



New Zealand Veterans in Australia Incorporated NEWZLETTER



National President: Ron Haira
Mobile: 0405 498 391

All Postal Mail Direct
Greg Makutu
GPO Box 365
Sydney NSW 2000
Email: nzvia@nzvia.com.au

The Month That Was

NZ Veterans in AU is now on Facebook

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

New Zealand Defence Service Medal



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

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

<http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdsm/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. More information including the publication of the Constitution will be placed in future NewZletters as we are looking for State representatives to join the Council.



NZ Veterans in Australia (New South Wales) Notices

Maori Battalion Production 24-26 September 2011



A few Veterans attended the Maori Battalion production 'Our Journey to the Other Side of the World' at the Casula Powerhouse Museum.

It was a very moving production which at times brought tears to the eyes as it portrayed the life of not just Maori Battalion soldier Edison Wineera as he went to war but the heartache and sorrow of those loved ones that remained at home. Congratulations to the producer Kiri Barber and cast for a emotional production.

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

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

Reminder: Remembrance Day Church Service Sunday 13 November 2011

The Remembrance Day Church Service is on Sunday 13 November 2011 at 1030 hours, the first Sunday after Remembrance Day. The service is held at the Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu, 587 Elizabeth Street, Redfern and includes Laying Poppies at the altar.



Important Notice (NZDF Medal Presentation):

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

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

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

Reminder: ANZAC Day March Wednesday 25 April 2012



The ANZAC Day March next year will be the same format as every other year. However, just a further reminder, the term 'veteran' in today's context refers to all serving

and ex-service personnel not just those that served overseas. So whether you have a medal or not, as long as you served in the military you are considered a veteran and I would be very privileged to march alongside you at ANZAC Day every year.

Reminder: ANZAC Day Church Service Sunday 29 April 2012

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



Reunion and Other Notices

Vietnam Veterans Reunion 2012

REUNION UPDATE #2

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

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

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

RNZN Reunion in Melbourne 2013

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

Will advise RNZN Melbourne contact person once notified.

RF Cadet 50th Anniversary Reunion 2013 (Bennett Class)

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

Ben Hadfield benzza@iprimus.com.au.
Roy Jones 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 rights with your parent Sub-Branch and remain as an associate member of the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) (picture above new Members Peter and Jan Dicken receiving their membership badge from Lindsay Taylor 2009). So for \$5 please send in your application form for Associate Membership. For current full service members please send \$30 (of which \$25 goes to the NSW RSL). For new members wanting associate or full service membership let me know and I will send you an application form. Application forms are also on the NZVIA NSW page of the www.nzvia.com.au website. Just scroll down to the end of the Membership column or email nsw@nzvia.com.au

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

Please note the following:

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

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

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

NZVIA VIC Veteran Membership 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: Lt Cdr (Retd) Malcolm Jackman, Noel Baigent, Allen Sutton, Roger Pleydell, Eddie Hawkins, Colin McDonald DFC, Lester Radford, , Jim Dove, Rick Harawira, Graeme Bolton, Maj (Retd) Ross Himona, Sqn Ldr (Retd) David Winkelmann AFC MID, Tanya White, John Leatham, John Williams and Lou Ehrler.

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.



NZ4537 Grant HOLMS RNZSIGS

Dear Veterans, Trevor Crowther noticed a posting in the Brisbane Courier Mail of the passing of NZ4537 Grant HOLMS. Late of Harvey Bay 1st Echelon NZEF formerly of Auckland aged 100 years. I am not sure if anyone attended Grant's funeral. However, there was a nice article about Grant in the Fraser Coast Chronicle as follows:

100-year-old will be missed

Roderick Makim | 8th September 2011



Mariners president Andrew Beattie with beloved patron Grant Holms before he died on the weekend.

Related links

- [Holms kicking a new goal](#)
- [Archie kicks off for Mariners](#)
- [Tears flow on sad rugby day](#)
- [Mariners to tackle Toads for Cup](#)

THE FRASER Coast Mariners lost the heart of their club on the weekend with the passing of beloved patron, Grant Holms. Mr Holms, who turned 100 earlier this year, was involved with the club for decades, first with Harvey Bay's Fighting Whiting and then with the Mariners.

The club's president, Andrew Beattie, said Mr Holms enjoyed a "deep, reverent respect" from everyone associated with the club.

"He embodied the traditions of the game," Mr Beattie said, adding how young players over the years benefited from Mr Holms' generosity with his time, experience and expertise.

"He would show up to every home game and loved to speak at the presentation nights."

He said the club's favourite stories were from Mr Holms' memories of serving with the New Zealand army in World War Two, and young Fraser Coast players would listen to tales of playing rugby in the desert battlefields of the war.

"He will be greatly missed," Mr Beattie said.

NZ41790 Pte Henry Gaine BRIDGE W3

Dear Veterans, please be advised that NZ41790 Pte Henry Gaine Bridge, 1RNZIR W3, Borneo. Army nickname Stretch. Age 65. Died 27 July 2011. Car accident. Henry was CO Kadina/Port Pirie Australian Air Force Cadets and was travelling home to Kadina (from Port Pirie) when the head-on occurred, killing both drivers, no others involved. The Public Funeral was at the 10/27th Drill Hall Kadina 2pm Monday 8 August attended by over 600 persons, many military (OC Air Cadets from Canberra) and Lodge. Survived by wife Lorrie and three sons - Regards, Chris.

Other News



Navy Fleet to visit Wellington - review, parade and ceremony

Photo below Caption: 01_1941_AAF_0195 - Ships of the fleet. HMNZS ACHILLES, veteran of the Battle of the River Plate, 1945.

22 September 2011

In a once in a lifetime event, 11 ships of the Royal New Zealand Navy will visit Wellington to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Navy's founding on 1 October 1941.



"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see almost all the ships of the Navy in one place at one time," said Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Tony Parr.

"On 1 October 1941 King George VI gave approval for the title Royal New Zealand Navy to be used. From that date New Zealand's Navy was a sovereign force, and since that time thousands of sailors have served the nation with courage, commitment and comradeship," said Rear Admiral Parr.

The fleet will concentrate in Cook Strait on Wednesday 28 September, and undertake a series of manoeuvres and exercises before entering harbour on Thursday the 29th. Navy ships usually operate independently in one and two's, so bringing the fleet to Wellington is a rare opportunity to train together.

On arriving in Wellington the ships will berth in the inner harbour, and during the weekend will be open to the public. On Saturday 400 Navy personnel will parade down Lambton Quay following a ceremony at Parliament to change the Navy's Queen's Colour – a ceremonial flag that symbolises the Navy's relationship with Her Majesty the Queen.

The celebration will conclude on Monday when the fleet will anchor in formation in the harbour and the ships will be reviewed by His Excellency, Lieutenant General, the Right Honourable Sir Jerry Mateparae, GNZM, QSO Governor-General of New Zealand. Following the review the fleet will disperse to operations and exercises in South East Asia, the Solomon Islands and around the New Zealand coast.

"New Zealanders can be proud of their Navy," said Rear Admiral Parr. "Our ships and people are capable of operating around New Zealand's coast, into the Pacific, down to the Southern Oceans, in South and East Asia, and as far afield as the Arabian Gulf. We can undertake tasks as varied as combat operations to fisheries patrols and everything in between."

"We are proud of the work and service we provide for the government and people of New Zealand. I invite the public of the Wellington region to visit the ships, meet our sailors and experience a little of life and work in the Navy."
ENDS

Navy 70th Anniversary Programme

Wednesday 28th September Fleet concentration begins off Wellington. Fleet exercises and manoeuvres.

Thursday 29th September Frigates, Naval Support Force and Offshore Patrol Vessels arrive in Wellington. 0945 - 21 Gun Salute to His Excellency the Governor General from HMNZS TE MANA

Friday 30th September Inshore Patrol Vessels arrive in Wellington.

Saturday 1st October 1000 - 1200, Changing of the Queen's Colour, Parliament Grounds. The public are invited to attend. 1200 - 1230, Street Parade on Lambton Quay, Parliament to Civic Square. Four hundred sailors and the Navy band. 1200 - 1600, Ships open to visitors, Queen's Wharf and Taranaki Street Terminal. The ships will open to the public at midday with the final guests embarking at 1500 pm.

These self guided tours will be throughout various operational areas of the ships and may include ladders and narrow passageways. Flat, sturdy shoes are encouraged.

Ships open to visitors: HMNZS Te Kaha, HMNZS Canterbury, HMNZS Wellington, HMNZS Hawea, HMNZS Rotoiti.

Sunday 2nd October 1000 - Wreath Laying, National War Memorial. 1100 - 1500, Ships Open to Visitors, Queen's Wharf and Taranaki Street Terminal. The ships will be open to the public at 1100 am with the final guests embarking at 1500 pm. Ships open to visitors: HMNZS Te Kaha, HMNZS Canterbury, HMNZS Wellington, HMNZS Hawea, HMNZS Rotoiti. 1400 - 1600, RNZN Anniversary Church Service, Cathedral of St Pauls. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please be seated by 2.00 pm.

Monday 3rd October Fleet proceeds to Anchor in Harbour, between Aotea Quay and Matiu Somes Island. 1300 - 1500 Fleet Review, His Excellency the Governor-General and VIP's embarked onboard HMNZS Resolution. 1700 - Ships begin to depart Wellington. 1000 - Anniversary Church Service incorporating laying up of the old Queens Colour in the Naval Chapel of St Christopher's, Devonport Naval Base.

Merchant Navy Day ceremony

[NZ Defence Force Rugby team embark on their quest 100,000th visitor to Torpedo Bay Navy Museum facilities](#)

[Scouts to tackle big clean up job](#)
[Navy Fleet to visit Wellington – review, parade and ceremony](#)
[NZSAS Afghanistan - Death of a trooper: Release 1](#)
[Otago Highlanders coaching staff called in to prepare the NZDF Rugby team for the IRDC 2011](#)
[Navy fleet arrives in Cook Strait](#)
[NZSAS Afghanistan: Death of a trooper - Media Conference Release 2](#)
[Kiwi command of coalition counter-piracy task force successfully completed](#)
[Ships, Sailors, Parade!](#)

www.navy.mil.nz



The Army's Junior NCOs Graduate



Junior Non Commissioned Officers (JNCO) graduate from their course at Linton Military Camp (LN-11-0030-19).

After eleven weeks of classroom and practical lessons 29 soldiers graduated from their Junior Non Commissioned Officers (JNCO) course at Linton Military Camp to become junior leaders in the Army.

As soldiers they learned the skills of their trade. They may be rifleman, military police, signals, catering or any of the other trades and skills that enable the Army to perform its tasks both here in New Zealand or deployed elsewhere in the world, on the course those skills were put into perspective as they learned how to focus those skills and the skills of the soldiers who will work for them.

The course is designed to provide these soldiers with the additional skills that will enable them to pass on their trade skills, reinforce teamwork and individual discipline, and lead their junior soldiers as they themselves gain skills that will enable them to become senior leaders.

During the graduation parade, the reviewing officer Colonel Howie Duffy reminded the course that this only the beginning and the skills they now have should not be consigned to a folder on the shelf.

"Remember what it was like when you were a Private, and your Section Commander may not have exercised good leadership or didn't tell you what was happening - don't be that person, don't settle for mediocrity. Look for, and accept the challenge of continuing to have, and to instil good work habits, you now have the tools to be a junior leader in our Army".

For Corporal Whetu Matehaere it was an unexpected honour to be awarded the Top Student award for consistently displaying high standards and who best exemplified courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity throughout the course.

"The course has opened my eyes as to what we have available in the Army and what is possible for training, and what I can do for my soldiers".

[Chief of Army comments on theft of medals](#)
[Waiouru becomes NZ's largest wood pellet user](#)
[Kiwis Depart for Six Month Deployment to Afghanistan](#)
[The Army's Junior NCOs Graduate](#)
[Sporting generosity brings Kiwis and locals in Timor-Leste together](#)
[Christmas cheer sent to NZ Defence and Police personnel](#)
[Incident in Bamyan province, Afghanistan.](#)
[Top Referee heads to Australia as nations Battle for Defence Force Rugby Supremacy](#)
[Army Corporal to lead NZ Defence Rugby team in international Defence Rugby competition](#)
[Kiwis return from deployment to Afghanistan](#)
[Defence Force personnel receive awards for gallantry](#)

www.army.mil.nz



Red checkers display to Wellington's advantage on Sunday

Red Checkers Formation display. OH 09-0022-15

29 September 2011

Wellington and its visitors will be at an advantage on Sunday 2 October as the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Red Checkers perform their brilliant aerobatic display for crowds before the New Zealand vs Canada game.



Approximately one hour before the game starts, the Red Checkers will descend over Wellington Harbour in a display designed to thrill New Zealanders and international guests (weather permitting).

"By its very nature Red Checkers flying appeals to a broad range of people and aerobatic displays always draw a good crowd," says RNZAF Squadron Leader Jim Rankin.

The Red Checkers showcase the flying skills of the RNZAF, and provide a tangible demonstration to the public of their key values of teamwork and professionalism. They are well known for their professional and skilful high standard of flying.

Details of Red Checkers display

Sunday 2 October at 2.30pm over the Wellington Inner Harbour (weather permitting)

Visit www.airforce.mil.nz and click on 'what's on' for the Red Checkers flying schedule in 2012.

[Former local student helps NZ Air Force team win tactical competition against US Air Force](#)
[Red checkers kicks off its display season close to home with Rugby World Cup teasers](#)
[Battle of Britain commemoration](#)
[Red Checkers To Fly Over Wellington Harbour](#)

www.airforce.mil.nz



28 September 2011

[Death of soldier deeply saddens RSA](#)

The Royal New Zealand Returned And Services Association National President Don McIver says that the tragic news of the death of another New Zealand soldier while serving his country in Afghanistan has been received with great sorrow throughout the RSA movement.

"We know that the SAS is operating in the dangerous environs of Kabul but his loss is made no less painful with that knowledge," says Mr McIver.

"The SAS is a close knit and highly professional unit and I know that his comrades in arms will be deeply affected by his death as we mourn with them."

"Our deepest sympathy is with his family and loved ones at this difficult time."

At RSAs throughout the country flags are to be half-masted for the remainder of **today, Wednesday 28 September**. Flags will be lowered again on the day of his funeral, date to be advised.

26 September 2011

[Navy 70th Anniversary Celebrations](#)

From 29 September – 3 October 2011 eleven ships of the RNZN will assemble at Wellington to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of King George VI granting our Naval Forces his royal recognition.

15 September 2011

[Upgrade Produces a 'Timely Haven'](#)

The Papanui Club was in the middle of extensive renovations when the February earthquake struck Christchurch.

Wayne Lindsay NZ Veteran Welfare Information

From the desk of Wayne Lindsay – Advanced Pensions Advisor and Advocate for NZ Veterans:

The response from my last contribution was over whelming and I picked up on 2 important questions that were frequently asked.

Firstly, Income and Assets and, secondly what was considered to be Qualifying Service.

Here are the answers! For simplicity sake and for those who are not on the internet, following is the current Income and Asset Test figures. Please note that the family home is not to be considered when applying this test!

Assets limit before pension reduces (Current & Transition)

Homeowners
Singles \$186,750
Couples (combined) \$265,000
Illness separated couples (combined) \$400,000

Non-homeowners
Singles \$396,500
Couples (combined) \$529,000

Income limit before pension reduces:

This limit is the amount of income you may receive each fortnight before your pension starts to reduce from the maximum rate. The income limit is adjusted each July in line with movements in the cost of living

Current limits

Singles \$ 150.00

Couples (combined) \$ 264.00

Illness separated couples (combined) \$ 264.00

For each child, increase by: \$ 24.60

Other Factsheets related to this topic include:

- IS21 Service and Age Pension Rates*
- IS23 Service and Age Pension Limits*
- IS164 Service and Social Security Age Pension Ready Reckoner for Singles*
- IS165 Service and Social Security Age Pension Ready Reckoner for Couples*
- IS166 Service and Social Security Age Pension Ready Reckoner for Illness Separated Couples.*

More information

All DVA Factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au.

I will now go on to Qualifying Service for the Australian Service Pension this applies to all conflicts up to date. (bearing in mind that Australian troops must also have been involved).

This is the current Standard of Proof as required by DVA Australia. The Standard of Proof has really been toughened up since the "Thompson Court Case" and many Veterans, who are currently receiving the Service Pension would no longer be eligible under the amended standards.

POLICY & LEGISLATION

"Qualifying Service" is defined in Subsection 7A(1) of the VEA and the parts that are relevant follow.

7A Qualifying service [extract]

A Commonwealth veteran must meet one of the following conditions to be eligible for. Qualifying Service:

- (i) service outside the country of enlistment, at a time when he incurred danger from hostile forces of the enemy; or*
- (ii) service within the country of enlistment, for which he has been awarded, or is eligible to be awarded, a campaign medal.*
- (iii) Service outside the country of enlistment*

Commonwealth veterans with service outside the country of enlistment must meet the "incurred danger" test.

The full Federal Court of Australia decided the interpretation of "incurred danger" in their unanimous decision in the "Thompson case". The Court held: "The words 'incurred danger' therefore provide an objective, not a subjective test. A serviceman incurs danger when he encounters danger, is in danger, or is endangered. He incurs danger from hostile forces when he is at risk or in peril of harm from hostile forces. A serviceman does not incur danger by merely perceiving or fearing that he may be in danger. The words 'incurred danger' do not encompass a situation where [here] is mere in a perceived danger, that is to say, that there is a mere risk of danger. Danger is not incurred unless the serviceman is exposed, at risk of, or in peril of harm or injury".

The words "incurred danger" do not refer to a situation where a person might have incurred danger or thought that danger might be there. Danger must consist of more than perception. It must arise as a direct result of the activities of the enemy. It is an objective assessment of the military realities at the time.

Basically this means that if you haven't actually been in a contact or firefight, been mortared or bombed with or by an enemy it is hardly likely that you will qualify for an Australian Service Pension anymore.

You will be asked to specify detail of such contact. Presently, I am having a problem with an NZ veteran who served alongside me as a rifleman in the original W Coy in Vietnam 1967/68 who didn't fill in the Application Form properly and I now have to front the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to get his Qualifying Service acknowledged.

For anyone considering applying for the Australian Service Pension, I recommend that you visit the Welfare Officer at your local RSL so that he can walk you through the process, especially regarding the "incurred danger" question in the Application Form.

Any queries on the above information please email me at: sliderman1@gmail.com

Until the next issue, Keep your powder dry !! Onward !

Wayne Lindsay

STOP PRESS!

I have just received this letter from Kevin Bovill who is the NZEVSA Area Rep for W.A.

This is important to Vietnam Veterans who are applying for the Australian Service Pension.

It is recommended that you should download the following 2 pages and attach it to your Application Form (if you served with these units).

Kevin has kindly used this to have my W Coy cohort accepted as having Qualifying Service.



Ref: S10/0637

Mr Kevin Bovill
kbovill@iinet.com.au

Dear Mr Bovill

The previous Minister for Veterans' Affairs wrote to you on 6 July 2010 concerning the progress of an initiative to simplify the claims processes for veterans of the New Zealand armed forces who served alongside Australian Forces in Vietnam. At the time of the Minister's letter, research was being undertaken to determine which units of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) were attached to 1 Australian Task Force during the Vietnam War. This research has now been completed.

The Department of Defence has advised that the following NZDF units were closely integrated with Australian forces during the Vietnam War:

- 161 Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery
July 1965 to May 1971
- V (Victor) Company, 1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
May 1967 to December 1971
- W (Whiskey) Company, 1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
December 1967 – November 1970
- No. 4 Troop, Special Air Service Squadron
December 1968 – February 1971

Members of these units who served with Australian Forces in Vietnam during the specified times will now be presumed to have incurred danger from hostile forces of the enemy and will not be required to provide evidence of this when applying for benefits under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA). This arrangement also extends to individual members of the NZDF who were formally attached to Australian units that were allotted for duty.

The arrangement will simplify the claims process for such veterans and allow them to avoid having to relive their experiences when lodging claims for qualifying service and associated benefits under the VEA.

13 Kellie Street, Phillip ACT 2606 GPO Box 9998 Canberra ACT 2601 Telephone (02) 6289 1111 Internet www.dva.gov.au
Saluting Their Service

As no units of the Royal New Zealand Navy or Royal New Zealand Air Force are considered to have been closely integrated with an Australian unit, claimants from these two services who cannot provide evidence of formal attachment to an Australian unit will continue to need to demonstrate that they incurred danger from hostile forces of the enemy.

Departmental staff have been given instructions regarding the implementation of this policy. If you have any further questions in relation to this matter please contact Mr Martin Page on (02) 6289 6309.

Yours sincerely


Barry Telford
General Manager
Support Division

24 November 2010

Saluting Their Service