



# New Zealand Sub-Branch

## NewZletter



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## Meetings held at Chatswood RSL

### The Month That Was

#### Welcome Back Address

Lindsay Taylor and the Committee would like to welcome you all back to the New Year and hope you and your families had a safe and enjoyable festive season.

#### 2009 ANZAC Day March Participants Meeting

You may or may not know that the RSL convene a meeting every January to discuss the ANZAC Day March. We always attend this meeting not only to ensure our place at the head of the March is retained, but also to ensure NZ veterans remain uppermost in the minds of the RSL State President and State Secretary. Although, I am pleased to say that we do have a great relationship with both of them which helps. But there are always groups vying for top position so it pays to keep on our toes. Nevertheless, there are no significant changes to the march this year.

However, please note, if you have been watching our group on TV you would have noticed that we do not look as structured as all the other groups which is quite sad really especially because the photos included in the Jan 08 NewZletter taken before 1969 showed a much more structured and dressed contingent. So I do intend to be more 'pushy' this year and ensure we are formed up in our ranks and files before we march. I would also like to compliment Brisbane in their desire for their contingent to make a positive impact on their first march at the front of the parade and urge NSW veterans to do the same by being smartly dressed and wearing medals. But as I have always stated, anyone who has served in the NZDF is more than welcome to march whether they have medals or not. Valerie Brae served in the RNZAF and even though she was not awarded medals, she proudly wears her grandfather's medals on the march and I have no hesitation at all marching with her.

#### Brisbane ANZAC Day March 2009

I have had enquiries regarding the ANZAC Day March in Brisbane so for those that are attending, please contact Larry

Southern, Parade Commander (07)3207 9603 or Lt Col(Retd) Norm Fry (07)3348 6273 for further details.

#### Other Notices

#### Ex-NZ Army Band Members, Battalion Bands, Families and Friends of Ex-Band Members

As the title says, there is a group of ex-Band members that keep in touch in a similar way that most other service, corps associations do. And just reading their Newsletter from Port Huon, I can honestly say that it is filled with many tales, stories and gatherings with the obvious theme being lots of music, singing, and playing of instruments. One article (although a little sad) was a farewell for Col Cochrane who was returning to NZ to his wife's Marae in Matata. Being band members they couldn't let him go without some form of musical send-off so with Tim Mangakahia on guitar and Larry Southern in fine singing form, Col Cochrane was given a farewell to remember.

There are probably a lot more ex-Band members out there so if you are interested in the group, let me know and I will pass on your interest to the Commander and Chief of the ex-Band members group.

#### RNZN Communicators Association Reunion Matai Club Nelson RSA (21-22 March 2009)

Reminder for all Naval Communicator veterans there is to be a RNZN Communicator Reunion in 2009 in Nelson as advised in the November NewZletter. The reunion contact details are:

Jeff Brown – 0408 621 493  
Registration on Website – [www.rnzncomms.org](http://www.rnzncomms.org)



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### RNZN Reunion Sydney (9-13 April 2009)

Reminder for all Naval veterans there is to be a RNZN Reunion in 2009 in Sydney. I included the full information on this in the March NewZletter. However, the reunion contacts are:

Bill Tahu - [btahu@aapt.net.au](mailto:btahu@aapt.net.au)

Ken Johnston - [ken.johnston7@bigpond.com](mailto:ken.johnston7@bigpond.com)

Alistar MacAskill - [alister9@tpg.com.au](mailto:alister9@tpg.com.au)

Happy to email you the application form if requested.

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

Members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canterbury Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Battalion Group (2 Cant NMWC Bn Gp), in conjunction with the Regimental Association of the Unit, are planning the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Unit, which will be celebrated in Christchurch over the period 26-28 June 2009.

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

To assist me with this task, could you please:

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

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

Many thanks.

BS ("Skin") FRANCES

Captain

HQ Coy

2 Cant NMWC Bn Gp

### 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 [royvjones@dreamtilt.com.au](mailto:royvjones@dreamtilt.com.au).

### ANZAC Day 2009



ANZAC Day in 2009 will more than likely be the same format as this and previous years with descendents marching with us. 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.

### Ex-Malaya Veterans

Please be advised that the NZ Malaya Veterans Association Inc has a new website

<http://www.malayanvets.org/index.php?pag=cms&id=65&p=home.html>

### Ex-Vietnam Services Association Inc

Reminder for all 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)



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### NZ Veterans in Australia

There is still talk about how we as a collective group of NZ veterans in AU can best be served by the RNZRSA, NZDF and AU/NZ governments or maybe we are best served from within our many collective organisations such as EVSA, RNZA Association and the many others. Anyway, if you have any views on this please let me know.

### Committee Meeting Matters

The next Committee meeting is on the Sunday 8 March 2009 at 1030 hours at the Chatswood RSL Club followed by the AGM. 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 Sub-Branch operates.

### Upcoming Events

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

### Membership 2009

NSW Veterans are reminded that the 2009 RSL and Sub-Branch membership renewal is due. As stated in my email, the NZ Sub-



Branch would welcome your contribution to the operations of the Sub-Branch 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 (Hini Komene

receiving his membership badge from Neville Berridge 2007). 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 Sub-Branch.

Please note the following:

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

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

### Acknowledgements / Personal Notices

Happy Birthday to **David Pepper-Edwards, Ian Esler, Rebecca Brierton, Ron (Chook) Fowell, Brian Gridley, Ivan McNicholl, Jim Robinson, Bruce Jenkin, Dick Wharerau, Roger Shortt and Campbell Yates.**

### The Last Post

#### Q39137 Colonel Joseph James Walker

The family of Colonel J J Walker OBE, has advised the following:

Q39137 Colonel Joseph James (Joe) WALKER OBE, ex 1RNZIR 1965-67 Malaysia and V1 SVN, passed away at Cambridge at 0020hrs on Monday, 19 January 2009.

His funeral is to be held at St Andrews Anglican Church in Cambridge, on Thursday, 22 January 2009, at 1300hrs.

All enquiries to:  
Tony Watkins (son-in-law).  
021-912-853.  
OR  
Cambridge Funerals (Stu Houchen).  
07-827-7649.

#### 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

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### Other News



### Gunner Commended for Outstanding Achievement



Gunner William Johnson receives his commendation from the Commander, Brigadier Mark Holmes, (WN09-0025-03tn)

5 January 2009

Gunner William David Johnson of the NZ Army was recently awarded a commendation for outstanding achievement by Brigadier Mark Holmes, Commander of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF), Timor Leste.

Gunner Johnson was awarded the commendation for his handling of two serious traffic incidents which occurred in Dili in December 2008.

The award ceremony took place at the New Zealand barracks located in Dili in front of his fellow Kiwis.

The commendation praised Gunner Johnson's behaviour while dealing with the two road accidents, one of which resulted in a fatality, as exemplifying that which is so important for maintaining and enhancing the good reputation of the ISF in Timor Leste. His performance on his first operational tour of duty is especially remarkable given his junior rank and short length of service.

After the parade was called to attention and Gunner Johnson's name read, the 21 year old from Linton marched forward to accept the commendation. Following a brief personal exchange with the Commander, the parade honoured him with a traditional congratulatory Haka. Breaking rank with potent stares and deep rhythmic chant the Kiwis beat their chests, knelt, and punched down with pride. For all present, it was a stirring tribute.

Gunner Johnson was clearly moved by the ceremony, and humble in his appreciation of the award.

"If it wasn't for all the training provided, I couldn't have acted the way I did," he said. "I was careful to pay attention in training and observe how my seniors reacted to certain situations. Like anything that you train hard for, it becomes instinctive."

Assisting in the commendation ceremony was the Commanding Officer of New Zealand forces in Timor Leste, Wing Commander Rory Paddock.

"The New Zealand Company in Timor Leste has adopted the catch-cry 'kicking goals', a phrase coined by the ISF Commander," said Wing Commander Paddock. "I'm proud to say in this case, Gunner Johnson has kicked a remarkable goal."

Brigadier Holmes doesn't present such commendations lightly, and in doing so reminded all those present of the significance and example set by Gunner Johnson.

"As a representative of the New Zealand Defence Force, he's demonstrated that they have got the right people and the right training," Brigadier Holmes said. "It's one more example of how capable the New Zealand Army is and the skilled and talented personnel they have on this operation."





### Minister offers condolences to whanau of Maori Battalion President

26 January 2009

Veterans Affairs Minister Judith Collins today extended her condolences on behalf of the New Zealand veteran community to the whanau of Maori Battalion Association President Jim Takarangi who died yesterday in Wanganui aged 83.

"I was greatly saddened to learn of the death of this inspirational New Zealander. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his whanau and friends," Ms Collins says.

"As a loyal soldier, a tireless worker for the community, a talented sportsman and a loved kaumatua, Mr Takarangi epitomised the spirit of the Maori Battalion.

"The battalion's legendary bravery and sacrifice in battle laid the foundations for the way of life we enjoy today. Their legendary battle cry, *Ake ake kia kaha e*, has inspired generations of New Zealanders.

"As their numbers waned over the years, Mr Takarangi took it upon himself to ensure the mana and the memory of the Maori Battalion was preserved for the future."

Mr Takarangi, who is from Ati Haunui-a-Paparangi Iwi, joined the Army in June 1944 when he enlisted into the Maori Battalion. He served with Delta Company and saw service in Egypt and Italy.

After the war he a member of the allied occupation force in Japan. During this time he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. He left the Army in September 1946.

"He will not be forgotten for his service to New Zealand, his work in preserving the precious history of the battalion, his kindness and his wisdom," Ms Collins says.

"His passing reminds us of the debt we all owe our veterans for their courage and their sacrifice."

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



### HMNZS Canterbury to visit Timaru for 150th anniversary celebrations



HMNZS Canterbury, first of the navy's Protector fleet vessels. Images taken from a helicopter on her way into Lyttelton. MC 07-0245-74

14 January 2009

Navy Amphibious Support Ship HMNZS CANTERBURY departed the Devonport Naval Base yesterday bound for a special weekend of celebration in Timaru, berthing at No 1 Wharf West at 10:00 am on Friday 16 January and scheduled to depart at 10:00 am on Monday 19 January.

Commander Jim Gilmour and his crew of 53 men and women are delighted to have the opportunity to attend the Timaru 150th Anniversary Celebrations at Caroline Bay on Saturday 17 January.

Along with the formal programme of events planned for the 150th Anniversary, two special events will be held onboard HMNZS CANTERBURY; a formal Cocktail Party on Friday evening and a Dinner Party planned for Saturday evening.

Continuing the anniversary atmosphere, the Commanding Officer of HMNZS CANTERBURY will be driven to his ship in a vintage car to meet with his guests for the Dinner Party.

Commander Gilmour warmly invites the public of Timaru and districts to meet his crew and take a short tour of HMNZS CANTERBURY when the ship is open to the public from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm on Friday 16 January.

ENDS

For further information please contact Lieutenant Commander Barbara Cassin, Media Adviser Navy – 021 244 0638



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HMNZS CANTERBURY - Pennant Number L421  
Amphibious Sea Support Vessel

### Specifications

Displacement: 9000 tonnes

Length overall: 131 metres

Beam: 23.4 metres

Speed: 19 knots

Complement: Core ship's company: 53

Flight personnel: 10

Government agencies: 4

Army ship's staff: 7

Trainees: 35

Troops: 250

Total: 360

Propulsion: Diesel engines

Flight deck: Space for two helicopters

Armament: 25mm and two .50 calibre machine guns

Commanding Officer - Commander Jim Gilmour

Executive Officer - Lieutenant Commander Graeme Emmerson

HMNZS Canterbury is affiliated to the Canterbury Region and was commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Navy on 12 June 2007 at Station Pier, Port Melbourne, Australia by the Ship's Lady Sponsor, the then Prime Minister of New Zealand the Rt Hon. Helen Clark.

New Zealander's distinctively 'Kiwi' way of doing things serves the New Zealand Defence Force well. These traits include: resourcefulness, enterprise, common sense and daring.

### Navy to support Auckland Harbour festival and anniversary regatta



Beat Retreat and Ceremonial Sunset Ceremony at the Flagpole, on the Treaty Grounds, Waitangi. (MC08-0051-66tn)

16 January 2009

Navy Frigate, HMNZS TE MANA will berth alongside Princes Wharf from Friday 23 January until sailing for Guard Ship Duties for the 169th Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta at 09:30 am Monday, 26 January. TE MANA will form one end of the start line at anchor in Auckland Harbour.

Other events planned for the public over the weekend are as follows:

### Open Ship

HMNZS TE MANA will be open to the public on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 January from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm – members of the public are warmly welcome to take a tour onboard the warship and meet the men and women of your Navy.

### Navy Band Concerts

The Navy Band will perform two concerts for the public on Te Wero Island in the Viaduct Harbour – Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 January from 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm.

### Beat Retreat Ceremonial Sunset Ceremonies

Two Beat Retreat Ceremonial Sunset Ceremonies by a 50 man Guard of Honour from HMNZS PHILOMEL will be held on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 January from 5:30 pm until 6:00 pm in the Viaduct Harbour. The Sunset 'evening gun' will be fired from HMNZS TE MANA berthed at Princes Wharf.

### HMNZS TE MANA F111

Standard Displacement: 3,600 tonnes

Length Overall: 118 metres

Beam: 14.8 metres

Draught: 4.4 metres

Speed: 27+ knots

Range: 6,000 nautical miles at 18 knots

Complement: 163 Officers and ratings

Helicopter: Kaman SH-2G Seasprite

Homeport Affiliation: Tauranga

Commanding Officer: Commander Blair Gerritsen

Executive Officer: Lieutenant Commander Wiremu Leef

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



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Warrant Officer Class Two John Francis WEEL  
Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery  
Based in Palmerston North

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

### Defence personnel named in New Year's Honours

Seven New Zealand Defence Force personnel have been named in the 2008 New Year's Honours.

The recipients are as follows:

#### To be a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM):

Warrant Officer Class One David Leslie ARMSTRONG  
Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force)  
Based in Timaru

#### To be an Additional Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM):

Colonel Brendon Lee FRAHER  
Colonels' List, New Zealand Army  
Based at Burnham Military Camp, near Christchurch  
Lives in Wanaka

#### To receive The Queen's Service Order:

Ms Jessie Muriel May Gunn, MBE  
Former Director of Veteran's Affairs New Zealand  
Lives in Island Bay, Wellington

#### To receive the Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD):

Gunner Phillip John MANNING  
Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery  
Based at Linton Military Camp, near Palmerston North

Warrant Officer Stores Accountant Neil Andrew ROBERTS  
Royal New Zealand Navy  
Lives in Silverstream, Upper Hutt

Colonel Sean TRENGROVE, MVO  
Colonels' List, New Zealand Army (Territorial Force)  
Based in Nelson

### NZ Sub-Branch Executive Appointments 2008

President	Lindsay Taylor
Vice Presidents	Brian Meyer Taawhi Kerehona
Honorary Secretary	Greg Makutu
Honorary Treasurer	Greg Makutu

### NZ Sub-Branch Delegates 2008

Honorary Auditors	Janet Barclay Barrie Leslie
Trustees	John Rayner Margaret McInroy David Winkelmann
Publicity	Greg Makutu
State Congress Rep	Lindsay Taylor Taawhi Kerehona
Pension/Welfare	Barrie Leslie
Chaplain	Archdeacon Malcolm Karipa
Returning Officer	Barrie Leslie
Solicitor	Not Needed
Patron	Bob Wood
IMDC Rep	Lindsay Taylor Taawhi Kerehona

### 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.

March	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	1100 ANZAC Day Participants Meeting (Neville)
	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1030 Committee Meeting</b> <b>1100 AGM</b>
April	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	1900 Chatswood RSL Dinner Invitation Only (Wear Medals)



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	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	1400 Kapyong Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flag/Medals)	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Battle of Britain Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)
	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	0930 Coogee/Randwick ANZAC Service 1000 St Stephens ANZAC Church Service Willoughby (Wear Medals) 1100 NZ Soldier on ANZAC Bridge 1500 North Sydney ANZAC Service and March (Banner/Flags/Medals)	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1030 Committee Meeting</b>
	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)	November Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	0630 Poppy Selling Martin Place Station (Wear Medals)
	Friday 24 <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)
	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	ANZAC Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banners/Flags/Medals)	Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1030 Committee Meeting</b>
May	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	1030 ANZAC Church Service Te Wairua Tapu Maori Anglican Church Redfern (Korowai/Lemon Squeezer/ RNZAF Hat/RNZN Hat/Medals)	December Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	1200-1500 Xmas Lunch Chatswood RSL Club (Wear Medals)
	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Indigenous Veterans Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)	January Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	1100 ANZAC Participants Meeting (Barrie)
	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>1030 Committee Meeting</b>	<hr/>	
July	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Reserve Forces Day Hyde Park (Standard/Flags/Medals)		
	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	1200 Mid-Year Lunch Chatswood RSL (Wear Medals)		
	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1030 Committee Meeting</b>		
August	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Victory in the Pacific Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)		
	Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	1130 Vietnam Veterans Day Springwood (Banner/Flags/Medals)		
	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Battle of Long Tan Day Martin Place Cenotaph (Banner/Flag/Medals)		
September	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1100 Battle of Australia Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)		
	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	1100 Merchant Navy Day Service Martin Place Cenotaph (Wear Medals)		