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## Meetings held at Chatswood RSL

### The Month That Was

#### NZ Sub-Branch Notices

##### Change of Postal Address

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

##### Veteran Assistance - Joe Riri and Rapata Wharerau

Dear Veterans, I thought I would pass on some information about two Veterans now living in NSW.

543332 Joe Riri Vietnam Veteran transferred to NSW from WA and has settled into his new home well. Joe and his partner Susan are both not well but have had immense support from his fellow Vietnam Veterans; Hank, Vic, Kevin, Larry as well as visits by NSW based Veterans, Brian, Taawhi and the President of the NZ Sub-Branch David Winkelmann and their wives Linda, Kathleen and Ann. In fact it was only through the efforts of these Veterans that Joe's relocation to NSW was managed with minimal problems but also ensured Joe received his medals by liaising with the appropriate organisations in NZ. It is nice to know that the camaraderie is strong within the Veteran community and remains so even when there is a little distance between us. Whilst technology shortens the distance, it can and never will replace face-to-face contact so thanks to those Veterans that helped, visited and will continually keep in touch with Joe in to the future.



(picture: David (left) presenting Joe (middle) with his RSL Badge and Membership Card and Taawhi (right). Joe medals have been secured for safekeeping)



In August the NZ Sub-Branch received a letter from Julie Wharerau, the daughter of 341714 Rapata Wharerau (2Bn NZ Regt Malaya), seeking assistance to relocate Rapata from

Melbourne to NSW to be closer to his family; Julie, Robert (son) and Kim (daughter). Attached with the letter was Rapata's service records which as you know are very detailed on a Veterans service life history and therefore quite emotional to read in regards to the conflicts they served and length of time in each conflict. Taawhi and his wife Kathleen took up the offer of assistance and in a relatively short period of time after meeting Julie, helped relocate Rapata to NSW. I cannot underestimate enough the support that Taawhi and Kathleen give to Veterans as it involves a lot of their own time and they are very strong on the personal face-to-face contact so wherever possible they visit a lot of Veterans in NSW. Rapata is doing well now that he is closer to his family and Julie has sent an email expressing her thanks to Taawhi and Kathleen for their dedication and commitment to helping a fellow Veteran.



(Top picture l-r: Taawhi, Rapata, Kathleen) (Pictures above: Rapata's children and grandchildren)

Remembrance Day Poppy Selling - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009

As you know we sell Poppies on the two days before Remembrance Day although last year we changed the dates as we found there was more support if we sold on the actual day.



So next month we are at it again selling Poppies in Remembrance of our Fallen. The start time is 0630 through to 0930 followed by Breakfast. So I know it is early and I know we have Veterans scattered near and far but if you have time to spare, come on down to Martin Place Station and join us (picture above: Barrie Leslie) not just to sell Poppies for the reasons we do but again for the camaraderie that only we understand.

## **NZ Veteran Landmarks for Services and Activities**

Dear Veterans, the NZ Veterans in NSW have been associated with the Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu for many years now and as a result have our own service at the Church for ANZAC Day which was initiated by Vietnam Veteran Clarence Ormsby. In the past we have attended services at the invitation of other Church's e.g. Willoughby. However, we have two distinctly NZ landmarks that we now need to use to increase the NZ Veteran profile in NSW, one being the Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu and the other being the NZ Soldier Statue on ANZAC Bridge. Whilst accepting invitations to other services remains an important aspect of promoting the interests of NZ Veterans, the time has come whereby we look to increase the profile of NZ Veterans within the Veteran community by inviting others to our services and activities. However, to do this we need:

- To ensure services are conducted regularly so they remain an annual focus of attendees, and
- The support and co-operation from NZ Veterans.

Therefore, please be aware that we will always hold an ANZAC Day Church service at the Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu and this year we have extended it to a Remembrance Day service also. And we will also combine the ANZAC Day Church service with a Wreath-Laying service at the NZ Soldier Statue on ANZAC Bridge.

So please put in your Calendars the ANZAC Day Church service and Wreath-Laying service on the first Sunday after ANZAC Day and the Remembrance Day service on the first Sunday after Remembrance Day.

It is accepted that with the demands on your time, being available to attend the services may not be possible but if you do have time please come along.

Lest We Forget

## **Remembrance Day Church Service – Sunday 15 November 2009**

As per the previous paragraph on NZ Veteran Landmarks, please be advised that there will be a Remembrance Day service at the Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu on Sunday 15 November 2009 starting at 1030 hours. There is a lot of parking available at that time of the morning so please come along to remember our fallen. Furthermore, even though it is an Anglican Church, all Veterans of all denominations are welcome. I am catholic and have attended services at the Church on occasion.

Lest We Forget

## **Reminder: Christmas Lunch – Sunday 13 December 2009**



Please be reminded that the Christmas Lunch is to be held on Sunday 13 December 2009 at 12pm-3pm at the Chatswood RSL Club. The cost is estimated to be \$25. Our numbers are diminishing but we will continue to have a Christmas Lunch (refer Flyer at end of NewZletter) as a way to not only thank you all for the support and camaraderie throughout

the year, the attendance at the many services, the early hours of ANZAC Badge and Poppy Selling and the great amount of personal time you give to remember our fallen but also as a way of socialising with those that understand.... Just a reminder our guest speaker is Chris Perrin, State Secretary NSW RSL and he will speak on the relationship between the RSL and NZ Veterans, and the state of the NSW RSL, future direction, membership.....

## **Reminder: ANZAC Day – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

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

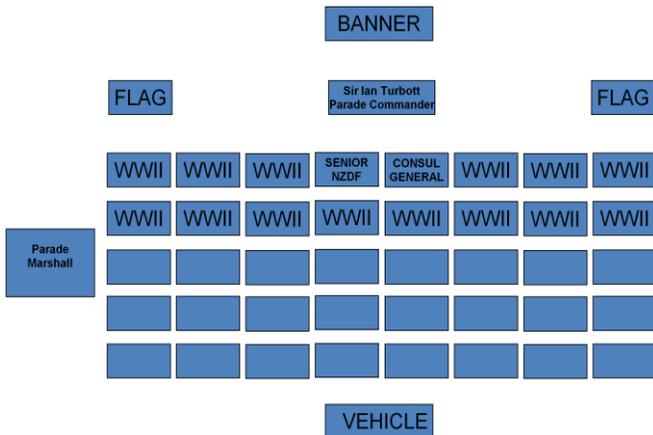


personnel not just those that served overseas. So whether you have a medal or not, as long as you served in the military you are considered a veteran and I would be very privileged to march alongside you at ANZAC Day every year. Furthermore, I will be more 'pushy' this year so please form up early, be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



The vehicle has been placed at the rear of the marchers due to the exhaust fumes causing problems in previous years and WWII veterans (declining in numbers) are to be given pride of place at the front.

Also please note that Sir Ian Turbott AO CMG CVO Hon.D.Litt (UWS) NZ World War II Veteran has accepted our offer to be the Parade Commander.



**Reminder: Veteran ANZAC Day Church Service at the Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu (Church of the Holy Spirit) – Sunday 2 May 2010**



Veterans, please also be reminded that our main activity for ANZAC next year including the march will be an ANZAC Church service at The Maori Anglican Fellowship, Church of Te Wairua Tapu (Church of the Holy Spirit) in

Redfern. As the 25<sup>th</sup> April is on a Sunday next year, the Service will be held on Sunday 2nd May 2010 at 1030 hours. Sir Ian Turbott AO CMG CVO Hon.D.Litt is our first confirmed dignitary that will be attending.

Therefore Veterans it would be great if you can come along and support not only ANZAC Day but also the Church.

**Reminder: Veteran ANZAC Day Wreath-Laying Service at the NZ Soldier Statue on ANZAC Bridge – Sunday 2 May 2010**

Following on from the Church service a Wreath-Laying service will be held on the same day at 2pm in the afternoon. This year and hopefully future years the NZ Veterans are sharing this service with the Mortdale RSL Sub-Branch so that there will be a shared cost to the service. The intent is for the NZ Veterans to host in 2010 with Mortdale hosting 2011 and so on. The other benefit is that Archdeacon Malcolm Karipa will also officiate at this service when the NZ Veterans are hosting it. The service will be held under the bridge to ensure less distraction to vehicle traffic, with the Wreath-Laying service conducted at the Statues. There is limited room at the Statues and every effort is to be made not to hinder the general public who also have a right to visit the Statues. Nevertheless, the actual Wreath-Laying part of the service is very short. As with the service this year it is hoped that we will get approval from Sydney Ports Authority to use the same parking area and also RTA approval. It would be a good opportunity to see the Statue albeit whilst attending the service.

**Other Notices**

**Notice from Kiwi Vets re Commemorations Fund**

There is an advertisement in the latest issue of Contact regarding battlefield tour to Vietnam being organised by Ray Farrell. The advertisement states that "Ex Vietnam War Veterans are eligible for a refund of the airfare component (\$1,800)" .... from VANZ.

It may be useful to set out the detail regarding the fund and approval process. Pretty sure of my facts but anyone is at liberty to point out any errors.

1. The fund is titled the Minister of Veterans' Affairs Commemorative Fund. It has an annual allocation of around \$200,000 (I think), The fund provides grants to help subsidise the cost of reunions at \$10 per veteran up to a maximum of \$5,000, funding for special projects such as exhibitions, memorials and booklets to a maximum of \$5,000 and subsidies to



veterans returning to battlefield sites they were involved in to a maximum of \$2,000 per veteran.

2. The travel subsidy is only available to NZ Vietnam veterans i.e. Aust VVets resident in NZ are not eligible but NZ VVets resident in Aust or elsewhere are.

3. Any grant made is calculated on the basis of the return airfare component of the trip.

4. The \$2,000 is a one time grant. If you went to Vietnam twice and the first time you received say \$1,800 you could apply a second time but all you could plan on getting is \$200.

5. Those who have been lucky enough to score a VANZ trip to Gallipoli are deemed to have used up their \$2,000.

6. It's a case of first in, best dressed and once the yearly allocation has been committed then that's that (for that year). The financial year runs from 1 Jul to 30 Jun so for the Farrell trip departing 19 April 2010 I would advise you to get in quick.

7. You need to complete a special application form. You can access the form via Freephone 0800-4838372 or download from the VANZ website [www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz](http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz)

**NZDF Logo on Notices in Media**

Dear Veterans, I have been asked if we can place an NZDF logo in the local news media. The short answer is yes but you need to contact your local News Media and there may be a cost. Furthermore, for NSW the local news media or at least Fairfax media require an EPS version of the logo. The local classified departments for NSW are as follows:

- **Sydney Morning Herald:** 13 25 35
- **The Age:** 13 22 43
- **Illawarra Mercury:** 02 4221 2222
- **Newcastle Herald:** 13 16 96
- **Fairfax Community Newspapers:** 13 24 25

Now all I have to do is obtain EPS copies of the logo's. Has anyone got friends in the NZDF or your own single Service that can provide EPS versions of your Service or unit logo?

**Army Softball Reunion 6-7- November 2009**

Did you play softball in the Army? If so, we are having a celebration/reunion 6 - 7



November 09 in Trentham to mark 60 years of softball. If you would like more information, please contact me at work [dean.groves@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:dean.groves@nzdf.mil.nz)

**150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Otago Southland Battalion Group 26-28 February 2010**

Veterans please be advised that 4<sup>th</sup> Otago Southland Battalion Group will be celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday during the period 26-28 February 2010 in Dunedin. Congratulations 4O'South and all the best for your celebrations.

Contact: [fiona.stewart@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:fiona.stewart@nzdf.mil.nz)

**Force and British Commonwealth Occupation Forces Final Reunion 15-17 March 2010**

Veterans please be advised that there is to be a final reunion for J Force Veterans during the period 15-17 March 2010. It is to be held in Gisborne and if you are interested please send your registration fee of \$25 single Veteran, \$35 Veteran and Partner, \$15 Widow or Widower, \$30 Visitors to:

T.O. Tuhaka  
N.Z. J Force + B.C.O.F. Veterans Ass  
Gisborne Branch  
59 Valley Rd Gisborne N.Z. 4010

If you want to know more about J Force and BCOF Veterans log on to <http://www.riv.co.nz/jf/index.htm>

Thank you J Force and BCOF Veterans.

**Query from Queensland Veteran Wayne Lindsay**

Dear Veterans, Wayne is the Queensland Pension Rep for EVSA and is currently managing 17 Veterans. However, if anyone has experience in welfare matters but more specifically ACC claims, could they please let me know so I can pass your details on to Wayne.

**RF Cadet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion 2010 (Thorpe Class)**

Well there seems to be a number of RF Cadet Reunions coming up which is great as the RF Cadets produced some very high calibre and high profile soldiers so it makes sense that ex-RF Cadets are so proud of their involvement. And the



Thorpe Class are also intending to hold a reunion in 2010. So for you Thorpe Class members please email Andrew (Simmo) Simpson with your support and camaraderie and I do hope your reunion goes ahead and is not only enjoyable, but full of



memories of your younger Cadet years. Contact Andrew by email below:

[sgtsimo@hotmail.com](mailto:sgtsimo@hotmail.com)  
[asimpson@tanknology.com.au](mailto:asimpson@tanknology.com.au)

I do hope Thorpe Class and Bennett Class (below) members can support their respective reunions and I wish you all the best for your celebrations.

**RF Cadet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion 2013 (Bennett Class)**

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



Ben Hadfield [benzza@iprimus.com.au](mailto:benzza@iprimus.com.au).  
Roy Jones [royjones@dreamtilt.com.au](mailto:royjones@dreamtilt.com.au).

**Ex-Malaya Veterans**



Please be advised that the NZ Malaya Veterans Association Inc has a new website <http://www.malayavets.co.nz/>

**Ex-Vietnam Services Association Inc**

Reminder for all NZ Vietnam Veterans to keep in touch with your fellow comrades and keep up to date with the latest information through your association.



The website address as follows:

[www.evsa.org.nz](http://www.evsa.org.nz)

**Committee Meeting Matters**

The next Committee meeting is on the Sunday 29 November 2009 at 1030 hours at the Chatswood RSL Club. Therefore, if you have any ideas or suggestions even if you are not a financial member, then please let me know as we continually look to improve how the NZ Sub-Branch NSW operates.

**Upcoming Events**

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

**Membership 2010**



NSW Veterans are reminded that the 2010 RSL and NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) membership renewal is due. As stated in my email, the



NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) would welcome your contribution to the operations of the association regardless of whether you retain your voting and speaking rights with your parent Sub-Branch and remain as an associate member of the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) (picture above new Members Peter and Jan Dicken receiving their membership badge from Lindsay Taylor 2009). So for \$5 please send in your application form for Associate Membership. For current full service members please send \$29 (of which \$24 goes to the NSW RSL). For new members wanting associate or full service membership let me know and I will send you an application form.

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

Please note the following:

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

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

**Acknowledgements / Personal Notices**

Happy Birthday to Max Yates, Bryce Aitken, Maurice Hollman, Fred Lucas, Ian Lucas, Barrie Leslie, Ron Haira, Lindsay Clarke, Hini Komene, Colin Dunlop, Tom Paine and Jan Dicken.

## The Last Post

### 36365 George Healey (Joe) FIELD

We have been advised of the following:

36365 George Healey (Joe) FIELD, ex 1NZ Regiment 1957-59 and 2NZ Regiment 1959-61 Malaya, 1RNZIR 1965-67 Malaysia, V1 SVN, passed away at Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital on the Queensland Sunshine Coast today, 14 October 2009.

His son Shane was at his bedside.

At this stage, the plan is to cremate Joe in Brisbane, and Shane to bring his ashes back to New Zealand, where another service is to be held to inter Joe's ashes.

### NZ Vietnam Veterans Last Post

Vietnam Veterans please go to the following link to keep updated on the passing of Vietnam Veterans in NZ.

<http://premierstrategics.com/funeral.html>

### Last Post Reminder

Veterans, I can honestly say (albeit with great sadness) that after attending many funerals in NSW, the families have been overwhelmingly grateful, appreciative and welcomed our ability to coordinate the military aspects of the funeral for our fallen comrade. It is incredibly moving to see the pride in the families

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

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

Lest we forget

## Other News



### Mangere man glad to be part of Samoan reconstruction effort



Sapper John Rickard and local child in Samoa.

Mangere Soldier Sapper John Rickard recently had his first overseas deployment

with the New Zealand Army, assisting Samoans impacted by the Tsunami.

"The Tsunami had been devastating, all I could think was what a mess it had made," said John.

"Its good to be getting involved, I'm enjoying doing some practical work that will help the Samoan people. My first deployment was a long time coming, but worth waiting for."

John, a carpenter, has been in the Army for 12 years. He has recently completed his carpentry apprenticeship after previously working as an Army driver.

John is part of 2 Engineer Regiment based at Linton Military Camp near Palmerston North. He is in Samoa as part of a 12-strong section of Army engineers providing relief support to Samoans impacted by the Tsunami. The team is made up of carpenters, electricians, plumbers and engineering plant operators.

The team have been working in close conjunction with the Samoan Water Authority building water supply infrastructure and latrines for temporary communities in the hills around the Saleapaga village area.

"Its great to be here helping out and great to see the end product we are creating."

Over 150 personnel from the Navy, Army and Air Force have participated in a whole of Government approach to assist the Governments of Samoa and Tonga by working with NZAID, the



Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, NZ Police, the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, NZ Customs, The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, NGOs and the Australian Defence Force.

- [Minister visits troops in Afghanistan](#)
- [NZDF begins tsunami draw down](#)
- [NZ Vietnam Veteran receives US Bravery Medal after 41 years](#)
- [Machine gun Battalion history passed on](#)
- [City Mission benefits from Defence Force 'contributions'](#)
- [Food banks benefit from NZDF 'contributions'](#)
- [NZ High Commissioner and NZDF visit Lalomanu School](#)
- [Defence Industry awards announced](#)
- [Kiwi's 'can' by sea, land and air](#)
- [Napier Army medic helps Tsunami victims](#)
- [Kiwi troops depart for tour in Afghanistan](#)
- [NZDF Tsunami Relief - Update 6](#)
- [Navy diving team successfully restores water to Manono Island, Samoa - Update 5](#)
- [Journalism students turn war correspondents for Army](#)
- [NZDF Tsunami relief - update 4](#)
- [NZDF Assistance to Pacific Tsunami - update 3](#)
- [NZDF deploys people and assets to Samoa - release 2](#)
- [NZDF personnel deploy to Samoa](#)

[www.army.mil.nz](http://www.army.mil.nz)

During the visit the Commanding Officer and his ships company from HMNZS ROTOITI will attend the Interpretive Memorial Wall unveiling and embark Royal New Zealand Navy Volunteer personnel for a period of training.

HMNZS ROTOITI will be open to the public from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Sunday 1 November. Lieutenant Andrew Hogg warmly invites the public of Timaru and surrounding districts to visit the ship and meet members of the crew.

**Media Opportunity**

To register interest in an interview with the Commanding Officer and a media visit to HMNZS ROTOITI, please contact Lieutenant Commander Barbara Fleissner 021 244 0638.

**Particulars of HMNZS ROTOITI**

Pennant Number:	P3569
Displacement:	340 tonnes
Length overall:	55 metres
Beam:	9 metres
Speed:	25 knots
Range:	3,000 nautical miles
Complement:	Core ship's company:20 Government agencies: 4 Additional personnel:12 Total: 36

Commanding Officer – Lieutenant Andrew Hogg (Whitianga)  
Executive Officer – Lieutenant Fraser Toulmin (Hawkes Bay)



**Inshore Patrol Vessel to visit Timaru**

HMNZS ROTOITI in the Hauraki Gulf.



The first of the new Inshore Patrol Vessels, HMNZS ROTOITI, under the Command of Lieutenant Andrew Hogg, will conduct an operational port visit to Timaru from 10:00 am Saturday 31 October until 8:00 am Wednesday 4 November.

- [Final farewell for ship](#)
- [HMNZS TAUPO ready for home port visit to Whangerei](#)
- [HMNZS CANTERBURY berths in Wellington after aid mission](#)
- [HMNZS CANTERBURY offloads aid in Tonga - update 8](#)
- [HMNZS PUKAKI ready for first visit to Nelson](#)
- [Final harbour entry for navy ship](#)
- [Media opportunities to travel on Navy's new inshore patrol vessel](#)
- [HMNZS PUKAKI ready for first visit to Nelson](#)
- [Navy diving tender heads to Gisborne and Wellington](#)
- [Navy ships' first time visit to Wellington](#)

[www.navy.mil.nz](http://www.navy.mil.nz)



### Tactical flying in South Island Exercise



Image taken during Exercise Steel Talon, 2007(OH07-0814-52)

The skies above Tekapo will be buzzing with the sound of Iroquois

helicopters from the Royal New Zealand Air Force's Number 3 Squadron as Exercise Steel Talon gets underway.

The exercise runs from 8-22 October, and will see up to six Iroquois and over 100 Air Force personnel based out of Tekapo Military Camp.

Detachment commander for the exercise, Flight Lieutenant Ben Stephens says Steel Talon is the Squadron's major tactical flying exercise of the year.

"For aircrew this means the opportunity to train in tactical operations, using a number of aircraft and flying as low as 50 feet, while ground crews will be practicing maintenance support from a remote location."

"This training will maintain our capability to deploy overseas if requested by the Government. Exercises such as Steel Talon have given us the ability to contribute to Operations in East Timor, the Solomon Islands and Bougainville over the past decade."

The first three days of the exercise will see an initial deployment of three Iroquois from No. 3 Squadron working alongside soldiers from the New Zealand Army's 2/1 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. The remaining three helicopters will arrive in Tekapo on 11 October.

Flying operations will be conducted mainly over the Mackenzie Basin, around Omarama airfield, Otematata and Tekapo areas and Lake Pukaki and will include some limited night flying.

The helicopters will be fitted with Mag58 door mounted machine guns and firing blanks during the exercise. There will be no live firing at any time.

Local farmers concerned about stock should call Ohakea Base Operations on 06 351 5442

[Air Force helicopter winches trampers to safety](#)  
[New Air Force graduates step up](#)  
[Tactical flying in South Island Exercise](#)

[www.airforce.mil.nz](http://www.airforce.mil.nz)

IN REMEMBRANCE



### President RNZRSA

Here for information is an excerpt from what I said to the 350+ who were at the RNZRSA Council's Welfare Forum last Monday afternoon. It follows the same line I have mentioned elsewhere in recent weeks, including the Affiliates Forum on 9 September, and NEC:

There is a most important policy matter that we will have to face and to tackle head-on.

The matter of interpretations of the current Act is contentious at the moment; we all know that. But there are much wider implications here for the shape of our future legislation. As you all know, the gateway to our present system is the War Pensions Panels, where two people judge the merits of an application case-by-case against the law, and in great detail. One of these two people is an RSA nominee, and the other a VANZ nominee. Above that there are several layers of appeal opportunity. And at each of these levels, further judgements are made.

This is the way we are. Belief in the shared discretionary system is deep. And we reflected this in our submission to the Law Commission, at around paragraph 85. Although we hedged around it a bit, we said that the majority view from the consultations was to opt to retain the discretionary system we now have rather than change to the prescriptive-style system the Australians have, based upon Statements of Principles.



Having stirred things up because of the re-write and the upheavals within VANZ, however, the reality is that some uncomfortable truths are now emerging. Assumptions are being challenged as focus draws in on just how difficult, even incomprehensible, some of the provisions in our law really are. The result is constant arm-wrestling with VANZ over perceptions of changing rules as case-by-case judgements become known.

But if we stand back from all this a bit, an examination of the frictions that have arisen with VANZ over recent months shows clearly that they are almost entirely because of the wide discretionary powers built in to our law. Where there is discretion, interpretation is required. And where there is interpretation there will also be disagreement based on points of view. This is so especially where interpretations of the law are as difficult as they are in our system, where the detailed case-by-case assessments are done by a number of panels so that consistency, too, is hard to achieve. With a more defined system such as the Australian SoPs, however, matters should be less open to interpretation, with clearer, less contentious and more consistent results. This is certainly the Australian experience. In that case most of the adversarial disputes that are currently a feature of our system would not be happening.

This particular matter will become a critical issue – perhaps the critical issue - in discussions yet to take place as the re-write continues. Veterans' organisations including us should prepare for this, and should do so with an open mind in order to be constructive in the best interests of veterans. Where sufficient reason exists to reconsider our view, or even to change our minds in this area, we should not be shy about doing so. We must get this right, and we must get it right the first time because there will not be a second chance. And in all of it we should not overlook that we do now have the independent Expert Panel, which is ideally suited to be a principal arbiter in what should or should not be set out in the prescriptions.

In other words we need to take into account the machinery we now have which we have not had before. And we also need to take into full account that all I am really talking about here is formalising and extending the presumptive lists that we already have and that are working well.

Some might be concerned over possible effects on the bedrock “reverse onus of proof” currently in our system. Sir Geoffrey and others have given us an absolute commitment to retaining that principle, although more clearly worded. This can be done in one or both of two ways. First, it can be embodied into relaxed standards of proof associated with presumptive lists or SoPs. The Australian system already strikes two different standards of proof for each SoP – the “Reasonable Hypothesis” where the proofs required are set very low, and “Balance of

Probabilities” which requires a tougher standard; the one applies to war service and the other to routine service. Otherwise the reverse onus can be left wholly in place as a safety net for the few items that won't fit into presumptive lists or SoPs. For those cases the processes would be much as they are now, with the great majority of cases being dealt with by presumption.

This is what we need to think about, and think about very carefully.

Just to make the point quite clear, what I am saying is that the RNZRSA is prepared to re-think its position on a prescriptive system if there is reason to do so. I don't yet know what the answers are going to be. But there is good reason to keep an open mind.

[www.rsa.org.nz](http://www.rsa.org.nz)

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### NZ Sub-Branch Executive Appointments 2009

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

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Veterans please note that the dates are tentative and subject to change as invitations and confirmation of activities are received. **Yellow** highlight indicates there has been a change.

November Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals) 1100 Remembrance Day Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flags/Medals)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	1030 Committee Meeting
December Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	1200-1500 Xmas Lunch Chatswood RSL Club (Wear Medals)

2010



# NewZletter



January	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	1100 ANZAC Participants Meeting (Greg)	July	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Reserve Forces Day Hyde Park (Standard/Flags/Medals)
	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	1030 Committee Meeting		Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	1200 Mid-Year Lunch Chatswood RSL (Wear Medals)
March	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	1100 ANZAC Day Participants Meeting (Greg)		Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	1030 Committee Meeting
	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	1030 Committee Meeting 1100 AGM	August	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Victory in the Pacific Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals) 1130 Vietnam Veterans Day Springwood (Banner/Flags/Medals)
April	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	1900 Chatswood RSL Dinner Invitation Only (Wear Medals)		Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	1030 Battle of Long Tan Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flag/Medals)
	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	0930 Coogee/Randwick ANZAC Service 1000 St Stephens ANZAC Church Service Willoughby (Wear Medals) 1500 North Sydney ANZAC Service and March (Banner/Flags/Medals)	September	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	1100 Battle for Australia Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)
	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)		Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Merchant Navy Day Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)
	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)		Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Battle of Britain Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)
	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	1400 Kapyong Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flag/Medals)		Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	1030 Committee Meeting
	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	ANZAC Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banners/Flags/Medals)	October	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	1130 HMAS Australia Veteran's Association Martin Place Cenotaph (No Attendance Required)
May	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1030 ANZAC Church Service Te Wairua Tapu Maori Anglican Church Redfern (Korowai/Lemon Squeezer/RNZAF Hat/RNZN Hat/Medals) 1400 NZ Soldier Statue Wreath-Laying Service (Wear Medals)		Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1000 United Nations Association Martin Place Cenotaph (No Attendance Required)  1200 Ninth Australian Division Martin Place Cenotaph (No Attendance Required)
	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Annual State Congress (President)			
	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Indigenous Veterans Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)			
	Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	1030 Committee Meeting			



## Celebrate Christmas!

Let's enjoy Christmas with good friends, great food, and holiday cheer!

Sunday 13th December,  
at 12:00 p.m.

Chatswood RSL Club  
Sydney NSW

Sqn Ldr (Retd) David Winkelmann AFC MID  
President





The President and Committee of the NZ Sub-Branch cordially invite you to partake in some Christmas cheer, storytelling and general camaraderie this year with like veterans old and young, near and far. Every year, the Sub-Branch holds its' annual Christmas lunch which is always well attended. This year as with last year there will be good food, drinks and great relaxing background music.



Cost \$25 per person



It has been a great year of activities, commemorations and services and is a nice end to the year as we reflect and prepare for another year ahead (2010) and again promoting NZ veterans involvement in conflicts and presence in New South Wales.

## Lest We Forget

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