

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

# GUNNER NEWS



Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Newsletter

Issue # 168

December 2015

## Kia Ora & Welcome

I think I am going to enjoy this gig as Editor of this newsletter. Since the last issue I have been in touch with Gunner newsletter editors worldwide literally. One bloke, an ex RAA vet who served in SVN, is now living in Mexico and he edits his old unit's newsletter from there. I'm thinking of putting a case forward for a recce to Mexico to ensure that everything is kosher over there. I am sure Tony will approve that.

Another correspondent has described me as "The Sin Bosun" as well as being our "Sky Pilot/God Botherer" and he has asked me for forgiveness, I assume for attempting to impugn my good name. I had to tell him that if he had known of my exploits when I was young and stupid he would be amazed at the positions I now hold.

We have a lot of interesting stuff in this issue which I hope that you enjoy, however, I would really appreciate receiving articles, memories and other related editorial type stuff (plus photos) from the generations of Gunners who served after me because, at the moment, we are heavily slanted towards the SVN era. I come from that generation who didn't have a conflict to go to, but a lot has happened since the 1990s and it would be good to hear of experiences from then onwards.

I know that 16 Fd Regt RNZA has an extremely busy year ahead and now might be the appropriate time to wish the new CO, Lt Col Ben Bagley, and the new RSM, WO1 Richard Theodore, all the best in your new appointments. Our thanks also go to Maj Tony Robinson for holding the fort and also WO1 Wayne McAsey who is headed off to new endeavours.

Christmas is fast approaching, so, on behalf of the RNZAA, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and may the New Year be all that you want it to be. Drive safely, drink responsibly and cherish your families.

David Bähler. 027 280 7915 or davidbahler@paradise.net.nz

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I have been thinking about the word courage lately. In some senses we all have the ability to act with courage if the need arises. There is the obvious courage we face when under fire or when we undertake dangerous tasks, but there is often courage when we make unpopular decisions or decisions that can have an effect on your life or the life of others, and I would guess that we have all, at some time in our lives, faced having to make a courageous decision.

But the courage that I am thinking about is the courage of people who have faced adversity, often a major catastrophe, have worked their way through the immediate effects, and have then gone on to live their lives as best they can in the circumstances that they now find themselves in.

When I was in Christchurch for the annual RNZAA Reunion in November, I was struck by how devastated the city was and how the people of Christchurch stoically accept all the inconvenience and disruptions that are now a part of their daily lives.

I had lived in Christchurch in the 70s and had visited the city many times since then but I had not been there since the earthquakes that caused so much devastation. I thought I had a reasonable knowledge of the city and how to get around, but even my car's GPS couldn't cope with the changes.

We have all seen on TV the damage to the city, but it is not until you actually drive through and around the city that you get a real feel for how widespread the devastation is. Huge areas of open spaces in the CBD. Large swathes of vacant land that used to have houses on them. Stacked containers to hold up buildings or rock walls or even cliffs. Iconic buildings have disappeared. Rubble, scaffolding, cranes everywhere. I had no idea it was so bad there. In fact, the best way to describe the city is as a war zone without the bullet holes.

And that got me to thinking how courageous the people of Christchurch are. They have endured horrific experiences of the walls tumbling down, their city icons being demolished, their homes taken away from them in many cases.

They put up with streets that look like they belong in Beirut. Some still have portaloos in their back yards. Some are still battling with their insurance companies and are waiting for their houses to be repaired. This is five years after the event.

They have the inconvenience of now having to travel greater distances to purchase the basics of normal living. And they do this cheerfully. They seem to have an innate optimism that all will come right eventually and in the mean time, they put up with the inconvenience.

That is courage. I salute the people of Christchurch.

David Bähler

*Merry Christmas*



## Last Post

Lang, Elliot T, 3.9.15. RNZA WW2.

Stanley, Lloyd, 12.10.15. NZ Fd Arty, WW2.

Clarkson, Trevor Lewis Maxwell, 7.10.15. Gnr Dvr, 16 Fd Regt RNZA, Korea

Esler, Ian. 7.10.15. Gnr 161 Bty RNZA SVN.

Buckthought, Allan Steward. 14.10.15. Sgt, 16 Fd Regt, Korea.

Cocker, Basil. 23.10.15. 4 Fd Regt, WW2

Stanley, Grahame William. 21.10.15. 161 Bty ATT, SVN

Hansen, Oswald William (Ossie), Gnr, 38 Fd Regt, 3<sup>rd</sup> NZ Div, WW2

Yelash, Marino (Mac) Thomas. 7.11.15. Sgt, 4(G) Med Bty RNZA

Bradshaw, Stuart. 7.11.15, Bdr, 16 Fd Regt RNZA.

Hough, Bruce MacDonald, 20.11.15. L Sgt, 1 NZ Survey Troop & 36 Survey Bty, 2NZEF, WW2.

Crabbe, Frederick Selwyn, 19.11.15. S Sgt, 1RNZIR 63/65 & 161 BTY SVN 66/67

Buchanan, Barry Hayman, 19.11.15. Gnr, 16 Fd Regt RNZA, Korea.

Clotworthy, Donald Campbell (Don), 19.11.15. 161 Bty RNZA SVN.

Trotter, Lawrence Wharawera (Laurie). 24.11.15. WO2, 22 (D) Bty, 16 Fd Regt RNZA

*They shall grow not old as we that are left  
grow old*

*Age shall not weary them nor the years  
condemn*

*At the going down of the sun and in the  
morning*

*We will remember them*

*We will remember them*

## We Are The Lucky Ones

We are indeed the lucky and unlucky ones,  
as we are the ones who have lived to tell the tales of those  
we once knew

We are the ones who carry those scars of things seen, done  
and lost.

We are the ones who must never let those who are not here  
be forgotten by the new.

We are the ones who will never need to be reminded that  
"We will Remember Them"

As we are the ones who will always remember those we  
forever call friend.

*Credit: WO2 Anthony Devanny, 3 YORKs, written after his  
third tour to Afghanistan, during which his Battalion lost  
ten members.*

## Newly promoted Gunner Colonels



Col Matt Bloggs and family



Col Matt Weston and family



On the morning of February 14 1967, while during the  
cordon and search the village of Xa An Nhut in Phuoc Tuy  
Province, three officers from 5 RAR were KIA. The  
officers were OC C Company, Maj. Don Bourne, 2IC C  
Coy, Capt. Robert Milligan and Capt. Peter Williams of  
161 Bty RNZA.

Col Barry Dreyer, Col Comdt RNZA, and Peter's widow,  
Colleen, have had Peter's photo, medals, Corps Badge and  
notation of his death framed. This is now hung, along with  
the frames for all of the officers of 5 RAR who died in  
action, in the Warr Room, 1st Brigade Officers Mess at  
Robertson Barracks.

Col Dreyer served in Vietnam with Peter Williams.

*Stolen from Tiger News, Newsletter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn, RAR  
Assn, December 2015*

## Quotable Quotes

CANNON, n. An instrument employed in the  
rectification of national boundaries.

*Ambrose Bierce*

The speed, accuracy and devastating power of  
American Artillery won confidence and admiration  
from the troops it supported and inspired fear and  
respect in their enemy. *Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Do not forget your dogs of war, your big guns, which  
are the most to be respected arguments of the rights  
of kings. *Frederick the Great*



### **Notes from the Colonel Commandant**

Best wishes to all Gunners and families as you gather for Christmas and the holiday season. Have a very enjoyable and relaxing period and I hope the year ahead goes well for us all.

The period covered by this newsletter has been busy. Other writers in this newsletter will have covered the activities of the Regiment, the postings in and out, and the work and get-togethers of the RNZA Association and the wider group of gunners. It has been a busy year for everyone, but there are a couple of things that I want to comment on.

Firstly, from the Association point of view, the excellent work done by Skin Frances and his committee for the AGM in Christchurch in November. These things take a lot of hard work, mostly behind-the-scenes, and with little knowledge that it is going to be successful until about halfway through the function, so there is a fair bit of worry. It was an excellent function Skin and team, so well done and thank you.

I also need to thank our President, Tony McLeod, and his team for all the work they do, not just for the Association, but for all Gunners. This is an ongoing effort and takes a lot of work, but Tony and his committee should be very pleased with the outcome. We are a lively Association, with a pretty clear focus and view of the way ahead, and there are contributors from all over the country and offshore who make things happen. However, without the leadership of Tony and his committee it would be more difficult. So well done and you guys deserve a well earned Christmas break. Thank you!

Thirdly, some Regimental matters. This quarter has had the Regiment away for almost the entire period working on various aspects of the Defence Force's major exercise – Southern Katipo – around Westland and Murchison. The Regiment was away in various roles for the better part of 10 weeks, and from the feedback I have, performed very well. I was able to briefly visit 163 Battery in Murchison.

There are a range of annual postings in the Regiment this month. I need to note the change over in a couple of key appointments – Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major. Col Andy Shaw continued the line of hard-working and successful Commanding Officers we have had, and continued the work of developing the technical and professional skills of the leadership group and the batteries. His mid-term operational posting was a bit of a surprise to us all and I am sure Andy did as good a job in Iraq as he did with the Regiment, which he left in fine shape. I wish he and his family well in the next posting and thank him for his fine contribution to the Regiment.

Tony Robinson took a fast ball midyear in his role as CO, through a trying time work wise in the Regiment. That was not an easy ask, and he double hatted in two busy roles. Well done for your efforts and the continuity you were able to bring to the Commanding Officer's role.

For the new Commanding Officer, Lt Col Ben Bagley, congratulations and welcome back to 16 Field Regiment. You have a hard act to follow as the last four Commanding Officers have all been promoted to full Colonel. We are looking for a fifth and then sixth. On behalf of the wider gunner community best wishes in the role.

The change in RSMs is also a significant event. The job is as key as that of the Commanding Officer. I think we are all delighted to see a promotion to the job from within 16 Field Regiment, so well done RSM Richard Theodore and I am sure the task will go well with you. Also, my personal thanks to Wayne McAsey for his support over his time back in the Regiment and best wishes in the next posting. It has been a great team at RHQ.

For all the others being posted out, thank you for your contribution to the growth and standing of the Regiment, and best wishes in your new roles. For the incoming team, there are hard acts to follow and I wish you well in the task of the ongoing development of the guns.

The Band of the RNZA has been in the usual busy cycle. They were able to perform for the hundredth birthday of one of their greatest supporters, Capt Frank Whiting RNZA, much to the delight of Frank and his family. The Band had a very successful Morning Melodies concert at the Bruce Mason centre on the Northshore, with the usual large crowd. They have completed a reconnaissance to Melbourne in preparation for a trip in 2016 where they will participate in the Armistice Day Commemorations at the Shrine in Melbourne in November.

As part of the work of the Association, a Veteran's Advisory Group was formed to do some research and investigation on the implementation of the new Veterans Support Act 2014. A comprehensive report has been prepared and we are seeking confirming information from other Corps before presenting the report to the Chief of Army in the first quarter next year. The report will provide some substantive feedback to Veterans Affairs on the implementation of the new Act.

The Bronze Gunner project proceeds with a number of orders in November. This is a superb and valuable Gunner bronze artwork which will raise money for the Heritage Trust. The statuettes are made to order by Captain Matt Gauldie RNZA, the Defence Artist, and can be delivered anywhere in the world, either mounted on a brass cartridge case or on its own small bronze stand. The Bronze Gunner can be purchased in one go, or bought over time. If you are interested, you should contact either the Colonel Commandant or the Association Treasurer – details on the last page.

While mentioning Captain Matt Gauldie, I need to note that he is retiring from his role at the end of the year. Matt has been a very committed Gunner since he was appointed to his role ten or so years ago, and has represented his Corps with distinction throughout his period as the Defence Artist. I welcome Matt's continued contribution to the RNZA as a member of the Association after his retirement. He has done a great job for us.

I am presently in Canberra at a reunion of my RMC graduating class – I will not say which year but it was some time ago – and we were a Vietnam war group of officers. A lot of my Australian classmates continued serving through to their retirement, not so long ago. I am continually reminded by my classmates of the close association between the New Zealand Army and the Australian Army and how important this has been and will continue to be to both countries. There is no doubt that our contribution to the larger Australian Army when it was needed has been very much appreciated and an important part of a combined success. Long may this last.

Once again, I wish you all a very relaxing Christmas and holiday break and look forward to working with you in 2016, our 300th Anniversary Year.

Ubique

Barry Dreyer  
Colonel Commandant

## Ubique 300

As members will be aware, in 2016 the Royal Artillery will be celebrating their Tercentenary (300 years since foundation).

The RNZAA will not be organising any 'supporters tour' but if there are any individuals who would like to attend either the Review at Larkhill on 26 May 16, or the church service at Salisbury Cathedral on 19 May 2016 then please advise the secretary by Jan 31 2016, so that we can advise the Royal Artillery Association.

At this stage we believe that entry to these events will be free but by ticket only.

Tony McLeod



By **BARNEY SEIBERT**

**NUI DAT, Vietnam (UPI)**—It's a different kind of war at the Australian task force base at Nui Dat.

The 5,000-man Australian task force, including a battalion size element of New Zealanders, is the only Allied unit in the Indochina War with tactics markedly different from those used by Americans, South Vietnamese, South Koreans and Thais.

The South Vietnamese, Koreans and Thais all were trained and advised by Americans. So were the Laotians. Even the Cambodians are learning the American counter-insurgency tactics from the South Vietnamese.

But the Australians have needed no advice from Americans in scouring the jungles for the Viet Cong in Phuoc Tuy Province, a lightly populated area of jungled forests and mountains along the South China Sea 50 miles southeast of Saigon.

Japanese infantrymen, who were experts in the craft of jungle warfare, told American captors at the end of World War II that the Australians were the real jungle experts on the Allied side. "Americans are not jungle fighters," one prisoner of war remarked. "They simply remove the jungle."

The Australian expertise in jungle war was forged in expeditions to maintain order in New Guinea, polished in the Australian Army's jungle warfare school, and honed in 12 years of campaigning against the Communists in Malaysia.

The Aussies are the only U.S. allies in Vietnam who brought along most of their own equipment and who pay their own way.

In addition to the 5,000-man task force there are another 3,000 Australian fighting men in Vietnam—airmen, sailors and military advisors working with South Vietnamese units. About 50 per cent of the Australians are conscripts.

Because of their jungle warfare expertise, the Australians are less oriented toward air mobility in the Indochina conflict.

One of the first things Americans notice at Nui Dat is the absence of helicopters—the Aussies have only about half as many as

a conventional U.S. infantry unit of equivalent size and about one-fourth of the total assigned to an American air mobile division.

Another major difference in the Australian concept is the absence of Vietnamese civilian workers at the base. "We do not have a security problem," one officer said.

#### Other Differences:

The Australians live in tents rather than "hooches," call their infantrymen "crunchies" rather than "grunts," maintain their vehicles and equipment almost as well as the Koreans—the most spit and polish soldiers in Vietnam—leave the trees standing to provide shade when they build a base camp rather than removing the vegetation to minimize the infiltration danger.

The Australians buy their artillery pieces and ammunition from the United States—"in the quantities in which you make it we can buy it cheaper than we could make it ourselves." They also buy machine guns, grenade launchers, armored personnel carriers and some web equipment.

Their tanks are British Centurions. Their rifles are the Belgian NATO weapon, which uses the same cartridge as the M.S. M16; the Aussies say it has better range and is less susceptible to jamming than the M16. Their jeeps and weapons carriers are various modifications of Australian-built Land Rovers and their trucks are built by the Australian subsidiary of International Harvester Corp. The trucks do not have the familiar dual rear wheels of U.S. Army vehicles.

The elite Australian unit in Vietnam is the Special Air Service Squadron, highly trained volunteers who are paratrooper qualified.

In four years of operations in South Vietnam's Phuoc Tuy Province, the Australians have killed 2,840 Viet Cong and driven the only two main force Viet Cong battalions, D445 and D440, from the province.

Intelligence estimates show about 800 Viet Cong guerrillas remain in the province and the Communist infrastructure has been reduced 50 per cent to 1,500 persons. During the 1968 Tet offensive there were an estimated 5,000 Viet Cong soldiers in the province, supported by an infrastructure of 3,000 persons.

And the Australians in Vietnam know more than just how to fight.

## From the Rolls-Royce staff magazine:

Sometimes it DOES take a Rocket Scientist!!(true story)..

Scientists at Rolls Royce built a gun specifically to launch dead chickens at the windshields of airliners and military jets all travelling at maximum velocity.

The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

American engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the Windshields of their new high speed trains.

Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the American engineers.

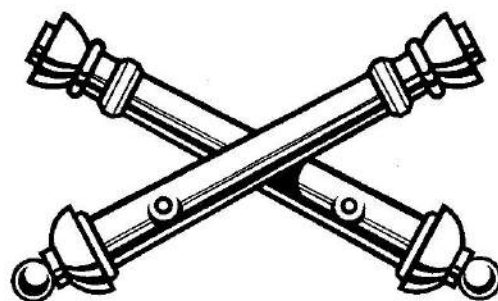
When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken shot out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's back-rest in two and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin like an arrow shot from a bow..

The horrified Yanks sent Rolls Royce the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the British scientists for suggestions.

You're going to love this.....

Rolls Royce responded with a one-line memo:

"Defrost the chicken."





We know about plastics — some have called this the Plastic Age. From the plastic bag to plastic surgery, and in between the components of computers, cars, kitchens, kindergartens...and fish bait. But, a plastic brain? The word means "able to be moulded", and our childhood experience with modelling clay gives us some idea — things that can change shape and take on new meanings or uses — plasticity.

Long, long ago in medical school I was taught that we were born with a fixed dose of brain cells. These grew to their full capacity during adolescence, and after that we lost them at a steadily increasing rate — a bit depressing really. Much less long ago my doctor daughter was taught much the same thing.

We were also taught that cells in different areas of the brain had specific functions — and if that area was damaged then that function was compromised or lost for ever. And it is still essentially true that a brain cell lost is lost for ever. But wait, we now know more.

Brain cells have both a central "body", the axon, and a number of wavy branches or arms called dendrites, rather like an octopus. The arms tangle with those of other nerve cells to allow the flow of current which makes us function. If we lose brain cells —from injury, disease of ageing — nearby cells can sometimes reach out across the 'gap' and re-establish connections.

Even better, our nerve cells are smarter, more flexible (plastic!) than we were originally taught. They can sometimes take over the lost functions of nearby, damaged cells or grow new tentacles to re-establish lost connections, or make new ones. One half of the brain can even learn to do some work which was thought to be the exclusive job of the other half.

Great news. We don't automatically get dumber as we get older. (*Are you reading this Pete D?*)

But, as you have guessed, this means that we have to do some work. Neuroplasticity—the capacity of brains to adjust, repair or learn new skills- is more likely to help us if we help our brains. This is my brainy daughter's list of what helps our brains to get smarter. (And if you have met some of these before, well, medicine is really boring).

The right amount of sleep — average more than six and less than ten hours.

Enough exercise — at least 3 x 30 minutes' huff and puff each week.

Not too much booze — more days with two or fewer drinks and some dry days.

More fresh, colourful food. The Mediterranean diet is the ideal.

The rest of the list is the "brain specials"

Keep up social contacts and try to make new ones: this is really important.

Exercise — Yes, that again! Think about the brain signals involved in just walking — motion, breathing, balancing, the weather, where we are and who with... and all without "thinking".

Look after your general health: especially if diabetes or blood pressure or mental stresses are already present.

And by no means least: get into "brain training". Look up "Neuroplasticity" on the web to find fun games intended to stretch and grow your mental muscles. Or take up new activities which challenge your thinking and concentration (enough, but not too much) to grow a better connected brain.

You will not become Einstein overnight but you are likely to have a more interesting and enjoyable time. Give your plastic brain a chance to show what it can really do. Go on, you old dog.

**Dr Tony Ireland FRACP, DVA Medical Adviser, With Dr Catriona Ireland FRACP.**

*Reprinted with permission from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). Article originally published in the DVA Men's Health Peer Education Magazine Vol. 14 No. 2 Winter 2015.*

*Stolen from Tiger News, Newsletter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn, RAR Assn, December 2015*

Barry the Kiwi builder was going through a house he had just built, with the woman who owned it.

She was telling him what colours to paint each room. They went into the first room and she said, "This room to be a light blue."

The builder went to the front door and yelled out "Green side up" As he went back she said the next room was to be red.

The builder again went to the front door and called out "Green side up" Once back with her, she said "This one to be tan."

And again he went to the front door and yelled "Green side up"

The lady, very curious, said "I keep telling you different colours but you always yell "Green side up", what do you say that for?"

"Oh, don't you worry about that," said the builder, "I've got a couple of Aussies laying turf out front."

*With thanks to Kim McGrath*

The following is an excerpt from the history of the mortar locating radars used by Det 131 Div Loc Bty RAA in SVN describing their last months in SVN.

Official records of the AN/KPQ-1 radar lack necessary detail for this period and I am grateful to Richard Chaplin for allowing me to use extracts from his diary, these extracts are identified in italics and with RC at the end.

**18 January** - 12 to 15 enemy mortar rounds (no calibre recorded) fired into Horseshoe, mortrep obtained by Det 131 LP and locreps produced by radar and sound ranging. CB fire conducted by C/2/35 US 155mm SP onto suspected mortar base plate position. No further information recorded

**2 February** - At 0145 Hrs four Radar operators at Nui Dat are affected from gas from an unknown source near the radar. Investigations failed to find the source or identify the gas. The operators were fully recovered 24 hrs later and reported no ill effects. *"In the evening just after I had completed the 1st Shift manning the Nui Dat Radar Unit, I had retired to bed at 0130. After about 15 minutes I felt a horrible feeling in my nose like breathing pepper or something acidic, made me feel nauseous, and my eyes started to water. I heard Burt Jacka sniffing as well and realised that it wasn't just me. It was then that I realised that it was probably gas. I grabbed my gas mask, and by then the alert had been given and everybody headed to the bunkers or command post with rifles and ammunition just in case it was a ground attack - it wasn't as it turned out and we were stood down."* RC

**4 February** - *Burt Jacka and I travel as shotgun on a convoy with the Engineers and a crane to Xuyen Moc where Australian Engineers were building a new Town Hall for the village."* RC

**9 February** - *Caught the 0715 helicopter in to Nui Dat from the Horseshoe FSB and built a covered entrance to the Nui Dat Radar Unit Command Post, painted it yellow, and installed a red light at the entrance. Caught 1745 chopper back to the Horseshoe FSB."* RC

**24 February** - *—Go out with a Protection Party for the 131 Div Loc Bty Survey Unit. Travel in APCs and have a very rough ride through the undergrowth. See 3 monkeys and a deer. During our clearing patrol we nearly lost one of our men (Warren Jeanke) who got left behind but luckily he was quickly noticed as missing. We retraced our tracks and found him. After we had been in the area for about 3 hours we heard firing about half a mile away and found out it was one of our infantry patrols coming straight for us. We then found out that we had not had permission to be in the area. We immediately travelled hell for leather out of the area leaving clouds of dust behind us. In our haste the APC I was on hit a tree branch containing a large ants nest and they went everywhere including into the APC. A fumigating grenade was used to kill them but everything then was covered in yellow dust! Later in the day myself, Vic Cicollala and Lt Paul Tys went out of the base to check on a reported blind mortar that turned out to be an Illumination Mortar."* RC

**1 March** - *—Battery BBQ - plenty of good food and beer followed by a football match between the Nashos and the Regs - punches and blood everywhere!"* RC

**6 March** - *—Part of a Protection Party for the Survey team - hot and very dusty."* RC

**7 March** - 4 Field Regiment RAA arrived in SVN and in the first Commanders monthly report, there is a report that —one radar was located at Nui Dat and the other at Horseshoe, 4 Fd Regt Standard operation procedures (SOP's) had an allowance for a Radar Section Commander and a Radar No. 1 to accompany their recce party. *"Watch the parade for the change-over from 1 Field Regiment to 4 Field Regiment. Film - Thoroughly Modern Millie. -2200hrs - 77 degrees Fahrenheit."* RC

**15 March** - *Service Horseshoe radar unit generator. Return to Nui Dat in jeep the long way and throw tins of C Rations out the back for the local children along the way - they love it! Test Nui Dat radar's ability to track US Battery 155 shells and it works reasonably well."* RC.

**19 March** - *"Go to Vung Tau (Peter Badcoe Club) for the day however about a mile from the Nui Dat gates we are shot at from the rubber trees - a bullet passes very close to Chris Chapple's head. A short time later our vehicle breaks down and we need to be towed the rest of the way to Vung Tau. Spend the day in the pool and surfing. When we get back to Nui Dat we find that the Radar Unit had been in operation since 1400 as there were contacts in the Warbies and one New Zealander had been killed."* RC

**20 March** - Van Kiep reports incoming mortars. Radars produce Locreps at Grid 381632 which is engaged by C/2/35 US Arty. Results unknown. This is the last known recording of an enemy mortar LocRep by an AN/KPQ-1 in SVN. *"Mal Musgrave gets a LocRep from the Horseshoe Radar Unit and choppers verify about 30 Vietcong. US Husky Charlie Battery fire 124 X 155 rounds at the target. The Commanding Officer is pleased with the Radar Units performance and at last we are getting some recognition."* RC

**4 April** - *Come in from Horseshoe for 2 days as I have night off. Do an Air Burst Registration for the Yanks artillery, and they say they will do their calculations...so I leave. Then they change their minds, and Bdr Mal Musgrave has to follow my previous calculations as he could not find me - I was playing table tennis!"* RC

**25 April** - *"After a short Anzac Day parade in 102 degrees Fahrenheit and high humidity the whole Nui Dat crew went out to the Horseshoe to set up a new Command Post on higher ground to protect it when the wet season arrives. A bulldozer helped by pushing large amounts of soil against the command post walls to provide added protection (and nearly destroyed it in the process!) The new CP is much larger than the original and much cooler."* RC

**27 April** - *"Go back to the Horseshoe and move all the equipment from the old CP to the new including setting up the radar unit in its new location. Burn all old ammo boxes and sand bags. On 30 April most of the detachment again go to the Horseshoe for the morning to move the generators."* RC



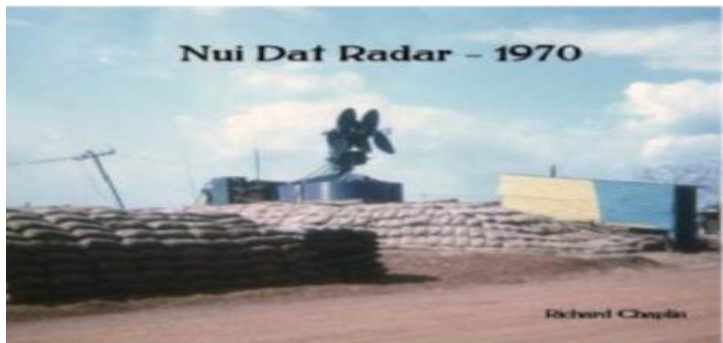
**29 April** - "Hear that Radar units may be pulled out of SVN with 8 RAR in August/September as will 27 men from our battery."- RC

**12 May** - "Catch chopper from Horseshoe to the Dat - pick up a carton of Goffas" and a box of C Rations for the Horseshoe crew. Also learn that one radar unit will be pulled out within 14 days and the other soon after."- RC

**18 May** - The AN/PKQ-1 radar at the Horseshoe was closed down/ came out of action for the last time in SVN. "WO Perry advises that the Horseshoe FSB Radar Unit is to be pulled out that day, and Sgt Black and I go to the Horseshoe to assist and oversee dismantlement of the radar unit."- RC

**19 May** - The AN/PKQ-1 radar located at Nui Dat came out of action/closed down for the last time being the last operational AN/ KPQ-1 mortar locating radar in SVN. Radar unit at Nui Dat pulled out. On the same day the radar units' crew were advised that they would soon be on 107 Battery Strongpoint duty, work in Arty Tac, and may also have some role in Civil Aid."- RC

**20 May** - Worked all day cleaning both radar units and then was advised by DSM (WO Perry?) and Sgt Black that they will need to be transported to Vung Tau by truck for steam cleaning and boxing up prior to shipping to Australia. I was advised that myself plus 6 others from the radar section would be going to Vung Tau with the radar units and would likely spend a few days there assisting with the final cleaning/boxing prior to the units being shipped back to



Australia."- RC

**1 June** - All radars (although not specifically mentioned, believed to be Alpha, Bravo and slave radar Charlie) and their equipment including vehicles were RTA in accordance with the first phase of the Australian withdrawal from SVN. (AWM - 3-7-12) After the withdrawal of the radars, what happened to the radar operators can be summed up by the following statement from an ex Det 131 radar operator SVN: "I was in the Dat from Jan 1970 at the time John Gorton announced staged withdrawal plans for the troops, resulting in 131 closing down the radar and returning some other equipment including vehicles. I remember cleaning all the local dirt out of everything to be returned as this was important for Australian quarantine purposes. One of the Landrovers was so hard to clean we painted it (over the dirt).

I remained on duty and ended up cruising with armoured, participating in protection parties and patrolling with the grunts including a night ambush operation. A group of us remaining 131 people also manned a forward observation post for a period in a bombed out monastery on top of a small but steep hill called Dihn

Co, near the Long Hai's. No radar but an infra red searchlight, lots of fireflies and great views.- Chris Chapple.

Credit: Eyes & Ears, Aug 2015



### Poppy Pins

Go to [www.poppypins.co.uk](http://www.poppypins.co.uk)— they have a brilliant range of Artillery pins and badges for about 7 quid each.

Check out their "Once a Gunner" pins as well for the same price.

### A Soldiers' Poem:

I've had me share of rubber trees  
and screamin' sergeant majors;  
and livin' like a mongrel dog  
in those stuffed out canvas cages.

Had me share of screamin' jets  
and whoopin' bloody rockets,  
beetles in me under-dacks  
bull ants in me pockets.

Had me share of mud 'n slush  
and rainin' like a bastard;  
And when it rains, it rains here mate,  
A fortnight once, it lasted....

Had this bloody place Vietnam  
And a war that ain't fair dinkum.  
Had the swamps, and chook-house towns  
Where everything is stinkin'.

Had me share of countin' days  
And boots with ten-foot laces.  
I've had me share, I've had it mate  
and up all them foreign places.

ANON

## Australian Armour & Artillery Museum— Cairns

If, during your travels you find yourself in Cairns, you might find the Australian Armour & Artillery Museum an interesting place to visit. The Museum opened some 12 months back just North of the Cairns Airport, it currently has some 101 exhibits, only a very few are wheeled, the main object of the displays is Armour and Artillery Pieces. There are probably many exhibits that you will not see elsewhere. I have had a lifelong interest in all things Military and this collection is just amazing.

Brian [Dusty] Millar, former Gunner, Traffic Cop/Police Officer was in town for Remembrance Day Services and one place that I had to take him was this Museum, it astounded him as to just what was there. Knowing a bit about prices that are paid overseas for some of the items on display I would not like to put a figure on what has been spent on this collection.

If any of our Members are anywhere in the vicinity of Cairns I recommend that you spare a few hours to have a look at this magnificent collection of Tanks and Guns of all persuasions.

The author of this article described himself thus:

## Some of the exhibits in the Australian Armour & Artillery Museum



Perhaps the Author could be described in many a fashion, as a Military Tragic, Beach Bum and Navel Gazer [Officially appointed RAN Coastwatcher] Grey Haired Old Git, Card carrying member of the Australasian Order of Old Bastards, former unofficial Fireman, Medic, Poo Farm Operator, Boat Skipper, Petrol Head, Backyard Mechanic, Dispenser of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors and a lot of other Hats in the Cupboard that go along with being an Island or Mountain Resort Manager, Chief Inquisitor of The Regimental Fishing Expert, I am now gloriously retired and liking it.

Was a 3 star Gun Number/Detachment Commander, despatched to the Dirty Thirteen Trucking Company for some reason or other, builder of Watch Towers, got a real good dose of the "Gunnerear" then became a Member of The Illustrious Order of RNZA Pen Pushers and Paper Shufflers. Now Resident unofficial RNZA and RNZRSA man in Far North Qld..

Unfortunately my cross contamination between RNZA and RAN Nautical language has you referred to as "The Sin Bosun" as well as being our "Sky Pilot/God Botherer, shall I beg your forgiveness??

A notional chocky fish to the first person who identifies the writer.



I recently returned from the Republic of Korea (ROK) where I worked as the assistant Joint Duty Officer. My job involved the delivery of official messages to North Korea, managing access to the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), and escorting high ranking/profile guests on DMZ orientations.

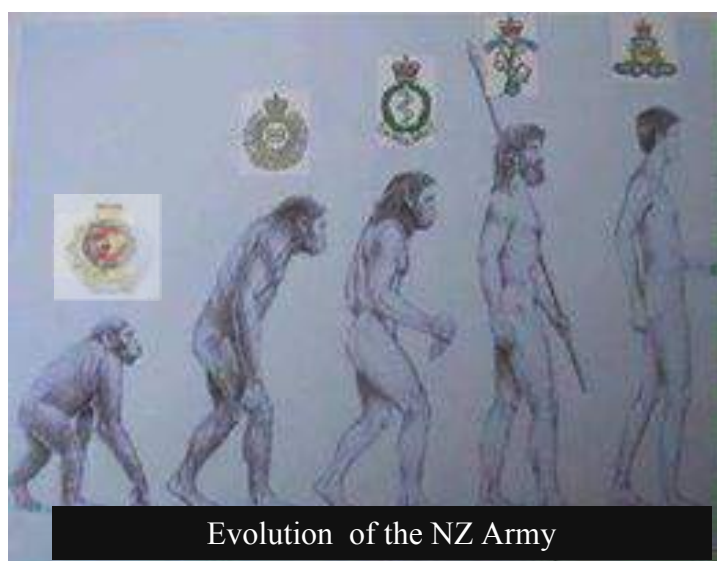
I was in country when the August tensions occurred following a mine blast in which two ROK soldiers lost their legs which led to tensions rising rapidly.

Immediately after the mine strike I delivered a message condemning the attack and requesting talks with the Korean Peoples Army (KPA), the North Koreans. At the same time the ROK government decided to renew the broadcast of messages to the North which mainly consisted of North Korean defectors talking about how much better their lives are now.

The North Koreans did not like these broadcasts at all and issued an ultimatum that gave the ROK 48 hours to stop the broadcasts or they would unleash 'unrestricted warfare'. The ROK also would not back down as they wanted an apology for the mine blast.

The KPA engaged one of the speaker systems (allegedly, the investigation is ongoing) with a rocket and some 14.5mm rounds. In response the ROK fired 36 rounds of 155mm into a clearing near the North Korean weapon systems. This exchange of fire escalated things further, fortunately within 24 hours de-escalation talks were underway.

My team was involved in the talks. We facilitated the border crossings and managed the access for the officials from both the North and the South. We were also the eyes and ears for the 4 star General at the command centre in Seoul. The talks were a success in the end and both sides de-escalated their stance. Since the talks ended there has been an increase in dialogue between the two Koreas.



## 11 The origin of Humpty Dumpty

The nursery rhyme “Humpty Dumpty”—with its simplistic lyrics and surrealistic imagery—has been a classic among children throughout the world since 1870. It’s not a complicated story: The titular Humpty Dumpty sits on a wall and falls off, spilling his innards while “all the king’s horses and all the king’s men” fail to put him back together again.

Interestingly, you’re probably picturing an egg as the main character, in spite of the fact that the lyrics don’t describe Humpty at all. For that, you can thank the 1872 novel *Through the Looking-Glass* by Lewis Carroll which contained illustrations of Humpty Dumpty as an egg, a portrayal which continued throughout popular culture ever since.



So, you might be asking, what was Humpty Dumpty? Well, if you believe several historians, Humpty Dumpty was actually the nickname of a cannon used during the English Civil War of 1642–1649. In 1648, the English city of Colchester was under the control of a group known as the Royalists, who wished for King Charles I to be able to rule the country without Parliament. In order to fortify the city against attack from the Parliamentarians (the group who supported Parliament and wished to oust Charles I), they erected several large cannons on the walls surrounding the city.

On June 15, 1648, the cannon referred to as “Humpty Dumpty” was positioned on the walls. By this time, the Parliamentarians had surrounded and laid siege to the city, so Humpty was used to bombard the enemy and prevent a full-scale assault. However, on July 14 or 15, a Parliamentarian cannonball blew apart the wall underneath Humpty Dumpty. This collapsed the fortification and sent Humpty Dumpty tumbling to the ground. Due to its size, none of the king’s horses and none of the king’s men were able to recover the cannon. On August 28, the city fell to the Parliamentarians, who eventually triumphed and toppled King Charles I in 1649, thus ending the war.



## AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

2017

NATIONAL GUNNER DINNER

2017



TIME TO PARTY WITH ARTY

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: [www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)

### Happy Hour

**When:** Friday 26th May 2017  
**Where:** The Event Centre, Caloundra  
**Timings:** 4:00pm to 9:00pm  
**Dress:** Neat Casual

### 2017 National Gunner Dinner

**When:** Saturday 27th May 2017  
**Where:** The Event Centre, Caloundra  
**Timings:** 4:30pm for 5:00pm - 12:00 am  
**Dress:** Formal Coat & Tie

The Australian Artillery Assn has issued an invitation to NZ Gunners to attend their National Gunner Dinner, to be held at the Event Centre in Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, on Saturday 27 May 2017 at 4pm.

In true Gunner fashion, the Happy Hour starts the day before on Friday 26 May 2017, at the same place, at 4pm.

For more information visit:

[www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)

Note this event is in 2017, so there is plenty of time to organise, but, it is expected that there will be huge numbers attending.

Tony McLeod and Skin Frances, amongst others, went last year and had a ball.

## A Kiwi Gunner earns a Japanese Award

The Japanese ambassador, Toshihisa Takata, has awarded David Bolam Smith the Order of the Rising Sun—Gold and Silver Rays, for building relationships between Japan and New Zealand.

David, described as a Kiwi with a "caring heart" has been recognised for his contribution in strengthening ties between Japan and New Zealand.

The prestigious honour was established in 1875 as Japan's first order.

On the first anniversary of Christchurch's February 2011 earthquake, David Bolam Smith unveiled his commissioned kahikatea sculpture, which was a tribute to the 28 Japanese students from the Toyama College of Foreign Languages killed in the collapse of the Canterbury Television building.

Its twin, situated in Japan's Toyama City, allowed parents to pray for their children. "The prayers meet somewhere in the middle and head off to heaven from there. It's quite an emotional connection I

have with those people," he said.

Securing the sculpture had required a lot of hard work and was a highlighted achievement in the order. "I just felt so sorry for the parents who lost their children so far from their hometown," David Bolam Smith said.

As the former chair of Kurashiki-Christchurch Sister City Committee, he received a commendation from the Japanese minister of foreign affairs for the same service in 2012.

David Bolam Smith's work to bridge relations between Japan and New Zealand started more than 30 years ago when he first went to Japan.

David Bolam Smith was a LBdr with 32 (E) Bty.

*Credit: Christchurch Press*

## Memorial Address

*The following is an edited version of the address given at the memorial service for the 161 Bty RNZA 50th Anniversary of reporting ready for service in SVN., in Palmerston North in July 2015.*

“Theodore O'Hara was a poet and an officer in the United States Army in the Mexican-American War, and a Confederate Colonel in the American Civil War. In 1847 he wrote a poem called *The Bivouac of the Dead* and I would like to read the first verse to you:

“The muffled drum’s sad roll has beat the soldier’s last tattoo;

No more on life’s parade shall meet that brave and fallen few.

On Fame’s eternal camping ground, their silent tents are spread.

But glory guards with solemn dignity the bivouac of the dead.”

Can anything be more ironic than the lives of those who serve in our nation’s military? Because of a love for our country, perhaps for a bit of adventure, perhaps for many different reasons, young men and women sign up to serve their country and as in your case, head off to foreign lands to fight a war that someone, somewhere, decreed was in the best interest of our country,

There is a contradiction here in that you enjoyed the freedoms that are offered by our country and yet you fought to provide the Vietnamese with similar freedoms and to do this you were prepared to lay down your life. You were prepared to defend the right of the Vietnamese to live as individuals, and yet you yielded your individuality to that cause. Perhaps, most paradoxically, you value life, yet you readied yourselves to die in the service of your country.

Your service in Vietnam wasn’t always R & R and Vung Tau or even the pleasures of Bugis Street. There were times when life was uncomfortable, times when you would of thought — this is not a picnic. Times when the incoming gave you pause to think this is not a good place to be.

Times when weeks on end of rat packs began to get a bit dreary. Times when it became an ordeal. Forever pulling sentry duty, cleaning weapons, long patrols for the FO parties, long hours in the gun pit firing mission after mission. Smelly CP’s. The weather. The creepy crawlies. And for those guys in the first couple of years and those on patrol, living in tents.

When you were in Vietnam, I reckon I could lay a bet that the main topic of conversation was how you can’t wait to get back home — how glad you will be to get back to the “real world”. It’s like the hardships you endured made your homecoming all the sweeter, even if it took over 30 years for the Government to recognise your service.

Whether you completed just one tour or went back two or three times, our country owes you a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. Each of you is a hero. Each of you can take pride in the fact that you served your country. Each of you has the never ending respect of those of us who followed you in service to our country. We, your successors, those of us who served our country after you, stand on the shoulders of giants.

Each of you came home. Some didn’t and quite a few of your mates have since died and we will shortly hear of those. In the words of Binyon’s lines — we will remember them.”

## Did You Know: The Gun Salute.

The gun salute appears to have originated in the early 14th century and there seems to have been two reasons for it. The first would have been for the making of noise to do honour to the guest. The second was the emptying of guns by firing; this was considered a friendly and trusting gesture, as once fired, the guns could not be easily and quickly reloaded, hence an honour was bestowed upon the visitor. It was a sign that he was trusted and considered an ally. One would assume that all pieces were fired.

*(Source: Airburst, RAA Historical Company ENewsletter Sept 2015)*

*Notes from David Weston, RNZA Association Delegate*

The 99<sup>th</sup> National Council of RNZRSA was opened in the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington on Wednesday 28 October 2015 with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, CDF and the three Services chiefs present.

In his speech, The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Craig Voss) announced the grant of \$150,000 to RNZRSA for the Support Services provided to veterans (2014-15 grant was \$245,000). During the opening ceremony, the winner of the 2015 ANZ RSA Cyril Bassett VC Speech Competition (Caitland Papuni-McLellan of Opotiki) delivered her winning speech – a very moving description of the story of her great-grandfather's service, and death, in the Maori Contingent at Gallipoli.

Presentations from RNZRSA groups followed – Remembrance Committee, Business Development manager.

A Support Services presentation including Jackie Couchman, Head of Veterans Affairs was made. During this presentation, the signing of an MOU between RSA and VANZ was announced – details of the MOU will follow. Other points from this were a Review of Support Svcs is being done by Mark Compain (Support Services Manager) - there are now 31000 veterans in NZ; 11000 from WW2 to South Vietnam, 20000 from 1974 to present and approx 12000 are registered with VANZ – need to find and connect with all of them.

Before the business of the Council got under way, the National President of RSL, RAD (rtd) Ken Doolan spoke of the activities of the RSL in Australia, and emphasized their efforts in lobbying the government for the improvement in pay and conditions of service for service personnel serving in the ADF.

The annual accounts for 2014-15 were approved – a net surplus of \$314K (after depreciation) was achieved. The Budget for 2015-16 was also approved with a targeted gross surplus of \$52K. The Annual Report for 2014-15 was also adopted and is available to read on the NRZRSA Website (<http://rsa.org.nz/annualreport/index.html>).

The National President (BJ Clark) and the two National Vice Presidents (John Smith and Bob {Bukit} Hill) were re-elected unopposed.

David Moger, CE, gave a presentation of the RNZRSA Strategy which covered the usual approach of Vision, Mission, Values, Strategic Intent, and Strategic Targets (300,000 members by 2024 {now 103K}, 75% of all ex-service personnel are members by 2024, 80% of current serving personnel by 2018 are key targets). He also outlined the priorities for the National Office over the next 12 months.

A number of remits were debated and voted on. Key remits approved were:

- Application of the new rules of RNZRSA (covering establishment of the Board and the President's Forum)
- Capitation for 2016-17 will be \$10.00 plus GST (no change since 2010)
- Several remits covering financial systems and matters – appointment of Grant Thornton as Auditors, rules for approval of payments, limits of access to commercially sensitive information, and Capitation debt write-offs for 2 RSA which have closed.
- Two new forms of membership were approved – Provisional Membership (1 month free, no extension, right to use Club facilities) will allow prospective members to be on the premises legally until their formal membership approval; and Family and Couple Membership ( a member, their partner and their children under age 18).





- Parents of veterans may now receive support from Poppy Funds as dependants.
- The NZ Army Band Assn was accepted as an Affiliated Organisation.

Remits that were **NOT** approved include:

- The Navy Club application for Affiliate status.
- Remits could be submitted directly to National Office rather than through District Meeting.
- Sub branches attendance at National Council (sub branches have no official status in the constitution of RNZRSA).
- Relief of capitation payment for rest home residents.

There was debate regarding the “Fight for the Flag” campaign being run by RNZRSA, and some of the actions taken, particularly the suggestion of ‘spoiling the vote’ in the 1<sup>st</sup> referendum for the preferred ‘new’ flag. No formal remit was presented for decision.

## Tribute to the Light Horsemen of WW1

I am an Light Horseman. I was born and raised in the bush, I learned to ride at age three – don’t be amazed, bush kids are like that. By the time I was six I had learned to shoot. I am a crack shot, there’s no need to be concerned.

When War was declared I headed to the city as quickly as I could. I was big for my age and never was sickly. How old was I? I told the Recruiting Officer I was eighteen, not sure that he believed me, but my acceptance was routine.

My parents never knew, I had run away from home two years before. I guess if they had known there may have been tears. But the fact that I was only sixteen had never worried anyone. This was my chance to travel overseas, before I was twenty-one.

How did it work out for me? The training wasn’t hard for me And before long we were on a troopship heading out to sea. I never got to see Paris but any place was somewhere new, and not seen before, although Egypt was a really strange land.

We trained in the sand with our Walers, the mount of choice for our blokes – rough and tough horses, but in them we rejoice. Like Colonel Harry Chauvel, a soldier and horseman of some note . Both horses and leader are made for hard work, that you can quote.

We climbed the pyramids and were involved in the notorious Cairo brothel brawl – why I’m not sure, but we were victorious. The Gallipoli campaign had started but we were not called until May, we went as unmounted reinforcements, where was the thrill?

Gallipoli, the baptism of fire! At last the frightening horror of war. Sniped at constantly by the Turks on the heights, death and gore surrounded us. Was this why I became a soldier? I’m in it now and I will support my mates as long as my body will allow.

We dug in and survived until August when the British Generals made a decision from safety, they were protecting their genitals, that a massive breakout was in order and that maybe some would get through. We had to charge across the Nek, at least try if we could.

We were slaughtered by Turkish machineguns, no one got through. I was wounded as I climbed over the parapet, I couldn’t continue. The loss of life that day was appalling, we were just cannon fodder, the British Generals were not people our boys would lauder.

I was evacuated to a waiting hospital ship, patched and sent back to Egypt to recuperate. By the time I was ready for another attack our boys had withdrawn and we were joined by lots more untried reinforcements. We were back with our horses, we needed to ride.

Harry got promoted, eventually made a General, well-deserved. We fought some battles in the Sinai, these victories were observed. We were giving the task of taking Beersheba near Gaza, an important task if we were to drive out the Turks and have the war shortened.

Normally the Light Horse dismount before an attack but Harry decided to catch the Turks and Germans while they were unwary. So the decision was made that we would charge their lines, we needed the water anyway. And so we hit them, 800 of us, basically unimpeded.

Try as I might I never made it! Hit in the thigh I fell from my horse. In agony I lay until the battle was over and by and by I was rescued by ambulance and eventually the retirement plan, I was shipped home, but was always proud to be a Light Horseman.

I am dead now of course, like all of my mates. We left all our horses and never knew their fate. But for those who read of our forces please remember the sacrifices, with your flag unfurled, that allow you to live - in the best country in the world.

*John Edwards*



## Missing Gunner

Jack Hayes, at Def HQ, has the medals for the late Sgt Robin James MARTIN - RNZN and RNZ Artillery.

Jack says "These medals are now in my possession and we are asking if you can spread the word through your networks to find this man's daughter. Her maiden name was **Robynne Karen MARTIN. DOB 11 May 1954.**

All we know about this man is:

**12466 Robin James MARTIN.** Born in Pakistan on 10 Jan 1931 as a Pakistani national. He came to New Zealand (date unknown) and was **enlisted into the RNZN 30 Sep 1948.** (Age at the time was 17 years and 8 months).

Service file is not clear where he served but he has Korea and UN Medals for service off Korea and was **discharged 9 Jan 1955.** At the time of his discharge he was single.

His NOK on enlistment in the NZ Army in 1959 was his wife – Mrs Ina Georgina MARTIN.

Their only daughter **Robynne Karen MARTIN** was born in Auckland **11 May 1954.** (She would be around 61 years old now).

He enlisted into the NZ Army as a Private soldier **18 May 1959** and served until discharge at own request on **22 Aug 1968.** During that time he served in Malaya 6 Nov 1959 to 8 Nov 1961 (2 NZ Regt as a Pte soldier and LCpl), and Vietnam with 161 Bty as a Sgt RNZIR from 14 Mar to 16 Sep 1967.

If you have any idea where this serviceman's daughter may be please contact Jack Hayes at Email: [jack.hayes@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:jack.hayes@nzdf.mil.nz)

## VSA 14 Report.

This paper has been prepared as a result of actual experiences by some of our members, in consultation with a group of other concerned veterans. I would like to thank Mike Dakin, Rob Munro, David Weston, Lindsay Skinner, and Peter Miles for their contribution.

The Paper is currently before the Chief of Army, with feedback to date being mostly positive. We intend for it to be before the Chief of Defence by early 2016.

It is not a whinge, it is a statement of how we believe the VSA14 is being interpreted and implemented by Veterans Affairs, and how we believe it could be improved.

I would urge all veterans, and those concerned with veterans matters, to read the Paper. We would appreciate any and all feedback.

Over time, we would hope to put together a file of examples where veterans are actually worse off than they were before the VSA came into effect, so if you have any such examples please send details through to our Support Adviser Peter Miles, via the Secretary.

**A copy of the VSA Report will be emailed to all members shortly.**  
*Tony McLeod*

**Merry  
Christmas**



Faces from the Christchurch Reunion—November 2015





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**Patron** To be appointed

**Colonel Commandant** Colonel Barry Dreyer, 09 307 5692 The Colonel Commandant is an ex officio member of the Association

**President** Lt Col (Rtd) Tony McLeod, 09 4860910, 027 2698472

**Secretary** Bernie McCort, 07 345 3643, 18 Walford Drive, ROTORUA 3010. **Email:**  
**rnza.association@gmail.com**

**Committee:** Greg Thwaite (Vice President), Colin Jansen (Asst Sec Facebook Mgr. and Quartermaster)  
Andrew Donellan & Peter Miles

**Committee Members at Large:**

Graeme Black (Waikato), Brian Jerry Meyer (Australia), Bob Kerslake (Auckland), Danny and Bernie McCort (BOP), Tom Roche/Steve Harvey (Manawatu), Roger Newth (Horowhenua), Lindsay Skinner (Wellington), Rob Hitchings (Wellington), Rob Munro (Wgtn), John Osborne (Northland), Brian (Skin) Frances (Upper Sth Island), Chris Diedrichs & Al Martin (Dunedin), TBA (16 Fd Regt), Dave Weston (Wgtn, RNZRSA Delegate)

**Welfare Support:** Northern: Peter Miles 027 476273 Central: Lindsay Skinner 027 5303319  
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**RNZA Historian:**

**Facebook Site:** **Facebook, RNZA Assn**

**Subscriptions:** For those members wishing to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter a \$20 fee is payable. Please forward by cheque to The Secretary 18 Walford Drive, Rotorua 3010. Subscription **Associate Members:** \$20 per annum. Please send cheque to above address.

**Donations:** All charitable and welfare donations over \$5 are now tax deductible as the Association is a Registered Charity.

**Email Addresses:** Are you on the Internet? The Secretary may not be aware of your address. If you are not getting messages from the RNZA Association and wish to do so, please forward your address. Have you changed ISPs? Have you updated your Internet address? Some mail is being returned.

**Input into Gunner News:** Short stories, especially with accompanying photographs, are always welcome for inclusion. The Editor's email address is: **davidbahler@paradise.net.nz**. Please send as an attachment in MS Word format.

**Member Registration:** New members are most welcome. **ALL** Gunners are eligible for Full Membership, it is **FREE**, and automatic once a gunner has served in the Regiment for more than 3 months. Associate Membership is available to anyone who has been attached to an RNZA Unit or has had a close affiliation therewith, and to close family of RNZA Gunners and to Gunners of any nation around the world. Membership application forms are on-line at the new website: [rnzaa.org.nz](http://rnzaa.org.nz).

**Death of a Member:** If you know of the passing of someone who was a Gunner or a member please tell the Secretary. Where possible a representative of the Association will attend the funeral.

**Muzzle Flashes items to Skin at:** **muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com**

**Secretarial/Treasurer matters to:** **rnza.association@gmail.com**

**Items for Gunner News to David at:** **davidbahler@paradise.net.nz**

**RNZA Assn Bank:** **Ac # 38 9007 0694501 00**

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Royal NZ Artillery Assn, nor those of the Royal Regiment of NZ Artillery, nor even those of NZDEF, or of anyone else for that matter. Remember to read everything you see with a grain of salt.

## ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION INC.

### 81<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting

Location: RSA, Armagh Road, Christchurch

Date: 14 November 2015 Meeting opened: 10:07 a.m.

Chairman: Tony McLeod, Minutes Secretary: Greg Thwaite

#### 1. Welcome

The President, Tony McLeod, welcomed the Col Commandant Barry Dreyer and 30 other members attending the Annual General Meeting, as set out in the attached **Schedule 1**. The President introduced the members of the Committee, all of whom were present.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received in advance from the persons on the attached **Schedule 2**.

The following apologies were given at the meeting: Roger Newth, Chris Turver, Mike Subritzky, Graham Black, Nig Botica, and Mike Dakin.

#### 3. Minutes

The Minutes of the last AGM held in Wellington on 13 November 2014 as written and presented were approved **unanimously**, and were signed and entered by the President.

#### 4. President's Report

The President presented a written report, and made the following points orally:

A fundamental change was made to our Assn in 2012 when membership became free and gunners who have served in the RNZA are automatically members. This gave rise to an obligation to try to make contact with all those persons who are entitled to membership. The Association is in the fourth year of consolidating that change.

The Association has 540 members on the email list, plus another 10 on the surface mail list. The Association is beginning to gain younger members e.g. veterans from Bosnia, as well as some serving soldiers.

Throughout NZ there are 11,000 veterans who have no contact with Veterans Affairs.

Life membership was announced for Paul O'Connor, and Peter Dawson: **acclamation**.

There are now 12 life members.

At the recent Reunion of Vietnam members of 161 Battery, he attended to represent the non-Vietnam Gunners. This had been organised by Woody Barrett, despite difficulties. Veterans from the Vietnam era have glued the Association together for 50 years.

Exercise Ben Cat, hosted by 16th Field Regiment, is a wonderful day's experience.

The support for veterans is provided by Peter Miles (replacing Mike Dakin), Lindsay Skinner, and Pat Duggan. They point veterans in the direction of assistance.

Each year the Association sends a Christmas card and a magazine to Gunners serving overseas, of whom there were two in 2014. There will be a lot more this year.

The Association has yearly overheads of about \$2,000. It received a donation from the Vietnam Reunion which will show I next years accounts.

The website and Facebook are critical to the Association's operation: the website is not too lively, but the Facebook (administered by Colin Jansen) is very active.

**Resolution:** the President's report be accepted: Bob Downs/David Bolam-Smith

Passed **unanimously**.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report



The Treasurer presented the annual accounts.

The following points were discussed:

The profit from the Q store has increased, which reflects better stock management. For the Reunion, mugs will be sold at a reduced price of \$10.

A number of donations have been received, including \$1,000 from the Auckland Artillery Officers Mess. The accounts do not reflect subsidies in the form of donated products or services; if reimbursed, costs would go up.

The Association donated \$500 to the Christchurch RSA, which will be recouped by selling raffle tickets at \$25 each.

Overall, the Association made a slight profit for the year.

The donation by the Vietnam veterans' Reunion totalled \$3170.78, and will be booked in the next financial year.

The accounts include on a separate page money held for the RNZA Historic Trust. The money collected for the Standish medals is held in a separate account. Now that the RNZA Historic Trust has organised a bank account and David Weston has been appointed as Treasurer, the funds held for the Historic Trust will be transferred to the Trust.

**Resolution:** the accounts be accepted: Col Commandant Barry Dreyer/Peter Dawson

Passed **unanimously**.

## 6. Elections

The President vacated the chair, to allow the Col Commandant to conduct the election for President.

### 6.1 President

Tony McLeod indicated willingness to continue in office, while giving the caution that he expected to be spending time out of New Zealand. There was no other nomination.

Tony McLeod was elected by **acclamation**, and resumed the chair.

### 6.2 Secretary/Treasurer

Bernie McCort indicated willingness to continue in office. There was no other nomination.

Bernie McCort was elected by **acclamation**.

### 6.3 Committee Members

The following persons indicated willingness to continue in office: Andrew Donnellan, Colin Jansen, Peter Miles, and Gregory J Thwaite. There was no other nomination.

Such persons were elected by **acclamation**.

### 6.4 Other Offices

David Weston was confirmed as RNZRSA representative, Skin Frances as the Webmaster, and David Bähler as the editor of the newsletter

### 6.5 Signatories

It was explained that there are only two signatories for the account, but either may sign a cheque; the practice is that cheques are agreed between the signatories by email.

**Resolution:** Tony McLeod and Bernie McCort be the bank signatories: Paul O'Connor/David Bähler

Passed **unanimously**.

## 7. General Business

The president explained that the honorarium covers expenses, and was paid to Bernie McCort to cover travel and accommodation expenses.

**Resolution:** that the honorarium remain at \$500 Brian Meyer/John Deazley

Passed **unanimously**.

## 8. Report of the Col Commandant

The Col Commandant provided an oral report on the RNZA Historical Trust, covering the following matters:

The RNZA Historic Trust is chaired by Rob Munro, and its members include appointments *ex officio*, and a person of interest from 16th Field Regiment.

The Trust was not able to acquire the Standish medals, which were sold for \$15,000. However, Dame Jenny Gibbs has offered the Boer War Lance of her grandfather, Brig Standish. Secure, lockable cupboards will be needed for such an item.

There is a prospect of acquiring the medals of Jack Kingsley, totalling 13; an Australian, he served with 16th Field Regiment in Korea, and was killed at The Hook in July 1953, while he was laying lines as pronto. He was awarded a posthumous Immediate MM.

To raise money, the Historic Trust is selling a Gunner statuette by the sculptor Matt Gauldie, who is an honorary Captain in the RNZA (having undergone basic training). He is New Zealand Army's official artist, and is currently fulfilling a commission worth \$1 million to erect a 1.5 m high statue of a soldier in both New Zealand and Australia. The Gunner statuette is of a Gunner poised to load a cannon, based on a photograph of Gunner Mike Tipene. There is to be a limited edition of 50, at which point the wax mould will be destroyed. As the statuette is finished by hand, each model is slightly different. The price is \$1,060 with a cartridge mount, or \$960 without a mount. The Trust will receive about \$300 per piece; orders may be sent by email to the Col Commandant, or to Bernie McCort. To date, seven have been sold.

The Historic Trust presently has close to \$10,000.

The regimental museum is based in Linton, Palmerston North.

## 9. Veterans Support

In October the President convened a meeting of experienced RNZA veterans to discuss concerns raised by Mike Dakin about how the Veteran Support Act 2014 is being implemented by Veterans' Affairs (those who attended the meeting held in Porirua were Tony McLeod, Mike Dakin, Peter Miles, Rob Munro, David Weston, Lindsay Skinner). Subsequently a 'Position Paper' was developed which the Col Commandant will table at the upcoming Chief of Army Conference, from where it should be passed to the Chief of Defence Force. The Association will then monitor feedback, with the probable next step being to table the paper with the Minister of Veterans' Affairs.

The Association is interested in collecting information from individual case studies, to determine whether (Schedule 1-pre 1974) veterans are actually being disadvantaged by the way in which Veterans' Affairs are interpreting and implementing the Veterans Support Act 2014.

## 10. Ubique 300

The Royal Artillery (RA) are planning a church service at Salisbury Cathedral, and a review at Larkhill to commemorate the Tercentenary of the establishment of the RA. It is unclear at this stage what spaces will be available for RNZA Association members. The Association will not organise any trip, but will pass on information to persons interested (David Bolam –Smith)..

The Royal Artillery rugby team is due to visit New Zealand in late February/early March, but as 16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment will

not be available, it will play a Service team. The Royal Artillery <sup>23</sup>band will also visit. Planning for an event at Linton has not been firmed up, as there is a six-month gap in the appointment of a Commanding Officer.

## 11. Report of David Weston, RNZRSA representative

David Weston reported as follows:

The National Council meeting several weeks ago was attended by the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, but by no other politician; in previous years, senior politicians would attend, including the Prime Minister.

The Minister announced a budget of \$100,000 for support services (as compared to \$245,000 for the previous year).

One of the successful events is the Cyril Bassett VC address, which was given by a high school student.

A Memorandum has been signed between the RSA and Veterans' Affairs.

A new support person has been appointed, based at the head office, from an Army background; he may be expected to invigorate the service.

There are presently 31,000 veterans, of whom 11,000 date from the Second World War to Vietnam, and of whom 20,000 date from 1974 to 2015. Of the younger veterans, only 12,000 are registered with VANZ. The RSA is targeting that non-registered group, so as to offer support.

The RSA registered a surplus last year, for the second year in a row.

There was a discussion about the proposal for a new flag for New Zealand; although feelings were expressed, no rebate was passed.

## 12. Greeting

John Deazley expressed greetings from the South Vietnam Veterans Association.

## 13. General Business

1. Brian Meyer advised:

(1) The Old Friends website is closing down. About 400 RNZA people are registered there from after Vietnam; such persons should send their details to Bernie McCort.

(2) He updates the legacy page every day; he will keep posting on Facebook, and send copies to Colin, Skin, and David.

2. The Col Commandant advised that he writes on behalf of the Corps, to the families of deceased Old Gunners who have been on active service. In return he receives fantastic responses.

3. At the initiative of Col Commandant, the services of the Committee were recognised by **acclamation**.

## 14. Next Meeting

Resolution: The AGM directs the Committee to organise the next Reunion in Auckland Greg Thwaite/ Neil Rhynd

Passed **unanimously**.

Meeting closed at 11:03 a.m.

## Schedule 1: Attenders

Pete Baker	David Bahler
Woody Barrett	David Bolam-Smith
J B Botica	Colin Davison
Pete Dawson	John Deazley
Andrew Donnellan	Bob Downs
Barry Dreyer	Denis Dwane
Paul Fergus	Skin Frances
Ross Goldsworthy & Mem	Goldsworthy
Colin Jansen	Kerry Lee



Bernie McCort	Tony McLeod
Sonny Manuel	Nev Merskey
Brian Meyer	Peter Miles
Brian Boles	Archie Moore
Paul O'Connor	Neal Rhynd
Ted Shears	Greg Thwaite
David Weston	

## Schedule 2: Apologies

Catherine & Angus Rivers	Gordon Revell
Ron Turner	Tom Roche
Bob Kerslake	Andrew Sheehan
Wayne Searle	George Preston
Peter Crake	Danny McCort
Barry Cook	Ruru Hona
Pat Duggan	Lindsay Skinner
Lyall McGregor	Mike Burke
Mike Harvey	

### RNZA Association; Presidents Report 2015

**Presented by Tony McLeod, Pres RNZAA, 13 November 2015.**

This year has seen further **consolidation of the changes** that we made to our Constitution in November 2012, when full membership was opened to all those who have served as a gunner for more than 3 months, and subscriptions for Full Members were scrubbed, the member being deemed to have paid his or her dues to the RNZA Association by virtue of their service to the RNZA. This important change to our constitution has led to the requirement to connect (and reconnect) with a wider grouping of gunners than ever before, and I think we are making steady progress.

### Membership.

There have been **50 new members** register through our website during the year, and our registered membership stands at over 500 Full Members, although only about 110 of those old members have 'registered' their membership via the new website.

Honorary/Life Membership. In the 2012 amendments to the Constitution we addressed the wording of our membership categories, in particular the 'Honorary Member' and 'Life Member' Categories. This has led to the awarding of 'Life Membership' status to ten of our senior members in 2012, 13 and 14 and to two members this year, in recognition of their distinguished careers as gunners and their continued support of the Association over the past 30 years. This year's new 'Life Members' are Mr Paul O'Connor BEM and Mr Pete Dawson; I would ask you to put your hands together to congratulate these members on their selection to 'Life Membership' status.

Activities. The Association was involved in or represented at the following activities through the year;

ANZAC Day: The 'Wreaths on ANZAC Day' initiative was continued for its 4<sup>th</sup> year this year; the aim of this is to rejuvenate gunner networks at the 'local' level, with the Association paying for wreaths where 5 or more gunners are assembled (and photographed) in one location.

Gunners Day: This day was celebrated with dinners in Papakura, Wellington and Christchurch. I would like to thank the organisers of the various celebrations held on Gunners Day throughout the country, as this event (other than funerals) really does unite us in our common bond of service to the Royal Regt of NZ Artillery.

161 Battery (SVN) Reunion. 150 veterans met in Linton to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'Reporting Ready' in Sth Vietnam on 15 July 1965. Thanks to Woody Barrett, Brian Jerry Meyer, Tom Roche, Rangi Fitzgerald, and Danny and Bernie McCort for organising this wonderful event.

Exercise Ben Cat In August was once again a memorable occasion, especially because of the snow conditions during the airmobile deployment. I wish to thank the Acting CO, Maj Anthony Robinson and his staff sincerely for their hosting of this event; to me it is one of the most important (and most interesting) events in our Association Calendar, the opportunity for old to meet current in the 'work environment' which binds us together.

#### Support (Welfare)

Veterans Support Act 2014. In December last year the Veterans Support Act became law, for better and for worse. As a result of complaints from Association members about the way VANZ are implementing the new Act, I convened a meeting of a 'RNZAA Veterans Advisory Group' in Wellington on 19 October 15. This meeting came up with an Association 'Position' along with several recommendations on how things could be improved. This paper will be tabled at the Chief of Army conference next week (by the Col Comdt).

My special thanks to Mike Dakin, Rob Munro, David Weston, Peter Miles and Lindsay Skinner for their contribution to this issue.

Support Advisers. I would also like to thank our support advisers Peter Miles, Lindsay Skinner and Pat Duggan. Their ongoing willingness to help is very appreciated, as their expertise is available to all members to help with advise on pension and other support matters.

Minor Support Initiative. Xmas Cards (and a small gift) were once again sent to our members serving overseas at Xmas time (the 4th year) and this small gesture will continue this year.

Donations. I would like to thank all those members who made donations to the Association through the year (members making a donation in lieu of the previous annual subscription), and in particular the Auckland Artillery Officers Mess for a \$1,000 donation, and the 161 Battery (SVN) Reunion organising C'ttee (under Woody Barrett) for their very generous donation to both the RNZA Assn and the RNZA Historical Trust (approximately \$3000 to each entity, which will show up in next year's accounts).

District Coordinators. I would like to thank our District Coordinators for the part they have played in keeping the Association alive throughout the country; Danny and Bernie McCort (BoP and Vietnam vets), Tom Roche (Central), David Weston (Wellington and RNZRSA Rep), Skin Frances (Christchurch), and Chris Diedrichs (Dunedin). Special thanks to Skin Frances and his team from Christchurch who have organised this great weekend. Many thanks to you all.

#### Media

Website. Our website was launched in October 2012, it was enhanced in March 2014 (which amended the format, simplified the on-line membership registration process, and updated the membership list). I would like to thank Skin Frances for his work as our webmaster; this is a critical role in the functioning of the Assn.

Newsletter. We made the decision to continue the quarterly 'NZ Gunner' in its current form, even though it is now sent out by email to all but about 10 recipients (by snail-mail). These members are mainly the WW2 group in Auckland. If you know of any older members who are not computer savvy and would like a newsletter, please let the secretary know; a \$20 sub to be paid by the recipient, or a kindly benefactor would also be appreciated. I would like to thank Marie Roberts for her hard work over 7 years as editor, and thank David Bahler for taking on the job. I would like to encourage members to submit articles to the newsletter.

Facebook. Many thanks to Colin Jansen who keeps a lively discussion going on our Facebook page. This is another critical 'tool' for the Association, and Colin's contribution is to be commended.

### Executive Committee.

I would like to thank our Col Comdt, Col Barry Dreyer for his continued help and enthusiasm in all aspects of the Association's activities.

Lastly but by no means least, I would like to thank your elected committee, who meet every two months and whose hard work goes largely unnoticed, but without whom the wheels of the Association would stop turning. So special thanks to Greg Thwaite (our Vice President), Bernie McCort (our Secretary/ Treasurer/Chief Clerk), Skin Frances (our webmaster/blogmaster), Colin Jansen (our very enthusiastic Facebook Manager and Quartermaster), Peter Miles (Support), Andrew Donnellan.

``He kitenga kanohi, he hokinga whakaaro- To see a face is to stir the memory``.

Tony McLeod 13 November 2015

### More photo's from the Christchurch reunion





