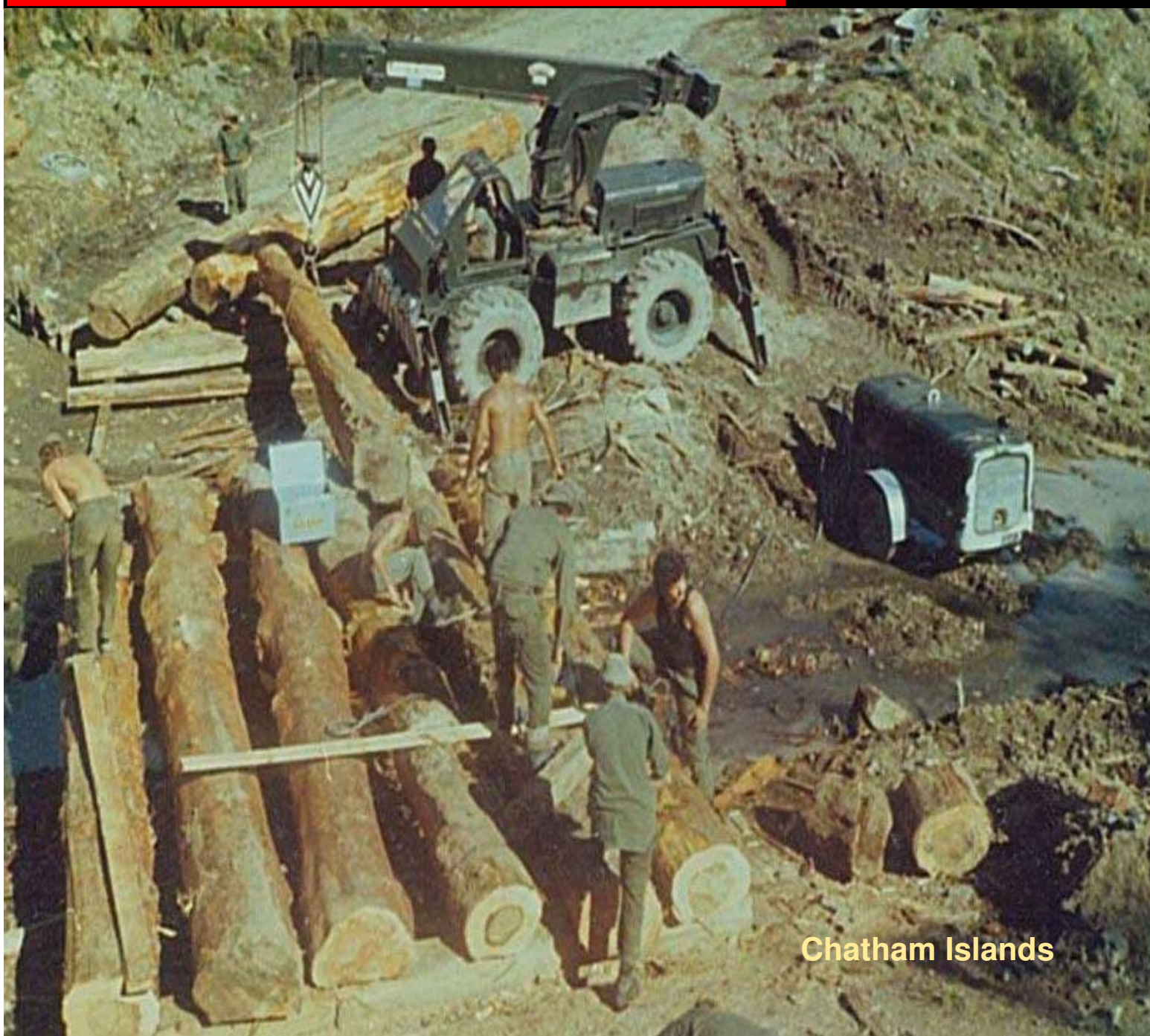


# RNZE SAPPERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 197 Nov 2017



Chatham Islands

## Vail Hubner President NZ Sappers Association.



*If you have ever been a serving sapper affiliated to the Corps of the Royal New Zealand Engineers then you can become a member of the Sappers Association (NZ) Inc. All you need to do to become a member is to register your name, rank, regimental number and all other relevant details on the downloadable form*

### Members of the Sappers Association can and do:

- Network with many serving and retired Sappers, both from the regular (RF) and territorial (TF) force, plus others from kindred associations overseas;
- Attend regular unit and Corps anniversaries, formal and informal gatherings, reunions, and a wide range of social and sporting events;
- Support Corps sport tournaments undertaken by the RNZE serving Sappers;
- Keep alive the esprit d' corps and comradeship of the Sappers throughout New Zealand and overseas;
- Assist the scholarship bursary and awards processes and prizes;
- Receive three newsletters each year (see further below);
- Participate and support local branch activities;
- Maintain links with fellow Sappers throughout New Zealand and overseas;
- Support the Engineer Corps Memorial Centre (ECMC - Library and Museum) at Linton Camp;
- Expand and grow the Association for the benefit of future members;
- Assist with advocacy and support welfare assistance for the benefit of all members of the Association; and
- Be part of a distinguished and proud RNZE history.

### Newsletters:

Members of the Sappers Association receive our highly popular newsletter that keeps our members current with:

- Reunions, Anniversary's and other formal Association gatherings
- Up to date information on "Sapper happenings" globally
- Local branch meetings, parades and other information

## What's on and Where

### Decade 1975-84

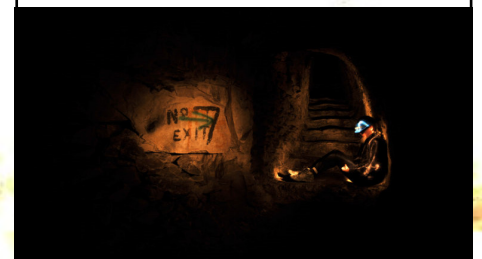
Picton or Wellington 2019

### National RNZE Reunion

15th—17th June 2018  
In Petone Wellington

**Going Underground, an exhibition commemorating the tunnellers of WWI, has now opened at the National Army Museum.** Brett Killington's series of uniquely captured photographs provide a poignant insight into the underground city of tunnels at Arras, the site of a significant and bloody battle 100 years ago.

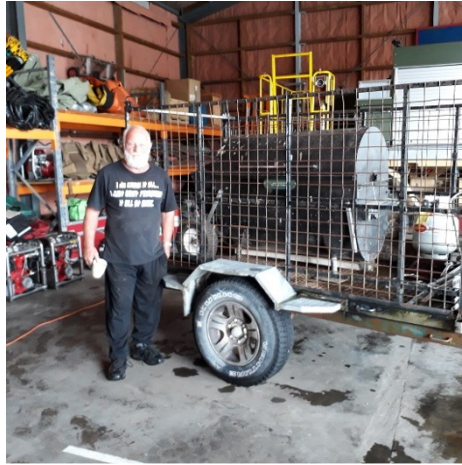
The New Zealand Tunnelling Company based at Arras created this tunnel system to help Allied soldiers get closer to the enemy from existing sixteenth century quarries. Killington has followed in the footsteps of the NZ tunnellers, documenting the surviving evidence which tells the story of the men who built, lived and died there during WWI.







## Roll Call 2017 Burnham MC





# Sappers Day 2017



## Papanui RSA Christchurch



## Linton Palmerston North







**Expenditure/Funding Priority for Q3-4 of 2017.** No major change to those priorities adjusted and set at the last Trust Board meeting held on 18 May 17. The following priority order action is still recommended:

- a. **RNZE Corps History Project, Stage 4.** We are monitoring funding requirements closely to complete Stage 4, to ensure that we can survive on the current funding available for this project. There is a likely shortfall now of \$30k, mainly to support publishing the book;
- b. **Heritage Book and documentation digitisation** is under way by Craig Manning, as our “preferred contractor/supplier”. A proposal will be submitted to ECCT for Stage 2 funding (possibly \$8-10,000), once Stage 1 is nearing completion and performance metrics are confirmed;
- c. ICR&T Stage 3 remainder comprising **bar code (or QR code) printer, reader and system** (>\$3,500) for the ECMC library and “collection” inventory (Mainland Foundation or Southern Trust), once details have been provided by Advantage Computers Ltd;
- d. Investigate **interactive electronic display equipment and systems** for the ECMC museum displays, using Advantage Computers for advice (possibly Mainland Foundation or Southern Trust);
- e. Further development and population of RNZE CT/ECMC sub-sections on the **Sappers web-site** still awaited as Stage 2, with 2ER and SME pages, as well as improving the Sappers Association section and linking to social media. Marker Studios in Auckland has been selected as the “preferred contractor” to build the new and improved Sappers website, but a further progress report is awaited from the Sprs Assn Exec;
- f. **Remaining signage**, including internal signage for display cabinets (>\$2,000), once refreshment/refurbishment of cabinets has been completed;
- g. Explore **staffing assistance** for ECMC (>\$10,000) later; and
- h. Review all at next meeting on 16 Nov 17.

**Updated Project Progress Summary:** Peter Cooke has been working on his **first draft**, refining text and reducing the word count towards the target of 150,000 words. Both Glyn Harper and Ian McGibbon have reviewed the draft and provided written feedback. Copies of the draft have also been sent to the **Corps History Advisory Group**, as well as Paul Hayward for review. Clas Chamberlain has already submitted amendments to Peter and the writer is in the process of completing his review. Further and **additional information** has been provided by HQ NZDF (based on submissions made by CO 2ER), as well as Don Jones. CO 2ER has also arranged for other senior Corps officers, both serving and retired, to provide specific information to Peter to answer issues relating to the lack of primary source material on RNZE activity over the past 20+ years. There is still concern about the limitation of information and primary source for Chapters 9 and 10 of the draft covering the period from the 1990s onwards. Intention is still to complete the **second revised draft manuscript by the end of Aug 17**, ready for presentation to a selected publisher in Sep 17. Heritage and graphic material is expected to be provided from the ECMC collection. Anticipate **publish and release in Jun 18**, although this might be too tight for a publisher. If a mid-2018 release cannot be achieved, then perhaps Sappers Day (15 Oct) 2018 as a deadline, although a token launch could still be undertaken at the time of the RNZE Reunion 15-17 Jun 18, followed by the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 2 ER on 1 Jul 18 and other related activities.



The writer has commenced discussions over **potential publishers** and has met with both Peter and Glyn Harper to confirm a shortlist and action. A **book proposal** has been drafted and is in circulation for final adoption. Enquiries have commenced with Massey University Press (MUP – Nicola Legat), the preferred publisher. Other publishers on the shortlist in order of preference include Random House (Penguin – Auckland), Harper Collins (Auckland), Steele Roberts (Wellington) and Allan & Unwin (Auckland). It is intended to circulate the book proposal by mid-Aug and seek responses by mid-Sep at the latest. Then make a final selection and **commission a publisher in late Sep**, when sample texts and a final draft manuscript will be available. Both Dr Ian McGibbon and Prof Glyn Harper have agreed to provide prologues for the book. We still need to arrange contributions from the Col in Chief, Regt Col RNZE, Col Comdt RNZE and CA/CDF, as well. RNZE CT Chair (CHP Project Manager) will need to have an entry, to particularly recognise all the contributors, sponsors and supporters of the project. Peter made a **visit to the ECMC in early Jul 17**, when he attended the Corps Conference and formal dinner. He plans to make a further visit during Ex UBIQUE in late Aug 17 and has submitted his **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (2017) progress report**;

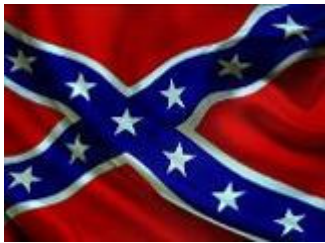
We have **expended \$169,687** on the project to date, out of the **\$180,117 funds raised**, leaving a balance of \$10,430 to complete Stage 4. In fact, we currently have a total project **residual of \$17,347** (in our '03' and '15' accounts), plus further residual funds (>\$4,000) in our '00' account. The latter balance being from other various contributions comprising donations and visits, etc, within the past 6-12 months.

At the current rate of current expenditure and with funds in hand, we will have sufficient to continue paying Peter Cooke up to and including Aug 17. This would cover his agreed contract for 2 years (from Jan 14 to Dec 16 and within our contractual requirements), plus an additional 8 months of extra time, to conclude at the delivery of the final draft manuscript in Sep 17. There will also be \$10,000 plus the minor residual amount available to commence a seeding fund for publication, with the potential of seeking additional funding from a DIA/LGB grant.

The total **project cost is still forecasted as \$210,000** (reduced from \$220,000) and the current budget shortfall remains at \$30,000. Despite repeated requests, **Opus International Consultants** has not come forward with any support, either financially or otherwise. I have contact with the GM Infrastructure Services - Lower North Island for **Downer** and intend to approach him to see if they are interested in supporting us. CO 2ER is still making approaches to several other major contracting organisations including **Fulton Hogan and Kiwi Rail, as well as Downer** with which the RNZE is associated, to see if they can join as sponsors

Visitor statistics for 2017 to the ECMC as at 3 Aug 17, are 732 (556 at the same time last year, with another 55 visitors to follow on 15 and 23 May, a total of 1,008 for 2016, 968 in 2015 and 915 in 2014) and a total of 4,309 since records commenced in early 2013. As word spreads from previous visits, we are becoming a popular site for Probus, Rebus and other community groups to visit. We have increased the "koha" to \$5 per head for these group visits, as a means of raising funds for the RNZE CT and related projects. Groups to date have been very impressed with the ECMC and don't mind paying the increased amount





The 3<sup>rd</sup> RNZE BRANCH  
SAPPERS ASSOCIATION (Inc.) NZ

**OFFICE HOLDERS ARE:**

**Chairman** Bernie Rose 03 3131569

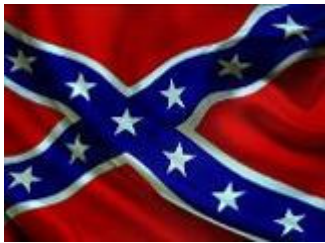
**Vice-chairman:** Eric Elley 03 3107385

**Secretary:** Colin Walsh 03 3423272

**Committee Members:** BJ Clark 03 3594522 John Fischer 03 3130305 George Jason Smith 03 3124844  
Brian McTurk 03 9818291 Owen Phillips 022 1949900 Norm Smith 03 3481562 Jack Blyth 03 3543199







### **3 Branch Get togethers**

These are informal gatherings which 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 below, Food is available, as are Drinks. Come along and see who turns up.

On the following months

08 August	Friday Night	Get together
15 October	Sunday Sappers Day, Raising of the Flag & Buffet. Papanui RSA	
08 December	Friday Night	Get together
09 February 18	Friday Night	Get together
13 April	Friday Night	Get together
08 June	Friday Night	Get together
10 August	Friday Night	Get together

**Mark these dates on your Calendars as a reminder.**

### **Sappers Day 2017**

This year we will celebrate at the Papanui RSA with the Flag Raising at 0930hrs followed by the normal wee spot & then a Buffet at around 1230hrs. We are once again being joined by the serving Sappers from Burnham. Come along & join in. Catch up with what the Sappers are doing today or may be tell some of the tales from past. The Cost will be \$35.00ea

### **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 04 July at the Papanui RSA at 1200hrs. If you have any enquires please ring me, Joyce Walsh Phone 3423272

Then on the following months

12 September 2017	Luncheon	14 November	Luncheon
09 January 2018	Luncheon	13 March	Luncheon
08 May	Luncheon	10 July	Luncheon



# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 'SAPPERS' DAY

Nearly 400 years of tradition lie behind Military Engineering. Military Engineering has been recorded as far back as 200 years BC, but it was not until the 11th century that the English Army, with the construction of catapults, battering rams and fortresses against siege and attack, saw the necessity of introducing engineers.

Carpenters, smiths and miners banded together in 1347, to assist the British Forces in winning the day at Calais. This was the first recorded operation of British Engineers. In the 17th Century they were generally accepted into the Army as a construction body, and in 1778 a Corps of Royal Engineers was formed. A Company of Royal Military Artificers in 1779 gave service in developing the Rock of Gibraltar, and carried out defensive work during the siege.

In a re-organisation in 1813 they were re-styled Royal Sappers and Miners. Captain Pasley considered by many as the father of the Royal Engineers began at Chatham regular field engineering courses before the Crimean War.

Military engineers have been called upon to do many things, and in 1912 an Air Battalion which had been formed, became the Royal Flying Corps and later the Royal Air Force. Royal Engineer Telegraph Companies were the foster parent of the Royal Corps of Signals.

In modern times the engineers are called upon, in times of war, to deal with mine warfare, bridging, roads and airfields, water supply, demolitions and field work. They must be able to construct accommodation and installations and provide a number of services.

The Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers traces its ancestry to the early days of colonization. In 1862 the Colonial Defence Force was formed and after a short life was reformed in 1867 as the Armed Constabulary. In the latter year a company of volunteer engineers supported a mixed column of 1st Waikato Militia and Arawas (friendly Maoris) against a hostile Maori force at Whakamarama.

During the 1870 - 1885 period engineer volunteers were active in the main centres. These volunteers were located at Auckland, Thames, Napier, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill.

In 1886 the Permanent Militia was created by the Defence Act which disbanded the Armed constabulary and separated the Police from the Military. It consisted of Garrison Artillery and a Torpedo and Engineering Corps. The engineers were mainly engaged on harbour defences and fortifications. On the 15th October 1902 His Majesty King Edward the 7th was graciously pleased to rename No1 and No2 Service Companies of the Permanent Militia as Royal NZ Artillery and Royal NZ Engineers respectively.

There were still engineer instructors in the forces but they were not known as RNZE. However, on the 12th July 1947, with the approval of His Majesty King George VI, the Governor General changed the designation of the wartime "NZE" to the Royal New Zealand Engineers, including all engineers both Regular and Territorial under one designation.





In 1939/40 at the commencement of World War II many companies (the present designation is Squadrons) were raised. These included, Railway operating, Forestry, Construction, Railway Construction Survey and Field Companies; and towards the end of the war an Assault Squadron NZ Sappers were to be found in almost all theatres. Their tasks were many and varied. Over 55 NZE units served during World War II.

In peace as in war the Sappers exist to enable the Army to live, move and fight. From the end of World War II to the present day Squadrons are situated near Auckland, Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch and are fully integrated Regular Force Territorial units. The School of Military Engineering is situated in Linton.

On 7th February 1959 the Corps was awarded the honour of being granted the Freedom of the Borough of Levin. History was made on that day for, although freedoms have been granted to several regiments of the NZ Military Forces, this was the first time that the honour had been granted to a Corps. This honour gives the Corps "The right and privilege without further permission being obtained of marching with drums beating, bands playing, bayonets fixed and swords drawn through the streets of the Borough of Levin". By the terms of the Charter, the Mayor and councillors and citizens accept the honour of viewing the Corps once a year for the purpose of an inspection by the Mayor of Levin and do hereby accept the further honour of having two officers of the Corps in uniform in attendance upon His Worship the Mayor on important official occasions.

From the 15th October 1902 to this day "Sapper Day" has been observed in some form or other, and is primarily intended as a day of celebration and accepted as the day when the Corps was born in New Zealand.



**Happy Birthday**  
**2 Engr Regt,**  
**RNZE.**  
**24 years young**

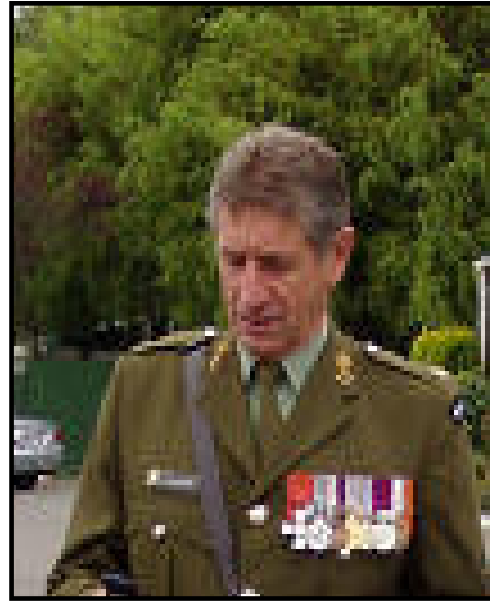


**Infantry may be the Queen of Battle, but Sappers make sure she doesn't get raped. Sappers Lead The Way!**



# Major M.A. (Mike) PETTERSEN. MNZM

1972—Joint NZ Army Rank Sapper 3Fd Sqn  
1973 - L/Cpl 3Fd Sqn  
1975 - Cpl SME  
1976 - Sgt SME Linton/Australia  
1981 - SSgt SME Linton  
1984 - WO2 3Fd Sqn SSM  
1986 - WO1 SME Linton  
1991 - Lt o/2 Linton  
1992 - Lt SME  
1993 - Capt SME  
1994 - A/Maj Engr Major MFO  
1996 - Capt SME  
2000 - A/Maj Engr Major MFO  
2002 - Capt 2 Eng Regt  
2003 - Maj Linton—Wellington & O/Seas Deployments  
2017 - Maj Linton OC LRSU (Camp Comdt)



Mike is also the recipient of the MNZM

2003 Captain Michael Allan **PETTERSEN** (E45797),  
The Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers

Expected Terminal Date 4 Feb 2020 (49 Years )

## Overseas Deployments

Malaya -  
RNZE Pronto

FIJI -  
Survival Cse

FE II Cse Australia

Long Look  
West Germany

SME Australia

Europe  
Umpire Ex Spearpoint

Ukraine - Afghanistan

Sinai MFO

UK-England  
UK -Scotland

Sinai MFO

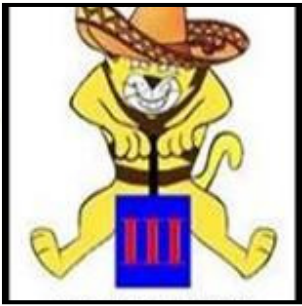
Quebeck CAN

Sri-Lanka  
Brisbane

Canada

Fort Hood TX  
USA





Lance Corporal Andrew Good from 3 Field Squadron recently competed in the Ultramarathon event in the Blue Mountains near Sydney. Ultra Trail Australia (UTA) attracts 10,000 competitors annually. An incredible undertaking, setting the bar high



Burnham 3 Field Sqn engineers working with **Downer NZ** this week installing bridges along SH1 near Kaikoura,





# Association Treasurer's Report



## BNZ Investments

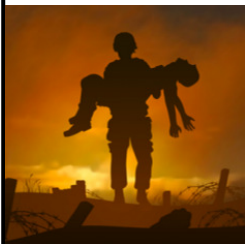
<u>Certificate Number</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Mature</u>	<u>Months</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Balance</u>
57617561-03010	03-09-17	03-10-17	1.00	0.75%	\$ 3,438.55
57617561-03005	08-12-16	08-12-18	9.00	3.40%	\$ 11,251.48
57617561-03007	08-06-17	08-06-19	24.00	4.43%	\$ 8,431.57
57617561-03008	08-01-16	08-06-18	18.00	3.40%	\$ 7,500.00
57617561-03009	08-06-16	08-06-18	24.00	3.45%	\$ 7,500.00
<b>Total</b>					\$ 38,121.60

## Branch Balances \$ - \$ -

Reunion	165.95	as of 30 September
Northern branch	9554.49	as of 31 August
3rd RNZE Christchurch branch	1582.25	as of 31 August
Dunedin branch	225.35	as of 31 August
Wellington branch	487.51	as of 30 September
Army Fire Service branch	3071.41	as of 31 August
Eftpos a/c	\$ 300.19	as of 31 August
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ - \$ 15,387.15</b>	

<b>Totals</b>	\$ -
Exec	\$ 9,851.80
Invest	\$ 38,121.60
Branches	\$ 15,387.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 63,360.55</b>

Prior Balance (31/08/17)  
\$ 63,112.96



## IF YOU NEED TO TALK OR HELP



If you need to talk to someone here is free helplines operating 24/7: NZDF 24/7 HELPLINE: 0800 NZDF 4U (0800 693 348 or 0800 189 910)  
Veterans Affairs NZ: 0800 483 8372 (0800 4 VETERAN)  
VITAE ( NZDF Civilians): 0508 664 981  
NODUFF (Volunteer Veterans NGO): 022 307 1557 (noduff.ngo@gmail.com)  
RSA: 027 217 2608  
DEPRESSION HELPLINE: 0800 111 757  
LIFELINE: 0800 543 354



## **Lt Col Terry McDonald CO of 2nd Engineer Regiment**

Greetings Sappers,

I cannot believe that another quarter has passed so quickly, our collective and combined arms training period has meant that we have been keep pretty busy across the Corps with a number of significant events occurring.

The last quarter has seen a number of our members deployed to IRAQ, TROY (Middle East), SUDDEN (South Sudan) and FARAD (Sinai) as well as preparing to deploy to IRAQ and FARAD as part of the standing rotation cycle. We have just deployed personnel to ANTARTICA as part of the standing commitment while our recon for the Light Engineer Team (LET) is preparing to leave in the next few weeks. We have also had a successful overseas exercise and training period with the team deploying on EX TALISMAN SABBRE 17 doing great work with 3 CER, recons undertaken to VANUATU in anticipation of EX TROPIC TWILIGHT 18 and training evolutions such as the Dog Handler training in HAWAII.

Back home in New Zealand training has been varied. We had broad participation in Corps Sports, it was another successful competition and the programme with the Barbarians provided some real challenges and depth to the competition. The success of this model will likely see it be adopted again next year. The balance of the training centred around the reinvigoration of EX UBIQUE 17, which provided a Regiment planned and evaluated deployment of a Composite sub-unit. The exercise went through a full mobilisation, short field exercise in both SANTOFT FOREST and WAIOURU before redeploying to LINTON and undertaking a deliberate refurbishment. From the perspective of getting the Engineer capability bricks fielded and to understand where we are with conventional operations the activity was a success. It was great to be able to get around the exercise to see most people and get us 'certified' to a level, we now know our focus areas for the coming training calendar. We have also undertaken a number of other sub unit training events, one of which was the support to Downer NZ, one of our key partners such as Downer NZ, building a bailey bridge in the South Island, there are more opportunities like this that will be coming up.

The Regiment is now gearing up to support multiple events / activities across the country. The primary support task is being led by 3 Fd Sqn on EX SOUTHERN KATIPO 17 which will see engineers moving back into KAIKOURA and across to WESTPORT in support of manoeuvre elements. 25 ESS has just concluded EX RANGITIRATANGA, a leadership development activity as it also commences MILCON 2 CY 2017 which is completing a number of planned maintenance tasks in LINTON and WAIOURU, supporting a social housing project in PALMERSTON NORTH as well as conducting recon tasks in support of MILCON early in the new year, in particular for the Department of Conservation. 2 Fd Sqn has a number of support tasks to Combat School (EX PHANTOM MAJOR) and Army Command School (EX SANTICI) as well as undertaking some of its own training, including Army Reserve training.

As I am sure you are aware the Corps Rugby team did extremely well during the Inter Corps Rugby Competition, winning the tournament overall and the George Skudder Cup. A number of our players were also selected for both Army and Defence Rugby. Congratulations to the team and everyone involved, it was great to see and you represented us well!



Other things that you need to be aware of:

1. The **Trade Models** that were mentioned in the last update have now been approved through Army governance. This has been the result of efforts from across the Corps and has set us up well for the future. We will continue with work on reviewing the Army Reserve Model for both soldiers and officers to provide a greater level of transparency and fidelity to our team.

2. **Sappers Day 2017** - We are preparing for Sappers Day 2017, which falls on a Sunday this year. We are planning to have a formal component at the 2 Engineer Regiment lines at 1000, recognising individual service with the presentation of medals followed by a family day event that will conclude at 1500. There will be static displays, events for the kids and a chance to show those who support us some of the equipment and capabilities that we use. Please spread the word and we look forward to seeing you there!

3. **FLOC 35** - The Chief of Army recently release the Future Land Operating Concept (FLOC) 2035. As a result of this each of the Corps has been tasked to review what changes to the land operating model / environment / concept will impact them and how to mitigate. I am expecting there will be a change in the primary tasks of the Army Reserve elements to focus on some subtly different areas, however I can expand more on this later. There are a number of points that have come out of the review, some of them are:

- a. The increasing requirement for Sappers to meet a broader range of tasks supporting more dispersed groups.
  - b. The impact that Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) will have on our operations, the ones we are operating, random ones as well as those of an adversary.
  - c. The increase in complexity in tasks, as well as New Zealand legislative requirements is driving a re-think of how we allocate tasks, in particular to our Reserve Forces.
  - d. Engineers will need to look at a deployable crash rescue capability to meet future capability procurement for Army, in particular the Protected Mobility programme.
  - e. Sappers may need to step into the CIMIC role.
  - f. Traditional tasks that have been dormant for the last 15 years of conflict will need to be reinvigorated due to the changing environment, e.g. the impact of RPAS will force a reinvestment in time, money and people into camouflage and concealment training / equipment.
4. The Private Public Partnership with **Downer NZ** continues to develop and I am expecting to see more Plant Operators out working with them in the near future. Further, we are exploring opportunities for more bridge work, particularly the bailey bridge as they do live tasks in the South Island. It is also noteworthy that we managed to get one of their General Managers away with the 2 Engineer Regiment Command Experiential Leadership Development Activity (ELDA). This is the first time we have managed to get an ELDA completed in recent memory and to get a senior member of Downer NZ away with us was a significant value add. It could be fair to say he was far more competent at Alpine Touring than us, largely to do with his ability to ski!

There are a few more key points that I believe we should celebrate, in no particular order:

1. MAJ Jono Meldrum with the announcement of his Defence Meritorious Service Medal being awarded as a result of actions in South Sudan.
2. LCPL Lloyd, 25 ESS - Congratulations for winning the Number 8 Wire innovation award at the NZ Army Innovation Awards 2017.
3. LCPL Shaun Taylor who won the TRADOC Joint Junior Leader Award.
4. LCPL Cornwall and Yardley as well as LCPL Tawhara and Xia who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively at the National Explosive Detector Dog Trials results.
5. LCPL Cornwall representing the Corps at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire Arms and Explosives, Home Made Explosives imprinting and national testing that was organised by the 728<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion at Schofield Bks Hawaii in early August.
6. SPR Todd Hamilton for selection in the NZ Team for the World Skills International competition in ABU DHABI.
7. CPL Grant and SPR Goomes for selection to represent NZ Army in the Passchendaele Commemorations in Belgium.

As the Corps looks ahead we are currently preparing for the OP ANTARTICA recon deploying ahead of the LET, we are preparing for the Sappers Day celebration (including family day) with more details to follow from the RSM in due course. We are also moving into a busy individual training period balanced against the collective training events, with courses such as the RNZE LT-CAPT Course and BASIC Plant continuing as well as being ready to receive the international staff for the Pacific Island Country Plant Training. We are also looking forward to marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first operational use of the Bailey Bridge on 29 November this year. This will be done in concert with Downer NZ, the plan is still being developed as to what this may look like, and there will be more information coming in due course.

As always, we are spread across New Zealand and the globe delivering engineering solutions – that this spread is going to increase in the next few months is only to be expected and part of our normal battle rhythm. It will be impacting our families and us as individuals. I encourage you all to make the most of the time you have to take leave when you can and get your leave balances down. Also, I am watching with interest the hurricane season in the Caribbean and southern states of the US realising that our season may well be busy as well, we need to ensure we are ready if and when the call comes.

Keep up the good work!

I Nga Wahi Katoa

**Lieutenant Colonel Terry McDonald**

Commanding Officer, 2 Engineer Regiment / RNZE Regimental Colonel



# Row over Kiwis sent to unpopular Vietnam War 50 years ago

Exactly two years after Kiwis fired their first shots in the Vietnam War, Prime Minister Keith Holyoake told the *Herald* there had been no request to increase New Zealand's troop numbers.

The next day - 50 years ago today - the paper said Holyoake "was adamant that New Zealand has no present plans to increase its military commitment in South Vietnam".

Herald story on Prime Minister Keith Holyoake's July 1967 assurance there were no plans to increase troop numbers in Vietnam. Source / Herald archives

Three months later, he announced an increase in New Zealand's "V-Force" from 376 to 546 men, after a request from South Vietnam.

"The Government now believes that the demands of the Vietnam situation require a further effort of us," Holyoake said.

Back in 1967, as remains today, sending troops to war was sensitive and controversial. For months, the *Herald* had been awash with debate about the possibility of an increase.

The *Herald* calculated that the increase to 546 would bring New Zealand's military involvement to .025 per cent of the population; Australia's planned increase to 8000 would mean .066 per cent of its population was involved.

The National Council of Churches opposed a troop increase and thousands of people marched in protest against the war.

In Auckland, a police inspector was pushed over a cliff when protesters and police fought a "pitched battle" in Paritai Drive outside the home of the American consul. The senior officer halted his slide, but suffered a cut head and felt dazed.

Herald story in October 1967 on the Vietnam troop increase announcement. Source / Herald archives  
Herald story on an anti-Vietnam War protest. Source / Herald archives

New Zealand's first shots in the Vietnam War, also called the Second Indo-China War or the American War, according to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage's [nzhistory.govt.nz](http://nzhistory.govt.nz) site, were artillery shells fired on July 16, 1965 near Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City).

In May of that year, Holyoake had announced New Zealand would send a combat unit to join the United States-led coalition. Before then, the New Zealand contribution consisted of reconstruction projects and a civilian surgical team treating civilian war casualties.

More than 3000 New Zealand military and civilian personnel served in Vietnam between 1963 and 1975. Thirty-seven men on active service died and 187 were wounded. Two civilians with the surgical and Red Cross teams also lost their lives.

In 2008, the Government made a formal apology to Vietnam War veterans. Prime Minister Helen Clark acknowledged they were not treated fairly on returning home from the largely unpopular war. In 2007, a \$30 million package was announced with the aim of compensating veterans and their families affected by Agent Orange and other chemicals used in the war.

A Returned and Services Association national vice-president, Bob Hill, who served in Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam, said the apology "did mean a lot to the guys".

"We came in [back to New Zealand] in the middle of the night. They didn't want you in uniform and we went straight on leave.

"I never felt any backlash, unlike a lot of others who did."

Tiny Hill, who was a corporal in warrant officer class 1, said of his soldiers it was exciting to go

He had some close calls but got

"We had quite a few from our even had the Australians mortar



Vietnam and later rose to be a time there: "As young professional there. We were going to do a job." through without being wounded. company who were wounded. We us. That was exciting."



A Young Mac Allister, Colin Walsh and Norm Smith in Vietnam



# Tekapo Military Camp



In the winter of 1968 a fire burnt down several buildings at the camp



Shit it was either to HOT or to COLD every time one had to go there on exercise or spend time on Camp maintenance and Annual Camps

## Trip Down Memory Lane

Tekapo Military Training Area is a field training, firing and manoeuvre area for South Island-based units of the New Zealand Army, Royal New Zealand Air Force and foreign militaries. The 1700 ha of undulating terrain sits 800-1100m above sea level and includes some ecologically sensitive and protected natural areas.

Tekapo Military Training Area remains an important site for initial field training, battle handling exercises and preparation for deployment to operations.

Plans for the Tekapo training area include training area communications, due to begin in 2017 and completed around 2019.

From around 2023, extensions to light vehicle tracks, range developments and upgrades to camp communications are planned and earmarked for completion in 2025.

In-camp accommodation and messing facilities will also be improved.



# Moscow Embassy Refurbishing



The Ombudsman will investigate a case involving a retired army engineer whose Cold War-era files were apparently destroyed by the New Zealand Defence Force.

Royal New Zealand engineer Ian Stobie was among a deployment seconded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sent to Moscow to work on refurbishing the New Zealand embassy near Gorky Park in the late 1970s - on the eve of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

Stobie, who lives in Australia, has previously said he was [drugged and interrogated by the KGB](#) while in a Moscow hospital with acute appendicitis in February 1980.

Stobie sought information from the New Zealand Defence Force and the ministry about his deployment, asking for documents relating to the stand-

ard operating procedures (SOPs) for medical treatment at the time, security changes following [a diplomatic incident](#) when a Kiwi was targeted by the KGB, and other documents relating to the security of Kiwi personnel in Moscow.

In April, the defence force replied saying files "which may have been of potential relevance" had been [destroyed](#).

Stobie said New Zealanders in Moscow were "placed in harm's way from day one" as they were in the Soviet Union at the height of Cold War tensions.

"This is quite unprecedented. I asked for the SOPs and to say they destroyed those, that never happens. SOPs do not get destroyed. There are always records kept."

Stobie wants timeline details of a Commonwealth medical scheme run by the British authorities and Kiwi medical SOPs. Documents say embassy staff were covered by this scheme - which enabled the head of the mission to approve medical treatment or med-evac to London or Helsinki - for some of the deployment but Ministry of Defence personnel were covered by an in-house scheme.

However, Stobie said he does not believe the scheme covered any New Zealanders on deployment in Moscow and this was the reason he was admitted to a Soviet hospital instead of being medically evacuated.

"So therefore I was never going to be evacuated because we didn't belong to the scheme, so that's why I ended up in a Soviet hospital.

"It was penny pinching. We were told from day one that we'd be evacuated to Helsinki or London.

"I'm hoping for proof they put me in harm's way with their penny pinching. From day one we were in harm's way."



When Stobie fell ill with acute appendicitis in February 1980, he was admitted to a Soviet hospital, Kropotkinskaya.

"I awoke after the operation in a normal ward. I was moved to a smaller room and, not long after this, two men entered my room, grabbing me by the left shoulder and forearm.

"I was injected ... I still have nightmares after being done over by the KGB in that Moscow hospital," he [told](#) the *Dominion Post* in 2013.

He asked MFAT for more information but said he didn't get a satisfactory response and filed a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman, which has agreed to investigate the OIA response.

Stobie asked for details of the standard operating procedures for defence force personnel seconded to the MFAT engineering section in Moscow in 1978, specifically any documents referring to the SOP for medical treatment and medical emergencies for civilian and military embassy staff.

He also sought documents relating to any changes to the SOP and security documents after a diplomatic incident with [Ian Clark](#), a Kiwi who was targeted by the KGB.

MFAT material sent to Stobie contains documents from the Cold War deployment relating to diplomatic passports, overseas travel administration, staff records and policy documents.

Documents say Stobie was struck with acute appendicitis and treated in a Moscow hospital, where he claims he was drugged or "chemically interrogated".

Stuff asked the New Zealand Defence Force and the ministry why Stobie was treated in a Soviet hospital, why he was not evacuated, and whether he was covered by the Commonwealth scheme.

A spokesman said the engineer's condition was considered to be acute and there was "insufficient time to get him to Helsinki or to London".

"The NZDF is not aware of any evidence that he was drugged or interrogated by the KGB. The OIA responses have been completed to the best of our ability."

Not all files from the era were retained and some were likely to have been destroyed, the spokesman said.

"The OIA responses were based upon thorough searches of material held by the New Zealand Defence Force, including Mr Stobie's personal and medical files."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said its documents show Stobie was covered by the Commonwealth scheme.

"We have a large range of files relating to this period and have provided about 70 pages to Mr Stobie that relate to him, as well as directing him to specific documentation held by Archives New Zealand.

"The Ministry has in place a record retention and destruction policy that enables some files to be destroyed, in accordance to the Public Records Act 2005.

"These files are generally seen as low-level administration documents or having no ongoing significance as a public record.

"A schedule of files earmarked for destruction is made public on the Archives New Zealand website."

Stobie, asked for his response to the replies from the departments, said it was "bulls---" and there was time for him to be medically evacuated.

"I was taken to an American doctor mid-morning and they suspected it was appendicitis. It wasn't until I started vomiting early that evening that I was admitted."

One document released to Stobie is a 1973 letter to the prime minister from secretary of foreign affairs Frank Corner, who wrote to recommend the posting of 24-hour guards at the Moscow embassy.

"It is a fact of Soviet life that all missions, not only those of the major Western powers, are targets of the KGB ... Tunnels have been discovered under the British embassy; the Canadians actually moved their strong room off the ground floor to escape interference; grills over windows in the Australian embassy have been sawn through; tiny radio microphones have been discovered in clothing and in articles of furniture used in the secure area.

"It is accepted that all hotel rooms and diplomats' apartments and many embassy cars are bugged ... The ingenuity and persistence of the Russians are boundless."

Stobie was twice deployed to Moscow before returning to New Zealand and leaving the army in 1984 when he was a Lance Corporal.

He does not receive a New Zealand war pension because deployment during the Cold War does not meet the criteria of an emergency or war.



The Cold War enemies were so suspicious of each other that Kiwi army sappers were deployed to check whether the embassy was free of Russian bugs.

Sensitive topics were rarely, if ever, discussed in the building. Staff went outside to talk.

A bugging device was discovered behind a vent in the embassy dining room after the building was cleared. It is in a secret museum in Wellington holding sensitive SIS mementos.

Jim Weir former NZ Ambassador Russia





**The following is the citation for Spr Wiki Kahika**

**Mention in Despatches (m.i.d.)  
Wiki Kahika 572333. Sapper.  
Royal NZ Engineers  
Victor Three Company**

NZ Gazette Number 13 dated 6 March 1969  
Citation

Sapper Kahika enlisted in the New Zealand Regular Force on 6th January 1965 and was subsequently seconded for duty with the Assault Pioneer Platoon of 1st Battalion, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment which he joined in Malaysia in November 1967.

On 13th May 1968 Sapper Kahika arrived in South Vietnam as a member of the Assault Pioneer Section which was attached to Victor Three Company of 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment/New Zealand (ANZAC) Bn.

On 22nd June 1968

Sapper Kahika was part of a nine man patrol which was engaged with an enemy company of about seventy to eighty strong. The enemy opened fire on the patrol at about ten metres range and wounded five men. During the initial exchange of fire one of the riflemen was severely wounded and remained lying unconscious only five metres from the nearest enemy entrenchments. Whilst armed helicopters were engaging the enemy, the second in command of the patrol (LCpl Ropeta) directed Sapper Kahika to move forward and recover the wounded rifleman whilst he provided covering fire. Sapper Kahika unhesitatingly ran forward over ten metres of exposed ground, lifted the wounded man and carried him to cover. He then continued to participate in the action which lasted for one hour and forty minutes.

Later, when a relief force had arrived and the wounded had been evacuated, he requested to be allowed to remain and help with the search of the area. He took part in the subsequent search of the enemy company defensive position and personally investigated two of the tunnel systems found there.

His competence, quickness and, above all, bravery in recovering the wounded rifleman was an example and inspiration to the remainder of the patrol. In remaining after the action to give his specialised knowledge to the search he showed a commendable endurance, toughness of character and devotion to duty.

## VA widens date range for deployments to Kosovo and Cambodia

Veterans' Affairs (VA) has updated the recognised service dates for deployments to Cambodia and Kosovo.

If you served as part of either of these missions, you may be eligible for the treatment of conditions arising from that service under the veterans Support Act 2014.

- The new term of service as part of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) mission in Cambodia is now **1/2/1992 to 30/9/1993**.

- The new term of service as part of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) mission to Kosovo **1/1/2002 to 31/12/2002**.

The changes were made as the previous identified "did not align with the relevant declarations periods", according to a letter sent to RSA by VA.

If you have been affected by these changes, contact Veterans Affairs on 0800 4 VETERAN or [veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz) to discuss what support you may be entitled to.

Even if you haven't, the RSA strongly recommends all Veterans of deployments make contact to make sure your operational service is registered – and you're getting everything you've earned with your service.

For a full list of deployments recognised by Veterans' Affairs, check out their website: <http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/rights-reviews/qualifying/>.







**28 Jul 17 saw the conclusion of the 2017 RNZE Corp Sports.**

The RNZE Corps Sports Tournament was designed to foster and promote Esprit De Corps through collective sub-unit sponsored activities and allow the Corps to congregate, support their respective teams and consolidate.

This years tournament contested the Shane Vooght Cup (Overall Tournament winner), the Nepia Cup (Rugby), the Hart Cup (Football), the Golf Trophy, the Volleyball Trophy and the RNZE Minor Sport Trophy. 25ESS and 2 FD SQN also played for the Kronfield Jersey (Rugby).

The tournament also provided the platform to enable teams to be selected to represent the Corps at inter-unit events in the 2017 Inter Corps Rugby and Football Matches.

The 2017 competition saw the return to the traditional three team event. Sub-Unit team were based on the following:

1. 25ESS (incl 2ER Wksp)
2. SME(NZ) (incl all out of Corps posts),
3. 2Fd Sqn/3Fd Sqn/ER Sqn (The Barbarians )

Main results:

Shane Vooght Cup - (Winners) 'The Barbarians'.  
 Nepier Cup - (Winners) SME(NZ).  
 Hart Cup - (Winners) 'The Barbarians'.  
 Golf Trophy - (Winners) 'The Barbarians'.  
 Volleyball Trophy - (Winners) 25ESS.  
 RNZE Minor Sports Trophy - (Winners) SME(NZ)  
 Kronfield Jersey - (Winners) 25ESS

**UBIQUE and see you at the RNZE Corps Sports 2018!**



Volley Ball Trophy



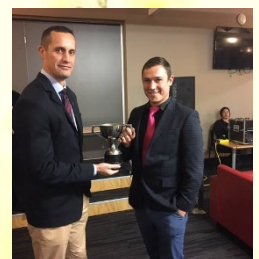
Vooght Cup ESS



RNZE Minor Sports



SME Golf Trophy



Hart Cup



# Corps Sports 2017 maybe about competition on the field but its all about the *Sappers & Friendship* in the end



2017 RNZE Corps Football team



2017 RNZE Corps Rugby Team



Right :  
MVP Golf - Spr  
Higgs

Left :  
Kronfield Jersey  
- 25ESS

performance knows no gender!







Task Unit Holdfast from 2 Engineer Regiment was in RNZAF Base Ohakea today practicing the construction of airfield matting for NH-90. One of the many roles of military engineers that will be practiced during the upcoming exercise Ubique.



Performance knows no gender!





## Sappers Last Post

- 4 July 2017 Ken Anevell
- 10 Sept 2017 Thomas Haapu
- 17 Sep 2017 Geoff Stevenson



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.](#)

[\(external link\)](#)





## Operation Castor 2017

*An article produced by SPR Cressey a member of the five person construction brick deployed on Op Castor to Malekula, a remote island in Vanuatu.*

Op Castor started well, and the team arrived in Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia in one piece. After locating our hotel and getting in contact the French liaison officer, after 3 days we moved out of the relative luxury of a hotel to French transit accommodation, which consisted of stretchers in a 15 man room with cold showers. What was intended to be a 5 day stay extended to a 14 day experience as a result of Cyclone Donna travelling through Vanuatu and New Caledonia. The team however did get the opportunity to visit some of the sights being Anse Vata and Lemon bay.

Once Cyclone Donna had passed and it was deemed safe the five person construction brick under command of LCPL Jobling was moved via aeroplane with the rest of the French contingent to Port Vila in Vanuatu. The team then embarked a French off-shore patrol vessel for our final destination being Carolyn Bay, Malekula. Carolyn Bay is located on the south western edge of Malekula, the second largest island in Vanuatu and would be our home for the next 16 days. The bulk of the work was concentrated around the school and dispensary, with both providing schooling and medical help for many in the area. In some cases locals would be travelling for up to a day to either go to school or see the local nurse.

With no time wasted the work begun for the construction brick and the team undertook an immense amount work. For the carpenters the work including 2 new walls in the dispensary, replacing rotten ceilings in 2 classrooms, re-cladding 2 classrooms with new corrugated iron, replacing several rotten structural beams and replacing nearly all the windows, which consisted of a rotting plywood square on hinges. Electrical work consisted of running new lights in all the classrooms, dispensary and the school accommodation area, which is now powered by a brand new diesel generator provided by the French to replace the old one, which was previously installed 40 years ago by the French Army. Plumbing work consisted of installing 4 new 3000L water tanks, 2 new water pumps, a new water main and a new shower and toilet for the dispensary. Once all our relevant trade work was completed we also helped with other things such as painting all the exteriors and interiors of the classrooms, accommodation and the dispensary.

Luckily we had some help from the French, who had their own tradesmen, along with plant operators, painters and tilers. The Vanuatu Mobile Force also provided 2 carpenters and the US Army sent 4 TF engineers from Guam, 1 sparky, 1 plumber and 2 block layers. This provided an excellent opportunity for us to work alongside many countries giving us insight into their methodologies and operating procedures.

Work days consisted of 0700h starts and 1600h finishes with a short break for lunch at 1200h. Everyone involved worked hard, with kiwis mixing in with French soldiers and even the locals lending a hand. Language barriers were managed well as the French soldiers had relatively good English skill sets and the Construction Brick IC LCPL Jobling calling on his 1 year of French lessons 15 years ago.





The French certainly know how to put on a good field exercise. Their ration packs, which were very nice, have meals such as Ostrich and cranberries in sauce and Duck sausage and beans, but we also supplemented our rations with some of the great local food provided, such as BBQ pork, fresh chicken, rice and banana bread. The French also had portable hot water units which gave us the opportunity to shower and shave with warm water (luxury!). They even brought a washing machine with them, which meant we didn't have to wash our clothes by hand every couple of days.

Opportunities for down time were few and far between however when presented were taken with both hands. When allowed we were able to spend time snorkelling, visiting the local villages for breakfast or lunch or playing sports with the local kids, including volleyball, soccer and touch rugby. The weather was in our favour, raining only twice in the 18 days we spent there, which certainly helped with morale and the exterior painting.

Eventually all the work was completed after 18 days and all the locals were very happy with the work completed. On the final day we had visits from dignitaries, including the President of Vanuatu, the commander of the French Army in New Caledonia and the Deputy High Commissioner from New Zealand, with all of them commenting on how well the team had worked but the true reward for the team was to see how appreciative the locals were for all the work that had been carried out.

We finally left Carolyn Bay on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, after spending an extra night due to our flight out on a French Puma helicopter being cancelled due to poor weather. The unexpected bonus was that we got to spend a night on the new French Multi-Role vessel, with flush toilets, hot showers and beds with a mattress. Thankfully on the 3<sup>rd</sup> there was a break in the weather and the helicopter managed to fly in and pick us up, and we arrived back in Port Vila, and from there we flew back to Noumea, where we said goodbye to our French hosts.

Overall Op Castor was a good experience, with 4 of us getting our first experience of the kind of trade work we could expect to experience in the Pacific. Our French allies were nothing short of great hosts, with some good stories of their experiences in places like Afghanistan, or their work in Mali in Africa, on the border with Libya. Despite the language gap there were plenty of laughs and lots of fun had by all. An excellent opportunity to engage with members overseas.

SPR M. Cressey







RNZE Rugby Team 2017





Australia and France for the Military Tri-Nations Rugby Teams



***Are you in the Army Reserve and wanting to make yourself available in case of a humanitarian mission during the upcoming tropical storm season, drop us a line....***

### **Calling all Army Reservists**

Are you available to deploy on a Pacific relief mission, if required, in early 2018?

To register your interest email [\*\*1Bde2EngrRegtS1@nzdf.mil.nz\*\*](mailto:1Bde2EngrRegtS1@nzdf.mil.nz)

Personnel should be available from 01 Feb 18 to 30 Apr 18, and





## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP NZ SAPPERS ASSOCIATION



Qualification: Persons who have served, or are still serving, in any sapper unit of His/Her Majesty's Forces in war, or in peace, for any period.

(Please print)

Regimental No. .... Rank (*current or on discharge*): .....

Surname: .....

First Name(s): .....

Nickname: (*optional*) .....

Address: .....

Phone: ..... (Hm). ..... (Wk). Fax: .....

E-mail: .....

Next of Kin: ..... Relationship .....

Address (if different) .....

Engineer Units served with: .....

..... Year joined RE, RAE or RNZE .....

Honours and Awards (*optional*): .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

**Please forward a Life Membership Fee of \$60.00 which includes Life Membership Card and Lapel Badge.**

**If paying by Direct Credit: BNZ bank 02 0727 0629870-000. Particulars 'Membership' & Code 'Reg No'.**

**You may add a donation towards the "Serving Sappers Bursary Awards" if you wish.**

**Joining & Membership Fee: \$60.00**      Donation: \$ .....      Amount enclosed: \$ .....



## 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](mailto: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](http://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**

Out of every one hundred men, ten shouldn't even be there, eighty are just targets, nine are the real fighters, and we are lucky to have them, for they make the battle. Ah, but the one, one is a warrior, and he will bring the others back.

**Heraclitus**

