

RNZE SAPPERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 199 May 2018



Light Engineering Team (LET) is off to embed with NZDF force elements in Antarctica.

President NZ Sappers Association.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH 2018

Vail Hubner

Period

This report covers 12 months from April 2017 to present. As most of the year was taken up on trying to resolve the website and membership data base, this report will have an emphasis on that subject.

Website / Database Background

In 2011 the Northern Branch embarked on a project called Hospital & Funerals Dissemination. The idea was that we try to get a system whereby members can record that they want nominated close friends to be advised when that member goes into hospital. The idea was that they can visit or send a card. The system should be able to send out emails, Facebook, twitter etc. But the alternative phone contact for some older members may stop at the reception of a rest home. The system needs to raise a flag for a local active member to visit the rest home and advise the old sapper he/she has a mate in hospital.

A 2011 request to the Executive Council to use the member database to expedite the project resulted in it could not or would not be done. Since then we have made no progress with the Dissemination project. In fact, we have gone backwards. Late last year we discovered that the member database has been deleted, perhaps a few years ago.

If we ever achieve our aim of having a membership aged 20 to 100 years old, then we need a members' database that can handle that diversity. Currently for funerals we send out a broad email to everybody in the hope it reaches some of the right people. If we keep doing it this way, with a potential 80-year members age span, most of the recipients wouldn't have a clue who the person mentioned was.

What's on and Where

Decade 1975-84

Picton or Wellington 2019

National RNZE Reunion

Petone Wellington has been
POSTPONED to 2019



**Almighty God,
we pray Thee to bless
the Royal new Zealand
Engineers.**

**May our bridges always
stand,
and our charges never fail.**

**Our members be ever loyal,
and our officers worthy of
their loyalty.**

**May we work diligently in all
our purposes,
and be skilled in our trades,
steadfast for Queen
and country everywhere.**

Amen.

Website / Database Current

During the last couple of years, I extended the members database requirement to be able to search on overseas deployments so those involved can organise their own reunions. This may appeal to young sappers who have been in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have also been experimenting with Excel and Outlook to organise Decade Do's aiming to hold social functions for each era members who are likely to know each other. I have found the two systems inadequate even when they are working fine, and frustrating when they crash. We have also been investigating Google Sheets. Our current website is hard to update, needing payment to an outsider, and insecure [it has an 'i' in front of the address].

We have looked into engaging an outside professional to set up a website that can be updated directly by branches [\$5,000 & \$100/mth] and a database that can be updated by members themselves with multiple access by a few office holders [\$6,000 & \$60/mth]. The monthly fees would be tight, but sustainable if many of the branches contribute. The capital up front is a hard one.

We have received a report comparing 'build your own websites'. Some appear to have a database type attachment. It is assumed the updating of both would be through one person, perhaps needing IT knowledge. Whilst cheap, they appear labour intensive. If the lack of volunteers for Hon Secretary and Reunion Chair is anything to go by, then finding a continually on call webmaster and membership secretary is going to be harder still.

In February 2017 I set up a series of Facebook 'Sappers NZ Era' s covering five-year intervals 1955 to 2015. This is for old mates who are members of the Association to organise their next Decade Do. Progressively, as I find people willing to help, I intend to make someone from each Era a Moderator on that Facebook page. The idea is that a person known to people of that Era becomes the 'face' of it and kicks things along within their own little group of mates.

Website / Database Future

Whilst some people believe websites may be becoming obsolete, many people are not on Facebook, Twitter etc. The professional option in paragraph 6 had a social media component to link the website to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn etc. For those likely to go on active service, the website needs to be secure and both it and the member database safe from hacking by terrorists. If we go for some cheap set up, mainly to cater for older people, we will dissipate our capital. If later, we want a more sophisticated system to entice young membership, we will find our remaining capital inadequate. I believe we should be looking directly at what would probably appeal to young sappers and go for it. The older members can still be catered for in a smart setup.

Welfare

I will return to an old hobby horse. I still think the Association should be setting up a frame work so that physically active members can do a 'Hire A Hubby' type service [free of course] for families of member sappers overseas on active service or other deployments. This of course won't happen until a sizeable number still in uniform have already joined the Association for other reasons, such as organising overseas deployment reunions. Upon leaving the army, and being still young enough to swing a hammer, they could help the ones still in. If there is interest from those young enough to participate, perhaps the Association could look at setting up a trade account at Bunnings or Mitre 10 etc.

Branches are encouraged to hand deliver News Letters to old sappers in rest homes, living alone or not on email. We need to physically check on their welfare. If they need help, we could approach the RSA Welfare on their behalf. To that end, the Association could look at paying their RSA membership fee [\$10 pa] to keep them current for RSA welfare support. The RSA has more welfare resources than the Sappers Association ever will have.

Office Holders

Whilst it looks like we have a full ticket of office holders for the coming AGM, looks are deceiving. Nobody volunteered to be the Honorary Secretary, so Jim Smoothy stepped up to do the job. Jim is also still the Reunion Secretary. If somebody isn't found to do one of those jobs by late this year, then Jim's work load will be overwhelming when the reunion hots up early next year. And while we're on the reunion, we still haven't found a Wellington based Reunion Chair.

Vail Hubner President 13 March 2018

Sappers are determined soldiers, found at the centre of Army operations.

Intelligence and flexibility is at the heart of everything a Sapper does, humour is an important characteristic within the Sappers.

A specialist at trade or when delivering combat engineering to Defence, a Sapper must be innovative and creative with limited resources; Sappers are force multipliers.

We are equally intelligent and robust in battle as we are in the sporting arena.

Being a Sapper is challenging, expectation is high, our history is rich, yet a Sapper is always modest and selfless – we are inclusive.

Sappers come in many flavours, Regular, Reserve, Veteran and Cadet, all equally respected.

Once a Sapper, always a Sapper!





2 and 4 Emergency Response Troops conducted Rural Fire compliance training to maintain their skills. As part of this they used air assets, training on filling the rural fire pod with monsoon buckets.



Burnham Firefighters conduct driver training and train with a mechanical pump to relay water from a static water source.



Our specialist Burnham Firefighters have been conducting annual compliance training to keep up their skills when it comes to fighting vegetation fires.





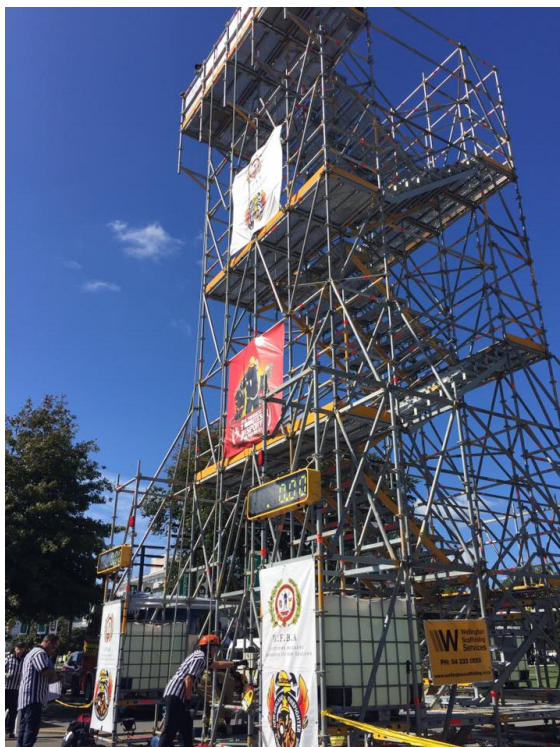
The Waiouru & Linton based RNZE Women's Firefighter team with the Kuwaiti men's team, who they just raced against at the NZ Firefighters Combat Challenge in Palmerston North.

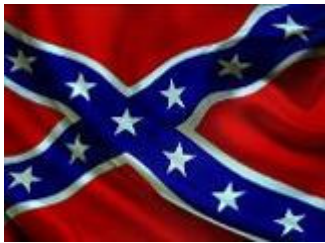
Our Emergency Responders as they compete in the North Island Fire Combat Challenge. They are trying to gain qualification for entry in the Nationals later in April to be held in Wellington against teams from across the country.



The event included

1. Climbing a 6 storey tower carrying a length of 70mm 19kg flaked hose
2. Hoisting a 70mm hose coil 6 storeys
3. Chopping using a 4kg shot hammer to drive a beam 1.5 metres
4. Extending a charged length of 45mm hose to knock down a disc
5. Dragging a life sized dummy a distance of 30.5m





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

OFFICE HOLDERS ARE:



Chairman Bernie Rose 03 3131569

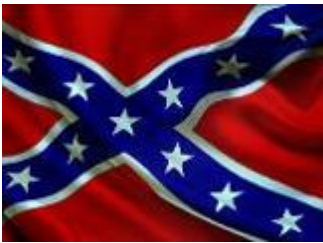
Vice-chairman: Eric Elley 03 3107385

Secretary: Colin Walsh 03 3423272

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

Photo from the past just look at the young Vail Hubner and Mike Oliver

You cannot prevent a major catastrophe, but you can build an organization that is battle-ready, where people trust one another. In military training, the first rule is to install soldiers with trust in their officers - because without trust, they won't fight.



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

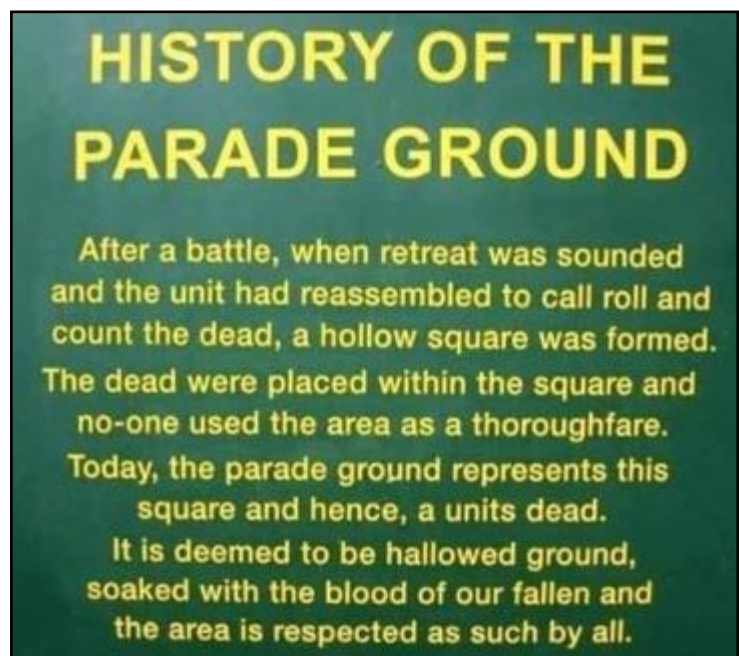
Mark these dates on your Calendars as a reminder.

Sappers 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	Luncheon
14 November	Luncheon
09 January	Luncheon
13 March	Luncheon
08 May	Luncheon
10 July	Luncheon



Hon Ron Mark Minister of Defence

Ron Mark was born in Masterton and was raised as a ward of the state. He grew up in a number of foster homes in Napier and the Wairarapa before attending Tararua College.

At 16 he went into the New Zealand Army's Regular Force Cadet School, Waiouru, graduating in 1971 as a soldier mechanic.

In 1978 he was accepted for Officer Cadet Training and graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant.

In 1982, as a mechanical engineering officer, he successfully completed the NZSAS selection course. That same year he was one of five New Zealand Army officers deployed to help set up the Multinational Force and Observers peacekeeping operation in the Sinai desert.



(Ron Mark) was one of five New Zealand Army officers sent to assist in setting up a new multi-national peace keeping operation the Sinai desert. Ron completed two back to back tours and was repatriated in 1983, but was refused permission by his corps to be posted to NZSAS to complete his training – a decision which resulted in Ron leaving the NZ Army in 1985 as a Captain and taking up an offer of service with the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces and the Sultan's Special Force in the Dhofar."

From 1985 to 1990 he served in the Sultan of Oman's Defence Forces finishing as a Major.

Ron was elected to Parliament in 1996 as a New Zealand First List MP and has held a range of portfolios including spokesman for New Zealand First on Defence, Law and Order, Corrections, Police, Mental Health, Veteran's Affairs, Disarmament and Arms Control, Sport and Recreation, Youth Affairs, Local Government and Building and Construction.

In 2010 Ron was elected Mayor of Carterton and was re-elected unopposed in 2013.

Ron is of Maori and Irish descent. His iwi affiliations are Ngati Raukawa, Te Arawa, Tuwharetoa, Ati Awa, Ngati Porou, Whakatohea, Rangitane and Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa



TOD Moscow 1978 - 1992 News

Declaration of Operational Service for the Purposes of the Veterans' Support Act 2014

In accordance with section 9 of the Veterans' Support Act 2014 ("Act"), I hereby give the following notice.

I declare service: at the New Zealand Embassy, Moscow, in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), later known as the Russian Federation, between 1 August 1978 and 31 July 1992, to be operational service for the purposes of the Act.

This declaration covers:

New Zealand Armed Forces and New Zealand Defence Force personnel seconded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or the Ministry of External Relations and Trade at the New Zealand Embassy in Moscow between 1 August 1978 and 31 July 1992.

The persons covered by this declaration shall have access to the entitlements and services specified in the Act and the Veterans' Support Regulations 2014.

I am satisfied, as required by the Act, that there was a significant risk of harm to those who undertook this service.

Dated this 25th day of March 2018.

Hon RON MARK, Minister for Veterans.





3 Field Squadron led a boating activity working out of Cass Bay as build up training for an exercise off shore later in the year. They were ably supported by RNZSigs, Medical and maintenance staff as well as some members from 2 Field Squadron. The activity included theoretical and practical revision on small craft operations, practical boat handling, rehearsals and it culminated in a Battle Handling Exercise (BHE) with other combined arms.



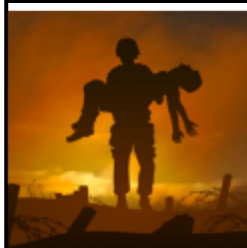
Association Treasurer's Report

<u>Summary Of Branches</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Surplus/Loss</u>
EFTPOS acnt	\$ 330.19	\$ 30.00	\$ 300.19
Northern branch	\$ 1,989.79	\$ 813.90	\$ 1,175.89
3rd RNZE Christchurch branch	\$ 1,803.54	\$ 1,127.00	\$ 676.54
Dunedin branch	\$ 1,952.75	\$ 2,195.50	-\$ 242.75
Wellington branch	\$ 1.03	\$ -	\$ 1.03
Army Fire Service branch	\$ 2,191.44	\$ 2,009.57	\$ 181.87
Totals to Performance	\$ 8,268.74	\$ 6,175.97	\$ 2,092.77

Sappers Association NZ (Inc)
Investments (Current/Live)
As at 31/12/17

As at 31/12/17

Investment Company	Certificate No	Interest Type	Investment Date	Maturity Date	Period Months	Interest Rate %	Int retained	Balance Incl Int
BNZ 00 acnt returned investment							\$ 0	\$ -
BNZ Term Deposit (1 month rollover)	57617561-03010	compounding	1/12/2017	30/12/2017	1	0.75%	\$16.44	\$3,441.37
BNZ Fixed Term Investment	57617561-03005	compounding	8/12/2016	8/12/2018	9	3.40%	\$0.00	\$11,251.48
BNZ Fixed Term Investment	57617561-03007	compounding	8/06/2015	8/06/2019	24	4.43%	\$931.57	\$8,431.57
BNZ Fixed Term Investment	57617561-03008	compounding	8/06/2016	8/12/2019	18	3.40%	\$382.85	\$7,882.85
BNZ Fixed Term Investment	57617561-03009	compounding	8/06/2016	8/06/2018	24	3.45%		\$7,500.00
Current Investments Total				Interest	As at 31/12/17		\$1,330.86	\$38,507.27



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

Did you know

Wearing a Poppy with medals



When attending national days of Remembrance, a returned serviceman or woman's funeral, or a military memorial service it is usual to wear a Poppy which has been adopted by many countries as an international symbol of Remembrance for such events. The protocol in New Zealand for both males and females who are NOT in uniform are the same. If wearing your own medals the Poppy should be worn either directly above the medals, or on the left lapel, but only above medals worn on the left chest. For veterans of Navy, Army or Air Force who are wearing an official brevet (e.g. pilot wings, aircrew half wings, warfare badge etc) above their medals, the left lapel position for the Poppy is the appropriate location. If ONLY wearing a deceased family member's medals the Poppy is worn on the left lapel of a jacket/coat (or in this relative position on any other garment). The NZ Army is the only Service to wear a Poppy on their uniform head dress – behind their beret badge or inserted into the Pugaree of the ceremonial 'Lemon Squeezer'. The RNZAF have a variation to the above in that when in uniform they will wear their Poppy on the right chest (above a name badge if worn). This standard is applied to accommodate the wearing a pilot's flying badge (wings) or aircrew half-wing brevets.

Performing the 'Veterans Salute

Veterans Salute – This method of paying a compliment provides a very versatile means for Veterans (not in uniform) to pay a compliment on any occasion when saluting is appropriate. It can be performed without error or effort (unlike bad hand salutes), with or without medals or head dress, individually (e.g. at a funeral or wreath laying) or on command when a member of a marching group.

The Veterans Salute originated in London on Armistice Day 1920 during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the national Cenotaph in Whitehall. At the same time a funeral procession accompanying the remains of the Unknown Soldier halted at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment. Those present included the senior Sailor, Soldier and many Victoria Cross recipients. The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guards Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking men (including VC holders), all of whom were wearing rows of medals, decreed that all personnel would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their right hand over their medals, signifying that 'no matter what honours we may have been awarded, they are nothing compared with the honour due to those who made the supreme sacrifice'.

Funerals

it is appropriate to pay an individual compliment before and after a Poppy is placed on a casket, or a Poppy or soil is thrown into a grave. It is also appropriate when the 'ODE' is recited, and the 'Last Post' is sounded. No compliment is required when the 'Rouse' (Reveille) is played. It is appropriate to salute at any time the Royal or national anthems are played.



Lt Col Terry McDonald CO of 2nd Engineer Regiment

Greetings Sappers,

The first quarterly update for 2018, you will not be surprised, is full as there is a lot going on across the Corps at the moment. As with every year we have ramped up pretty quickly, with an early focus on deployments, individual training and build up collective training. We have recovered our personnel who deployed to ANTARCTICA for the Light Engineer Team, and our Plant Operator support to ANTARCTICA NEW ZEALAND. We have continued to have our members deployed to MANAWA (Iraq), SUDDEN (South Sudan) and FARAD (Sinai) as well as rotations preparing to go. We have also got personnel either away or about to head off on overseas exercises and training, an example is LCPL Hynes and 'Chuck' the EDD currently on ANZAC EXCHANGE with 2 CER in Brisbane, however he is now supporting the ADF to deliver their Commonwealth Games support. There has been a fair amount of work conducted in preparation for a multitude of events in April / May, more to follow on that.

Back home in New Zealand training has been varied. SME have successfully completed the Basic Combat Engineer Course, the Basic Fire Course is currently underway, as is the EOC and the myriad of other activities they conduct. 3 Fd Sqn has done a considerable amount of work on small boats, with support from 2 Fd Sqn to prepare for Ex Tropic Major. 2 Fd Sqn has been completing section training with a focus on demolitions, search, medical and weapons. 25 ESS has completed MILCON with support tasks being varied from Dome Hut being removed from Mt Ruapehu, some work in support of DEI locally and supporting social housing construction in Palmerston North. They have also supported the final evolution of the Pacific Island Country Plant Training, with two RFMF plant operators attending. The Unit also mobilised for Tropical Cyclone GITA support, while it was not needed in the end, it proved to be a useful activity to bring the components of the Brigade (and Unit) together. We also competed in the 1 (NZ) Bde Skill At Arms competition, and the team did a great job in trying conditions!

The Regiment is now gearing up to support multiple events / activities across the country and South Pacific. Exercise Tropic Major (Vanuatu) will be occurring in late April / early May and will involve a number of elements such as HMNZS CANTERBURY, elements of the RNZAF and infantry from 2/1 RNZIR. 3 Fd Sqn will be deploying in support of this activity (with round out from 2 Fd Sqn) which will see which will see a Troop (+) of RNZE boats lifting infantry into various parts of Epi Island. This activity is the culmination of a considerable amount of build up work and will confirm DLOC for small boats. It has taken a considerable effort to get to this point and I believe the benefit, particularly with Seaworthiness, will be tangible. The exercise series then moves into Exercise Croix du Sud (New Caledonia) which will see elements of 2 Fd Sqn (with 3 Fd Sqn also still on station) to support the deployment of the HR Task Unit. While this activity is being undertaken Exercise Tropic Twilight (Vanuatu) will be occurring in late April / May and will be constructing three buildings for the Ministry of Health in Port Vila. It is also likely that a Mutual Assistance Training Team (MATT) will deploy to TONGA over the same period to deliver a 'Task Managers' lite course, though the detail for this is still being worked through. There have been a number of other requests that have come through for overseas opportunities, however we have reached saturation point for the moment.

Other things that you need to be aware of, in no particular order:

Regiment Birthday – If you weren't aware, the Regiment is celebrating its 25th birthday in 2018. It falls on a Sunday, however the plan is to conduct a family day event and medals parade to mark the event. There will be more to follow on this in due course.

Corps Sports – Following the engagement of Corps Sports 2017, the intention is to conduct 2018 with the same format. Game play will be Monday/ Tuesday and Thursday / Friday with a rest day on the Wednesday. There will be more details to follow in due course.

Corps Conference – It is intended that Corps Conference is conducted on the Wednesday (rest day) of the Corps Sports week. It will have focus on updating rather than providing a problem for Corps consideration.

Sappers Ball – The Ball will occur on Saturday 07 July 18, in Palmerston North. It will also be the prize giving for the Corps Sports. This is your ball, as such, there will be a committee formed and charged with planning the event. If you are wanting to be involved, please link in with your SHQ to register your interest.

Sapper Maaka Anniversary – There will be a commemorative service conducted in Linton (Sappers Lines) with a tree planting ceremony on 18 April 2018. This is to add James to our Corps memorial site with our other fallen Sappers.

MARS-L Transition – The Regiment will be completing AWQ activity in both April and August to qualify those who haven't already on the MARS-L, if you need to qualify there are limited spots!

New Capability – If you were not yet aware, there is a considerable amount of new / rolling capability refresh coming into the Corps in the next 12-24 months. Not an exhaustive list however, additional Reverse Osmosis equipment (including a water packaging plant), Multipurpose Decon Station, CBRN PPE, additional EDD for CEH, Zodiac 530's to replace the 470's. This all comes with an expense in terms of time, however we have programmed in specific training windows to integrate at the user level this overhead. There will be more to follow in terms of when and how this will occur.

Corps Shop – the Corps shop is now running on TradeMe as well as a physical store at 2 Engr Regt. Should you want to see the items as they get added follow [rnze_corps_shop](#) as a store, you might get a deal!

All of the events are open to non-serving sappers and personnel outside of the immediate Unit / School environment. If you would like to be involved or participate in any way, please let us know.

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

1. SPR Robin Goomes, 25 ESS who placed 1st at the International Enduro Challenger at the renowned Crankworx in Rotorua.
2. CPL Jesse Elms, 2 Engr Regt Wksps who was recognised with a Bde Comd commendation for his efforts in rescuing a member of the public in distress.
3. CPL Richie Knight, 25 ESS who presented to the 1 Bde JNCO Development forum. He gave his well considered thoughts on leadership to a group of his peers and senior leaders, well done!
4. Welcome to the fold CHAPCL4 Tony Brooking, the new Regimental Chaplain. He has recently joined NZ Army and his first posting is to RNZE.

As we look beyond April / May period we are starting to look towards the collective training period, with Exercise ARRAS (with other elements of the Bde), then Ex SARI BARI that will double as EX UBIQUE 18. Our collective and combined training periods are shorter this year, but important none the less. The focus will be on getting the basics right.

As always, across New Zealand and the globe delivering engineering solutions – this is going to increase in the next few months, and 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. The Pacific has a few weeks left of cyclone season, so an activation cannot be discounted, stay vigilant and make sure you are ready to go. Finally, I would ask you all to check on your mates, a five minute conversation or coffee to ask 'how are you doing' is worth the effort to make sure our team stays intact. We each have pressures, whether that be at work or home, let's make sure that we look after each other.

Keep up the good work!

I Nga Wahi Katoa

LTCOL Terry McDonald

Commanding Officer - 2ER, 2ND ENGINEER REGIMENT, RNZE



2 Engr Regt TU HOLDFAST 'crews front' for EX UBIQUE 17



RNZE Plantie Centre Fold

For the old Plantie that finds it
hard to live in a stable relation-
ship



Trip Down Memory Lane

Orana Wildlife Park

Upon opening, Orana's main drawcard was the fabulous drive-through Lion Reserve, the first and only one of its type in New Zealand. This amazing experience set the tone for the zoo. Orana has continued to establish clear points of difference, providing memorable animal encounters to enthuse people about wildlife. The drive-through Lion Reserve operated from 1976 until 1995. Today, Orana operates a special Lion Encounter and the experience is an 'historical nod' to the drive-through days.

For you that are not aware RNZE Engineers (3 Fd Sqn) completed a lot of the platforms and viewing decks for the park



The New Zealand Army is to shift basic training from the isolation of Waouru in the central North Island to the more family-friendly Burnham camp outside Christchurch.

The New Zealand Army is set to shift basic training for new recruits from Waouru to the South Island, downgrading the central North Island military camp.

The shift, planned for after 2018, will see all new recruits undergo basic training at new facilities built in Burnham, Christchurch.

The headquarters training, doctrine command, the army command school and the army depot would also be shifting to Burnham.

The move was driven by families wanting more say over posting locations and more choice with housing and jobs, Chief of Army Major General Peter Kelly said in the *Army News* newsletter.

"Unfortunately, as great as Waouru is, it cannot and will never be able to provide this level of choice," Kelly said.

"What is clear is that the majority of our army must be located by major cities."

Kelly said this would give families the ability to build links into the community, and as Linton was already at or near capacity, Burnham allowed the capacity to expand.

Waouru was 63,000 hectares and Kelly said it was the largest and most important training area, and the only area in New Zealand where they could conduct combined arms live field firing training.



This training would continue in Waouru, but he said it was time to utilise other training areas in Christchurch, Tekapo, and the wider South Island.

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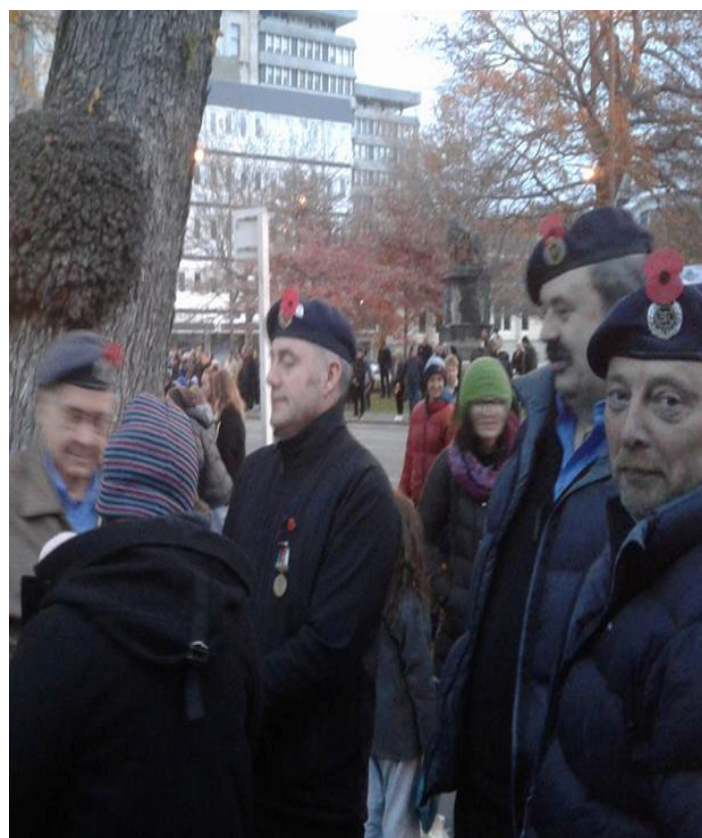
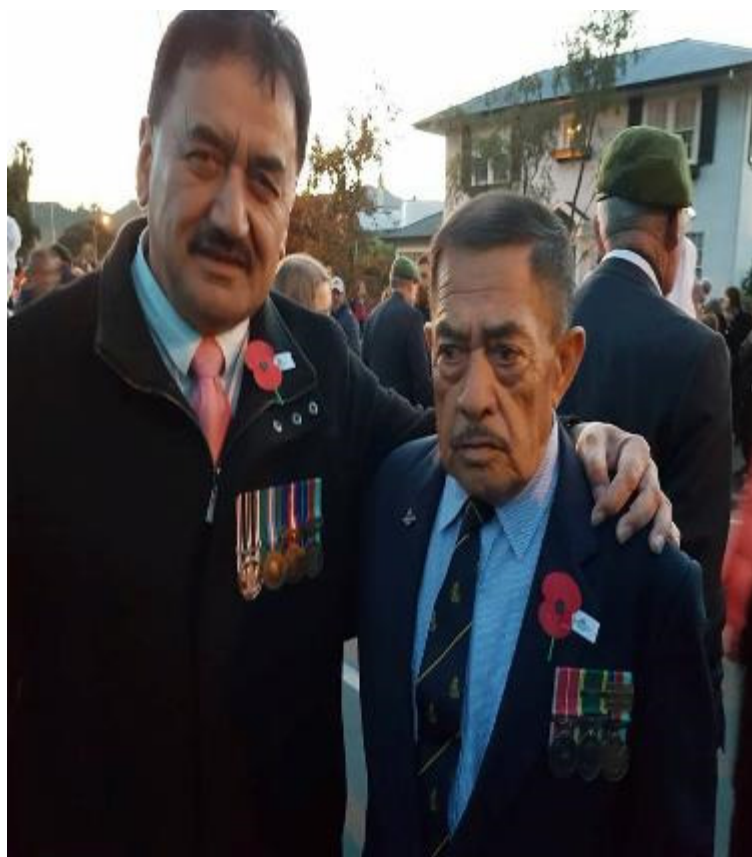


ANZAC 2018 PHOTOS





ANZAC 2018 PHOTOS





ANZAC 2018 PHOTOS



New Zealand Engineers Tunnelling Company.

In September 1915, Britain asked the New Zealand Government to raise a tunnelling company of up to 400 men. Aged 34, Vickerman immediately volunteered his services and was appointed captain in the newly-formed New Zealand Engineers Tunnelling Company

The NZETC arrived in England on the Ruapehu in February 1916 and a month later became the first New Zealand unit to serve on the Western Front. Assigned to counter-mining at Vimy Ridge, near Arras, their mission was to dig underneath the German tunnels and trenches and detonate explosives, inflicting destruction from below. These tunnels could also be used to conceal Allied troop movements and for gathering intelligence.

The Tunnellers' role relied on how fast they could dig and the New Zealanders, mostly miners, labourers and quarrymen, were three times faster than the enemy and rarely lost a race. They achieved this by being innovative, including creating bigger tunnels which gave them 'decent room to swing a pick' and calculating when they could dispense with supporting timbers.

Between June and November 1916, the introduction of large trench mortars and howitzers began to make the underground war redundant as they wrought destruction more quickly than the miners. The Tunnellers instead set to digging a defensive mining system in front of the British trenches.

The British Third Army then came up with a plan to use recently re-discovered 200-year-old caves and quarries under Arras to reach the German front line east of the city. For five months, the New Zealand Tunnellers opened up and linked the old tunnels and galleries in the Ronville system (which they gave New Zealand place names) so that thousands of troops could be housed and travel underground ahead of a planned assault in early April 1917.

In January 1917, the newly promoted Major Vickerman assumed command of the unit and in April 1917 the Tunnellers reached their objective close to the German front line. On 9 April, the first day of the Battle of Arras, the tunnel exits were blown open and the troops emerged near the German trenches. The Kiwi Tunnellers also detonated three large mines, destroying two German dugouts, a pillbox and around fifty yards of trench. The preparatory work done by the Tunnellers for the battle proved a significant factor in its success and was their 'most notable achievement'.



New Zealand Tunnellers in underground bunks at La Fosse Farm, after the Battle of Arras.

From May 1917 until mid-1918, the Tunnellers created trenches, dug-outs, machine gun nests, trench mortar emplacements, observation posts and more comfortable billets for the troops. As the war shifted away, the Tunnellers began building bridges, which they proved remarkably adept at. Their first effort, reaching 60 metres over Havrincourt canal, was fashioned by connecting two prefabricated lengths to create what was thought to be the longest single span military bridge.

The Tunnellers continued bridge building for a while after the November 1918 Armistice and arrived back in Auckland in April 1919. Vickerman, however, remained in England investigating engineering projects, including light railways. He returned to New Zealand in October 1919 with his wife Arabella, who had travelled to England in November 1915, a month before Vickerman's own departure. Newspaper stories reported the couple spent time together in London and elsewhere during his leave and on one occasion she helped host a NZETC dance in Falmouth.

Vickerman received several honours for his war effort. He was Mentioned in Despatches in November 1917 and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in January 1918 'for distinguished service in the field' and the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1919 for his services in France.

New Zealand life

Vickerman resumed work at the Public Works Department in Wellington and was promoted to Inspecting Engineer. In 1921, he joined the private practice of F.C. Hay and J.G. Lancaster, which later became Vickerman and Lancaster.

He played a significant role within the profession, including serving as President of the New Zealand Institution of Engineers in 1935-36.

During the Second World War, Vickerman served in engineering-related units in Wellington until retiring from military service in 1943.

Hugh Vickerman died in Wellington in October 1960. The Vickerman Engineering Award at Victoria University stems from his bequest.



Every day the tunnellers worked with the constant fear of sudden death. Carbon monoxide poisoning and tunnel collapse were an ever-present risk, as was the abrupt explosion of any

But their biggest concerns were being blown up or buried alive by the enemy's tunnellers, or having to fight them hand-to-hand in the dark. The trick was to spot the German tunnellers before they spotted you, and to do this Norton-Griffiths' men used a wide range of listening de-

As the conflict wore on the allied tunnellers began to gain ground on their German counterparts, and at Messines Ridge in Flanders they were to have their greatest success.



RNZE Sappers Q Store Is Operating Again

The Corps shop operating again, we have also bought in a few new trial items as well. If you are Linton based, have a look at the Regt HQ, otherwise orders can be placed by emailing 1.bde.2.engr.regd.s1@nzdf.mil.nz

Current UPF Stock as at 25 January 2018

2ER Lapel Pin  Price \$5.00 Each Stock Left 15	2ER Tie Clip  Price \$10.00 Each Stock Left 32	RNZE Lapel Pin  Price \$5.00 Each Stock Left 1	Cufflink Suite  Price \$25.00 Each Stock Left 32	Poker Chip  Sale Price \$3.00 Each Stock Left 260
RNZE Shaker  Price \$11.00 Each Stock Left 6	RNZE Stubby Holder  Price \$8.00 Each Stock Left 49	RNZE Bottle Buddy  Price \$6.00 Each Stock Left 10	RNZE Snack Cup  Price \$10.00 Each Stock Left 9	RNZE Bottle Opener  Price \$8.00 Each Stock Left 8
RNZE Luggage Tag  Price \$11.00 Each Stock Left 6	RNZE Tote Bag  Price \$5.00 Each Stock Left 10	2ER Cap (Blue)  Sale Price \$5.00 Each Stock Left 1	RNZE Tie  Price \$25.00 Each Stock Left 12	RNZE Sticker  Sale Price 50c Each Stock Left 364
Arabica Coffee Mug (Red)(Blue)  Sale Price \$7.00 Each Stock Left (6 Red)(5 Blue)	Café Thermal Mug (Red)(Blue)  Price \$10.00 Each Stock Left (1 Red)(1 Blue)	Chameleon Cup (Changes colour when hot)  Sale Price \$7.00 Each Stock Left 5		



Chuck, one of our explosive-detection dogs from No. 2 Field Squadron, 2nd Engineer Regiment is working behind the scenes of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games



2 Engr Regt had its end of year awards, the final event before closedown for 2017. LCPL Penney, 25 ESS was awarded the RSM's Soldiers Award, LCPL Anderson, 2 Fd Sqn the CO's Leadership Award & 2 Fd Sqn awarded the Command Trophy & right of line for 2017



Sapper is : Official. A Soldier, Highly trained in Modern Combat Warfare capable of fighting as an Infantry Soldier, with the added responsibility of the disposal of Explosive Ordnance Devices (EOD), Minefield Laying/Clearance, Defensive Protection, Installing and Removing Bobby Traps, Removal of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), Bridge Building, and Construction. They are deployed with and Special Operations, Peacekeeping, Civil Emergencies.

Unofficial. The dude who blows shit up, The dude at the front, The One that's got "Follow Me" on the back of his shirt, The dude you don't want to fuck with.



Sappers Last Post

Our ranks grow thin but we
will remember them

30 Jan 2018 Ken Wattam Blenheim
12 Feb 2018 Donald Stephen (Block) Temuka
18 Feb 2018 Doug Greeks Napier
6 Apr 2018 Mark Paul (Plucker) Auckland



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 "First Post" call signals the start of the duty officer's inspection of a British Army camp's sentry posts, sounding a call at each one. The "Last Post" call originally signaled merely that the final sentry post had been inspected, and the camp was secure for the night.^[4] In addition to its normal garrison use, the Last Post call had another function at the close of a day of battle. It signalled to those who were still out and wounded or separated that the fighting was done, and to follow the sound of the call to find safety and rest

During the 19th century, the "Last Post" was carried to the various countries of the British Empire. In all these countries, it has been incorporated into military funerals, where it is played as a final farewell, symbolising the fact that the duty of the dead soldier is over and that they can rest in peace.



Ex SAPPER – MILITARY FUNERAL SUPPORT

Sappers,

1. This memo is to provide an update, albeit several years late, on the entitlements to military funeral support for Ex Sappers.

Ex Sapper Military Funeral Support: BLUF. There is no entitlement for any support.

Reference: Defence Force Order Vol 3, Part 12, Chap 8, para 12.8.131, states in Part;

Eligibility NZDF will contribute to a funeral and make provision for ceremonial honours where the deceased is a:

Serving member of the Regular Force, or

Member of the Reserve Forces who dies whilst on official paid or unpaid duty approved by the NZDF, or

Members of the Civil Staff deployed on operational service.

2. NZDF legally cannot fund support or be publically shown to fiscally support non-serving members funerals. This includes but not exhaustively; soldiers for - firing parties including firing of weapons, catafalque parties, flag bearers, pall bearers, buglers, padres, gun carriage complete, transport, etc.

3. However, notwithstanding all of the above, UBIQUE - Across the country RNZE uniformed Sappers are everywhere from Regular Force units to Reserve Force subunits. Should a family wish to have representational presence at a funeral, RNZE personnel at the units are there to advise. The advice or any support given will be authorised on a case by case basis.

4. Caveat: Remember, the military does not have a "Set a Precedence" attitude. Because you saw it happen once does not mean it can / will happen again.

Ubique

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

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 Newsletter on

[Sappers of New Zealand](#)

[Sappers Mates](#)

[New Zealand Army Fire Service](#)

Facebook pages.



Ubique

Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

