney/NSW events and also accept a number of invitations from Australian RSL Veteran organisations on behalf of all NZ Veterans in Australia which included a number of truly memorable occasions one of which was the unveiling of a new memorial at Penshurst.

I wish all NZ Veterans a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012 and look forward to your continued support throughout the coming year.

Ron Haira, National President NZVIA.

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/nzdsml/index.html>



For those that can assist, please help out 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.

New Zealand Veterans in Australia Incorporated



Dear Veterans, please be advised that the New Zealand Veterans in Australia Incorporated was officially registered as a Not-For-Profit organisation in NSW earlier this year with subsequent financial accounting requirements as at 1 July 2011.

Please go to www.nzvia.com.au to view the Constitution and if you would like to join the Council as a State Representative can you please submit your registration of interest to nzvia@nzvia.com.au

Please note, the organisation is new, it has no intention of taking over other well established organisations such as the Vietnam Veterans but is attempting to represent all NZ Veterans that have an interest in NZ Veteran Matters. We would consider seeking a nominal membership \$5 per year just to cover administration costs as it is the intent that everything we do will be done electronically. Furthermore, all financial members only will receive monthly financial statements with an Annual Report being posted on the website.

Membership can be made as follows:

New Zealand Veterans in Australia Inc
Westpac Martin Place
BSB: 032024
ACCT: 849523

Veterans Funded for WWII Commemorations

Dear Veterans, a letter has been sent to VANZ advising of four WWII Veterans interested in attending commemorations overseas as part of the NZ Government funding of WWII Veterans who wish to travel to 70th anniversary commemorations overseas. The WWII Veterans who have so far been nominated are:

NZ1221 Frank Harlow (Greece/Crete) DOB 10.08.1913
NZ4261 Maj (Retd) Bob Wood POW (Italy/North Africa)
DOB 12.08.1914
NZ82871 Maurice Borland (Egypt/Italy) DOB 27.06.1918
NZ42758 Arch Campbell (Pacific) DOB 29.11.1920

If you know of any other WWII Veterans that should be considered can you please support them and register their details with VANZ or let me know so I can follow up on your behalf.

NZ Veterans in Australia (New South Wales) Notices

ANZAC Day Service Merrylands Sunday 22 April 2012

Dear Veterans, please be advised that Hamiora (Sam) Wihongi RNZN is arranging NZ Veteran support to the Merrylands RSL ANZAC Service this year and is seeking maximum support from all NZ Veterans in NSW. Hamiora has been a

staunch supporter of NZ Veteran activities in NSW and it would be great if we could support him at this service which I understand will be the first time that we are hoping to see a huge NZ Veteran attendance and participation.

There will be more to follow on this as Hamiora works through the planning with the Merrylands RSL Veterans.

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. Furthermore, directly after the march we will have the school from NZ perform for us again as they do every two years when they are here in Sydney on their reciprocal tour.

NZ Veterans in NSW form up at 0830 hours on the corner of Pitt Street and Martin Place ready to march off at 0900 hours.



The post-March function is held at the Chatswood RSL Club.

Chatswood RSL Club

446 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067

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 1030

hours, the first Sunday after ANZAC Day.

This will be another official opportunity to be presented the NZDSM by our dignitaries of which one will be Indigenous Veteran Sub-Mariner David Williams.

Anyone wanting to have their NZDSM presented at this service, can they please contact me to ensure the efficient planning and preparation for the service is conducted:

Greg Makutu
greg@nzvia.com.au
nzvia@nzvia.com.au
Mobile: 0404 005 341

Reminder: Remembrance Day Poppy Selling at Martin Place Station 8-9 November 2012

NZ Veterans in NSW will again sell Poppies at the Martin Place Station from 0630 hours – 0930 hours on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th November 2012. Our ranks are thinning but our commitment to doing what we can to promote the presence of NZ Veterans in AU and help our own wherever possible remains strong.



Anyone is welcome to join us at the station and for breakfast afterwards. As always the trains arrive and the stampede of citizens keeps us busy but their generosity continues to amaze us every year (Picture l-r: Allan Watt, Gil Brogden, Ron Haira).

Reminder: Remembrance Day Church Service Sunday 11 November 2012



Dear Veterans, the Remembrance Day Church Service will be held on Sunday 11 November 2012 at the Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu at 1030 hours. This will be yet another opportunity to present the NZDSM to eligible Veterans.

NZ Veterans in Australia (Queensland) Notices

Reminder: ANZAC Day March Wednesday 25 April 2012

The ANZAC Day March next year will be the same format as every other year whereby we form up at the corner of George Street and Elizabeth Street around 0930 hours and start the march at 1000 hours.



The post-March function will be held on the Mirimar berthed on the southern end of the Victoria Bridge adjacent to the library.

Mirimar Cruises

Brisbane QLD 4101
1300 729 742

NZ Veterans in Australia (Victoria) Notices

Reminder: ANZAC Day March Wednesday 25 April 2012

The ANZAC Day March next year will be the same format as every other year whereby we form up at the corner of Flinders Street and Swanson Street around 0845 hours and start the march at 0900 hours.



The post-March function will be held at the Caulfield RSL Club.

Caulfield RSL

4 St Georges Road, Elsternwick VIC 3185
(03) 9528 3600

NZ Veterans in Australia (Western Australia) Notices

Reminder: ANZAC Day March Wednesday 25 April 2012

The ANZAC Day March next year will be the same format as every other year whereby we form up along St Georges Terrace with the Allied Forces and start the march at 0935 hours.



Email: nzevsa@xtra.co.nz

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. I have included the Reunion Newsletter at the end of this NewZletter.

Please contact Reunion organisers for more information:

Georgina Nelson

Email: georgina@maraemelbourne.net

Mobile: 0419626150

Sonya Holland

Email: sonya_holland@hotmail.com

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 royojones@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/>

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

NZVIA NSW Veteran Membership 2012



NSW Veterans are reminded that the 2012 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

NZ Veterans in Australia (South Australia) Notices

Reminder: ANZAC Day March Wednesday 25 April 2012

The ANZAC Day March next year will be the same format as every other year whereby we form up along Kintore Avenue and start the march at 0930 hours.



Reunion and Other Notices

Vietnam Veterans Reunion 2012



Vietnam Veterans are advised that 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). 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.

For further information please contact:

The Secretary
Ex-Vietnam Services Association
PO Box 72-260
Papakura
New Zealand

December 2011

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:

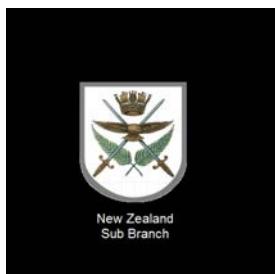
1. Interstate veterans can join the NSW Branch of the RSL via the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) as Service members, if you are not currently Service Members interstate;
2. If you are currently Service Members interstate you can:-
 - a. transfer to the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW); or
 - b. become "Associate" members of 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.

Important Notice: The NZ Sub-Branch AGM will be held on Sunday 22 January 2012 at 1030 hours at the Chatswood RSL Club upstairs.

NZVIA VIC Veteran Membership 2012



VIC Veterans are reminded that the 2012 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: **Victor Gadsby, Gerry Jackson, Warren Evans, Bruce Ford, Chris Winnill, Selwyn Johnson, Bob Hill and Brian O'Donohue**

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.



Lest We Forget:

NZ43207 Robert Waka (Bob) KINGI 1RNZIR W2

Dear Veterans, please be advised that NZ43207 Bob Kingi passed away on 5 December 2011. His funeral was held at the Fremantle Cemetery, Carrington Street, Fremantle WA on Friday 9 December 2011.

It was great that a few Veterans could attend the funeral as advised by Kevin Bovill:

Kia ora All,

Yesterday I attended Bob's funeral which was very well attended with friends and family coming from around Australia and New Zealand. Bob had a large family many of them attended. The service was conducted by Jake Moanaroa with Hiki Takuira being the Ratana priest in attendance. The eulogy was given by one of Bob's ex-wives, Karen Richardson

A number of fellow veterans attended including Reihana Paki, John Moller, Mike Ford and a few others whose names I did not recall.

Bob was much loved by many and all speakers mentioned his many diverse talents and skills. It is a rare event, but Bob managed to sing at his own funeral via a recording that he had made some years previously. As Bob Kihī mentioned, only Frank Sinatra had managed that as well.

It was a great farewell, for a much loved gentleman who will be sadly missed by all whose lives he touched.

NZ327002 Ivor Tamati (Nuki) WAAKA RNZA

Dear Veterans, please be advised that NZ327002 Nuki Waaka passed away at Sydney on 26 November 2011.

Nuki joined the NZ Army during the entire period of the Korean War and lost a number of his comrades. However, Nuki was a well known entertainer and co-founder of the Maori Volcanics and it was during his time as an entertainer after leaving the Army in 1951 that Nuki did three tours to Vietnam and the following is an article written by Nuki and a Vietnam Veteran:

Nuki felt it was important to entertain the troops in Vietnam as he stated "where the troops went, as well as ammunition, they needed letters and entertainment. That was where the Maori Volcanics came in". Nuki's tours to Vietnam were funded by America. However, Nuki was met by Sgt John Bland (Deceased) of the NZ Army on arrival in Saigon to negotiate taking his show to the Kiwi boys out in the field sometime in the future. When the time came, Nuki and the

Maori Volcanics travelled to the NZ Brigade in Nui Dat in an American helicopter. On arrival and with the NZ Commanding Officer and his troops lining the helipad thinking it was American VIPs, after Tui stepped out and boomed "Kia ora you fulluhs" everyone breathed a sign of relief.

As Nuki and the group stepped off the plane he noticed a soldier running away with a frying pan and later on was told that it was his cousin Joe Panaho and he was running away as he would have been embarrassed if Nuki had seen that he had burnt the fried bread. After settling in Nuki and the group performed for the soldiers and if I can quote a NZ soldier at the performance when he returned home "the Maori Volcanics came to Nui Dat to perform for the troops. In a marquee full of big strong New Zealand troops of Victor Company and 161 battery Royal NZ Artillery, the Maori Volcanics sung their show stopper "Green Green Grass of Home" and there was hardly a dry eye in the place, they touched the hearts of all of us and the song became ours" Nuki wrote, "we will always remember our farewell from the camp as the NZ soldiers stripped to the waist, lined up along to route to the helipad and performed the haka for us. As I write this tears still spring to my eyes" At the end of Victor companies tour to Vietnam the soldier further wrote that "on the day we left they put up a loudspeaker aircraft and circled Nui Dat base for what seemed like a whole day. And they played the Green Green Grass of Home over and over again. We were seen out in style.

Thanks to Margaret McInroy, Brian Meyer, Ron Haira, Roger Bush, John Westbrook, Wes Hema, Richard Kahotea and Nita Ruru for being available to farewell our fellow veteran.

NZ369023 Henry HAREMA VI W1

Dear Veterans, please be advised that NZ369023 Henry Harema passed away on 9 December 2011. His funeral was held at the Fremantle Cemetery, Carrington Street, Fremantle WA on Monday 12 December 2011. Thanks to Kevin Bovill for ensuring he was given a military farewell.

NZ41975 Robert (Bob) Gary JAMES V2

Dear Veterans, please be advised that NZ41975 Bob James passed away on 18 December 2011. There was a private family gathering and Bob and Gails farm in Queensland and thanks to Don St Bruno and Wayne Lindsay for being there to support Gail at the time of Bob's passing.

We Will Remember Them:

NZ42172 Bob Hapuku
NZ211714 Neville John Lester
NZ596472 Percy William Leatherby
Gerald Lindsay Landers (Malaya)
NZ1341 JD Smith

Other News



www.navy.mil.nz



Army Plan Takes Shape

1 Brigade changeover at Linton Military Camp, Wednesday 13 December.



On Tuesday 13 December, the 2nd Land Force Group, based in Linton Camp, and the 3rd Land Force Group, based in Burnham, amalgamated to form 1 (NZ) Brigade. The establishment of 1 (NZ) Brigade is one of the most visible aspects of the changes being made over the next 2 years based on Chief of Army Major General Tim Keating's plan to Operationalise the Army.

The first phase of this plan, known as Army 2015, sees major changes to Army's current structures, locations and method of operations to allow for its future growth and improve combat effectiveness.

In addition to the changes in Linton, a new Headquarters Deployable Joint Task Force (Land) is being established at Burnham Camp. Command of the Territorial Forces transfers to the newly established Headquarters TRADOC (Training & Doctrine Command) previously the Headquarters Land Training Doctrine Group, based in Waiouru.

"These new organisations are not a destination. Instead, they form a starting point for how Army will operate in future years to support its objectives and the priorities of the Government of the day," says Major General Keating.

"These changes fall directly from the future force structure proposals presented in Defence White Paper 2010.. Part of that White Paper identified a need for Army to develop a more deployable headquarters & task force. These changes help us to achieve this, allowing us to continue to meet our objectives and obligations at home, within the broader Pacific region, and further afield with our allies and partners," says Maj Gen Keating.

The transition to 1 (NZ) Brigade was marked by a parade of 800 soldiers and officers from 2nd Land Force Group. In addition to the Linton based units, the parade also included representatives from 2/1 Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, Queen Alexandra Mounted Rifles, 3 Logistics

Battalion, 1 (NZ) Military Intelligence Coy, and 1 (NZ) Military Police that now form part of the Brigade.

For more information about the new structure, see the NZ Army organisation charts.

[Former Macleans College student wins 'Australian Chief of Army Award'](#)

[Wellington College old boy one of 25 Graduates](#)

[Soldier named as NZ Defence Force Person of the Year](#)

[Army Plan Takes Shape](#)

[Officer Cadet School's Class of 2011 graduates](#)

[Cantabrian is Officer Cadet School's top graduate](#)

[Change of Command Parade to signify new direction for NZ Army](#)

[Manukau Local Wins Army Recruit Award](#)

[Gallantry awards presented at Wellington investiture](#)

[New Zealand's Top Soldiers](#)

[Army takes to streets of Auckland](#)

www.army.mil.nz



www.airforce.mil.nz



Christmas around the World

At the RSA we're really proud of our tradition of sending a little kete of Kiwi goodies to Defence Force and Police personnel serving overseas at Christmas with the hope that it brightens up their Christmas. Many RSA members have been in this situation themselves with the knowledge that thoughts turn to loved ones back home.



Students of Mt Cook School show the handmade Christmas cards for overseas personnel.

This year, back in September, almost 450 parcels were packed by personnel from the Defence Force, Police, RSA volunteers as well as students from Mt Cook School which is across the road from the National War Memorial and HMS Olphert where the parcels were packed. They included such Kiwi classics as Whittakers peanut slabs, Watties tomato sauce, Anzac biscuits, Christmas mince pies, marmite, chippies and onion dip ingredients, Jaffas and chewing gum, as well as handmade Christmas cards from school children from Papakura, Waiouru, Burnham schools and Wellington's Mt Cook school.



Defence Force personnel and RSA staff and volunteers package the parcels at HMS Olphert in Mt Cook, Wellington.

Our tradition of sending parcels to troops overseas began during World War I and today is funded by generous financial donations from local RSAs and individual members, the New Zealand Police, and contributions from the Navy, Army and Air Force Central Welfare Funds.

And the destination for these parcels? The four corners of the globe with 11 countries including Afghanistan, Antarctica, Korea, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste.

So a big task for the Santa's helpers in the RNZAF as acknowledged in the message from the RSA included with each parcel:

"RSA acknowledges the professionalism of our Defence and Police Forces, and the magnificent work carried out by both on deployment. You proudly uphold the heritage of those who have gone before and we know you maintain those traditions and are worthy ambassadors for New Zealand. To you go our special thoughts and thanks for that extremely important contribution you are making on behalf of our nation.

Wherever you are this Christmas, we're thinking of you and your loved ones back here in Aotearoa.

*Our warmest wishes and Christmas greetings
Kia Ora! Meri Kirimete! Kia Kaha!"*



The Christmas parcels ready for deployment to 11 countries across the globe.

And already we've received some responses...

From South Korea:

Kia Ora

There are three Kiwi officers working in South Korea (Seoul) with the United Nations Command Armistice Military Commission (UNCMAC). Lt Martin Wilson, RNZN and Lt Ewan Sinclair, RNZIR both work in the DMZ and I work in HQ UNCMAC as the DMZ Operations Officer. We are very honoured to be flying our Nation's flag in this part of the world and we certainly appreciate your support and thoughts. We will be without our families this Christmas. But we know that through the good work that our Navy, Army and Air Force personnel are doing in many parts of the world will make sure that our families are safe and that we will continue to enjoy the freedom we value dearly.

We have received the welfare packages. The goodies are very much appreciated and we thank you and your sponsors for your ongoing support and kind thoughts at this time of the year.

KIA KAHA

*Tausie M Tarsau
MAJ (NZ Army)*

8 Dec 2011 [RSA deeply shocked and saddened at brutal assault](#) The RSA movement is devastated that a female staff member has today been brutally attacked at the Hobsonville RSA.

1 Dec 2011 [Christmas Around the World](#) At the RSA we're really proud of our tradition of sending a little kete of Kiwi goodies to Defence Force and Police personnel serving overseas at Christmas with the hope that it brightens up their Christmas.



RNZN "LONG TIME NO SEA" REUNION

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, EASTER 2013 - REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW!!

WHEN: Thursday, 28 March 2013 @ 1500 to Monday, 1 April 2013 @ 1300.
WHERE: Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Since its inaugural debut in Alice Springs in Easter 2005, the "Long time no sea" reunion has been held in Perth in 2007, Sydney in 2009 and the Gold Coast in 2011.

The event is held every two years exclusively on Australian soil. It is an open invitation to ALL ex- and serving Royal New Zealand Navy personnel. Numbers have increased with many now travelling from our homeland of Aotearoa to attend each reunion. We are looking forward to hosting the next reunion in Melbourne in Easter 2013.

Venue details, costs, etc are yet to be confirmed but a newsletter is coming soon as we source affordable venues and other exciting things for you to do!

It's a fantastic time to reunite with our RNZN whanau (family) and familiar faces from here and abroad, share lots of laughs and precious memories and relive again the camaraderie that being in the RNZN gave to us all.

Start saving your \$\$\$ now as there are lots of things to keep you busy in Melbourne including:

- Shopping;
- Sightseeing;
- Entertainment;
- Golf;
- More shopping;
- Wineries;
- Eating and drinking;
- Some more shopping and lots more

Register your interest now to give us an idea of numbers and be sure to forward this notice on to your ex- and serving RNZN friends and advise them to do the same.

If you know of any other ex-RNZN personnel living in Melbourne who might be able to assist Sonya Holland and I on the committee, please let me know.

Regards
GEORGINA NELSON
(Ex-LWTR BROWN, 1980-1985)
RNZN Reunion 2013 Planning Committee