



New Zealand Sub-Branch

NewZletter



President: Sqn Ldr (Retd) David Winkelmann AFC MID
Honorary Secretary: Greg Makutu
Telephone: +61 2 8314 9510
Mobile: 0408 166 586

All Postal Mail Direct
GPO Box H365
Australia Square NSW 1215
Email: nzsubbranch@virginbroadband.com.au

Meetings held at Chatswood RSL

The Month That Was

Change of Email Address

Please note the change to the NZ Sub-Branch Postal Address.

Other Notices

Congratulations Vietnam Veteran Pete Ramsay

Vietnam Veteran Pete Ramsay of Perth receives his Certificate IV in Training and Assessment from Sharon Blygnaut of the Driver Training and Education Centre (DETC).



Pete decided to get back into training after accepting that a physical disability from his Army service was becoming restrictive in his air conditioning hire business based in Perth. As the national requirement to train in Australia is now Cert IV, he wrote to Veterans Affairs New Zealand (VANZ) explaining that he wanted to remain employed and would the Department assist with financial assistance towards the A\$2134.00 fee. Within a month of writing VANZ replied agreeing to contribute to the majority of the course fee. Pete is now a contract trainer at DETC and has other training consulting work in the pipeline.

Query from Queensland Veteran

Hi,

Do you know of any Kiwi involvement in the Kokoda campaign? I am off over there in July and am wondering if we had any serving there during that period.

Cheers,

ANZAC in Bali – Wayne Crisp WA

Graham Swan and I (both 161 Bty), spent ANZAC day in Bali. The Australian Consulate put on a dawn service and a great breakfast afterwards. Bloody good ceremony, approx 100 people turned out. There were 6 vets and families plus Aussie citizens who live and work in Bali and of course the dignitaries.

Met an Aussie tunnel rat who owns a bar in Sanur, Bali, so we ended up there and had a couple of drinks. It was a different place, but a friendly place, to celebrate our day.

Thanks Wayne

ANZAC Day Support

Dear Veterans, it has come to our attention that some States may not be in the same position as Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Therefore, can anyone advise the following?

- Do they fly the NZ Flag at the ANZAC Dawn Service?
- Is there an NZ Representation as an official guest at the Dawn service?
- Are the NZ Veterans group at the front of the march?

If you can advise I am hoping with the agreement of the other States we could send a combined letter of support to the RSLs which may help.



Notice from Queensland Veteran

Allied Services Weekend.

What is the Allied Services Weekend and what does it mean to Australian Allied Service people now resident in Australia?

Many ex - service people from countries all over the world have settled in this beautiful country. Many have already taken the oath of allegiance and have become Australian Citizens.

These ex - service people who are regarded as allies of Australia by the Returned & Services League of Australia are welcome in Sub Branches of the RSL throughout the Country.

Allied Service Day is on Saturday 6 June 2009 at Coolum Peregian RSL Sub Branch 1096 David Low Way, Coolum Beach..

Friday Night a meet and greet with our members from 4pm. Bar snacks provided. Bar will be open.

Program for Saturday 6 June 2009.

11-30am Sign in.

12-30am Service -

- (1) Welcome by President Coolum Peregian RSL Sub Branch.
- (2) Opening Prayer
- (3) Address by Brian McRitchie
- (4) Wreath laying
- (5) Last Post
- (6) Ode
- (7) Reveille
- (8) Closing comments by Coolum Peregian RSL Sub Branch President.
- (9) Enter Memorial Hall to enjoy the day.

1pm BBQ will be fired up.

Entry Fee \$10 per adult and \$5 per Child, this will include the BBQ.

All Visitors and members must sign in and pay entry fee.

All Members and Visitors must all pay the entry fee.

Thank You,

Bill Powell
President
Coolum Peregian RSL Sub Branch Inc.

For More info

Mike Buchanan 0402-307-567

Bill Powell 0429-184-066

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



Members of the 2nd Canterbury Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Battalion Group (2 Cant NMWC Bn Gp) , in conjunction with the Regimental Association of the Unit, are planning the 150th Anniversary of the Unit, which will be celebrated in

Christchurch over the period 26-28 June 2009.

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

To assist me with this task, could you please:

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

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

Many thanks.

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

Reserve Forces Day March

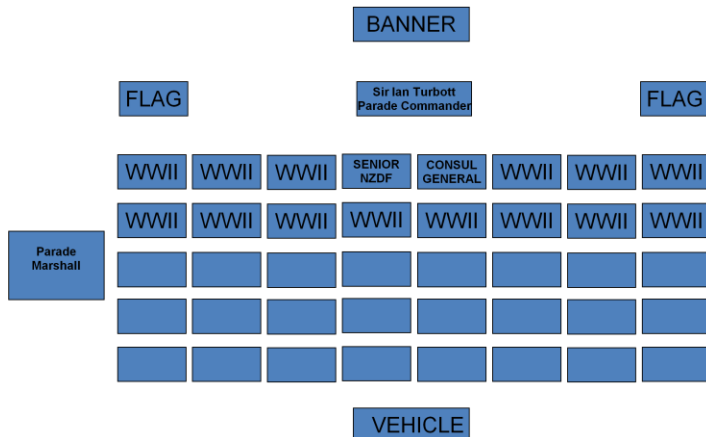
A reminder that the Reserve Forces March is scheduled for Sunday 5th July at 1100 hours. So for those ex-Territorial's out there or even if you just want to provide support in recognition of our territorial's please come along and march with us. We form up at the Domain or contact Barrie Leslie on email lesliejb@ozemail.com.au or mobile 0408408319 for more details.

ANZAC Day 2010



ANZAC Day in 2010 will more than likely be the same format as this and previous years. However, just to clarify, the term 'veteran' in today's context refers to all serving and ex-

service personnel not just those that served overseas. So whether you have a medal or not, as long as you served in the military you are considered a veteran and I would be very privileged to march alongside you at ANZAC Day every year. Furthermore, I will be more 'pushy' this year so please form up early, be smartly dressed and stand proudly in your ranks and files. The ANZAC Day March structure is as follows:



The vehicle has been placed at the rear of the marchers due to the exhaust fumes causing problems in previous years and WWII veterans (declining in numbers) are to be given pride of place at the front. Also please note that Sir Ian Turbott AO CMG CVO Hon.D.Litt(UWS) NZ World War II Veteran has accepted our offer to be the Parade Commander.

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 royvojones@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

Suggestions and Pictures of NZ Veteran Identity

In the March NewZletter I showed a picture of a NZ Kiwi Tie which was a suggestion of a clothing item that could distinguish us from other veterans in Australia. However, I also mentioned the Round Black and White Kiwi Badge (which I favoured). I now have a picture to show you for your future consideration.



Success for Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign Planning Applications

www.sirkeithpark.com

Dear Supporter,

On Thursday, 7th May the Planning Committee of Westminster City Council considered the two applications we had submitted to them, the first for a permanent installation in Waterloo Place, the second for a temporary installation on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square.



I am pleased to be able to write to you now with the good news that the Planning Committee has approved both of our applications.

This means that we can proceed with the plans for the permanent statue to be erected in September 2010 to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, with just the Government to grant their permission as the final hurdle. In the meantime we will continue to seek the remaining permissions for a statue to be erected temporarily on the Fourth Plinth, the planning approval we have just obtained being the penultimate hurdle as the final decision now rests with the Mayor for London, as does the timing of this temporary installation.

When we launched our Campaign last March, veterans, supporters and members of the Park family were accompanied in Trafalgar Square by a Spitfire. We campaigned from the start for a statue of this remarkable man to be erected on the Fourth Plinth, because we could think of no more fitting place to commemorate someone whose leadership was absolutely vital to the outcome of the Second World War. It was these unique and exceptional circumstances that weighed in favour of the Campaign and helped ensure a positive response at the Planning Committee on Thursday, 7th May.

We anticipate that the temporary statue will be up on the Fourth Plinth for six months starting later this Autumn. The permanent statue should then be ready for an unveiling ceremony in September 2010. We are in close contact with the RAF and anticipate that the unveiling will form a principal part of their commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain next year. The culmination of everybody's efforts will therefore have an added poignancy and relevance as we remember the Battle itself and its significance for our and future generations.

It only remains for me to offer you my profound gratitude, on behalf of the Campaign, the Park family and the veterans, for all that you have done in helping achieve proper recognition for Sir Keith Park's service to this country. It is no exaggeration to say that the leadership given by Sir Keith Park was crucial to our winning the Battle of Britain, and therefore to the ultimate outcome of the Second World War.

By putting up this statue in the heart of the City he did so much to defend, we are demonstrating that today we still remember and respect not only the leadership and achievements of Sir Keith Park, but also the courage and sacrifice of all who served alongside him in the RAF. The fact that he was a New Zealander also reminds us of the countless thousands from other countries who have fought alongside British servicemen and women during the World Wars and in the years since."

We shall be in touch to update you on progress as we get nearer the unveiling of the statues, but in the meantime, please visit www.sirkeithpark.com for further details. Best wishes,

*Terry Smith
Chairman
Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign*

Committee Meeting Matters

The next Committee meeting is on the Sunday 26 July 2009 at 1030 hours at the Chatswood RSL Club. 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 NZ Sub-Branch NSW operates.

Upcoming Events

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

Membership 2009

NSW Veterans are reminded that the 2009 RSL and NZVAA(NSW) membership renewal is due. As stated in my email, the NZVAA(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 NZVAA (NSW) (picture below 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 \$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 NZVAA (NSW).

Please note the following:

1. Interstate veterans can join the NSW Branch of the RSL via the NZVAA(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 NZVAA(NSW) in NSW; or
 - b. become "Associate" members of the NZ Sub-Branch for \$5 BUT you can only speak, vote & hold office at one RSL sub-Branch in Australia.

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

Acknowledgements / Personal Notices

Happy Birthday to **Kevin Bulman, Peter Dicken, Murray Millar, Clarence Ormsby, Ian Conway-Powell, Sherman Vincent and Brian Edmonds.**

The Last Post

38532 Kenneth James (Ken) HERITAGE

The following death was published in the Christchurch Press, today, 28 April 2009:

38532 Kenneth James (Ken) HERITAGE ex RAN 1951-57, and 2NZ Regiment 1959-61 Malaya, passed away at Streaky Bay, South Australia, on 20 April 2009, aged 75 years. He continued serving in the NZ Army until 1976.

"Departed this life as he lived it - alone. In accordance with his wishes, Ken was privately cremated."

Sadly I am not sure whether veterans in SA knew and/or attended his funeral service but please let us or someone know if veterans pass away here so we can try and do something or at least I can get the word out to everyone. If you did attend then thank you for giving our own the send off they deserve and only us veterans can give.

R44428 Lawrence David SADLER



We have been advised by Kylee Sadler, the following funeral details re her father, R44428 Lawrence David SADLER, V6 Vietnam, RNZIR NZSAS, who passed away suddenly at Mt Maunganui on 4 May 2009.

The funeral for Lawrence is to be held at the Lamb & Hayward Westpark Chapel, 467 Wairakei Road, Burnside, Christchurch, on Wednesday 13 May 2009 at 1030hrs.

Messages to Lawrence's widow:
Mrs Molly Sadler.
3 Trevor Street.
Hornby.
Christchurch 8042.

Lt Col Al Clement RNZIR

I am saddened to advise that Alvin Clement, V5 Coy, died last night in the Mary Potter Hospice, Wellington.

Al was an RF Cadet in Stewart Class 1961 Apl Comd in C Coy in Gurrs Bn 63/65 and Coy 2ic on V5 Coy in SVN

Al's funeral is at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, Molesworth Street, Wellington on Tuesday 26 May at 1300 hrs.

Last Post Reminder

Veterans, I can honestly say (albeit with great sadness) that after attending many funerals in NSW, the families have been

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

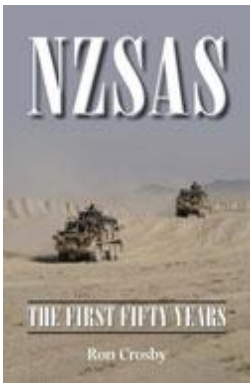
Therefore, please let us know as veterans pass away in Australia so I can advise all the veterans in Australia. For NSW veterans, we try to attend wherever possible funerals of our comrades so please keep us informed.

Lest we forget

Other News



NZSAS: The First Fifty Years



NZSAS: First Fifty Years by Ron Crosby-cover. Image - Penguin NZ Ltd.

Friday, 15 May 2009
Penguin Group (NZ)

NZSAS: The First Fifty Years by Ron Crosby

Penguin Group (NZ) is pleased to announce that on the 3 August

2009 it will release NZSAS: The First Fifty Years – the first and only official history of New Zealand's elite Special Forces, the New Zealand Special Air Service (NZSAS).

Publisher Jeff Atkinson says,

"It is with immense pride that Penguin Group (NZ) announces the publication of the official history of the New Zealand Special Air Service.

"Since the best-selling biography of Willie Apiata, VC: The

Reluctant Hero was published by Penguin last year, public interest in the NZSAS has skyrocketed."

Chief of the NZ Defence Force Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae says,

"Like any family, 1 NZSAS Group's stories are part of the glue that binds them together. But for reasons of operational security, the activities and personalities of New Zealand's Special Forces have, until now, largely remained their own – shrouded in secrecy.

"This book has an essential role in informing anyone with an interest of how this Unit's special capabilities have been relied on in numerous deployments, over a range of environments, across the decades of its existence.

"Such unusual openness I believe cannot help but promote confidence, and ultimately improve the level of understanding of 1 NZSAS Group – whose history deserves the accolade it aspires to of being the elite Unit of the New Zealand Defence Force."

The Author

Ron Crosby has an honours degree in law but over the last decade has increasingly been occupied in writing New Zealand historical and military books. His lifelong interest in the Urewera led to his writing a biography of Gilbert Mair, one of the leaders of the Arawa Flying Columns which pursued Te Kooti for years in the Urewera – a true example of early special warfare tactics. That book, Gilbert Mair: Te Kooti's Nemesis (2004), and others led to his being engaged to write this history of the NZSAS.

ENDS

Ron Crosby will be available for interview upon publication date.

RRP \$65.00 | Cased & Jacketed | Viking (an imprint of Penguin Group (NZ))
464pp | black & white photographs throughout

Free Display of Anzac Art

A passerby admires artwork on display in the front of HQ, NZDF. The posters were designed by children throughout NZ. (WV09-0003-35)



21 May 2009

The Monet exhibition might be over but Wellington residents can catch a display of students' art currently on show at Defence House in Aitken Street, Thorndon.

The display is a selection of the over 800 entries received for the New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) Operation Anzac Spirit competition which asked Year 7 and 8 students to submit a poster showing what Anzac Day means to them.

"We had such a huge range of fantastic entries that we thought putting them on display in our windows would provide a good opportunity for the public to see them," said NZDF Events Manager Ally Clelland.

"Defence House staff have noticed the artwork has already attracted a lot of interest, with some people even stopping in the rain to have a look at the free display."

The competition was won by Dahnyelle Hinemaurea Rogan-Ngata, 12, of Palmerston North, who submitted a poignant poster about her koro matua (great-grandfather) who served in the 28th (Maori) Battalion.

The RSA will select 12 of the competition entries to produce a calendar for 2010 which will be used as part of the 95th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings.

The artwork will be on show until 1 June 2009.

[21 Gun Salute](#)

[NZ Special Service medal to be presented to US citizens](#)

[North Island cities set to march to Army Beat](#)

[Stakes high in Army Exercise](#)

[Battle of Crete Remembered](#)

[Prime Minister of Tonga visit](#)

[Kiwi Soldiers build playground for school in Timor-Leste](#)

[Student's moving work wins Defence Poster competition](#)

[New Chief for Army](#)

[Operation Anzac Spirit winners announcement](#)

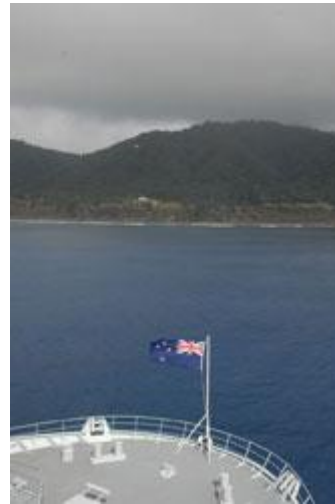
www.army.mil.nz



HMNZS Canterbury successfully refuels Raoul Island

HMNZS Canterbury at anchor off Raoul Island (WN09-0040-36)

27 May 2009



Amphibious Support Ship, HMNZS CANTERBURY, the first Royal New Zealand Navy Ship to embark two Seasprite helicopters from 6SQN RNZAF, has successfully airlifted 20,000 litres of fuel onto Raoul Island. The fuel is essential for Department of Conservation (DOC) staff working on the Island which is 1000 kilometres north east of New Zealand.

HMNZS CANTERBURY anchored at 0630 and commenced the airlift at 0715, and continued the operation for over seven hours with flying completed at 1430. The ship then weighed anchor at 1515 and is now enroute to Apia in Samoa. HMNZS CANTERBURY is designed to work with Seasprite helicopters operated by No6 squadron from RNZAF Base Auckland at Whenuapai.

Air Component Commander, Air Commodore Gavin Howse, monitored the air lift from Joint Force Headquarters north of Wellington. "The development of helo operations onboard Canterbury is ongoing and this re-supply to Raoul Island tests the capability to undertake multi helo operations in any situation where they might be required."

DOC's Area Manager incorporating Raoul Island, Tim Brandenburg, thanked the NZDF for its support. "Having the Canterbury and her helicopters keeping us supplied with fuel is vital for the success of our operation. Without it we couldn't run the generators that supply power to our accommodation and we wouldn't be able to transmit data from the meteorological station, our tsunami warning devices or the volcanic measuring equipment."

Once HMNZS CANTERBURY has arrived in Apia, it and the RNZAF Seasprites will join NZ Army, Territorial Force and civilian medical and dental personnel as part of exercise Tropic Twilight. More media releases on this will follow.

ENDS

The New Zealand Defence Force is actively working with NZ Government departments (including NZAid) throughout the world.

Currently 773 New Zealand Defence Force personnel are deployed on 14 operations, UN missions and defence exercises in 10 countries around the globe.

For further information please contact Lieutenant Commander Barbara Fleissner, Senior Media Adviser – Navy - 021-2440638

Notes on HMNZS CANTERBURY

Pennant Number L421
Amphibious Sea Support Vessel

The Multi-Role Vessel CANTERBURY was the first of seven new ships built for the Royal New Zealand Navy under Project Protector.

HMNZS Canterbury was commissioned on 12 June, 2007.

HMNZS Canterbury plays an integral role providing amphibious support to military operations, humanitarian assistance, non-combatant evacuation, as well as general naval training and support to other government agencies.

Notes on Seasprites

Both personnel from the Air Force and Navy make up No. 6 Squadron. Navy pilots trained by the RNZAF, fly and crew the Seasprite helicopters with Navy Helicopter crewmen and Navy Airborne Tactical Officers.

Each of the five Kaman SH 2G Seasprite helicopters with No 6 Sqn can lift 1814 kgs and they began service with the NZDF in 2001.

Open Day at home for Navy Patrol Vessel

Homecoming of HMNZS Resolution after three months at sea in 2008 (MC08-0504-01tn).

11 May 2009

Taking a welcome break after completing a resupply to Raoul Island, the Navy's



principal survey vessel, HMNZS RESOLUTION, will make a port visit to her adopted homeport of Gisborne, berthing at Wharf 7 at 10:00 am on Thursday 14 May.

The public of Gisborne and surrounding districts are warmly welcome to visit the ship when she is open to the public from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm on Sunday 17 May. Access is via Kaiti Beach Road Security Gate.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Shane Arndell says, "The ship is making a visit to her home port of Gisborne for the first time since September 2007, after completing a passage to Raoul Island in support of the Department of Conservation to replenish stores and change out DoC staff on the island. Whilst in the Port of Gisborne my ships' company will be taking the opportunity to get out and about in and around the local area, and RESOLUTION will be hosting numerous potential recruits and school tours, as well as being open to the public on Sunday".

An exciting treat is in store for student groups from Gisborne and Tolaga Bay, who have been invited to take passage onboard HMNZS RESOLUTION when she departs on Monday 18 May. HMNZS RESOLUTION will sail from Gisborne and land the student groups at Tolaga Bay Wharf in a Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat.

RESOLUTION will depart Gisborne at 10:00 am on Monday 18 May heading home to the Devonport Naval Base.

Particulars of HMNZS RESOLUTION – Pennant Number A14

Standard Displacement: 2,262 tonnes
Length Overall: 68 metres
Beam: 13 metres
Draught: 5.2m
Speed: 12 knots
Range: 21,500 nautical miles
Complement: 44 (9 Officers, 34 Ratings)
Accommodation for 48 onboard.

Accurate charts are essential for safe navigation both on the open sea and on inshore waters. As the Royal New Zealand Navy's (RNZN) principal survey ship, RESOLUTION is used primarily to survey and chart the waters in and around New Zealand and the Pacific. Her secondary role is to conduct Multi Agency Tasking in support of the Whole of Government Approach to the protection of New Zealand's Sovereign interests, both at home and abroad.

RESOLUTION is named after the sailing vessel HMS RESOLUTION, used by Captain James Cook, RN, during his second and third voyages to New Zealand between 1772 and 1779, thus recognising the extensive hydrographic survey work Cook and his team completed.

RESOLUTION was formerly the US Navy Ship TENACIOUS, where she was utilised as a towed array sonar vessel deployed for three months at a time streaming a two-mile underwater listening device. She was commissioned into the RNZN on 13 February 1997. The ship's home port is Gisborne. HMNZS RESOLUTION also provides a scholarship for under-privileged high school students to participate in a ten day passage on the SPIRIT OF NEW ZEALAND.

- [21 Gun Salute](#)
- [NZ Special Service medal to be presented to US citizens](#)
- [Navy Band heading to Coromandel and Thames Valley](#)
- [NZ Navy woman on UN peacekeeping poster](#)
- [Change of Command ceremony for Naval Reserve Unit](#)
- [HMNZS Canterbury heads to sea for humanitarian tasks in Pacific](#)
- [Prime Minister of Tonga visit](#)
- [Student's moving work wins Defence Poster competition](#)
- [Operation Anzac Spirit winners announcement](#)

www.navy.mil.nz



RNZAF Orion helps prepare Canadian Army for Operations



An RNZAF Orion conducting maritime surveillance (AK02-0414-15tn)

29 May 2009

A Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) P3-K Orion will participate in Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN as part of the multi-national air force elements in support of the Canadian Army.

Based at Canadian Air Force Base Comox, the Orion crew will focus on overland Intelligence, Surveillance and

Reconnaissance (ISR) operations in support of Army operations.

Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN is being conducted in Canada over the period 30 May - 11 June and this will be the second time the RNZAF have been involved. The exercise also includes aircraft from the Canadian Armed Forces and the United States Air Force.

"Exercise Maple Guardian allows RNZAF Orion crews to practice operating in direct support of ground troops in a realistic, multi-threat environment. With the Orion fleet undergoing significant upgrades over the next few years, it is essential that we start core training now in order to be prepared to face the challenges of tomorrow," said the Number 5 Squadron Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Nick Olney

A touch of ceremony as Governor General visits Base Ohakea

The Governor General the Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand and Lady Susan Satyanand arrive at RNZAF



Base Ohakea (OH 09-0326-001)

27 May 2009

The silver was polished and shoes shined at Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Ohakea for today's visit by the Governor General; the first visit by a Governor General since August 2004.

Landing on the tarmac their Excellencies the Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand and Lady Susan Satyanand were greeted with a powhiri and 100 person guard of honour.

During the visit the Governor General presented medals for long service and good conduct to four Air Force members. There was a tour of Historic Flight, and a meeting with some of the crew of 3 Squadron before a flight in an Iroquois.

For Commanding Officer Operational Support Wing, Wing Commander Tim Walshe, the visit was an excellent

opportunity to showcase the Base and the men and women who live, work and play at Ohakea.

"Today's visit by the Governor General was of particular significance. Not only did it give us the opportunity to highlight the skill and professionalism of those in the RNZAF, but it also reinforced the special relationship we, as part of New Zealand's Defence Force, have with the Queen and her representative."

[RNZAF Orion helps prepare Canadian Army for Operations](#)
[21 Gun Salute](#)
[NZ Special Service medal to be presented to US citizens](#)
[A touch of ceremony as Governor General visits Base](#)
[Air Force helps keeps DoC huts cosy for winter](#)
[Prime Minister of Tonga visit](#)
[Fire Damaged Home Open To Educate Community](#)
[Student's moving work wins Defence Poster competition](#)
[Operation Anzac Spirit winners announcement](#)

www.airforce.mil.nz

Stephen Clarke, Chief Executive of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association, taken in the Gallipoli Room at the RNZRSA National Office, Wellington.

The National Bank and RSA relaunch major school speech competition to honour Gallipoli hero & Anzac tradition

WELLINGTON: The National Bank and The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association (RNZRSA) today unveiled The National Bank RNZRSA Cyril Bassett VC Speech Competition in honour of a former staff member and Gallipoli hero.

This annual event, relaunched this year with major new prizes and The National Bank as title sponsor, invites year 11 and year 12 secondary school students to participate in a prestigious national speech competition to pay tribute to those New Zealanders who made sacrifices, and in many cases died, in the service of their country.

In making the announcement today, incoming ANZ National CEO Dr Jenny Fagg said that it was a fitting tribute to Cyril Bassett, VC, (1882-1983) who was a career-long National Bank staff-member, and the only New Zealander at Gallipoli to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

The students from around New Zealand will initially compete in regional competitions, and then a national final. Both the National Winner and National Runner Up will win a trip to Gallipoli, a cash prize for their respective schools, and a laptop computer and digital camera so they can record their experiences at Gallipoli.

Said RNZRSA Chief Executive Dr Stephen Clarke: "We're delighted with this support from The National Bank which I am sure will encourage more schools to take part, allowing students to gain a deeper understanding, and appreciation, of the sacrifices made by Cyril Bassett, VC, and the many New Zealanders who have served their country."

Jenny Fagg said: "We wanted to partner with the RNZRSA so we can jointly help young New Zealanders better understand our history. We also wanted to recognise the extraordinary achievements of a long-serving and loyal staff member of The National Bank whose humility means his contribution at Gallipoli is one of the great untold stories of New Zealand heroism.

"We're delighted to be working with the RNZRSA to bring this story to life and to give young people the chance to travel to Gallipoli and learn more about this important chapter in the Anzac story."

IN REMEMBRANCE



Secondary Schools Speech Competition

'New Zealanders at War - Honouring Their Service'



Jenny Fagg, incoming CEO of ANZ National Bank with

She said Cyril Bassett won his VC, the highest honour given for gallantry in the Commonwealth, for his bravery as a member of the New Zealand Divisional Signals Company.

One historian summed Mr Bassett's contribution thus: "No VC on the (Gallipoli) Peninsula was more consistently earned...this was not for one brilliant act of bravery, but for a full week of ceaseless devotion."

*The original competition was initiated by the RNZRSA in 2006. Previous National Winners are:
(2008) Raphael Mobegi, Karamu High School, Hastings;
(2007) Chloe Muggeridge, New Plymouth Girls High School;
(2006) Ereti Williams, Tauranga Girls' College.*

*About Victoria Cross winners at Gallipoli
<http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/5environment/vc/bassett.html>*



Portrait of Cyril Bassett, VC, among portraits of other New Zealand VC winners, hanging in the Gallipoli Room at the RNZRSA headquarters in Wellington

BIOGRAPHY:

*Bassett, Cyril Royston Guyton 1892 – 1983:
Banker, soldier*

Cyril Royston Guyton Bassett was born at Auckland, New Zealand, on 3 January 1892, the son of Frederick Charles Bassett, a printer, and his wife, Harriet Adelle Powley. Cyril attended Grafton School, Auckland Grammar School and the Auckland Technical College. In 1908 he was employed as a clerk at the Newton branch of the National Bank of New Zealand. His first military service was from 1909 to 1911 with the Auckland College Rifles Volunteers, and then with the Auckland Divisional Signal Company from 1911 to 1914.

On 10 August 1914 Bassett was attested as a sapper in the New Zealand Divisional Signal Company, at that time attached to the Corps of New Zealand Engineers. He sailed with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 16 October that year. Following divisional training in Egypt, the company was thrust into the fighting at Gallipoli when it landed on 25 April 1915. Between 7 and 9 August 1915 Bassett, now a corporal, was involved in an action that won him the Victoria Cross, the first awarded to a New Zealand serviceman in the First World War.

During the ferocious battle for Chunuk Bair, he and a handful of companions laid and subsequently repaired a telephone wire to the front line. In full daylight and under continuous and heavy fire, Bassett 'dashed and then crept, then dashed and crept again, up to the forward line'. The lines were cut again and again, but Bassett and his fellow linesmen went out day and night to mend them. He was always modest about his actions, later claiming, 'It was just that I was so short that the bullets passed over me.'

Bassett was evacuated through illness to Britain on 13 August 1915. He rejoined his unit in France in June 1916, and on 21 September 1917 was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He was twice wounded in action on the western front and returned to New Zealand in December 1918. Before his release from the NZEF in January 1919 he was promoted to full lieutenant.

After the war Bassett resumed his career with the National Bank, serving in Auckland and as manager in Paeroa. He retained his link with the military by joining the Territorial Force. In July 1925 he was posted to the reserve of officers and in December 1929 to the retired list. On 19 January 1926 Bassett married Ruth Louise Grant at St David's Church, Auckland. In 1939 he was promoted to manager of the Town Hall branch of the National Bank in Auckland.



Portrait of Cyril Bassett VC, hanging in the Gallipoli Room at the RNZRSA headquarters in Wellington.



After the outbreak of the Second World War Bassett was recalled to the National Military Reserve as a lieutenant. He spent the war years in New Zealand, working in signals and eventually achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel with command of Northern Military District Signals. He was posted to the reserve in December 1943 and placed on the retired list in 1948. Throughout his military career he was regarded as a popular and hard-working officer.

Cyril Bassett retired from banking in January 1952. During his retirement he served the Devonport community as a justice of the peace. He died on 9 January 1983 at his home in Stanley Bay, Auckland, at the age of 91, survived by his wife and two daughters.

Bassett had been the only New Zealander serving in a New Zealand unit to win the Victoria Cross at Gallipoli. He had been reluctant, however, to talk about the award saying, 'All my mates ever got were wooden crosses.'

Following his death, his widow donated the Bassett VC Memorial Trophy to the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals; the trophy depicts Bassett laying a line at Gallipoli. It is awarded annually to the corps' most outstanding corporal - the rank Bassett held when he won his Victoria Cross.

Barber, Laurie. 'Bassett, Cyril Royston Guyton 1892 - 1983'. Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, updated 22 June 2007. <http://www.dnzb.govt.nz>

NZVAA(NSW) Executive Appointments 2009

President	Sqn Ldr (Retd) David Winkelmann AFC MID
Senior Vice President	Ron Haira
Vice President	Taawhi Kerehona
Honorary Secretary	Greg Makutu
Honorary Treasurer	Greg Makutu

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.

July	Sunday 5 th	1100 Reserve Forces Day Hyde Park (Standard/Flags/Medals)
	Sunday 19 th	1200 Mid-Year Lunch Chatswood RSL (Wear Medals)

	Sunday 26 th	1030 Committee Meeting
August	Saturday 15th	1100 Victory in the Pacific Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)
	Sunday 16 th	1130 Vietnam Veterans Day Springwood (Banner/Flags/Medals)
	Tuesday 18th	1030 Battle of Long Tan Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flag/Medals)
September	Wednesday 2nd	0830 Battle of Australia Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)
	Friday 4 th	1100 Merchant Navy Day Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)
	Friday 11 th	1100 Battle of Britain Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)
	Sunday 27 th	1030 Committee Meeting
October	Wednesday 21st	1130 HMAS Australia Veteran's Association Martin Place Cenotaph (No Attendance Required)
	Friday 23rd	1000 United Nations Association Martin Place Cenotaph (No Attendance Required)
		1200 Ninth Australian Division Martin Place Cenotaph (No Attendance Required)
	November Tuesday 10 th	0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)
	Wednesday 11 th	0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals) 1100 Remembrance Day Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flags/Medals)
	Sunday 29 th	1030 Committee Meeting
December	Sunday 13 th	1200-1500 Xmas Lunch Chatswood RSL Club (Wear Medals)



- January Thursday 21st* 1100 ANZAC Participants Meeting (Greg)
- March Thursday 4th* 1100 ANZAC Day Participants Meeting (Greg)
- Sunday 7th* 1030 Committee Meeting
1100 AGM
- April Friday 16th* 1900 Chatswood RSL Dinner Invitation Only (Wear Medals)
- Saturday 17th* 1400 Kapyong Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flag/Medals)
- Sunday 18th* 0930 Coogee/Randwick ANZAC Service
1000 St Stephens ANZAC Church Service Willoughby (Wear Medals)
1100 NZ Soldier on ANZAC Bridge
1500 North Sydney ANZAC Service and March (Banner/Flags/Medals)
- Friday 23rd* 0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)
- Saturday 24th* 0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)
- Sunday 25th* ANZAC Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banners/Flags/Medals)
- May Sunday 9th* 1030 ANZAC Church Service Te Wairua Tapu Maori Anglican Church Redfern (Korowai/Lemon Squeezer/RNZAF Hat/RNZN Hat/Medals)
- Friday 28th* 1100 Indigenous Veterans Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)
- Sunday 30th* 1030 Committee Meeting
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