

RNZE SAPPERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 202 February 2019

IT CAN NOT BE INHERITED
NOR CAN IT EVER BE PURCHASED
I HAVE EARNED IT WITH MY

BLOOD
SWEAT AND TEARS
I OWN FOREVER THE TITLE
SAPPER



President NZ Sappers Association.

PRESIDENT



I will be standing down as President in March 2019 after three and a half years in the job. I am hoping for a big attendance at the 1100 hours Sunday 17 March 2019 Annual General Meeting to vote in the new President John 'Fish' Fischer from Christchurch. We intend having Skype stations for the AGM at Invercargill, Dunedin, Christchurch, Palmerston North, Tauranga and Auckland. Skype can have up to ten participating, so there could be a few other skype stations as well, such as Australia. It is intended to have a system so members can speak on matters of importance. Probably along the lines of sending a text message to the phone of myself or John Fischer wanting to speak. Upon invitation by the Chair the member stands up, walks to the skype camera/microphone and sits down. Limited to two minutes [we don't want to be there for ever and its St Patricks Day when the meeting closes]. Also state ten words only that the member wants recorded in the minutes. Please start thinking about organising a car load of members to drive to your nearest Skype station for the AGM with a sober driver to get home.

Terry Hokianga has put his hand up to run the next RNZE Reunion in Dunedin. He has picked Labour weekend 25 to 27 October 2019 at this stage. Due to nobody in Wellington wanting to be Chair of the reunion, the push to have it there was abandoned late last year. The main reason for wanting to go there was to support the Corps History book launch at a possible ceremony at Parliament. But the book has gone on sale already without the ceremony, which still may happen.

Vail 'Hub' Hubner

President
January 2019

What's on and Where

Decade 1975-84

Picton or Wellington 2019

National RNZE Reunion

Dunedin 2019



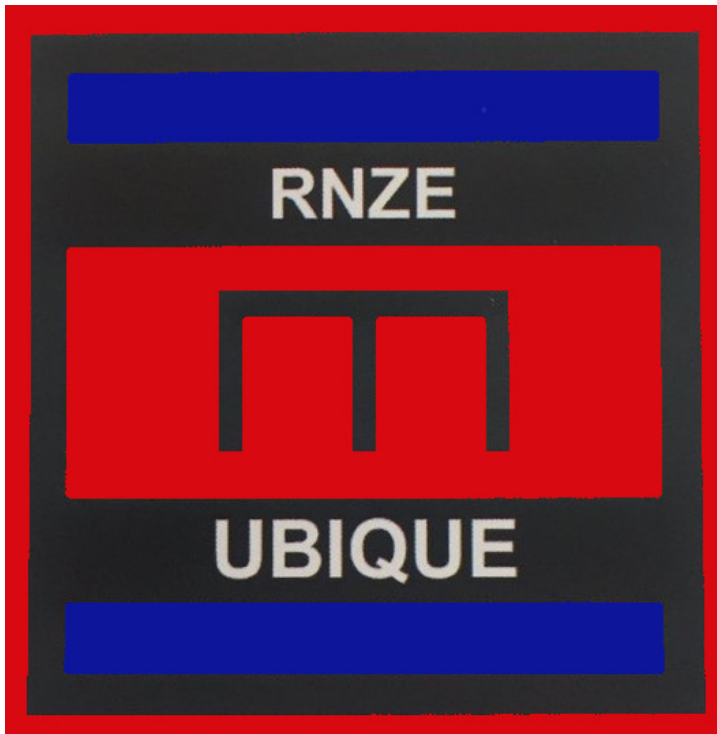
**Almighty God,
we pray Thee to bless
the Royal new Zealand
Engineers.**

**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.



Sappers Reunion 2019

Dunedin Labour Weekend Oct 2019 All welcome partners included.

Reunion 2019.

Location: Dunedin.

Dates:

25 Oct Meet and Greet. 1700hrs-

26 Oct: Speeches, Dinner, Dance. 1700hrs-

27 Oct: Final catch up before departure 1200hrs-

Come down to the Deep South and experience what our City offers while catching up on lads and ladies not seen for many years. Reconnect, connect, and make new and relive old memories.

More to follow.



The Firefighter Combat World Challenge

Sacramento USA

The NZ Army firefighter team competing in the Firefighter Combat World Challenge 2018 in Sacramento. From the left: SPR Aidan Grant, CPL Thomas Grant, SPR Petra Dye-Hutchinson and SGT Daniel Klaassen.



SPR Petra Dye-Hutchinson completing the Hose Advance. The competitor must negotiate the 42.6m slalom course without missing or knocking over any delineator. The competitor must then pick up the nozzle end of the 4.45cm charged hose line and drag it a distance of 22.8m. The competitor then hits the target with the water stream. Petra competes in the tandem relay with partner, SPR Aidan Grant.



SPR Aidan Grant completes the Forcible Entry event, using the provided 4kg shot mallet, and with both feet on the diamond plate surface, the competitor must drive the sled, a 72.5kg steel beam a horizontal distance of 1.5m. This is part of his tandem relay with team mate CPL Tom Grant.



Four emergency responders from 2nd Engineer Regiment, Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers are competing for the first time as part of the New Zealand team in California.



SPR Petra Dye-Hutchinson in the ready tent getting kitted up before her individual run.



SPR Aidan Grant completing the Hose Advance event during his individual run.



SPR Aidan Grant and CPL Tom Grant completing the Hose Hoist while competing against each other in their individual runs.



SGT Daniel Klaassen completes a Victim Rescue during his individual run



**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



Southern Sappers formal dinner, Invercargill celebrating the arrival of Swampys Road Kill pies.



National & District Presidents sharing wounds and things at Burwood Hospital. Both in at the same time for knees.

**I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW
OF DEATH, I SHALL FEAR NO EVIL
For I am following an angry platoon of Combat Engineers!**



3 Branch RNZE 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.

Events coming up during the next twelve months:

2019

- 8 February Friday Night Get together
- 12 April Friday Night Get together
- 25 April Anzac Day Parade at Papanui RSA
- 14 June Friday night Get together
- 9 August Friday Night Get together
- 11 October Friday Night Get together
- 15 October Sappers Day (Tuesday Details to come)

Get togethers:

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Sappers Wives / Partners Luncheon:

It's hard to believe your 2 monthly luncheons have been such a great success although numbers are small those of us that meet for a drink, chat and lunch have a great time together.. We welcome anyone who would like to join in. Come along to our next luncheon on the Tuesday 12th March at the Papanui RSA at 1200hrs. If you have any enquires please ring me, Joyce Walsh on 03 3423272.

Sappers Day 2018

Great day with 50 sappers attending both serving and ex sappers and celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the RNZE HQ at 44 Riccarton Rd at which Jack Blyth was presented with the NZ Sappers Association Merit award for service to the Association.

If you missed this year see you next year Tuesday 15th October 2019

Welfare

Since our last newsletter we have lost Janice Rose the wife of Bernie Rose and longtime supporter of 3 Branch Sappers and Chairwomen of our Wives and Partners luncheon group.

SEE YOU THERE

We can all remember the SSM/RSM so lets read and have a good laugh.



Born in 1944 in Kansas, Ermey was a staff sergeant in the Marine Corps in the 1960s and early 1970s, serving tours in Japan and Vietnam. He also served as a real-life drill instructor died 2018 aged 74yrs.



DOES HE HAVE A VOCABULARY OR WHAT

....

For the few of you who have missed him, R. Lee Ermey is the host of The History Channel's " Mail Call " and played the Drill Instructor in the movie, " Full Metal Jacket. " He recently played the totally unsympathetic psychiatrist in a GIECO commercial. He is a retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant and a very plain speaker, as you will soon read. So, for your entertainment, here is Retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant R. Lee Ermey at his first press conference. The main topic of discussion is the Marine in Iraq who shot an Iraqi insurgent to death.

We pick up the interview as a reporter asks about

" how this potential war crime will affect our image in the world ":

Ermey:

"WHAT KIND OF A PANSY-ASSED QUESTION IS THAT?"

Reporter 1: "Well, sir I think..

.

Ermey:

"THINK, FANCY BOY ??? GET THIS THROUGH THAT SEPTIC TANK ON TOP OF YOUR SHOULDERS, MORON : I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT YOU THINK, DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?? THAT MARINE SHOT AN ENEMY COMBATANT, SHITHEAD. SO GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR ASS AND DEAL WITH IT BEFORE I MAKE YOU MY OWN PERSONAL PIN CUSHION!!! NEXT QUESTION: YOU IN THE BLUE SUIT."

Reporter 2: Don't you think that the world's opinion of our operations is important ?

Ermey:

"OH SURE! YOU DON'T KNOW THE TIMES I HAVE CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP WORRYING ABOUT WHAT SOME GODDAMNED FRENCH PANSY THINKS! OH THE DAYS I HAVE HAD TO WEEP, BECAUSE SOME SHIT EATING TERRORIST SCUMBAG MIGHT BE MAD AT US, BECAUSE WE WENT INTO WHATEVER GOD FORSAKEN HOLE IN THE SHIT THAT HE LIVES IN AND KILLED HIM. WHAT THE HELL KIND OF DUMBASS QUESTION IS THAT YOU PETER-PUFFING JACKASS? WE ARE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA , AND WHEN YOU ATTACK US, WE ARE GOING TO COME TO YOUR HOUSE AND BLOW YOUR STINKING CAMEL-LICKING CARCASS INTO PIECES SO SMALL

WE WILL BE ABLE TO BURY YOUR SORRY ASS IN A THIMBLE! YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING. YOU ARE PROBABLY AFRAID, THINKING THAT I HAVE SUCH AN "EXTREME" ATTITUDE AND THAT I NEED TO BE MORE "SENSITIVE" TO OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS. WELL LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING YOU POLE-SMOKING PANSY! I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE THINKS! THIS IS A DAMN WAR, AND IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE THAT, THEN YOU SHOULD GO HOME AND SUCK ON MAMMA'S TIT! DO YOU HEAR ME YOU RUNT? NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF MY PRESS ROOM BEFORE I GO CRAZY AND KICK THE LIVING SHIT OUT OF YOU!!

NEXT QUESTION: YOU WITH THE UGLY-ASSED TIE, LOOK AT THAT THING! IT IS HIDEOUS!"

Reporter 3 "Aren't you going against the freedom of the press by.."

Ermey:

"FREEDOM? WHAT IN BLUE HELL DO YOU KNOW ABOUT FREEDOM? I HAVE SWEATED MY ASS OFF IN JUNGLES, WHILE BEING SHOT AT FOR THIS NATION! WHAT IN THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE YOU LITTLE SHIT-SUCKING WEASEL? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU PUT YOUR ASS ON THE LINE FOR ANYTHING? AND YET YOU HAVE THE UNMITIGATED TEMERITY TO SHOW UP HERE AND MONDAY-MORNING QUARTERBACK THE ACTIONS OF A BRAVE MARINE, WHO WAS DEFENDING HIMSELF AND HIS UNIT FROM AN ATTACK BY SOME MURDEROUS AL-QUEDA SYMPATHIZER!! YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT, NUMB-NUTS? I AM CONCERNED ABOUT A BUNCH OF GRABASSTIC, ORGANIZED MORONS WITH CAMERAS AND MICROPHONES DOING THEIR BEST TO PORTRAY OUR BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN AS WAR CRIMINALS! I AM CONCERNED ABOUT CHICKEN-SHIT PANSIES THAT WANT US TO NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORISTS AND WHINE ABOUT THEIR PISS-ANT "FREEDOMS"!! NEXT QUESTION.

Reporter 3: "I...I.."

Ermey:

"DID YOU HAVE A BIG BOWL OF STUPID FOR BREAKFAST THIS MORNING, NUMB NUTS? I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD OUT OF THAT COMMIE CRY HOLE IN THAT SHIT-PILE YOU CALL A HEAD! AND THAT GOES TRIPLE FOR THE REST OF YOU PANSY-ASSED MORONS! NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF MY PRESS ROOM BEFORE I SHOVE MY BOOT SO FAR UP YOUR ASS THAT YOU CHOKE TO DEATH ON MY SHOELACES!!!!"

Marine DI's have a language all their own.
May God bless them all.



Did you Know

The Mine detector (Polish) Mark I was a metal detector for landmines developed during World War II in the winter of 1941–1942 by Polish lieutenant Józef Kosacki.

In the pre-war period the Department of Artillery of the Ministry of National Defence ordered the construction of a device that could be helpful in locating duds on artillery training grounds. The instrument was designed by the AVA Wytwórnia Radiotechniczna, but its implementation was prevented by the outbreak of the Polish Defensive War. Following the fall of Poland and the transfer of Polish HQ to France, work restarted on the device, this time intended as a mine detector. Little is known of this stage of construction as the work was stopped by the battle of France and the need to evacuate the Polish personnel to Great Britain.



There in late 1941 Lieut. Józef Kosacki devised a final project, based partially on the earlier designs. His discovery was not patented; he gave it as a gift to the British Army. He was given a “thank you” letter from the King for this act. His design was accepted and 500 mine detectors were immediately sent to El Alamein where they doubled the speed of the British 8th Army. During the war more than 100,000 of this type were produced, together with several hundred thousands of further developments of the mine detector (Mk. II, Mk. III and Mk IV). Detector was used later during the Allied invasion of Sicily, the Allied invasion of Italy and the Invasion of Normandy. This type of detectors was used by the British Army until 1995.

An attempt was made to mount a version of the mine detector on a vehicle so that sappers would be less vulnerable. To this end “Lulu” (on a Sherman tank) and subsequently “Bantu” (on a Staghound armoured car) were developed. The detector mechanism was in non-metallic rollers on arms held away from the vehicle. When the roller passed over a mine, or a similar piece of metal, the roller it was under was signalled in the vehicle. Prototypes were built but never tried in combat .



What do you think ?

I believe all sappers and ex servicemen and women should look at continuing the practice of:
Right hand over our hearts statue

The history behind the placing of our right hand over our hearts at funerals and remembrance services. After some research, I found the following and was surprised to learn that we are actually placing our hand over our service medals.

The Veterans Salute

The Veterans Salute to their “Fallen Comrades” originated in London on Armistice Day in 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the 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 Soldier, sailor and many Victoria Cross winners. The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guard Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including many Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their 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 paid the supreme sacrifice”.





Major Kevin 'Paddy' Fee, Officer Commanding, 3 Field Squadron and Emergency Response Squadron concluded his three year tenure and handed over to Captain Kenny Long. The parade was also attended by Major Fee's wife, Col McDonald and retired 3 Fd Sappers.

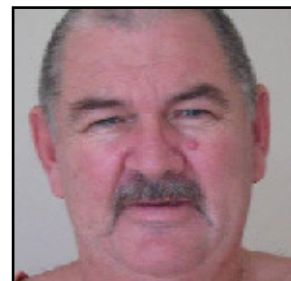




3Fd Sqn and past sappers on Parade with RNZE Regt Col McDonald
outgoing and incoming Maj Fee and Capt Long



Association Treasurer's Report



BNZ Investments

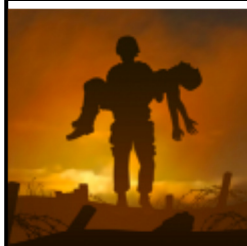
Fixed term	57617561-03005	\$11,251.48
Term Deposit	57617561-03007	\$8,431.57
Term Deposit	57617561-03008	\$7,882.85
Term Deposit	57617561-03009	\$8,017.50
Nth Branch	57617561-03011	\$7,000.00

Investment Total **\$42,583.40**

Totals

ExE Acc	\$3,061.77
Investments	\$42,583.40
Branches	\$6,833.67

Totals **\$52,478.84**



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 of the RNZE,

Season's greetings to you all, wherever that may be in the world! This is the final quarterly update for 2018 to let you know what has happened during this previous quarter and about what is going to happen across the Corps in the next. After a busy third quarter, the Corps has continued to maintain a relatively high exercise, exchange, course and deployment tempo. We have continued to have our members deployed to MANAWA (Iraq), MOHUA (Iraq), SUDDEN (South Sudan), TROY (Dubai) and FARAD (Sinai) as well as rotations preparing to go and welcoming home those who have returned. It has seen the conclusion of a concerted exercise period supporting 1 (NZ) Brigade and TRADOC, as well as delivering instruction at the School of Military Engineering on a range of courses. We have also continued to provide instructor support to pre deployment training and we continue to deliver leading edge military engineering solutions for NZDF.

In New Zealand, Regiment training has been focused on a deliberate reconstitution post EXERCISE SARI BARI and supporting EXERCISE PHANTOM MAJOR (Combat School) as well as undertaking some smaller training exercises. This quarter concluded a sustained period of military engineering support to the Land Component that drew elements from across the country to support. The Regiment also exploited opportunities with the School to conduct additional heavy breaching as well continuing to deliver construction effects for NZDF through the military construction period (MILCON 18.2). Finally, preparations for the 18/19 south west Pacific cyclone season (Plan Pacific Relief) have been completed including the conduct of a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Command Post Exercise (CPX) leveraging the new battle management system.

SME successfully delivered the RNZE Senior Combat Engineer Course, the Explosive Method of Entry Course, Basic Fire Course and the Plant Operator Basic Course. The level of instruction has remained world class and the team now refocus and reset for another busy start to 2019 course loading.



Looking forward, SME have a full course loading early in the new year with RNZE Basic Combat Engineer Course, RNZE Tree Felling, Fire Intermediate Course, Basic Carpentry and Plant Intermediate. 2 Fd Sqn will be supporting the School with both students and instructors as well as preparing to undertake a boating concentration in Burnham while continuing to Introduce into Service (IIS) the new karcher Multipurpose Decontamination System. 3 Fd Sqn are gearing up to lead the Boating concentration on behalf of the Regiment utilising their recent accreditation as an Royal Yachting Association provider. 2 Fd Sqn will be supporting the introduction into service of the new Multi-Purpose Decontamination Station (MPDS) as well as the new small inflatable boats (Zodiac FC530). 25 ESS will continue with MILCON tasks (transition from 18.2 to 19.1) with concluding the new RNZE Military Working Dog facility in the Unit lines, deploying on the Light Engineering Team to Antarctica, supporting the construction of the new Network Enabled Army facility in Linton (Project Pronto) and continuing road maintenance in both Waiouru / Linton.

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

2 Engr Regt Achievements – at the Regiment end of year parade there were a number of medals, promotions and awards presented, well done to those recognised. I wanted to congratulate again the following:

CO Leadership Award – CPL Andy Good, 3 Fd Sqn.

RSM Top Soldier Award – CPL Tom Grant, 4ERT.

Colonel Commandant Award (Spousal support) – Mrs Sarah Aitken.

Right of Line Sub Unit – 2 Fd Sqn.

SME(NZ) Achievements – SME(NZ) presented year end awards, well done to the recipients!

CI Leadership Award – SSGT Lockton

TTW Top Instructor – LCPL (now Cpl) Taylor

CEW Top Instructor – SGT Langman

Most Outstanding Apprentice – SPR Craig

Family Day 2018/ 2019 - The delayed family day was moved to coincide with the Linton Camp family day, which was also postponed. The new date for this is 03 February 2019.

EOD Trade - the Chief of Army's directive that formalises the transition of the EOD trade away from RNZIR to RNZE is signed and with effect 01 Dec 18. Welcome to the Corps EOD, and we look forward to the new EOD staff attending BCE in the new year.

Corps History - You will be aware that the Corps History book is all but starting printing with advanced copies being available from March 2019. If you don't have your copy, you can still purchase one! Order forms are spread across the Corps locations. All currently serving Sappers have their names in the book, with a Corps nominal roll capturing you! We thank all involved with this project, from people providing input, oral histories, photos, book reviews, the author to deliver on behalf of Sappers all. There are planned two book launches, one to coincide with the Manawatu Military Tattoo (12-13 April) which will occur on 11 April 2019 (1100-1400) which is open to the public and will include a small display. There will also be a Parliamentary Launch on 08 May 2019 (1800 – 1930) hosted by the Minister of Defence. This will involve sappers from across the Corps, more information to follow. The new website is operating with a whole lot of images, books, updates etc available now showing our history, head along and check it out www.nzsappers.org.nz

Private Public Partnerships - The Corps continues with its private public partnership with DownerNZ we are planning to receive an intern placement rotation starting February 2019. They will be joining our team for 12 weeks at a time and we have agreed to host two as a start, then review or formalise.

New Capability - The forward edge of the capability glacier has landed both within the School and Regiment. The initial Train the Trainer course / activity for the MPDS has been conducted and the equipment for the boating project is being delivered into the Unit. It will continue to present a challenge in terms of training time, however expect a shift as the new equipment comes on board. The intention to have fit for purpose infrastructure in place before the equipment arrives fully is in play currently and work is occurring in this area. The most pressing capability issue remains that of Fire, specifically the domestic response and rural fire appliances. This continues being addressed as a matter of urgency by both NZDF and MOD in conjunction with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). More to follow on this in due course.

Corps Shop – there is a new set of Sapper swag available from our Corps Shop, feel free to head to the facebook page and ‘shop now’ to have a look!

Posting Season – The Corps is currently in reset / forming mode with the posting season just having taken effect. For those who have moved, thank you for your work and commitment in your previous role, I look forward to continued interaction in your next! Also welcome to the newest Sappers, both soldiers and officers who have joined the Corps from both The Army Depot and various officer training establishments – welcome and we look forward to serving with you into the future.

There are a few more key things that I believe we should celebrate, in no particular order. This list is not exhaustive and there are plenty more on our Corps social media sites, however the things worthy of individual mention are:

1. A/SGT Boyce and OFFRCDT Wilson for being awarded their Brigade Commanders Commendations.
2. Linton Village Green – congratulations to SME(NZ) who placed first and 25 ESS who placed third and won esprit de corps. Nicely done to our photoshoppers and ballerinas!
3. CPL Tom Grant who was awarded the NZ Army Soldier of the Year, an awesome achievement!
4. CPL Chad McDonald who was awarded the Top Instructor Award for AARC 390
5. CPL Tom Jellyman who was awarded the Top Instructor Award for AARC 391
6. CAPT Ingrid Gillingham who was awarded an ADF Gold Commendation for her service at the Australian Defence Force Academy
7. CPL Andy Good for his work in Australia supporting the ANZAC Bus Stop construction and winning the 27km Luxmore Grunt in 1 hr 50 mins.
8. LT Claire Kirby who won her age group in Ironman 70.3 Taupo which gives her a spot in the Ironman 70.3 World Championships in Nice, France in 2019, great work!!
9. Our supporters of ‘Movember’ (not sure about SSGT Inders one though – maybe a bit longer than a month)!
10. SPR Walker, being awarded the SMA Award on AARC 391
11. LCPL Broughton for being awarded the Regimental Award on his JNCO Course.
12. SPR Chris Guy for winning the Top Student, Instructors Choice and Academic Trophy off the last Basic Fire course.
13. EDD Iris for the arrival of her six new puppies.

This time of year is also a time to reflect on those who are no longer with us in body, but will remain a part of our Corps fabric. The sad passing of Lieutenant Colonel Peter Curran is a reminder of this and when we think of absent friends, I am sure you will also think of him and his family.

As we close 2018, we are prepared for what we hope to be a slow tropical storm season in the Pacific as well as fire season here at home. All members of the Corps continue to represent themselves, the Army and New Zealand proudly. Sappers of the present continue to build on the foundation stones by our predecessors. 2019 will be another year with a variety of tasks. Whether it is successful deployments, the conduct of training activities as part of MILCON, or the delivery of a lot of new capability, we will continue to demonstrate our agility and flexibility as well as our Corps motto - Ubique. Our strength remains the sum of our parts, that is each of us performing our roles to the highest professional standards that allow us to achieve.

For those Sappers who are deployed or working over the closedown period, be safe, look after yourselves and know that we will be thinking of you and your families. For those Sappers taking the opportunity for a leave period, I hope you all have a good Christmas break and enjoy some time with your families or loved ones - it is well deserved.

Keep up the good work and don't forget to follow us on social media to stay updated! I look forward to serving with you again in the new year.

I Nga Wahi Katoa

LTCOL Terry McDonald

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



LIEUTENANT COLONEL I.J. BRANDON, Royal NZ Engineers

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Brandon was born in Upper Hutt in September 1981. He completed his secondary education at St. Patricks College, Silverstream.

Lieutenant Colonel Brandon enlisted into the New Zealand Army in January 1999 and followed a course of study at the Australian Defence Force Academy and Royal Military College of Australia, based in Canberra. In December 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Brandon was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers. In December 2003, Lieutenant Colonel Brandon graduated from the University of New South Wales with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours) degree.

Lieutenant Colonel Brandon was posted to 2nd Engineer Regiment from December 2003 to January 2006, during which time he completed his Regimental Officer Basic Course and commanded a Troop of Field Engineers in 2 Field Squadron. In January 2006, Lieutenant Colonel Brandon was promoted to Acting Captain and deployed to Afghanistan, where he served as an Engineer Staff Officer in the Headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul. On return to New Zealand, Lieutenant Colonel Brandon was appointed Acting Second-in-Command of 2 Field Squadron. He was promoted to Captain in December 2006 and posted to the Officer Cadet School of New Zealand as an Instructor.

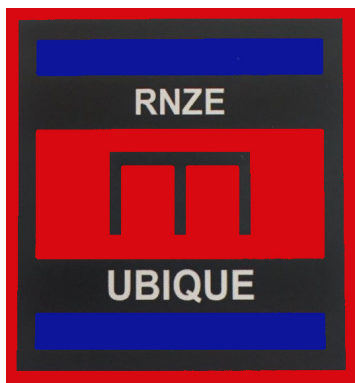
Following two years at the Officer Cadet School, which included a brief break from service, Lieutenant Colonel Brandon returned to 2nd Engineer Regiment for a two year posting as Adjutant. In December 2011, he was promoted to the rank of Major and posted to Burnham where he was appointed Chief Instructor of the newly formed Army Leadership Centre. This was followed by a two year posting as the Officer Commanding 2 Field Squadron back in Linton, during which time he deployed to the Sinai for six months to serve with the Multinational Force and Observers as the Engineer Officer in Command of Remote Sites and Force Protection.

Lieutenant Colonel Brandon attended the United States Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, from June 2015 to June 2016. He completed a Masters degree in Military Arts and Science, and was awarded the Eisenhower Award for the distinguished international graduate of his class.

On return to New Zealand, Lieutenant Colonel Brandon was appointed to a role within Capability Branch, Headquarters NZDF in June 2016. Where he managed the Engineer sub-portfolio within the Land Combat Working Group. He deployed to Iraq in late 2018 and will return to New Zealand to assume command of 2nd Engineer Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Brandon is married to Tamlin, a medical doctor. They have one child, Isabelle who is two years old.

Lieutenant Colonel Brandon maintains a number of hobbies, including running, tramping, skiing, and mountaineering. He has previously held professional guiding qualifications through the New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association, and the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association. Lieutenant Colonel Brandon enjoys reading military history, and is still learning to speak French.



LTCOL Ian Brandon, RNZE



LTCOL Ian Brandon, RNZE who the Chief of Army appointed late last week as the Commanding Officer designate for 2 Engineer Regiment. LTCOL Brandon is currently deployed but will return to New Zealand and assume the role in late May 2019.

LTCOL Brandon is an outstanding leader and will be great in the role. He comes back into the Unit from Capability Branch where he had a very successful tenure delivering project work for both the Corps and wider Land Combat environment. He is well positioned to assume command of the Regiment and I know he will be an exceptional Commanding Officer who will move us from strength to strength

Trip Down Memory Lane

PAY

1970

I remember when a sappers wage was only \$2200 per year in 1970

1975

The average weekly wage was \$95 (equivalent to \$920 in 2018). This rose to \$157 by 1979, but because of inflation the average Kiwi was no better off. The minimum wage for adult workers was \$1.95 an hour (\$11.10 in 2018) and the average hourly rate was \$4.52 (\$26).

2018.

Careers in the Army are well-rewarded, as well as being diverse and exciting. As you become more experienced and move up through the ranks, gaining additional skills and qualifications, you'll see your salary rise accordingly.

On top of your basic salary you can expect something called Military Factor. This provides you with significant extra financial rewards because of the commitment you've made to serve your country – a commitment that asks you to play your part in situations and environments that are unique to military life, such as combat and overseas operations.

When comparing your salary to a civilian career, it is worth remembering that there are many additional benefits in the Army that will make your money go further:

Free medical and dental care for work related purposes.

Subsidised hire equipment from camp Welfare.

Subsidised food when eating in the camp mess.

Superannuation, currently up to 4% employer contribution toward Kiwisaver.

Sponsored tertiary study programmes at all levels.

Below is an indicative guide to remuneration within NZDF. Remuneration can vary according to rank and trade

Recruit	\$37,284
Private	\$47,224 - \$53,875
Lance Corporal	\$55,446 - \$65,306
Corporal	\$60,845 - \$78,171
Sergeant	\$68,391 - \$89,908
Staff Sergeant	\$76,308 - \$104,881
Warrant Officer	\$86,814 - \$111,794





Corporal Thomas Grant, 2nd Engineer Regiment, RNZE – the NZ Army Soldier of the Year for 2018. He exemplifies the values of our Army. This year, he was awarded a Chief of Army Commendation for his action in response to a vehicle accident while off duty. He deployed to California to fight bush fires, and was part of the NZ team who competed in the World Fire Fighter Combat Challenge in Sacramento. CPL Grant received the top student award at both the APTI course and the Fire Command and Control Senior Course this year.





Leonard Bradford Smith (Brad)



Brad joined the Army 5th July 1940 with the 16th Railway Operating Company.

He left for Egypt in August that year arriving at Camp Maadi Cairo on 26th Sept 1940

The job of the 16th railway company was to operate rail system between Alexandria and Mersah Maturh which was the main supply route for the Western Desert Force.

His New Zealand service was with 4 Fd PK Sqn RNZE

After the war Brad was 1 of 5 Engineers picked for the New Zealand Contingent to march at Queen Elizabeth's coronation parade in London 1953.

In 1953 Brad was WO11 RNZE Queens Quarter Guard during her visit to New Zealand

Brads military service ended 31 March 1959

He continued his RNZE service as a Executive member of the Sappers Association followed by Patron of the Association for 22 years attending many RNZE Reunions over the years including reciting the Ode at St Davids Church as part of Sappers day celebrations. As well Brad was welfare officer with the Whangarei RSA for 20 years which earned him a life member of the RSA in 1983.

Leonard Bradford Smith (Brad) died 14th April 2007 in Whangarei aged 90



Sappers Association gathering Auckland Domain



4 FD PK Sqn RNZE LINTON MC March 1952

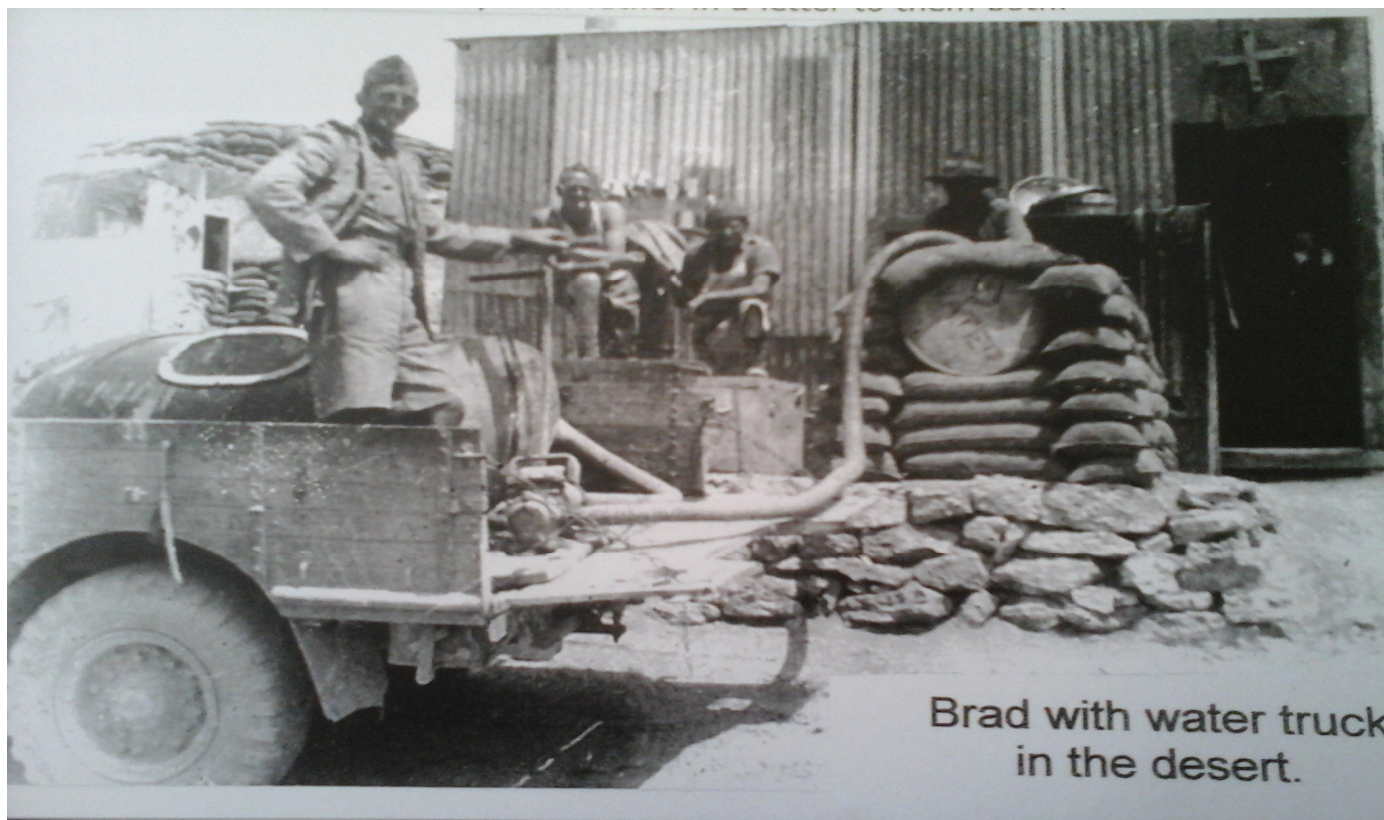
Brad



In grounds of Buckingham Palace
1953 Brad 2nd Left



RNZE Queens Quarter Guard Government House 1953



Brad with water truck
in the desert.



SME(NZ) has finished 2018 with medallic recognition for operational service, long service, and promotion. Lance Corporal Taylor was promoted to Corporal on posting to 2 Engineer Regiment, and the Chief Instructor, Major Matt Kerr was promoted on posting to Lieutenant Colonel



2 Field OC Handover Parade and Medal Ceremony



Post-traumatic stress disorder



A SOLDIER WITH PTSD fell in a HOLE and couldn't get out. A Senior NCO went by and the Soldier with PTSD called out for help. The Senior NCO yelled at him and told him to suck it up dig deep & drive on, then threw him a shovel.

But the Soldier with PTSD could not suck it up and drive on so he dug the hole deeper. A Senior Officer went by and the Soldier with PTSD called out for help. The Senior Officer told him to use the tools your Senior NCO has given you then threw him a bucket. But the Soldier with PTSD was using the tools his Senior NCO gave him so he dug the hole deeper and filled the bucket. A psychiatrist walked by. The Soldier with PTSD said, "Help! I can't get out!" The psychiatrist gave him some drugs and said, "Take this. It will relieve the pain." The Soldier with PTSD said thanks, but when the pills ran out, he was still in the hole. A well-known psychologist rode by and heard the Soldier with PTSD cries for help. He stopped and asked, "How did you get there? Were you born there? Did your parents put you there? Tell me about yourself, it will alleviate your sense of loneliness."

So the Soldier with PTSD talked with him for an hour, then the psychologist had to leave, but he said he'd be back next week. The Soldier with PTSD thanked him, but he was still in the hole. A priest came by. The Soldier with PTSD called for help. The priest gave him a Bible and said, "I'll say a prayer for you." He got down on his knees and prayed for the Soldier with PTSD, then he left. The Soldier with PTSD was very grateful, he read the Bible, but he was still stuck in the hole. A recovering Soldier with PTSD happened to be passing by. The Soldier with PTSD cried out, "Hey, help me.

I'm stuck in this hole!" Right away the recovering Soldier with PTSD jumped down in the hole with him. The Soldier with PTSD said, "What are you doing? Now we're both stuck here!!" But the recovering Soldier with PTSD said, "Calm down. It's okay. I've been here before. I know how to get out."

Always in the shadows



Lurking in the shadows
In the spaces of my mind
Are the memories of the traumas
I thought I'd left behind.

Where nightmares are my reality
A solitary confinement I'm locked inside
Where the PTSD is stalking me
And there is no place to hide

Where the demons of my past
Have found a cosy place to dwell
Coming out and confronting me
Aroused by sight, or sound, or smell

Where simple tasks like shopping
Or even getting out of bed
Seem almost insurmountable
Because of monsters in my head

Where anxiety is always there
And sends my emotions reeling
Where breaking down and crying
Is the only thing I'm feeling

Where loud or sudden noises
Like the slamming of the door
Will have my heart rate racing
Or have me curled up on the floor

Where I can't remember little things
When I walk into a room
When someone tells me something
That I've forgotten all too soon

Where I can't control my anger
Where the rage will not subside
And I sit alone with my thoughts
Contemplating suicide

The soul destroying misery
The endless torment and despair
And succumbing to its burden
Is an ever present fear

Just like you I'm only human
But my mind's a complex mess
And I'm scared I'll be defeated
By my Post-Traumatic Stress ©

This poem was written by one of our Ex RNZE brothers who has been taken by this terrible illness and is now slowly recovering and has allowed me to print them in this newsletter this is the first of six poems he wrote while in that dark stage of this life .

PTSD

What is PTSD?

PTSD is marked by clear physical and psychological symptoms such as nightmares, anxiety, memory and cognition problems, and other physical and mental health issues. The disorder is also associated with difficulties in social or family life, including occupational instability, marital problems, family discord, and difficulties in parenting.

While PTSD is commonly associated with military personnel who have undertaken active service, the disorder is common - about two thirds of New Zealanders will experience at least one traumatic event in their lives that has the potential to develop into PTSD.

In addition to traumas commonly faced by the general community such as car accidents and assaults, military personnel can be exposed to a number of traumatic events during the course of their service. This places them at greater risk of developing PTSD than the general population.

What to look for

Four things to look out for:

- **Reliving**
- **Over alertness**
- **Avoidance**
- **Negative thoughts**

These symptoms can significantly impair a person's daily life. If you (or a friend or loved one) are experiencing these feelings or behaviours, then you need to take steps to address the problem.

It is important to remember that PTSD is common and can be treated, even if you've had it for a very long time.

Returned and Services Association (RSA)

For urgent assistance for all Service personnel and their families, contact your nearest District Support Adviser.

Dial 1737 Need to talk

Trained counsellors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, for free.

You can also find out more about this service online.

No Duff Charitable Trust

No Duff offers immediate, "First Response" support for veterans in crisis - dial 022 307 1557.

Contact No Duff via Facebook: No Duff Charitable Trust, or email: noduff.ngo@gmail.com.

Impact

PTSD can affect every part of your life, and you may not even be aware of it. Even when people become aware of the problem, it can take a while before they notice how the people around them are being affected too.

Living with or loving someone who has PTSD can be difficult. People with PTSD often avoid social situations, feel detached, and have trouble expressing their emotions. As a result, they might be less affectionate or withdrawn and refuse to go on social outings or to family get togethers. They may also show less interest in intimacy or parenting children.

People with PTSD can also be more irritable and jumpy. Family members often talk about 'walking on eggshells' and being afraid of an outburst. Family violence can be a problem for families of loved ones with PTSD.

Research has shown that a veteran's PTSD can also affect their family members' mental health. Partners can experience anxiety, depression, social isolation and feelings of hopelessness, while younger children can develop behaviour problems such as acting out at school and adult children are more likely to suffer from mental health problems than the general population. It is therefore important to seek support and get your PTSD treated as early as possible to minimise its impact on the whole family.

PTSD in later years

Many military personnel first develop PTSD years after their service; while others might find their existing PTSD gets worse as they age. There are a number of reasons for this.

The distraction of work and raising children has gone.

The increased free time of retirement makes it easier to get into bad habits, like drinking too much.

Strategies that used to help you cope with stress aren't working any more or are taking their toll. For example, you might not be able to drink enough to block out feelings.

The interaction between physical and mental health can also lead to PTSD getting worse with age. Over time, PTSD can have a negative effect on our physical health, and in turn, having to deal with more and more physical health issues as we get older can make us feel less able to cope. A small proportion of veterans will develop dementia as they age, which can result in unwanted memories of traumatic events becoming more frequent.

It is important to remember that PTSD can be treated, even if you've had it for a very long time.

What can I do about it?

PTSD is one of those things that doesn't really go away on its own. So if you recognise that you might be affected, it is best to seek out the right kind of help.

A doctor is always a good place to start, as he or she can make referrals for specialists, and support your efforts with medications if necessary.

Treatments often include both psychological treatment and medication. It's generally best to start with psychological treatment rather than medication as the first and only solution, although your doctor may prescribe medication to help you manage some of the feelings associated with your PTSD.

The most effective treatment for PTSD is trauma focused cognitive behavioural therapy. This approach recognises that the way we think and act affects the way we feel. With the help of a therapist or counsellor, you will learn:

Ways to help digest and confront painful memories, thoughts and images so they don't continue to distress you.

Strategies to help you get back into activities or visit places that you have avoided since the trauma because it has been too distressing.

Tools to help you relax when you start getting too anxious or wound up.

It is hard to imagine that anyone could help you with what you are experiencing, so it is good to remember that PTSD is common, and the professionals and specialists who deal with it really do know how to help.



CONTACT US

P 022 307 1557

E noduff.ngo@gmail.com

NODUFF.ORG.NZ

VOLUNTEERS

Want to help us help others?

If you're serving, ex-service or a civilian you can make a commitment to supporting and assisting the NZ Veterans community.

Visit noduff.org.nz for more information and to register.

f facebook.com/No-Duff-NZ-Veterans-support-NGO



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		

Sappers Last

Our ranks grow thin but we
will remember them



5/11/2018	Doug Gibbons	Auckland
11/12/2018	Peter Curran	Palmerston North
3 /1 /2019	Terry White	Palmerston North



***They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.***

This is the fourth stanza from Laurence Binyon's poem For the Fallen. Referred to as the Ode of Remembrance, it was first published in The Times of London in September 1914 and has been incorporated into the ritual of remembrance in many countries.



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.](#)
[\(external link\)](#)



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. Some articles in the newsletter have been sourced from the Internet and my thanks go to the originators of those articles and photos,

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

