



THE RNZE CHARITABLE TRUST Incorporated

C/o DSS Registry
Linton Military Camp
Palmerston North 4820
NEW ZEALAND



“Preserving RNZE Heritage”
www.sappers.org.nz

Profile of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineer Charitable Trust (RNZE CT or “Trust”), as at December 2016

Introduction

This profile has been prepared as a background to the **RNZE CT** and in particular, the **Engineer Corps Memorial Centre (ECMC)**, which is the prime focal point and responsibility of the “Trust”. The following explanations are in summary form only and any further enquiries should be directed to the ECMC, RNZE CT or principle officers of the “Trust”, whose contact details are shown at the foot of this document (on the last page).

The **RNZE CT** was formed and registered as an Incorporated Society on 12 May 2011. It was registered as a Charitable Trust (CC46770) on 14 July 2011.

Parent bodies of the “Trust” are the RNZE Corps Committee and Sappers Association NZ Inc. The “Trust” has a Trust Board comprising of seven Trustees, as named in the Trust Deed and Charities Services “Dashboard” Summary, also an appointed Secretary and Treasurer. The Trust Board meets quarterly and furnishes an annual (financial and progress) report.

The principle purpose and object of the “Trust” is to maintain, develop and preserve research, historical records, artefacts, collections and memorabilia of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers (RNZE)”. We also conduct research into all of these topics and this is reflected in the Trust’s strapline above, namely, “Preserving RNZE Heritage” !

The “Trust” achieves this by way of the **Engineer Corps Memorial Centre (ECMC)**, which is located within Linton Military Camp, south of Palmerston North. The ECMC was originally established under the auspices of the **Engineer Corps Memorial Association (ECMA)**, formed as an Incorporated Society on 9 September 1966. It was disbanded in 1989 and its function was merged within the RNZE Corps Committee. The latter was required to be changed to separate out public and non-public (military or NZ Defence Force) funds responsibilities. This resulted in the formation of the “Trust”. The Trust is also responsible for the project management of the **RNZE Corps History project** (intention is to complete writing a manuscript by late 2017 ready for publication and release in 2018) and the scanning, digitising, post-processing and **making its heritage information** available to the wider community and public of New Zealand.

The **ECMC** and its buildings were originally located on a parcel of land leased from the NZ Defence Force. This arrangement ceased in 1992, when it was declared that a “Crown entity could not lease from the Crown” and therefore, the buildings of the ECMC, became Crown or Defence-owned. The contents (RNZE Corps “collection”) of these buildings, however, became assets of the “Trust”, which was another prime reason for the Trust being formed. **The ECMC is open to the public and is affiliated to Museums Aotearoa as a full and participating member.**

The ECMC comprises:

St Martin's RNZE and Garrison Chapel

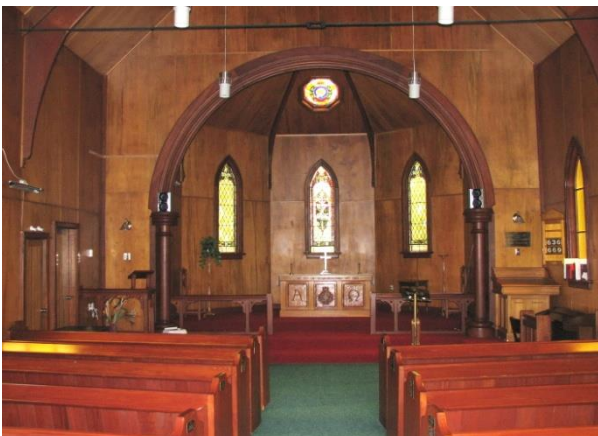


The Chapel originated from the settlement of Makotuku in the central Hawkes Bay, originally constructed in 1888/1899 and then relocated to Linton Camp in 1972 and opened in July 1974. The Chapel is used for a range of Linton Camp and local community activities, events and services.

ECMC Library and Museum



This facility houses the RNZE collection of artefacts, books, maps, medals, memorabilia, reference material, reports, technical papers, uniforms, etc. Further explanations are shown below.



The Chapel is a fully functioning (non-denominational) church, managed by the local chaplaincy and houses the NZE/RNZE Rolls of Honour, the Royal Engineers (UK) stained glass window hat badge, a Royal Australian Engineer presentation hardwood prayer desk, the NZ Railway Engineers commemorative window, other related Rolls of Honour and memorial plaques to deceased RNZE personnel mounted on the ends of the pews. These contents of the Chapel are assets of the "Trust".

The ECMC Library and Museum building was constructed by the RNZE, being officially opened in January 1982 and extended (additional library space/wing) in 1987-88. This facility contains over 5,000 items of reference material, covering combat engineering, general engineering, technical engineering, general history, heritage items, training manuals from Australia, NZ, UK and the USA, School of Military Engineering (SME) references, professional papers of the Institution of Royal Engineers (1853-1913), biographies, auto-biographies, photo albums, pictorial records, reports of deployments and projects in NZ and overseas, Unit History Sheet records, records of the Sappers

Association NZ Inc (1960-), records of the ECMA (1966-89) and Corps histories for the Corps of Royal Engineers (UK), Royal Australian Engineers, Royal Canadian Engineers and the RNZE. In other words, the library component houses the “Technical Information Centre (or TIC)” for the Corps of RNZE. Much of this reference material is well over 150 years old and requires careful conservation and preservation.

The Museum comprises displays of badges, currencies, equipment, maps, medals, memorabilia, presentations, references, reports, uniforms, war art, etc. Based on a chronology of the Corps, display cabinets house all of these items, covering:-

The Maori as pioneers/military engineers,
NZ Land Wars (1860-),
Corps of Royal Engineers,
Engineer Volunteers (1865- , Canterbury,
Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin),
Earle Collection,
Submarine and Mining Corps,
Tunnellers and Miners,
WW1 - Samoa and Belgium/France,
WW2 – Crete, Greece, North Africa, SW
Pacific and Italy,
Post 1945 Operations, peacekeeping and civil
aid in Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, Thailand
(Feeder Road Project and Op Crown),
Fiji and Rural Development Unit (RDU),
Pacific Islands including Cook Islands,
Kiribati, Solomons, Tokelau, Tonga and
Western Samoa,
Antarctic – Scott Base Rebuild,

Army Fire Fighters/Brigades/Units,
Falklands War,
Demining and Peace-keeping operations in
Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia,
Timor L’este, Iraq, Laos, Mozambique,
Namibia and Pakistan,
Communications and Signals,
Calculations, Design, Measurement and
Survey,
Bridging, Boating and Watermanship, and
roles of the engineers/RNZE, including:
demolitions,
pioneering and field machines,
field defences, obstacles,
booby traps and minewarfare,
plant, roads and airfields, chemical,
biological, radiological and nuclear
defence,
water supply and many more.

There are over 60,000 items of memorabilia, artefacts and heritage items contained within the “RNZE collection”. In addition, there are some 20,000 photos, slides, negatives, plates and other heritage photographic items and albums available in this collection. There is also an external double garage adjacent to the main building, which houses a collection store, map and plan collection/storage and a workshop.



The Kitchener Room within the museum building, houses the Kitchener Silver collection, presented to the RNZE by the Kitchener family (Estate of Field Marshall Lord Kitchener). Also on display, is a range of other cups, plates, silverware, trophies, medal collections and other priceless artefacts and memorabilia dating back over 100 or more years.

The Purpose/Objects of the “Trust”

In achieving the principle purpose and objects of the “Trust” shown on the first page, there are two further sub-sets of the main object, as follows:

First is **“Illustrating to the public the role the RNZE has played in the establishment and development of New Zealand infrastructure and New Zealand military and engineering history”**. This has been brought about by the members of the Corps having filled key appointments and positions within the horizontal construction functions of catchment and river boards, ports and harbour boards, power boards and energy companies, regional and territorial local authorities, post and telegraph, NZ Roads Board, Auckland Harbour Board, NZ Rail, water supply, vertical (commercial, industrial and residential) construction, a range of other utilities, NZ Geological Survey, NZ Map Service, Dept of Lands and Survey, to name a few. This has been in between and during major conflicts and wars, since the early history of New Zealand, from the 1860s onwards. This is also a little known strength and achievement of the Corps, which has been somewhat taken for granted, but is still an important contributor to the history of New Zealand, it’s emerging infrastructure and development, as well as for the engineering profession as a whole.

Second, is **“Providing the New Zealand Defence Force/New Zealand Army with an aid in the teaching of military and military engineering history”**. For the first part, the ECMC comprises suitable resources to cover historical reference material on the early campaigns, mutinies and wars, then New Zealand’s involvement in the Boer War, WW1, WW2, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, Cold War and other conflicts and skirmishes since that time. The Corps has and continues to provide aid to the civil authority, reconstruction tasks, humanitarian aid and disaster relief, demining, peacekeeping and other United Nations and NGO deployments and engagements overseas and in New Zealand. Archival material covering this activity includes related diaries, maps, papers and reports, plans, as well as a variety of published material.

From a military engineering historical perspective, the ECMC contains reference material commencing from the first engineer (Bishop Gondolphus, as the King’s Engineer in the Battle of Hastings - 1066), leading to the formation of the Royal Engineers in the 1400’s and their professional connections with the Institution of Royal Engineers, the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE), International Council of Builders (CIOB) and so on. In New Zealand, this led to the NZ Engineers (NZE), then RNZE (in 1902), including professional connections with the Institution of Professional Engineers (IPENZ, formed in 1914), Association of Consulting Engineers (ACENZ), World Council of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), NZ Institute of Architects (NZIA), NZ Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NZIQS), NZ Institute of Builders (NZIOB), NZ Institute of Clerks of Works (NZICW), NZ Institute of Electrical Engineers (NZIEE), NZ Institute of Mechanical Engineers (NZIMechE) and so on. Many serving and retired members of the Corps have been members and officers of these organisations and continue to serve in many key roles in support of these organisations, both in New Zealand and overseas.

“Trust” and ECMC Contact Details are:

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- The Corps of RNZE, RNZE CT and ECMC can all be accessed on Wikipedia, Trip Advisor and via the emerging website www.sappers.org.nz.