



NZ GUNNER

Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

BY SHAY BASSETT

Greetings Fellow Gunners,

Among many other thoughts, the recent ANZAC Day was a poignant reminder of the upcoming Battle of Kapyong 75th anniversary next year. This action was a pivotal moment in both the Korean War and history of a nascent 16th Field Regiment.

I understand the Unit has started looking at how this historic occasion may be appropriately marked, and all this reminded me of my own journey to this famously Kiwi Gunner battle site.

Recently I have been travelling up to South Korea with work, and while up there last August had a weekend off and access to a civilian vehicle. So Andrew McKinlay and I borrowed a Kapyong battle site map off the Aussies we were working with, and headed off. The day was not at all what I had expected, and was considerably longer too! The best way to give a snap-shot of how things panned out is probably as a number of Lessons Learnt:

- You probably won't be able to find Kapyong using a mobile telephone navigation application. Like many locations, the spelling is not the same as it was during the Korean War. You will need to look for Gapyeong, and Busan if you think of heading down to Pusan.
- If you are going to visit, don't do it in the height of summer. All of the trees are in full foliage and the whole area has been reforested, so it is very hard to see ground detail. We subsequently found out that the old-hands tend to head there in late autumn or winter, for this reason. At that time of year you can still see where units were dug in and the various routes created by the United Nations Command forces.

- Don't visit the site on a Sunday. Unbeknownst to us, everyone with a car in Seoul (population 20 million) goes for a family drive on this day – well that is what it felt like. The upshot was it took 2.5 hours to get there, but 3.5 hours to get home. Much of this was due to moving in bumper-to-bumper traffic through the main valley system, as the river is a major recreation destination at this time of year.
- Although they take a bit of finding (thank goodness we had the Aussie map) the memorials, plaques, and tracks around the area of Kapyong are pretty good and well worth seeking out. There is generally parking close to key locations, and the signage makes good reading, but does have the odd – sometimes humorous error. Definitely a case of 'time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted'.

Even with its learning points, it was still a good day out and valuable insight into the confronting conditions many of our Gunner forbears fought in.

I would commend anyone going to South Korea to consider a day trip to Kapyong. It's relatively close to Seoul – the whole country is only the size of Taupo and Wellington, but with 55 million people – and the drive is not hard if you pick the right time to travel.

I'm unsure if I will get another chance to get back to Kapyong, but if I do, I plan to try for a mid-week winter window this time!

Ubique,
Shay Bassett - President

Q Store:

For a wide range of RNZA and gunnery items
<http://www.rnzaaQstore@gmail.com> - The
Association Q Store.

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Donations

Donations can be made to our account as follows:
Account name: RNZAA. Account number: 38-9007-0694501-
00 Reference: Donation.

You can claim tax credits for donations of \$5 or more when
the donation is made to an approved charity. The RNZAA
meets the charity criteria. Receipts for donations are
available.

RNZAA REUNION & AGM – DUNEDIN 17-19 OCT

The 91st Reunion and AGM will be held in Dunedin over the weekend 17-19 October
Enjoy southern hospitality and Dunedin's unique character for a weekend with your Gunner mates.

Day 1 – Friday, 17 October

Mix and mingle at the Garrison Club,
Kensington Army Hall

Day 2 – Saturday, 18 October

AGM in morning. The formal dinner in the
evening will feature a piping of the Haggis

Day 3 – Sunday, 19 October

Two rounds will open a service at the
Cenotaph

Start planning your trip now

See more details in the article below



BATTERY TARGET SUSPECTED ENEMY IN VILLAGE

BY MARTY COOMBER - FROM ASPECTS OF REGT. HISTORY

It was a cold, bitterly cold, as only Korea can be in the middle of the winter.

The place - Naegon-ni, about forty miles from the west coast of the rugged Korean peninsula and not more than five miles North of the 37th parallel. The time- soon after midday on January 29, 1951.

The twenty-four guns of the 16th Field Regiment, RNZA, were in position on the ice-crusted paddy field; the gunners stood by, stamping their feet and slapping their arms to keep warm against the freezing wind which blew, as it seemed from the very heart of the Arctic Circle.

Up in the observation posts alongside the Australian Infantry, troop commanders peered over no-mans land at the enemy positions. The stage was set. Since 0600 hours the previous day, the regiment had been waiting, ready to open up in support of 27th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade.

Then it happened! The wireless cracked into life "Battery target.... Suspected enemy in village". From Roger Battery command post, fire orders echoed out over the tannoy system and the gunners leapt into action. "Take Post.... Battery target"

The ranging gun barked into life and the first Kiwi shell screamed on its way to the Communist enemy. Down came the corrections from the forward observation officer, Capitan H. Honnor, and the whole battery opened up. The regiment was in action for the first time.

From then until the signing of the Truce Agreement became effective on July 27, 1953, the regiment poured more than three-quarters of a million rounds into the enemy, suffered eighty-nine casualties, and won fifty-nine decorations, including the Presidential Citation from Syngman Rhee.



ANZAC Day 1951 - Kap'yong

After retiring to new positions in the early evening of the 24th at 0100hrs on April 25, the regiment was forced to move again - back to Kap'yong. There were reports that the Chinese had penetrated the gun positions.

For the next four days and nights, the regiment was to fire almost without pause while the gunners sweated over their smoking, paint-blistered guns.

By this time, the Australians were bearing the full brunt of the savage Chinese attack about forty miles north-east of Seoul. At times they were even cut off and in every company there was bitter hand-to-hand fighting.

During the thirty hours preceding ANZAC Day, the regiment fired about 10,000 rounds at targets ranging in distance from 10,000 yards to 3,000 yards.

The amount of artillery available permitted terrific volumes of fire to be directed to the masses of Chinese infantry advancing in waves in the open.

At dawn on ANZAC day all the brigade infantry were holding their own and were able to meet the advances with murderous fire, leaving at least 500 dead in front of their positions.

The artillery support accounted for a further 1,000 Chinese killed and another 3,000 wounded.

A new ANZAC tradition had been made.

ANZAC DAY IN THE SOUTH

BY SHELLY BOYES, RNZAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - SOUTH ISLAND CO-ORDINATOR

On Friday, April 25, people came together to honor the fallen all around the South Island. People paid their respects at both the larger services in towns and cities and the smaller ones in the country.

As service organisers and officials, speakers, parade commanders, wreath layers, gun detachments, and service attendees, the leadership and unity of Gunners were evident in many ways. Numerous civic, community, and dawn services included guns as sentinels or blank firing, which enhanced and contributed to the events.

Captain Andrew McKinlay, Terry Hutchinson, Anja Hansen, Shane Fuller, Sonny Manuel, Skin Frances, Alex Smith, Glen Hewison, Dave Westgarth, Peter Orchard, Craig Matheson, Morris Hume, and Brian Donaldson are all acknowledged for their contributions of thoughts, reflections, and photographs. Here's a snapshot of ANZAC Day in the South.

Darfield - North West Canterbury

Captain Andrew McKinlay RNZA, a new resident of Darfield, described Darfield's civic service as "a typical country ANZAC Day service," with the entire town coming together in an undeniably authentic and distinctive manner to remember and celebrate their returned and fallen. This was his first ceremony at Darfield, one of 19 ANZAC Day services held in the Malvern area.

Terry Hutchinson, a Vietnam veteran, was busy organising the Darfield service with Trinity Church, as he has been for many years. This year, several hundred from the township attended, more residents marched, and a sleek catafalque party from Burnham Military Camp guarded the war memorial dedicated "In grateful memory of the men from Malvern County who fell in the cause of freedom in the Great Wars -1918 and 1939-1945".

Terry spoke at Kirwee's maiden ANZAC Day service on behalf of the (unofficial) Hororata-Malvern RSA, which brought several hundred people to see the inauguration of the village's new war memorial.

Cust - North Canterbury

Many military memorials/cenotaphs in New Zealand have a gun of some kind, although few feature an M101A1 105mm Howitzer as a sentinel. The Cust/West Eyreton M101A1 sentinel gun (carriage # 11438, breech #19160) guards the Cust War Memorial and Field of Remembrance in Memorial Park, which is located on the side of State Highway 72 in the community of Cust, between Rangiora and Oxford.



Cust/West Eyreton M101A1 sentinel gun



Darfield Gunners (NW Canterbury) - (left) Shelly Boyes (RNZAA), Terry Hutchinson, and Capt. Andrew McKinlay.

Christchurch



The Southern Gunners' M101A1 was set up at a brisk 4:30AM, ANZAC Day morning, with the Christchurch Cathedral lit in red in the background



The Southern Gunners' M101A1 set up as a sentinel gun protecting the Cenotaph in Cathedral Square, with Dave Westgarth guarding



'Likely Lads' of the Southern Gunners after the Christchurch Dawn Service in Cathedral Square - (left) Dave Westgarth, Alex Smith, Glen Hewison, Skin Frances. Skin was the parade commander of Division 1 - Land Force and Air Cadets. Dawn Service started at 6:30AM.



Another Christchurch Dawn Service done! - (left) Shelly Boyes, Shane Fuller, Sonny Manuel. Shelly presented the wreath in honour of Gunners and on behalf of the Association. Sonny was the parade commander of Division 2 - Veterans and Currently Serving Personnel. Dawn Service ended at 7:30AM.



Another Christchurch Dawn Service done! - (left) Anja Hansen, Shelly Boyes. Anja was an official who was responsible for movement in and around the cenotaph during the service. Dawn service ended at 7:30AM, with ANZAC Day breakfast at Papanui RSA from 8:00AM.

Mid-Canterbury



"Fantastic!", exclaimed Skin Frances, when he saw a Peter Orchard-trained teenage gun detachment carry out a blank fire eight round salute with 10 second intervals on one of Peter's three 25PDR guns at the Mayfield & Districts ANZAC Day community service, attended by over 200 people. Peter Orchard's 6PDR then featured at the ANZAC Day school assembly for Waihi School in Winchester. The same young person seen blank firing this gun is the same person who blank fired the salute at the Mayfield event.

South Canterbury

Southern Gunner, Craig Matheson, outdid us all in terms of same day ANZAC service attendances, by taking part in five services around South Canterbury. He took part in well attended civic and country community services in Geraldine, Woodbury, Mt Peel Forest, Rangitata Island, and Orari. This gun from the Geraldine Military Museum was used at the Rangitata Island service. Skin Frances and I were very impressed with the condition of the gun and that it has a functional sight.



ANZAC DAY - OTAGO GUNNERS

BY MORRIS HUME

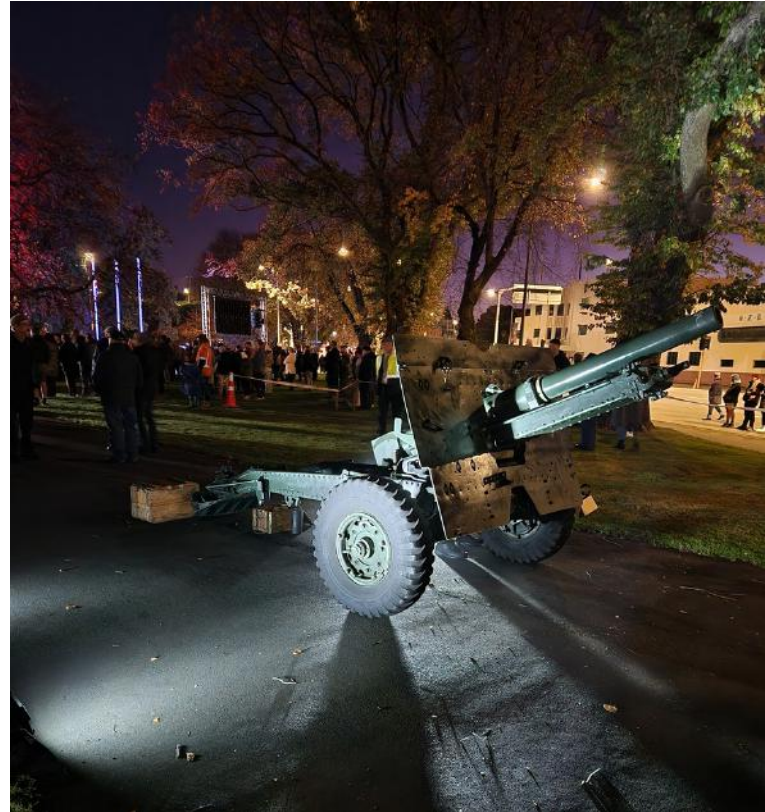


Otago Regional Gunners Dawn Service, Queenstown Park Dunedin on ANZAC day.

We met up at 0530hrs at The Fireshop, Robbie's business in South Dunedin for a pre-deployment briefing. At 0600hrs we moved to Queens Park for the 0630hrs service

After the service we went back to The Fireshop for sausages on BBQ, coffee, and Artillery Port. We then prepared for the move to Mosgiel for the service there.

The Mosgiel service was held at 1000hrs so theres time for quick drink at Mosgiel RSA beforehand. Following the service we returned to the RSA for lunch.



From Mosgiel we moved directly to Otago University for 13:15 service. After that we regrouping at The Fireshop for clean up.

Some of us had disbursed from this point before remaining party moved to Kensington Army Hall for further mateship.



10:00 service Mosgiel with Otago Regional Gunners
With Brian in front and the rest of the crew at the back



ANZAC DAY – CODFORD ST MARY CEMETERY

BY JOHN TULLOCH

The ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Codford St Mary Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. Approximately 75 parishioners and others attended the service. John Tulloch read the ANZAC Requiem.

To prove the phrase 'what a small world it is', attending for the first time at the Codford St Mary Dawn Service was Wally Steward. He and I last saw each other about 57 years ago!

Our TOD in Vietnam with 161 Bty in 1968 crossed in the latter stages of Wally's tour and my tour was just beginning.

After the service we retired to the Village Hall, with the piper leading the way, where we had an excellent 'Gunfire Breakfast'.



Wally Steward late RNZA and AAC, John Tulloch late RNZA and RA and Sqn Ldr Andrew Salt RNZAF currently attending a course at Shrivenham. Behind are some of the 66 New Zealand graves.



FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



Rotorua

The Rotorua Dawn Service is organised by the Te Arawa Services League at Ohinemutu.

Andrew Donnellan, Bernie McCort & Danny McCort after the Dawn service .

From Bernie McCort



Christchurch

This cross was made for the 'Covid ANZAC Day', when the country was encouraged to 'stand to' at their letter box at 0600 hours.

One of my neighbours made the cross and it was erected in the reserve at the end of the cul-de-sac, Utah Place, Burwood, Christchurch.

On 25 April, at 0555 hours, many of my neighbours 'stood to' in the reserve, with the required 2m spacing, listening to the brief service which was broadcast on National Radio.

Since then, we have held an informal service each year. We invite anyone attending to place a poppy on the cross with the name of a service man/woman written on the poppy.

This year I said a few words, we played the Last Post, Ode and Reveille, followed by Artillery Port and a couple of toasts. I borrowed the Artillery Wreath, which has been used for many years at any Christchurch Remembrance service.

From Skin Frances



Wellington

John McNicol, Shay Bassett and Marty Coomber at the Wellington community wreath laying ceremony, Marty presented the 22(D) Battery wreath, and Shay and John presented the wreath on behalf of the Association. The wreath was hand made by Karolyn McNicol and looked stunning. **From Marty Coomber**



the RNZAA wreath, handmade by Karolyn McNicol



Marty Coomber, Raka Williams, Tuki Taylor Edwards, Warren Peach at the Wellington ceremony



Porirua RSA - 22(D) Bty
Waynes Burns,
Warren Peach, Dan Ellis,
Raka Williams, Tuki
Taylor-Edwards, Millsie
(Bryan Moles)
From Raka Williams



Levin RSA

Attached are a couple of photos from our ANZAC Day commemoration in Levin. Left to right are Bill Isles RNZA, Bryce Harrison RNZA and Lt Col Joe Tutoro RNZE

From Bryce Harrison

WO2 Locran Beatson NZLSG ex RNZA, WO1 Chris Andrews RNZA and Bryce Harrison RNZA,



WO1 Chris Andrews RNZA, Bryce Harris and WO2 Locran Beatson NZLSG ex RNZA.



Havelock

Today I took part in my 2nd Anzac day service here in Havelock, Marlborough Sounds where we paraded from the bowling club to the hall for the service at 10am then laid wreaths outside at the war memorial before heading back to the bowling club for morning tea. Fantastic weather and a great turnout.

From Don Speden Echo gun at 32 E Bty

Taupo

ANZAC Day greetings to all Gunners out there.

From Jim Cummings



1/83rd Artillery

To all of our Aussie and Kiwi Mates,
ANZAC Day is upon us once again and I hope that all of you will be able to commemorate this important day in ways that are especially meaningful to each of you. Knowing the significance of this occasion to you and all your fellow Veterans, I know that you will. Your dedication to this day and what it signifies is admirable. I will say a prayer for all the brave souls who sacrificed so much in all wars.

Lest We Forget

From Bill Taggart, Email... artillery_83rd@yahoo.com; website: www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com

Belgrade

Here are two photos from the ANZAC service in Belgrade. The service was organized by the Australian Embassy and the Serbian army provided the guard, the bugler and the protocol arrangements.

The Belgrade War Cemetery has the remains of 27 Australian service personnel and 15 New Zealand service personnel who are mostly RNZAF. Among the 15 New Zealanders is one gunner from 5 Field Regiment, Gunner John Leach.

The service included readings from the Australian and Turkish ambassadors and a New Zealander who is resident in Belgrade. Wreaths were laid by Australian, New Zealand, Turkish and Serbian representatives, as well as ambassadors, diplomats and military attaches from the various embassies.

From Mark Pedersen



MY EARLY EXPERIENCE IN 16 FIELD REGIMENT

BY BRIGADIER (RET) UDAI MEHTA, INDIAN ARMY

On Commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant into the Regiment of Artillery in Dec 1970, I completed a five-month Young Officer's training at the School of Artillery.

Here I learnt everything required to lead a six-gun battery as a Gun Position officer (GPO). On termination of training, I was assigned to 16 Field Regiment with 25Pr Guns based in the State of Jammu and Kashmir (J & K). I was thrilled to join such a prestigious unit which had participated in the 1947-48 conflict against Pakistan and boasted of a number of Generals from this unit.

My thrill was short-lived as the moment I arrived in Jun 1971; I was put up in a small 40 pound tent opposite the single officer's accommodation. My baggage consisted of one black steel box and a bedroll. The Adjutant, who was a senior Captain ordered me to open my box and layout everything length wise as per tradition of the unit. Imagine doing this in 40 degrees in the peak of summer laying out every article in my box. As this was happening an orderly (Batman) in khaki shorts and vest entered my tent and was out in a few minutes. After everything was laid out the Adjutant started his inspection, picking up stuff here and there. Finally, I was told to pack up and return to my tent which was unbearably hot.

Then I realised that my wallet along with my Identity card were missing. I was wondering whether I had lost it on the way, or was it that Batman who stole it. All my efforts to ask the other officers proved futile increasing my worries. I stayed in the tent for another two days till I was shifted into a shared room in the single officer's barrack with another officer.



Next was the unofficial dining in at the Officers Mess with only the bachelor officers attending. They forced down drinks consisting of a concoction of Whiskey, Rum and Gin called 16 Punch. It resulted in a knockout punch and I did not realise how I landed back in my tent with a splitting headache next morning. A batman came to wake me up for PT parade at 5 am. Somehow, I managed to find my PT kit and ran to the unit area which was one km away.

After PT we had to get back to the mess area, change into uniform, have breakfast and return to the unit. Then a formal meeting with the Adjutant who wanted to see my Identity card and a dress down resulted as I did not have it on me. I had to tell him that a batman had stolen it. No comment from him, just a snigger. Later one of the other officers, who was posing as a batman, handed me back my Identity card and wallet. Ah! What a relief.



I was assigned to 46 Field Battery as a GPO, where I met my Battery Commander. The instructions from him- always be present where the gun crews are maintaining their guns and always carry a 25 Pr Gun Rammer during working hours. I was also required to find out about everything as required at the gun position and not be seen near the office area. A few days later I was formally interviewed by our Commanding Officer.

At the first field firing practice, I was supposed to show my professional acumen at the command post. Luckily, I had a very competent group of technical assistants (TAs) working on the data to be passed to the guns. When the order fire was given, the gun detachment commanders refused to fire till I agreed to provide a kilo of sweets for each detachment. This was also a regimental tradition. The firing went off well followed by beer and lunch in the makeshift field mess.

A month later I was "detailed" to Volunteer for our artillery brigade adventure patrol to the Karakoram Pass. This was a unique opportunity for me to see the Northern most parts of India including the beautiful Kashmir Valley and the inhospitable high-altitude parts of Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) opposite Chinese positions.



It took us five days to reach Leh with four-night halts enroute. Then a seven day of acclimatisation programme including orders, instructions and issue of special high altitude kits. Our patrol consisting of 3 officers and 14 other ranks traversed glaciers at a height of 17-18000 ft covering a distance of more than 350 kms over about 40 days halting at each post for a night or two. By the time we returned to the unit it was end of Sept.

A week later mobilisation orders came for the unit to move to our initial gun areas and prepare for war which broke out on 03 Dec 1971.



OP UBIQUE - SOUTH ISLAND

BY SHELLY BOYES, OPERATION UBIQUE SOUTH ISLAND CO-ORDINATOR

Southern Gunners and the Godley Head Heritage Trust began an expected four to six-month restoration of the Christchurch Memorial RSA M101A1 105mm Howitzer to the same standard as the Southern Gunners' M101A1 on April 6, 2025.

"Great to see both guns together again, after spending many years as a pair of gate guardians in the Christchurch CBD."

Brian Frances (Skin), Alex Smith, Shane Fuller, Craig Matheson, Garth Beattie and Shelly Boyes formed the first working bee, working quickly to finish the main tasks of the first project day in five hours.

These tasks included removing all trail locks and welds, which enabled the trails to be split and locked open. Alongside the trails effort, early work on removing welds around the breechblock and related components also began.

Project manager, Alex Smith, says that 'there are many tasks available that everyone can help with, but some tasks will require more specialist skills.' Adding that '... skills in machining or welding would be greatly appreciated.'

The pictures give a great impression of the organisation of the first project day's work, as well as the persistence, concentration, and attention to detail needed to accomplish and finish the day's range of tasks.

The next project phase, beginning on June 8, 2025, will have a larger working bee aiming to complete restorative work on the now-free elevation gear and elevation mechanism, pivot pin, operating lever handle, and the muzzle plug; and, if time allows, continue working on the breechblock welds.

MEET THE TEAM



Alex Smith (Project Manager)



Shane Fuller



Skin Francis



Garth Beattie



Shelly Boyes



Craig Matheson



Removing all the trail locks and welds, to enable the trails to be split and locked open.



Removing gnarly welds around the breechblock and elevation gear and related components..



THE RNZAA 91ST REUNION/AGM IS GO!

BY SHELLY BOYES - RNZAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - SOUTH ISLAND CO-ORDINATOR

Reunion & AGM Dunedin 17-19 October

The Gunners from Duffers are ready to welcome you all to the Deep South for the RNZAA's 91st Reunion/AGM, which will be held in Dunedin on October 17-19, 2025.

Lox Kellas, Robbie Gardiner, and their team have planned a mighty three-day event that showcases the best of Dunedin's beautiful built heritage, incredible artillery history, stunning scenery, unique wildlife, and distinctly quirky character, all wrapped in famous southern hospitality with a Scottish twist.

They've changed the tried-and-true recipe for our reunion/AGM gatherings by giving members plenty of time and space to network and reconnect with old friends and new acquaintances while still participating in activities in a relaxed manner.

FUN FACT - Dunedin was the first city established in New Zealand and bears the Scottish Gaelic name Dùn Èideann, meaning "Edinburgh" or "castle on the rock".

DAY 1 - FRI 17 OCT- 1800+ MIX AND MINGLE

(For event registration and a laid-back mix-and-mingle, we hope to see you at the Garrison Club, Kensington Army Hall (24 Bridgman Street), at 1800 hours,

DAY 2 - SAT 18 OCT - MORNING - AGM

It's business in the morning. We resume our conversations at the Garrison Club, Kensington Army Hall, at 0930 hours. The kettle will be on for a quick "warmer" and a bite to eat prior to the AGM. The AGM is set to start at 1000 hours and last the rest of the morning.

DAY 2 - SAT, 18 OCT- AFTERNOON - VISIT DUNEDIN'S VARIOUS ATTRACTIONS

To see the Armstrong Disappearing Guns, the Underground Stables, and the underground tunnel complex, you could join an RNZAA tour of Historic Fort Taiaroa. It is expected that the Underground Stables, which have never been seen before and are closed to the general public, will only be opened to RNZAA members. Members get the chance to view the Royal Albatross Centre's albatross colonies above ground.

Alternatively, embrace Dunedin's welcoming spirit by visiting other attractions near the city centre, such as the Chinese Garden, the Sports Hall of Fame at the Dunedin Railway Station, the Taieri Gorge train, the Octagon for shopping and people watching, the Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, Butterfly World, and the Speights Brewery Tour. Visit Larnach Castle, walk up Baldwin Street, or enjoy some fresh air by playing a round of golf at one of Dunedin's many golf courses, including Balmacewen, Chisholm Park, St. Clair, or Taieri Lakes.



DAY 2 - SAT, 18 OCT - FORMAL DINNER - 1830HRS

This evening's formal dinner will be held at Chisholm Park Golf Club (16 Tahuna Road), which seats more than 100 people and has a bar.

The gathering will begin at 1830, with the dinner beginning at 1900, following the Piping in of the Haggis Ceremony.

Formal attire is required, such as mess kit, black tie, jacket and tie, or equivalent evening wear. Wearing medals is encouraged. Feel free to wear or display your family or clan tartan if you have it.

**DAY 3 - SUN, 19 OCT - SERVICE**

At the Queens Garden Dunedin Cenotaph, the morning silence is broken by the blank fire of two rounds from our 25-pound gun. A brief service will be held at 1000 hours.

For those members who do not want to leave just yet, there will be an optional lunch across the road from the Cenotaph at the Toitu Museum Café at their own expense.

**Are you keen? Your next course of action is to ...**

1. Plan your trip from your home to Dunedin return now, especially if you're heading down from the North Island, on October 17-19, 2025. There are some very reasonable flights into and out of Dunedin at the moment.
2. Plan your accommodation. Check in with Lox, Robbie, and the team for some fantastic Dunedin accommodation alternatives.
3. For those bringing their caravans or campervans, Chisholm Holiday Park, located near to Chisholm Park Golf Club & Links, is a wonderful choice for your stay in Dunedin.
4. Registration for the 91st Reunion/AGM is set to open in July, and it will be the first event organised through the RNZAA's newly refreshed website. As registration approaches, keep an eye on your email inbox for updates from John McNicol, RNZAA Secretary, as well as the RNZAA Inc. Facebook page and website.
5. If you have any questions, please call Lox Kellas at 027-968-0583.

RNZAA WEBSITE REFRESH PROJECT PROGRESS

BY SHELLY BOYES, CONVENOR - RNZAA WEBSITE REFRESH PROJECT

In early October 2024, John McNicol and I were entrusted as members of the Steering Committee with examining the present RNZAA website and providing suggestions for refreshment.

Following extensive conversations, it became evident that the current RNZAA website was no longer functional and required a total makeover.

We recognised that a modern, user-friendly website was essential to the Association's future growth and operational performance. In November 2024, the the RNZAA Website Refresh Project Team formed, which was comprised of individuals with relevant expertise as well as varied backgrounds and experiences. The project team consists of Bernard Bailey, Shelly Boyes, Craig Hewett, Dennis Jones, John McNicol, and Chris Morriss.

The next four months were demanding and hectic, during which the project team created a Request for Proposal (RFP) and specifications for the website and invited interested parties to submit proposals. The proposals were then assessed, analysed and evaluated using a digital rubric and a reference check carried out.

The process we utilised enabled the project team to make an objective decision on a chosen vendor. The selected provider for this project is Wonder Innovations Limited, also known as Wonder Geek.

This was the unanimous conclusion of the project team at its vendor selection meeting in early March, which was then accepted by the Executive Committee.



Wonder Geek is a Hamilton-based IT company that provides IT support and solutions to businesses, including charities and non-profits.

The company offers the best balance of price, functionality, and support. Its solid technical proposal, competitive pricing, and clear project roadmap are perfectly aligned with RNZAA's requirements, making it the clear choice for the website refresh project.

From mid-March to the present, the project team and Wonder Geek have worked together to gradually realise our goal of a visually appealing, functioning website that portrays the RNZAA as modern, professional, and relevant.

Our primary IT project approach consists of feedback loops known as sprint cycles, which allow for quicker implementation as we progress from one milestone to another. We have completed the website's revised design, shape, and form, with data migration from the old website to the new model to follow shortly.

The next major stage is to establish and build three new databases for membership, events, and the Q Store.

In two months, if all goes well, the RNZAA will have a refreshed website that combines modern style with practical functionality to better serve both current members and potential new recruits.



CATCHING UP



Brian Bethell.

Former BSM of 22(D) Bty and TSM I Loc Tp has recently had some ill health. Brian Bethell (BB) was in hospital for a heart operation a several of weeks ago and suffered a stroke while he was in post op. He is still in hospital and recovering slowly.

His wife Sue has advised that BB was having memory issues last week, so visits may be challenging when he is able to receive visitors. We all wish BB a speedy recovery.

Nominal Rolls wanted

I was after 32(E) Bty nominal roles since the 60's and wondering if members of the association would have copies these historical records! As you know not everyone is apart of the association so maybe nominal roles and next of kin can serve as a starting point when searching for ex members.

From Tim Simpson. (Contact via Skin Frances)



I was in 22(D) battery in the early seventies. This gun is on display at the Morrisville RSA. Les Jackson was my gun sgt during that period. I was the driver and backup gunner. His favorite quote was "I ain't chewing dust Gunner Scott" **From Les Scott**

THE Q MATTERS

BY Q - CRAIG HEWETT ED
RNZAAQSTORE@GMAIL.COM

The Q Store has seen an increase in revenue with the sale of the new Association Polo shirt featuring the new Kings Crown. The 11A Bty & 3 Fld Regt Polo shirts also proved popular amongst those who served in those subunits. As a result of these shirts sales, we are looking at producing one for 4 Medium and possibly 161 (non-Vietnam) and 163 Bty. I have their logo's so will make up some designs.

Other items for the future are replica plaques for various sub-units but with the US \$ exchange rate as it stands, will require a bulk buy to make them cost effective. It will be the plates only and not the wooden backing shields.

With winter coming along we have a supply of caps and beanies to keep you heads warm. We have had made replica OR Beret Badges with the Queens Crown as worn with the Navy Blue and Khaki beret. These are also current with the Corps and from feedback from members of the Regiment, far superior to the ones currently being issued.

As you have read the Association is modernising our website. As part of this upgrade, the Q store will feature online ordering where a member can order the product, a notification will be sent to the QM who will confirm the cost, plus postage back to the member with payment details.

The current email address to the QM will remain active until the new site is launched where a new email address based on our domain nae will be instigated.

Currently payment can made only in two ways, via our Assn NZ Bank A/C with Kiwibank, or for those living in Australia who no longer have access to a NZ Bank A/C, an Australian Bank A/C that we can use. We are unable to take Credit or Debit cards however our Treasurer, Richard Gordon is looking at the feasibility of PayPal to our NZ A/C so as to receive international payments. This is part of Assn's website upgrade and moderisation.

Many of you will not be aware that I have been unwell for several months and after a two and a half month stay in Waikato Hospital, have been discharged to home but required to travel 3 days a week from where I live in the Whakatane district, back to Waikato for treatment. It makes it a long day but rather be home than in Hospital.

So, while I am back in the Q Store, response to your orders may not be as prompt as you may wish.

4 Medium Battery. Polo Shirt.

Waikato Gunners



Size	S/14	M/16	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
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Pre-Order Form

Polo Shirt

Name:

Ph:

Address:

Quantity

Size.

Price to be determined but dependent on the total quantity of shirts ordered . Price TBA + Postage.

Orders emailed to: rnzaaqstore@gmail.com

Craig Hewett RNZA Assn QM



RNZA Assn Beanie with new Kings Crown on gun emblem.

\$35.00 each plus postage.



Association Cap \$32.50 with Queens Crown



OR's Beret Badge \$25.00



RNZA Bow Tie. \$10.00 with neck strap

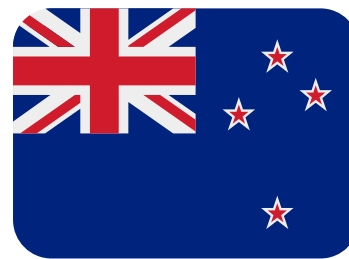


RNZA Reversible Cummerbunds. Artillery Zig Zag on one side and Royal Blue on the other. Adjustable waste band. \$25.00



RNZA Zig Zag Pocket square \$8.00

LAST POST



- McKAY, Ian J (Blue). 41815, 161 Bty, RNZA, Vietnam. Passed away on 26 Apr 2025.
- SKINNER, Lindsay John. 39762 Capt (Rtd), 161 Bty, RNZA, Vietnam (2 tours). Passed away on 15 Mar 2025.
- WATSON, John. U771714, Gunner, RNZA, Territorial Force. Passed away on 15 Mar 2025 in Ikamatua, aged 59.
- DILGER, Brian G. N462910 Maj (Rtd), RNZA. Passed away on 6 Mar 2025 in Christchurch aged 89.
- WESTBROOK, John H (Westy). 42576, 161 Bty, RNZA, Vietnam. WIA 19 Jan 1969. Passed away on 25 Feb 2025 aged 78 in Motueka .
- MCALLISTER, Lawrence P B. 340413, RNZA, RNZIR, RNZASC. Passed away on 7 Feb 2025 in Auckland aged 88.
- ASHER, David R. 983237, 161 Bty, RNZA, Vietnam. Passed away on 31 Jan 2025 in Southland.
- JENSEN, Peter. 633377 2NZEF J Force, and 206112 162 Bty RNZA K Force. Passed away on 31 Jan 2025, aged 100.
- BLACKWELL, William Edward (Ted). 329078, RNZA. Passed away on 19 Jan 2025 at Orere Point, Auckland, aged 91.
- METCALFE, R F (Frank). 40558, Capt, 161 Bty, RNZA, Vietnam. Passed away on 15 Jan 2025 in Blenheim.
- BAILEY, D'Arcy L QSM. 466855, WO2 (Rtd), RNZA, RNZIR. Passed away on 15 Jan 2025.
- CURTIS, Phillip Arthur John. W74409 Sgt, 11(A) Bty, RNZA. Passed away on 13 Jan 2025 in Whakatane.
- OLSEN, Bill. WO2, 3 Fd Regt, RNZA. Passed away on 4 Jan 2025 in Dunedin.
- LITTIN Alfred W (Fred). 378203, 161 Bty RNZA, Vietnam. Passed away on 24 Dec 2024.
- FORREST, Colin A (Blue). R928088, SSgt, RNZA, RNZIR, RNZASC, RNZAOC, Malaya. Passed away on 12 Oct 2024 in the Bay of Plenty aged 86.