

RNZE SAPPERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 195 May 2017



This Issue



Patron/Vice Patrons : Peter Foster; George Butcher; Doug Roberts; Keith Mitchell.

Pre-press requirements for submitted articles.

Newspaper clippings are suitable for reference only and cannot be used for prepress as the poor quality of newsprint prevents suitable scanning. Similarly, photos must be the original or emailed as a scanned jpeg file at a resolution of no less than **300dpi** preferably 600dpi.

DO NOT IMBED IN A WORD DOCUMENT PLEASE, AS THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO EXTRACT AND TAKE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF TIME. Any text to be sent can be sent as an email ,text or as a pdf file .

Send any articles & E-mail Addresses to : rnzesapper@gmail.com

It is attended to E-mail the Newsletter to everyone every four months

So we will need a current email address and surname.

PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO OTHER SAPPERS YOU MAY KNOW SO THEY CAN GO ON OUR MAILING LIST.

HOLDFAST 2018

THE ENGINEER REUNION

To commemorate the Bi-annual get together of the Corps of Engineers, held by the Sapper Association QLD Inc and it is the Brisbane Branch who will be organising it.

If you are a member of The Sapper Association QLD Inc, or ever wore the badge of the RAE, or still wearing it as a serving member, or wore the Engineer badge from a friendly country, then you are most welcome.

4 May – 7 May 2018 – Bundaberg

These will be distributed to all later on about May – June please be patient with us as we work out the Accommodation list, Itinerary, Costs etc.

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Holdfast 2018 P.O. Box 1043, STAFFORD
QLD 4053



A Quick Word from Vail Hubner

Vail Hubner

Introduction

1. This report covers the 12 months' period leading up to March 2017.

Report For The Period

2. Some of the things we have managed to do or have helped are:
 - a. Bruce Page has stepped up as Honorary Secretary.
 - b. A single signature account has been put in place. This allows us to have EFTPOS cards to pay for food etc at venues. Some venues are now refusing to accept cheques.
 - c. The finance report now keeps Capital Movement separate from Income and Expenditure. So, there is now less confusion with what is taxable [I&E] and what is our own money just being moved around.
 - d. Some of the distressed investments, previously written off, have since been paid back into the Association.
 - e. At Taupo, we had 17 sappers at Decade 1975-84 Do 23 July (two from the South Island) and 14 sappers at 1955-64 Do 7 December. It looks like we now have the right formula by requiring RSVP a month before to get 10 minimum attending or the function is cancelled. The list of names emailed out attracts more sappers who know someone on the list.
 - f. Owen Phillips has got the Newsletter going again with three editions out so far. This is emailed out to over 200 people.
 - g. Facebook secret account Eras have been set up, each Era covering five years. These are in preparation to running Decade Do's.
 - h. The RNZE Reunion now has Jim Smoothy as Secretary and Terry Hall as Treasurer.
3. Some of the problems encountered during the period are:
 - a. We still lack a nominal roll of the whole association.
 - b. We don't have a Chairperson for the Reunion in Wellington March 2018.
 - c. We are still looking for a new Honorary Solicitor to help write a new constitution.

The Future

4. My intentions as President are:
 - a. A Taupo Decade 2005-14 Do sometime in June to attract young sappers.
 - b. Look at providing direct support for families of serving sappers who are overseas.
 - c. Consideration will be given for constitution changes.
 - d. The Hon Treasurer stands down in March 2018, so a replacement needs to found soon.
 - e. President stands down in March 2019.

Vail Hubner
Vail Hubner

24 March 2017
Date

Up and Coming Events

Decade Do,s

Decade 1975-84 Picton or Wellington 2019

National RNZE Reunion

March 2018 In Wellington

ERS Reunion 6-8 October 2017

Pre Registration Warning

Friday 6 th Meet and Greet
Rolleston Fire Station

Saturday 7th Semi Formal
Dinner Wos – Sgt Mess
(limited 200 pers)

Sunday 8th Planed activities
and BBQ 3 ERS Burnham
Reunion Cost still to be confirmed

Further information contact:

Bruce McDonald 03318234 or
email do-
tandbruce@clear.net.nz

SSgt Jared Davidson at JAR-
ED.DAVIDSON@NZDF.mil.n



NZDF Fire-fighters Help Attack Christchurch and Hawke's Bay Fires

There are now at least 20 military fire-fighters, backed by state-of-the art fire fighting equipment, helping battle scrub fires in Canterbury and Hawke's Bay.

Two additional teams comprising about 12 NZDF fire-fighters were dispatched this morning to help get the fire at Waimarama Road near Havelock North under control.

They have joined the six fire-fighters who were deployed last night.

Sergeant Ben Lockton, who is leading the NZDF's fire fighting crew in Hastings, said the initial crew of six – five from the New Zealand Army and one from the Royal New Zealand Air Force – helped local fire-fighters for more than 12 hours after arriving last night.

"We were directly involved in fighting the fire and on many occasions were only about 20-50 metres away from the flames. We stayed vigilant because there were big balls of fire as some treetops were engulfed in flames," Sergeant Lockton said.

"There was a lot of smoke and it was pretty hot. We had brief breaks throughout the night so we could have a quick bite and drink heaps of water. Once we get a few hours' rest we'll be ready to go back to work."

Three of the Army's new detachable fire pods were being used at Hastings, Sergeant Lockton said. The pod can be transported on a variety of vehicles and uses an ultra-high-pressure hose with a pointed nozzle that can pierce the ground and douse burning roots.

In Christchurch, three two-member fire fighting crews from the Army have been dispatched to help battle a large bush fire that started hills on Monday evening. Staff Sergeant Jared Davidson, the Fire Master at Burnham Military Camp, said when it was seen how fast the fire was spreading help was offered immediately to the local fire authorities.





New Zealand Army continued to help contain the bush fire that damaged homes & farms in Whitianga. and Christchurch Port hills fires



3 Fd OC Kevin Fee assists fire crews



Briefing and well done boy's



New Fire Pod in action

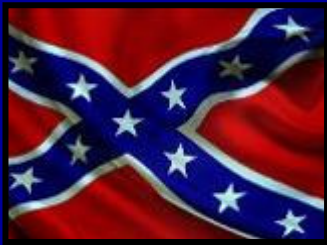


New Fire Pods in action



NZDF fire crews take a photo break & then back to the sharp end and fire face.





The 3rd RNZE BRANCH
SAPPERS ASSOCIATION (Inc.) NZ

OFFICE HOLDERS ARE:

Chairman Bernie Rose 03 3131569

Vice-chairman: Eric Elley 03 3107385

Secretary: Colin Walsh 03 3423272

Committee Members:

BJ Clark 03 3594522 John Fischer 03 3479305

George Jason Smith 03 3124844 Brian McTurk 03 9818291 Owen Phillips 022 1949900

Norm Smith 03 3481562 Jack Blyth 03 3484871



The RSA was proud to take part in last month's grand opening of the new Burnham Military Camp Community "Hub," a local support facility in the centre of the Selwyn District. The Hub, a project initiated by Canterbury Community Services Officer Lynne Price, is the result of over two years of hard work by those involved – including the RSA, New Zealand Defence Force and generous community donors. Eddie Bassett, RNZRSA Canterbury District Support Adviser, was one of the special guest attendees. "The Hub provides a place for service personnel and their families to relax, spend time, and receive support," he explains. "It's unique in the fact that this was built by the community, for the community. It will really benefit those service personnel and their families living in the area." Servicemen and women can access a range of RSA support services through the Hub, such as financial assistance, advice and advocacy, family care and connection to a network of people with similar military experiences. All RSA services are available at the Hub, regardless of whether an individual is a member of the RSA or not.

Since its opening, the venue has already welcomed a number of contemporary, currently serving personnel and has hosted a number of activities— some organised by NZDF Deployment and Community Services, and others lead entirely by local residents.

Eddie Bassett, spoke on behalf of the RSA, thanking the RSAs who contributed time, money and effort in order to bring the Hub to life.

The RSA is working to improve the links between local RSAs and NZDF camps and bases, to ensure support is available to military personnel and their families. We encourage anyone seeking assistance to contact their local RSA.



Major Nikki Gardner (Burnham Camp Commander), Mr Eddie Bassett (RSA) Mrs Lynne Price (CSO) and Padre Ralph Bradley join the celebrations of the opening of the Hub

RNZE Charitable Trust



RNZE Charitable Trust (RNZE CT or "Trust") Annual Report for 2016

I am pleased to submit our fifth annual report, which is provided to recognise our sponsors and supporters as well as an awareness of the activities of the Trust. It also informs our parent bodies (namely the **RNZE Corps Committee** and **Sappers Association (NZ) Inc**) and wider Corps membership of the progress the Trust has made on key projects during the 2016 calendar year. Once again, we have had a busy and successful year, now that we are well established since our formation in mid-2011. The adopted "strap/tagline" of "**Preserving RNZE Heritage**", certainly reflects the principle objects of the Trust and what it has achieved since its formation.

Our priority project is the **RNZE Corps History project**, which has progressed well throughout the year with the completion of research and writing of eight part-chapter (first) drafts. These have been reviewed by Corps History Project Advisory Group members and feedback passed to the author. Our project author and historian, Peter Cooke, has made several research visits to the ECMC, RNZE units and to the RSME, RE units, UK archival sites and Archives UK during the year. He has submitted regular quarterly project reports, which have been circulated widely. The current plan is to finish first draft chapters by March 2017, followed by completion of second draft revisions by August 2017. The plan is to select a suitable publisher about June and take the manuscript to the publisher in September 2017. We can then work to release and launch the publication in early 2018. So far, we have expended \$152,387 of the \$170,117 funds raised for this project, including the significant Lottery Grants Board contribution. As, NZDF/Army was unable to provide any further funding support for this project, further Trust contributions and fund raising will be necessary to cover remaining costs for this project through to completion and book release.

Progress on **rebuilding the museum displays** has slowed, as we have had to focus on other tasks, without much additional person power. However, all our 35 display cabinets have had LED strip lighting installed, access doors hinged and then properly secured. This has made a huge improvement to the lighting and access to display cabinets so that we can continue the refurbishment programme. Considerable progress has been made in the scanning, digitising and post-processing mainly of our photographic collection, where nearly 3,000 of our collection of 20,000 photos, slides, negatives, plates, etc have been scanned and stored digitally. We are still awaiting further artefacts, memorabilia and photos to fill up the displays covering Afghanistan and Timor L'este deployments, as further items from Iraq have now been provided from the Op Taji team. It is still our intention to establish a WW1 trench emplacement in the grounds adjacent to the main building, as well as a tiled area for outdoor presentations. The plan remains to locate and place older RNZE equipment on the concrete plinths at the entrance to the ECMC, plus more Bailey panels around the entrance pathway and periphery. During the year, HVAC appliances were installed above the library and museum area in order to provide a more conducive and stable environment for the collections.

RNZE Charitable Trust



We have had nearly **3,500 visitors through the ECMC** since commencing record taking in mid-2013, with 1,008 in 2016 (968 in 2015 and 915 in 2014). These have included a wide range of local and international, serving and retired members of the NZDF and RNZE, general public, children, schools and clubs, etc. All Basic Combat Engineer course participants and personnel from other courses run by the SME have also made visits to the ECMC complex as part of their programmes. We remain members of Museums Aotearoa and are shown in their annual directory and website, as a museum worthy of a visit. We also appear on "Trip Advisor" and with a page in "Wikipedia", as well as on the Sappers website and Facebook. The ECMC is becoming better known within the Manawatu and wider community and that in turn enables us to publicise the Corps and meet our object of "Preserving RNZE Heritage".

Our **information, communications, research and technology (ICR&T) development** has also slowed, following the installation of four electronic displays covering WW1, WW2 and more contemporary Sapper activities. In addition to having our portable multi-media presentation equipment package, we want to introduce more interactive and electronic displays into the museum. Also, an updated electronic library system, so that we can keep track of the extensive collection of reference material housed in both the library and "technical information section" for RNZE activities and deployments. Funds have also been provided for the further development and upgrade of the "Sappers" website, which serves the Sappers Association, ECMC, RNZE Trust, 2nd Engineer Regiment, SME and the Corps as a whole. This is linked to other social media sites, as well as being enabled for all related organisations to communicate with serving and retired members of the Corps, through this medium. It is also proposed to build a replacement website in 2017, to cover the current 2002 vintage site. All this activity has been funded from external sources and is much appreciated by the Trust (our sponsors are recognised below, for their generous and valuable contributions).

We continue with the challenging task of **cataloguing all the "assets of the Trust"**, now with some 9,900 items of the ECMC/RNZE CT "collection" (5,034 screens) inventoried (out of an estimated 60,000 items, including some 3,000 photographic items and with an estimated recorded value of \$332,856. Our comprehensive insurance cover is reviewed annually and was increased in value to \$310,000 (plus Trustee liability indemnity insurance), when the policies are reviewed in April each year. We continue to relocate much of our stored items into an external expandable (old field medical operating theatre) container (with heat pump environment) adjacent to the main building and garage. This has enabled us to further review items of equipment, clothing and photographic and document records, to inventory, sort and store them again in more suitable facilities.

RNZE Charitable Trust



Our **financial situation** remains in a reasonable state, as most of the major projects and procurements in 2016 were covered by external funding sponsors. We sincerely acknowledge and appreciate the support from our sponsors and regular contributors, as well as other donors. Our **regular contributors** have increased back up to 22 over the year or approx \$271 per month (we used to have over 130 regular contributors a couple of decades ago), although the donations total contributed for the year was in the order of \$6,200. The latter also included a generous contribution from the Nepia family (in recognition of the passing of WO1 (Retd) Oma Nepia, and redirected towards the RNZE Corps History Project), Auckland Sapper Officers' Mess, ECMC donations (visitors and history presentations) box and other miscellaneous donors. Our six-monthly GST rebates also assist in keeping the funds for ECMC operational purposes in balance. Three applications were submitted this year for **external funding supplementation** to a total value of \$12,398 (excl GST). One for our insurance cover was declined, we received \$3,500 (excl GST) from Mainland Foundation for the website development and currently awaiting the outcome of an application for an initial stage of scanning, digitising and post-processing of heritage material (\$5,000) from ECCT. Our **generous sponsors and supporters** for 2016 included, Mainland Foundation, Advantage Computers Ltd (PN), Inspire Net (PN) and Trophy Specialists (PN) and all other regular donors and contributors to the Trust.

The **monthly military history presentation series** organised by Clas Chamberlain, was provided from February to November and included a wide range of excellent and informative presentations delivered by the writer ("Military heritage and history of PN"), Dr Chris Pugsley ("NZ Division on the Somme in 1916"), Prof Glyn Harper ("WW1 Literature"), Lt Col (Rtd) Keith Mitchell ("Hutt Road Bailey Bridging"), Col (Rtd) Terry McBeth ("NZ Poppy Places Trust"), Evan Greensides of PNCL ("PN military street signs"), Maj Tim Woodman ("Falklands Campaign"), Selwyn Ponga-Davis ("Family Connections at Gallipoli"), Maj (Rtd) Bob Norman ("100 years on the Ice - Antarctica") and Lesley Courtenay from PNCL ("Charlotte Warburton, a WW2 supporter"), to name a few examples. These presentations have been held in the Linton Camp (LRSC) Conference Room and new Elliott VC Centre, only for an hour during the midday period each month and serve as a useful means of keeping these important topics alive and at the forefront of our attention. Attendees come from all around, including the PNCC, City Library and heritage team, PNRSA, Manawatu History Teachers Network, Manawatu Officers Club, plus serving military and civilian staff from Linton Camp and other NZDF elements in Palmerston North. As the "uniform" (military) attendance and support has waned in recent times, it has been decided to run these sessions in the PN City Library from Feb 17 onwards, where the majority of support comes from.

RNZE Charitable Trust



The **Trust Board** held quarterly meetings throughout the year, performing the requirements of our objects in accordance with the Trust Deed. All relevant compliance has been met and reports have been prepared, approved and submitted to Charities Services and are shown on their website. Trustee attendance has been exemplary throughout the year, along with the administration provided by Treasurer, Greg Findon, as well as the Secretary, Lt Bryce Scholtens, latterly of the SME. My sincere thanks go to our trustees including Clas Chamberlain, Don Jones, Greg Findon, Cliff Parker, along with CO 2ER and Regt Col RNZE, Lt Col Paul Hayward, RSM 2ER, WO1 Lyall Mooney and Lt Bryce Scholtens, your assistance and support throughout the year has been much appreciated.

Over 50 personnel from RNZE units have provided valuable **assistance to the ECMC** for a few hours each Thursday, as part of the RNZE monthly duty unit assistance scheme. This was instituted by the RSM 2ER in mid-2014 and managed by the SSMs of each of the units of 2nd Engr Regt and the SME, based on a monthly roster and task list. This has enabled a wide range of tasks to be undertaken to assist us in the ongoing maintenance of the ECMC library and museum and other RNZE CT administrative requirements. Local volunteers including Mike Earley, who has been a regular assist throughout the past year, also Noel Woodley, who has joined us recently, have provided much needed assistance in the areas of scanning, digitising and post-processing of heritage material, recording names of older photographic records and other archival and inventory tasks.

Once again, several **minor projects were carried out by the SME**, including installing the LED strip lighting conversion to and securing all 35 display cabinets. This assistance is vital for the ongoing operation of the ECMC and we are very grateful to the CI, SSM and WO TTW, SME for their support in 2016. Likewise, we have had excellent **support and assistance from the 2ER**, in particular from the CO, XO, Adjt, RSM and Wks WO, as well as unit commanders and Administrator Tania Jones and a number of other RHQ staff. Our sincere thanks to you all for this much needed and appreciated contribution and support. We have also appreciated support from OC LRSC (Maj Mike Pettersen), DSS Property Group (WO2 Tom Donald and Shannon Quirke) and Spotless in the operation and maintenance of the ECMC. Given that there is only a few of us trying to keep the ECMC open and running on a weekly basis, as well as managing the RNZE CT and various key projects, we do need assistance from you all. We wish that more retired members of the Corps currently living in the Manawatu would take on a more active interest in the ECMC.



RNZE Charitable Trust

Finally and to foreshadow our planned activities, objectives and focal points for 2017, including:

- Continue to progress the RNZE Corps History project through to completion;
- Keep the ECMC open every Thursday and operating satisfactorily;
- Continue to rebuild, refurbish and refresh the ECMC museum display cabinets;
- Explore other means and modes to display RNZE activities and functions about the ECMC;
- Introduce an electronic system to support inventory and library collection work;
- Continue to scan, digitise, post-process and store heritage material for future safekeeping;
- Explore and introduce interactive electronic displays within the ECMC museum area;
- Continue developing the website and relevant sub-pages on www.sappers.org.nz;
- Continue to seek external funding supplementation as required; and
- Manage the RNZE CT in accordance with the Trust Deed and to meet all related compliance requirements.

Joe Hollander
Trustee/Trust Board Chair
RNZE Charitable Trust

Palmerston North
31 December 2016



The **RNZE Charitable Trust** (or RNZE CT) was formed in May 2011 to administer, finance and support the on-going requirements of the **Engineer Corps Memorial Centre** (or ECMC, comprising St Martin's RNZE and Garrison Chapel, and the Engineer Library and Museum) at Linton Camp. The Trust also provides support for important projects, such as the **RNZE Corps History** project, re-build and restoration of the **ECMC museum collection and displays**, the re-establishment of the **ECMC library collection and technical information centre/resource** and more, and relies on financial contributions to ensure their respective financial and physical security for the future.

The 34 New Zealand Defence Force engineers sent to the Sinai Peninsula in early January have reinforced the positive reputation built by the NZDF over the years amongst members of a multinational peacekeeping force.



The engineers, from the New Zealand Army's 2 Engineer Regiment, are building a 3.3-kilometre security fence around the Multinational Force & Observers' (MFO) South Camp. "The sappers have a reputation in South Camp of being extremely hard workers. I have had comments from numerous people about how hard they've been working," Lieutenant Tom Gilbert, the Troop Commander of the engineering team, said. The MFO is an international organisation with peacekeeping responsibilities in the Sinai Peninsula. After operating at North Camp for over 30 years, the mission's headquarters and a number of troops from 11 other contributing nations that make up the MFO's Force moved to South Camp in mid-2016 due to the deteriorating security situation in North Sinai. To accommodate the influx into South Camp, the MFO is building new facilities and had requested assistance from New Zealand and other countries with some of the infrastructure projects. Lieutenant Gilbert said the progress on the fence had been steady. "The mood of the troops is very positive. We have made visible progress that the guys can be proud of. Everyone is looking forward to the remaining time here and finishing our tasks." Deployed to the Sinai for up to six months, the engineering team includes combat engineers, carpenters, electricians, plant operators, welders and a supply technician.



Spr Petra Dye-Hutchinson who took out third placing for the individual women's at the Firefighter Combat Challenge



3 Fd Squadron & 25 Engineer Support Squadrons In Nelson

Some of our Army engineers are helping spruce up Nelson's Marsden Valley Cemetery, in preparation for the unveiling next month of a statue of a First World War soldier to honour those who served in the war.

A seven-man team of tradesmen from 3 Field Squadron and 25 Engineer Support Squadron from the (2ER) in Burnham will spend about a month in Nelson helping to build a memorial wall at the cemetery.

It's fantastic as the SMA being able to witness our troops in their working environment doing what they do, often with junior leaders heading up the task. The Engineers are a great example. Great bunch of soldiers working long days to meet a hard deadline: ANZAC Day. A LCpl gave us the full site brief and safety plan, another NCO issued us the overview and then we watched everyone on the tools applying their craft. No fuss; just trusting their training and doing the business.

This is replicated everyday across our trades, units and Army. Great young people; all soldiers-trusted; professional and ready.

The team, led by Lance Corporal Andy Good, will demolish the existing wall and then build two retaining walls designed and shaped to represent First World War trench systems, with concrete "sand bag" walls and a memorial walkway.

They will also install the statue, which will be unveiled at a ceremony at the cemetery on Saturday, 15 April





Association Treasurer's Report

SAPPERS ASSOCIATION [NZ] INCORPORATED

Income & Expenditure Working Accounts Performance

12 Months

1 January to 31 December 2016

2015
12 months
Jan to Dec

Balances

\$

Opening Balance as at 1 January 2016

19,802.17

INCOME

\$


435	Fees / Subscriptions	240.00
0	Donations	40.00
0	Association Supplies	20.00
13	Goods & Services Tax	20.68
0	Miscellaneous	2.00
10	Interest	17.40
2,563	Branches	3,360.38
18,741	Reunion	0.42
841	Interest retained in investments	1,110.13
Total Income		4,811.01

EXPENDITURE

10	Postage & Stationery	149.99
2	Website	1.00
0	Memorials	75.00
172	Miscellaneous	42.99
1,736	Branches	2,722.18
19,404	Reunion	0.00
Total Expenditure		2,991.16

Closing Balance as at 31 December 2016 21,622.02

Income over Expenditure 1,819.85


V Hubner
President


C Aimers
Honorary Treasurer

Date 29 March 2017

SAPPERS ASSOCIATION [NZ] INCORPORATED


Capital Movement 2016

Into Exe acnt BNZ	\$ 21,364.95	
Into Exe acnt Distressed	\$ 1,086.50	
Out of Exe acnt BNZ		\$ 22,133.43
Capital remaining in Exe acnt	\$ 318.02	
	\$ 22,451.45	\$ 22,451.45

Movement In Equity 2016

Position

Equity 31 Dec 15	\$ 54,393.12
Distressed Investments repaid	\$ 1,086.50
Performance Jan - Dec 16	\$ 1,819.85
Equity 31 Dec 16	<u>\$ 57,299.47</u>
Cash in bank 31 Dec 16	\$ 17,502.23
Investments at 31 Dec 16	\$ 39,797.24
Equity 31 Dec 16	<u>\$ 57,299.47</u>


V Hubner
President


C Aimers
Honorary Treasurer

Date 29 March 2017

SAPPERS ASSOCIATION [NORTHERN REGION BRANCH]

Income & Expenditure

12 Months

1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

Opening Balance as at 1 January 2016 8,021.14

INCOME

Bonus Number Raffle	1791.00
Coaster Reimbursement	0.00
Donations	0.00
Interest	20.24
Memorabilia, Shirt, Tie Sales	0.00
Reimbursement Hospitality Sappers Day	0.00
Raffle Sappers Day	0.00
Reunion Reimbursement Coffee Mugs	0.00
Membership	60.00
Misc	75.00
Auckland TF Sappers [balance \$290]	0.00
Total Income	1,946.24

0

EXPENDITURE

Bank Charge	0.00
Bonus Raffle Costs	105.60
TF Prize / Stone engraving/wreath	125.00
Church Donation	100.00
Sappers Day bugler	50.00
Sappers Day raffle prizes	0.00
Hospitality Sappers Friday (Refreshments)	0.00
Hospitality Sappers Friday (Supper)	0.00
Hospitality (Thankyou to Raffle Buyers)	112.30
Luncheon Pt Chev. RSA	200.00
Postage & cards	0.00
Regional Visit Food	0.00
Regional Visit Bar Tab	0.00
Decade Do's Food	135.00
Decade Do's Bar Tab	218.30
Papakura RSA donation	0.00
Membership to Executive 00 account	60.00
Stationary	56.98
Total Expenditure	1,163.18

Closing Balance as at 31 December 2016 8,804.20


Income Over Expenditure 783.06

Signed

R Gummer Chairman

V Hubner Treasurer

Date

 4 March 2017



Lt Col Terry McDonald CO of 2nd Engineer Regiment

Sappers,

There has been a lot of different things happening in the Unit since the last Sappers Newsletter and it is great that we are able to keep everyone up to date with events.

We have continued to train with the sub units out practicing their core Sapper skills – demolitions, boating, infantry minor tactics and explosive method of entry work. The team is preparing for a reinvigorated Exercise Ubique which is being regenerated after a few years of hiatus. Our Emergency Responders have been competing in the New Zealand Fire Fighter Combat Challenge, both regionally (in Palmerston North) and nationally (in Wellington). We did particularly well in the regionals and some of our individuals placed highly in the individuals. We also have a Carpenter from 25 ESS who has been selected to represent New Zealand at the 44th world skills competition being held in Abu Dhabi in October of this year, this is great stuff. You can keep up to date with how training is progressing via our social media feeds.

The Corps was well represented during the month of April being duty unit for 1 (NZ) Bde, which resulted in numerous ceremonial activities. Of note the team did a great job with the Governor Generals credential ceremony. For those that are familiar with the ceremony, it has been adapted and there are multiple credentials presented on a single day which kept everyone on their toes. RNZE were also well represented during Anzac commemorations with SME(NZ) providing the Army guard component at Pukeahu in Wellington. The feedback was extremely positive and the Sappers represented us all with pride.

We continue to have Sappers deployed to FARAD, both posted as part of the MFO and on the Engineer Surge. Operation Antarctica returned home having achieved early mission success. We currently have Sappers in Iraq and deployed on Operation Castor. If you are not familiar with Operation Castor, it is a multinational exercise with the French Army New Caledonia (FANC) to undertake Humanitarian Assistance in Vanuatu. This was timely with the arrival of Tropical Cyclone Donna in the region at the same time.



Lt Col Terry McDonald CO of 2nd Engineer Regiment

The passing of Sapper James Maaka has cast a shadow on this period. James was tragically killed on the Port Hills prior to Anzac Day and he will be missed by all. It was very much appreciated that Sappers past and present pulled every stop to see that his service was recognised. His family was very appreciative of the efforts by Army and the services in Burnham and Auckland provided a fitting farewell.

There have been a number of other people close to the Corps who have been tragically lost, Uncle Charles the uncle of SGT James, who has had a long standing within the Linton community passed in early May.

Overall the Regiment and wider Corps continues to achieve good results which is a testament to the work being done by leaders at every level. I continue to be humbled to serve with Sappers of such high calibre and professional standards. Ubique

Lieutenant Colonel Terry McDonald

Commanding Officer, 2 Engineer Regiment

NEW ZEALAND ARMY





An estimated 4 million mines have been laid along the Thai- Cambodian border, according to Lt. Col. Alan Beaver.

Lt Col Beaver is heading a 20-man New Zealand team which will be responsible for landmine awareness in rural areas, mainly the northwest where fighting has been concentrated.

'Mines laid in this country range from anti-personnel to anti- vehicular -- the full range,' said Beaver, who is making preparations for the arrival of his team, expected in the next few days.

Asked whether all mines in Cambodia could be cleared, Beaver said, 'No one can guarantee that. It's a big job, but someone has to do it and it will take several years

Trip Down Memory Lane



**Lt Alan Beaver
1971**



**Lt Col Alan Beaver
(Rtd)**



BOB BOWMAN (RNZE)

Born in Sydney in 1911, Bob came over to New Zealand in 1933 and in 1940 enlisted in the NZ Army. Bob served in the Royal New Zealand Engineers where he saw action in North Africa, Palestine and Italy. Post war, until 1948, Bob worked at the Addington Railway Workshops. After leaving the Railway Workshops Bob made wooden toys in the front room of his house in Lincoln Road and did a bit of house construction.



Bob re-joined the Army in 1951 and in 1953 he was sent to Korea. On his return from Korea Bob was promoted to the rank of Captain and became the Commanding Officer for the RNZE in the South island at 44 Riccarton Road Army Barracks. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star, African Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, 1939-45 War Medal, NZ War Service Medal, Korea UN Medal and posthumously the NZ Defence Service Medal.

Retiring from the army in late 1967, Bob was then employed by the Department of Maori and Island Affairs to be the Overseer of the construction of an airfield on Niue Island. That project led to the opening of Niue Island's Hanan International Airport. During his time on Niue he built a 9 hole golf course. Bob also built the school swimming pool and other buildings around Alofi. Bob retired from full time work in 1971 at the end of the Niue Island Project.

Bob passed away in 2004 at the age of 93 years after a life very well lived.



Bob (wheelchair) attending what was to be his last 44 Ricc rd Reunion
Church Parade 2003

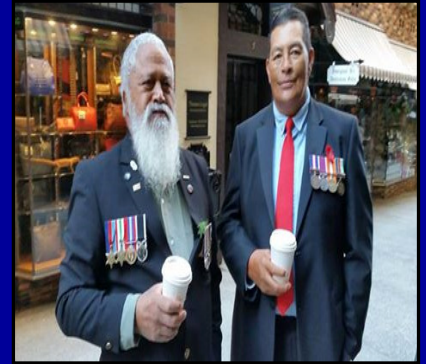
ANZAC DAY PHOTO's 2017



Dave Travers Katherine
NT Aust



Gummy & Jim Smoothy
Christchurch



George and Richard Skudder
Perth Aust



SME(NZ) guard taking post at the National War Memorial Pukeahu.



Pattie Street Lower Hutt



ANZAC DAY PHOTO's 2017



My wife Gillian and I are both ex-service men and women from the New Zealand Army, where we met 44 years ago. We have attended ANZAC Day Dawn Services at Waiouru Camp, Christchurch, Burnham, Palmerston North, Whangarei and Rotorua - So, naturally I wanted to know how ANZAC Day is observed in National Park Village. So I purchased some dried flower bunches for us to place at the village's Legion of Frontiersmen War Memorial at dawn.

On the morning of ANZAC Day, a small crowd of under 20, made up of locals and some of our guests, gathered at the Memorial. I called the parade to attention at 5.58 am and at 06.00am

Well done that Sapper John (Dutchy) Visser

I m now taking responsibility for arranging an ANZAC Day service for the village in the future .





RNZE Corps Training 17/01 graduated today from SME(NZ). Fire-fighters, Combat Engineers, Plant Operators and Trade personnel undergo this common training on core skills fundamental to meeting Army Engineer operational outputs. They will now continue with their respective specialist trade training. While these photos only show bridging, other skills are learned such as explosive breaching, demolitions, water purification, watermanship / boating, field machines and force protection works.



Our newest Sappers are presented with their Corps Belt upon completing their Corps Training course at SME



The MGB with launching nose allows a bridge to be constructed and launched across an otherwise impassable gap.



The Medium Girder Bridge (MGB) on the left, and the Extra Wide Bailey Bridge (EWBB) on the right are two forms of kitset bridging employed by RNZE.



Performance knows no gender!



Sappers Last Post

- **Brian 'Barney' Barron**
- **Steve Allpress (Linus)**
- **Colin Nordstrom**
- **Danny Rion Jordan**
- **Courtney (tiny) Mania**
- **SPR James Peter Maaka**



The RSA was formed in New Zealand in 1916 by returning Anzacs during World War One to provide support and comfort for service men and women and their families.

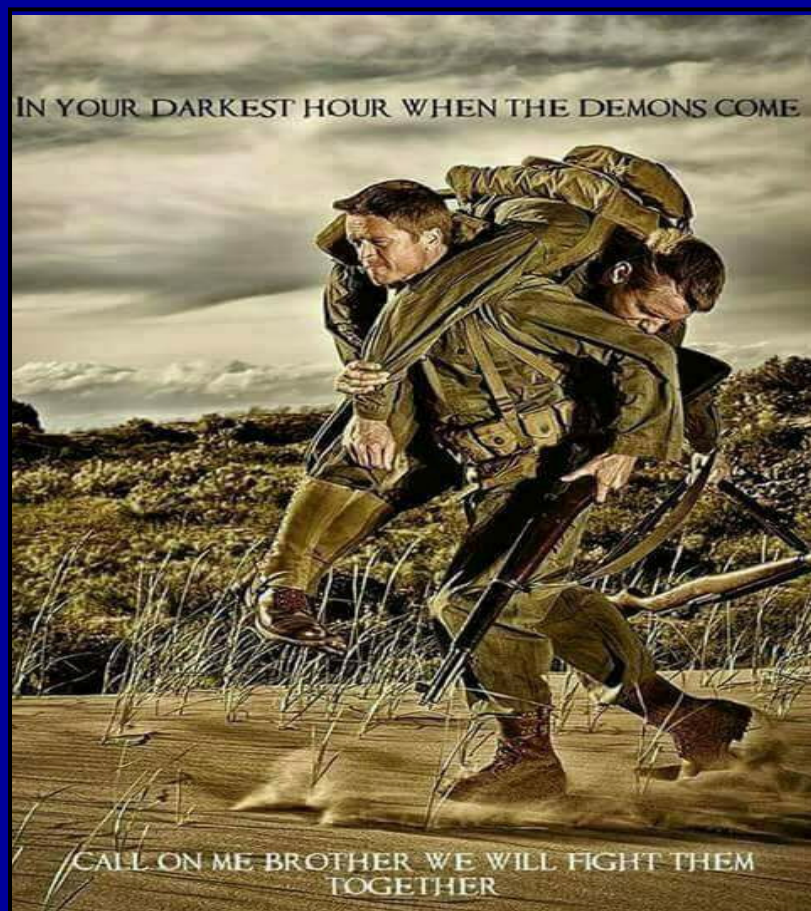
The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association is made up of over 180 local RSAs around the country, each an entity in their own right, with over 100,000 members. Local RSAs are managed by their own executive committee while being united with the RNZRSA in our strategic pillars, vision, and values. We believe in a nation joined by a heartfelt connection to the Anzac spirit of courage, commitment, comradeship and compassion.

No Duff provides first response support to assist veterans in crisis.

Veterans' Affairs partners with No Duff, which has been operating since the start of the year, to support veterans in critical need. No Duff and its team of service and ex-service volunteers, work with other welfare organization's to support veterans.

[Visit the No Duff website for more information.](#)

[\(external link\)](#)



The last word for this Newsletter is mine

I hope you enjoyed the last newsletter but I'm still on the lookout for more articles and photos for future issues of the Newsletter.

July-Nov-Feb-May.

Many thanks for those of you that contributed to this issue of the RNZE Sapper Newsletter



If you know of any sapper or someone that should be receiving this Newsletter please send me the information via this email address so I can enter them on the mailing list

rnzesapper@gmail.com

Don't forget you can follow us on facebook @ Sappers of New Zealand

Also remember the Association Web site www.sappers.org.nz

Remember you will be able find a copy of the News Letter on

[Sappers of New Zealand](#)

[Sappers Mates](#)

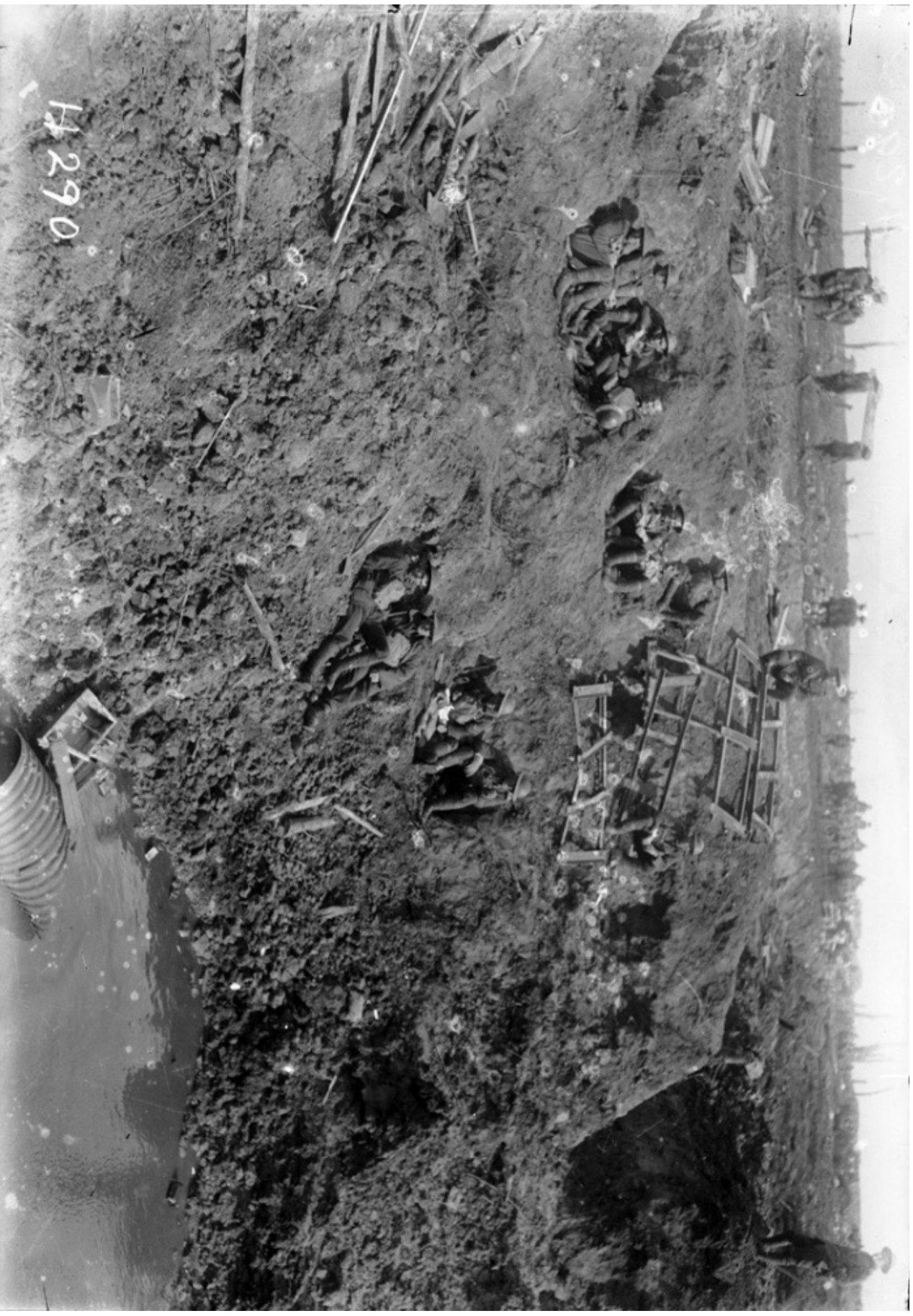
[New Zealand Army Fire Service](#)

Facebook pages.

Ubique

The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving on. - Ulysses S. Grant





New Zealand engineers resting in a large shell crater at Spree Farm following the First Battle of Passchendaele, 12 October 1917.