

NZ SAPPERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 192 July 2016



Apologies for such a long delay in the scheduled newsletter.

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.

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The Sappers Association is having another Decade Do 1970—1980 on the 23 July 2016 at the Taupo RSA.

for more information on this event
please contact Vail

Phone 0274978651

spr_nth_welfare@kinect.co.nz





A Quick Word from Vail Hubner

Hi Sappers,

We intend to hold a National RNZE Reunion in March 2018, probably in Palmerston North. We are requesting that some people step up and form a committee to run the reunion. The committee would probably comprise:

1. A Chairperson: Preferably from the Manawatu/Wellington area to liaise with local suppliers.
2. A Secretary/Treasurer: This person could be anywhere in New Zealand if the committee meets via Skype. It is important that the Sec/Tres attends the reunion to fix last minute hitches.
3. A Funds Raiser: Probably running raffles. Once again, this person could be anywhere in New Zealand if meeting by Skype.
4. A local Go Getter: Must be in Palmerston North.
5. Other people added sometime in 2017 for advertising, procurements etc.

The Executive Committee has been meeting successfully via Skype for a couple of years now. The Northern Branch has been meeting by Skype for over four years.

It is intended to get the Reunion BNZ Account onto internet banking this year, so two out of three signatures can authorise payments from anywhere in the world.

The History of the New Zealand Engineers book launch will coincide with the reunion. This may include a ceremony at Parliament, Wellington.

2 Engineer Regiment may be doing something similar by having a reunion type function. Therefore the Chairperson needs to liaise with the Regiment as to what is going on.

The last few reunions were: Oct 2015 Christchurch; Mar 2012 Palmerston North; Mar 2010 Auckland. Its probable that a Mar 2021 reunion may be held in the upper North Island somewhere.

Past reunions have had: Fri registration/drinks; Sat golf, dinner [sometimes a dance]; Sun church parade, open forum, Sapper Association AGM.

The reunion is open to be attended by all sappers of all eras, regardless of whether they are in the Sappers Association or not.

Please give this committee service to your fellow sappers some thought.



NEW FIRE PODS



The rural fire fighting capabilities of the Army and Air Force are to be enhanced by the purchase of 17 new Detachable Fire Pods (DFPs).

The DFPs have been built to fit on to Defence vehicles – mainly Unimog trucks – and will be a great improvement on the fire-fighting equipment previously used by the two services, says Project Manager, Warrant Officer Class Two Shaney Porter. “The new ultra high-pressure hose allows the emergency responders to attack a fire that is burning within the roots of vegetation by penetrating into the base of the plants and extinguishing the fire. The DFPs are also fitted with a foam system that can be used to smother a fire, protect exposed buildings or to build fire breaks. The DFP has a pump which is fitted with high and low pressure systems that can be operated simultaneously.” Although the DFP will operate mainly from modified Unimogs, it is designed to fit onto a MHOV, is air portable and able to operate independent of a vehicle. This allows it to be operated at an APOD (Air Point of Debarkation), fuel farm or forward operating base and can provide mobile fire coverage. Until now the Army and Air Force have used a fleet of Hino Rural Fire Appliances. They were acquired in 1988 and most

have been pushed well beyond the end of their planned service life and even light grade repairs are no longer economic,” said John Webb of Defence Land Equipment Management. The DFPs have been built by Wellington firm, Frasers Fire and Rescue Ltd, and the Darley Pumps have been imported from the USA. The Unimog trucks’ modification was designed by Defence Land Engineering and carried out by Lockheed Martin. This involves the truck decks being stripped down to reduce the weight and allow as much equipment as possible to be carried. Emergency Responders tested the new equipment in Waiouru by day and night, including; off-road driving, water tank endurance, hose configurations, and during different fire-fighting scenarios. The DFPs will be based at Whenuapai, Waiouru, Ohakea, Linton, Woodbourne and Burnham. New Emergency Responders will train on the DFP at The Joint Fire School in Linton during its Basic Fire Course. The NZDF owns nine gazetted fire districts, the largest being the Waiouru and Tekapo Military Training Areas. It also uses Department of Conservation land, mainly at Kaipara, for which fire coverage must also be provided. “Live firing, and other training activities have inherently high fire risks. Having Emergency Response Squadron maintain a rural fire fighting capability allows the NZDF to continue to operate and conduct Operational Readiness Training when the potential for fire would otherwise require a total cessation of risky activities,” said WO1 Brent Ruruku, Emergency Response Sqn, 2 Engr Regt. are now worn out and unfit for service. “The (Hino) vehicles

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

Events coming up during the next twelve months:

2016

12 August Friday Night Get together
15 October Saturday Sappers Dinner at Papanui RSA
09 December Friday Night Get together

2017

10 February Friday Night Get together
14 April Friday Night Get together
25 April Anzac Day Parade at Papanui RSA
09 June Friday night Get together
11 August Friday Night Get together



Mark these dates on your Calendars as a reminder.

Get togethers: These are informal gatherings and are being well supported; we hope to see new faces turning up each time. These are held at the South Island Sappers HQs, the Papanui RSA. Any time after 1700hrs, on the second Friday of the even months of the year, See the dates above, Food is available, as are Drinks. Come along and see who turns up.

Sappers Wives / Partners Luncheon:

It's hard to believe it is over two years ago we started our 2 monthly luncheons. It has been a great success with mainly small numbers of us meeting for a drink, chat and lunch. We welcome anyone who would like to join in. Come along to our next luncheon on Tuesday 12 July at the Papanui RSA at 1200hrs. If you have any enquires please ring me, Janice Rose on 03 3131569.

If you have an Email address please forward it to Bernie, so the cost of sending out things like this newsletter can be reduced or if you have changed your address please let us know. Many Thanks

Sappers Day Dinner Saturday 15 October:

As Sappers day falls on a Saturday, we are going to have a Dinner. This will be a two course meal with Wine & Port, which will be held at the Papanui RSA from 1830hrs for 1930hrs start. Cost will be \$35.00 a head. You will have to book in with Bernie with numbers & payment by Monday 10 October. All the more the merrier. This is open to any Sappers young or old, also any of the Sappers from down South would be most welcome to join us. Just fill out the attached form and send to Bernie at Villa 25/3 Reeves Road Rangiora 7400. Or e mail at bernjanrose@kinect.co.nz



RNZE Charitable Trust

The **RNZE Corps History project** progressed well throughout the year, as we have **completed some 50 oral history interviews** (OHIs) of selected retired and serving members of the Corps. A further 6-7 OHIs will be completed in early 2015 and this will conclude the oral history phase of the project. Funds raised (just over \$65,000) from various sources, has enabled us to complete this important work and to enable our OHI contractor, David Young of Wellington, to add a further number of OHIs to those previously completed by Claire Hall in 2012-13. Just before the end of 2014, the **Lottery Grants Board made a very significant contribution** towards the research and writing phase of the project, to take place over the period 2015-16. This has enabled us to select and appoint our historian author, Peter Cooke of Wellington, to undertake this work. Peter has been associated with us for many years and is very familiar with the Corps, ECMC and our heritage aspirations and has already started to complete the final OHIs and commence his research and commission with us. Hopefully, he will **complete his manuscript by early 2017** and assist us to engage a suitable publisher, so that we can release and **launch the publication in late 2017/early 2018**.

Work on **rebuilding the museum displays** has also progressed, as 31 of our 35 display cabinets (including Cambodia/Laos, Pakistan, the new "Earle collection" and a start to the Afghanistan, Iraq and Timor L'este displays) have been worked on/almost completed. Displays still to be completed include Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and the remainder of Afghanistan, Iraq and Timor L'este. Several of these are still awaiting further artefacts, memorabilia and photos to fill up the displays. We would also like to build a new display showing RNZE involvement in the Middle East, in particular MFO Sinai. Up to 15 existing display cabinets now require refurbishment and refreshing, which will be undertaken over the next year or so. We would like to establish a WW1 trench emplacement in the grounds adjacent to the main building. We are also looking at placing older RNZE equipment on the concrete plinths at the entrance to the ECMC, plus more Bailey panels at the entrance pathway periphery. The LED lighting trial was a great success and we hope to convert all display cabinets to LED strip lighting during 2015.

We have had **over 1,400 visitors through the ECMC** since commencing records in mid-2013, 900 in 2014. These have included the CDF, DSM and entourage in early 2014, Prof Hew Strachan (world renowned military historian and author), Dr Andrew Cleland (ex-CEO, IPENZ and now CEO, RSNZ), Prof Glyn Harper, along with groups, individuals, ex-RNZE personnel, PNCC History Week tours, Basic Combat Engineer course participants and from other courses run by the SME, overseas (RE and USACE and Marine) engineers and general public visitors and so on. The ECMC is becoming better known amongst the Manawatu and wider community and that in turn enables us to publicise the Corps and meet the object of our new "strap/tagline" of "Preserving RNZE Heritage".

Our **information, communications, research and technology (ICR&T) development** in Stages 1 and 2 have proven successful, involving bringing Broadband, the internet and a wireless environment into the ECMC, along with electronic display and multi-function printers with digitising and scanning capability equipment and a secure back-up system. We hope to embark upon ICR&T Stage 3 in early 2015, as we expand the electronic display equipment range within the ECMC museum area, introduce bar coding to support our inventory and library cataloguing processes, plus portable multi-media presentation equipment for the military history lecture presentations and other Corps, RNZE CT and ECMC presentations external to the ECMC and for the community at large.

ECMC



Belgium and France. WW2 displays cover Egypt, Greece, Crete, North Africa, SW Pacific and Italy. The Korean War, Malaya, Vietnam, Thailand (Feeder Road Project and Op Crown).

Pacific Islands including Fiji the Rural Development Unit (RDU), Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and Western Samoa. Antarctic - Scott Base Rebuild, Army Fire Fighters and Brigades, Falklands War, Demining and Peace-keeping operations in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia,



Iraq, Mozambique, Namibia, Pakistan and Timor L'este. Signals Communications and Calculations, Design, Measurement and Survey, Bridging, Boating and Watermanship, and roles of the engineers / RNZE, including demolitions, pioneering and field machines, field defences, obstacles, booby traps and mine warfare, plant, roads and airfields, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence, water supply and many more.



The Kitchener Room

within the museum building, houses the Kitchener Silver collection presented to the RNZE by the Kitchener family (Estate of Field Marshall Lord Kitchener), along with a range of other cups, plates, silverware, trophies, medal collections and other priceless artefacts and memorabilia.

RNZE

Military History Resources

Medal Rolls

Official Histories

Unit and Regimental Histories

Deployment and Project Records

Campaign Histories

Embarkation Rolls

RNZE Corps Heritage and History

Who's Who

Photographs, Maps and Plans

Construction Design Drawings

Library and Reference Material

Information Updates

at the

RNZE Corps Memorial Centre

Car Powells Ave and Puttick Rd

Linton Military Camp

Provided by

The RNZE Charitable Trust

C/- DSS Registry

Linton Military Camp

Palmerston North 4820

NEW ZEALAND



Email: ecmc@inspire.net.nz

Phone: +64 06 351 9367

Website: www.sappers.org.nz

Brochures Funded by the Page Trust

The Engineer Corps Memorial Centre Linton Military Camp, Palmerston North NEWZEALAND



Comprising the RNZE
Library and Museum, and St
Martin's RNZE and Garrison
Chapel

Ubique - I Nga Wahi Katoa

CC46770

January 2016

Association Treasure's Report

	SAPPERS ASSOCIATION			
	Income & Expenditure			
	As at 30 June	2016		
2014				Balance
12				\$
15,796.0	Opening Balance as at 1	2016		20,381.9
	INCOME		\$	\$
60	Fees / Subs		0.00	
nil	Donations		0.00	
nil	Book Royalties		0.00	
nil	Advertising		0.00	
nil	Association Supplies		0.00	
nil	Misc		0.00	
102	GST		0.00	
nil	Debenture Stock Payments		0.00	
nil	BNZ Principal Repayment		0.00	
1183	Interest/Dividends		0.00	
1183	Rapid save		0.00	
4379	Branches		0.00	
nil	Reunion		0.00	
5724	Total Income			
	EXPENDITURE			
nil	Newsletters		0.00	
24	Post/Stat		0.00	
425	Website		0.00	
nil	Bursary's		0.00	
nil	Prizes		0.00	
nil	Welfare		0.00	
nil	Book Royalties		0.00	
45	Memorials		0.00	
nil	Investments		0.00	
201	Misc		0.00	
3089	Branches		0.00	
nil	Reunion		0.00	
nil	reserved		0.00	
3784	Total Expenditure			
Jan to				
17,736	Closing Balance as at 30	2016		20,381.9

Association Treasure's Report

Association Investment s				As at 20/04/16
Investment Company	Maturity	Period	Rate %	Balance incl Int
BNZ Rapid Save				
BNZ Term Deposit (1 month rollo-	06-05-16	1 month	1.50%	\$7,068.55
BNZ Fixed Term Investment	08-12-16	9 months	3.40%	\$10,834.99
BNZ Term Deposit	08-06-16	12 months	4.30%	\$10,500.00
BNZ Term Deposit	08-06-17	24 months	4.43%	\$10,500.00
Current Investments Total				\$38,903.54



L/Cpl John Luamanu
NZGM

Was presented with the
NZ Gallantry Medal
for an act of gallantry

Well done there
Sapper

Trip Down Memory Lane



Sappers Toy's

MAN Truck and Rapidly emplaced Bridging System (ReBS)

The Rapidly Emplaced Bridge System (REBS) capability provides a rapid tactical bridging capability to support a NZLAV motorised force. It enhances mobility of NZLAV, by supporting combat crossing operations. It will be employed to cross wet gaps (streams, rivers) and dry gaps (anti-vehicle ditches). It is a capability previously not in service, and enables vehicles to cross unprepared gaps of up to 12 metres. The REBS comprises an aluminium bridge mounted on a flat- rack pallet. Both components are transported on a MAN support vehicle with Enhanced Palletized Load System (EPLS). The bridge itself is an aluminium welded structure consisting of two halves coupled together at the centre. It is lightweight, corrosion resistant, torsionally flexible and strong enough to support MLC (Military Load Class) 40 wheeled and tracked vehicles under normal crossing conditions. It can also support up to MLC 50 wheeled vehicles under a caution crossing.



Gerard Grieve RNZE



In June 1964, Korean War veteran Gerard Grieve was one of the first Kiwi sappers to arrive in Vietnam with the New Zealand Army Detachment (NEWZAD).

Part of 25-strong contingent of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers, Grieve spent nine months in Vietnam before replacements arrived in March 1965. He took exception to the non-combatant label applied to members of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers serving in Vietnam:



We were pretty well armed for non-combatants. They gave each of us 300 rounds of ammunition and six grenades. I had two weapons, one for night and one for day. We had flak jackets and steel helmets as well. Nev-

Grieve travelled to Vietnam with fellow sapper Mike Oliver. Oliver recalls the first NEWZAD contingent departing New Zealand for Saigon without fuss or fanfare. He was under no illusions about the Kiwi sappers' role in those early days of New Zealand's involvement in the Vietnam War:

We were there as the showpiece for New Zealand representation, assisting the Americans or the South Vietnamese. It was a show of force, a token gesture by the New Zealand government towards the war .



At the Decade 1965 to 1974 Do held at the RSA Taupo Sat 27 Feb 2016 only three of us were there. John 'Dutchy' Visser, Lindsay Ward and myself. The three of us talked for about two and a half hours then dispersed. Whilst the turnout was disappointing, at least all three of us were from the target group. We re-told old stories and clarified other old stories from our era. So the atmosphere I have been looking for was there. If there were 10 of us I think we would have stayed all night. The food was \$15 and bar tab \$23.

When I stepped up as President in October I had hoped that I would have been ringing around my era by November. But with no nominal roll to work from I couldn't even email them.

The Decade 1995-04 Do is going to be harder. Generally we haven't a clue where most of these young guys are or how to contact them. Facebook is apparently the way to go. But if we don't make the effort to find the young Sappers, there is not much future for the Sappers Association. Rowan McKeany has put it out on his network. And I've been talking to Lyall Mooney about finding them as well.

With warm sunny days and balmy conditions, few could complain about what greeted ammunition technicians on Exercise Safe Step 2016. Safe Step is an annual blinds clearance activity in the Waiouru Military Training Area, and this year it involved about 20 ammo techs from Defence Ammunition Depot Waiouru (DAD Wai), and 2CSSB, with two medics in support. The objective was simple: locate and destroy blinds, with the main areas of focus this year being the eastern shores of Lake Moawhango, the impact area of the Anti Armour Range and reported blinds within Zone 20. A number of the new soldiers had just completed their basic ammo tech trade courses and were keen to locate, identify and destroy the blinds. The impact area of the Anti-Armour range contains a large number of blinds, in particular 40mm HE grenades. Due to their relatively small size, 40mm HE blinds are easily concealed by vegetation and tussock. They use a variety of fuses, including some very sensitive internal impact fusing systems, making them extremely dangerous and able to explode if moved or handled.

"The number of 40mm HE blinds that we encountered at the anti-armour range was a real eye opener for me. On one occasion there were half a dozen blinds within a metre of each other – we had to really watch our step!" said one of the junior ammo techs, Private Troy Kenny. Other blinds of interest that were encountered include historical munitions like the 25 pounder and 76mm projectiles. The projectile 25 pounder was last fired in New Zealand sometime in the late-1970s and came in HE, solid shot and smoke natures. The 76mm projectiles were last fired by the Scorpion light tank in the late-1990s. Day one had a team clearing the northern shores of Lake Moawhango, a team at the Anti-Armour Range, and a team at zone 20 clearing reported blinds including two 155mm HE blinds. On day two, a team remained at the Anti Armour range and another team clearing the Eastern shores of Lake Moawhango. The final day had a team at the Anti Armour range and a team at zone 20 searching and destroying more known reported blinds in zone 20. A total of 92 blinds were located and destroyed during the course of the exercise along with numerous other items that were inert and removed from the location.

Up and Coming Events

Decade Do,s

23 July Decade 1975-84 Taupo RSA 1700hrs

7 Dec Decade 1955- 64 Taupo RSA 1700hrs

Decade 1975-84 Picton or Wellington 2019

National RNZE Reunion

March 2018 probably in Palmerston North

Fiery,s Reunion 2017

Christchurch Date yet to be confirmed

3 Branch Christchurch Papanui RSA

12 August Friday Night Get together

15 October Saturday Sappers Day Dinner
at Papanui RSA

09 December Friday Night Get together

Sappers Association Skype AGM

26 March 2017 via Skype 1330hrs

Commemorating 50th Anniversary of Viet Nam War

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Viet Nam War. The New Zealand Government has planned two sets of commemorative activities—in Wellington and Canberra. These will be held on 18 August 2016, which is Vietnam Veterans' Day and 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

Wellington

Full commemorative service will be held at Michael Fowler Centre, preceded by a short wreath-laying ceremony at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

Email commemorations@nzdf.mil.nz to register your (and accompanying persons') interest in attending the Michael Fowler Centre service:

all Viet Nam veterans, their families, and members of the public are welcome to attend

transport isn't provided as part of registration—all transport must be arranged by attendees.

Attendance at the wreath-laying ceremony will be by invitation, although members of the public are invited to observe.





Sappers Last Post

2015 Joyce Rutherford: wife of Ken Rutherford

2015 Arthur Burton: Australia

2015 Noel Clark

2014 Kenneth Stenson

2014 Richard Nix

2013 Rob Dickie

2013 Ted Hobman

2013 Eric James

2013 Laurie Cosford

2013 Gil Laing

2012 Don Rolle

2012 Ray Woolford

2011 Harry Musk

2011 Errol Kettle

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.

While honouring the past is an important part of who we are, we're also focused firmly on the present. Support is at the heart of what we do. The National Office is responsible for helping local RSAs with the great work they do, from classic kiwi hospitality, to support for our past and present servicemen and women including the NZ Police, and their dependents. This can be anything from financial assistance and advocacy to creating support networks with other RSA members who have had similar experiences.

We take pride in representing our current and ex-service personnel nationally, as well as internationally, and fostering a positive relationship with other organisations in the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League. There is also a number of other ex-service associations in New Zealand which are affiliated to the RSA.

The last word for this News letter is mine

This being my first attempt of publishing a newsletter for the Association I hope you have enjoyed the limited content this time. I hope that with more input from you serving and ex sappers I can improve and increase the quality and content of the future publications.



July-Nov-Feb-May.

But I need small interesting articles and photos that maybe of interest to both serving and ex sappers.

I also desperately need to update the mailing list of sappers so the Newsletter gets to as many of us as possible

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

Hopefully the next Newsletter will have articles from the current Squadrons, Regiment and Association Branches of the RNZE

Comments about the Newsletter Welcomed.

Owen Phillips {gummy]

Editor Sappers Newsletter

rnzesapper@gmail.com