**PNCC MILITARY HERITAGE/HISTORY AND COMMEMORATION PROGRAMME 2024-29**

This programme follows on from the approved and successful previous activity listings. It includes the military history presentations known as the “Evening Public Lecture Presentations” (EPLP) and the “Monthly Midday Military History Presentations” (MMMHP) series. There are also “Major City Events” (MCE) as shown below and other related military historical anniversaries, activities, and events. This programme is based around discussions with the PNCC Mayor and CEO, PNCL Heritage team, PNCC Events team, PNDHAG members and the PNRSA Executive Committee. The programme is very dynamic, and venues include **PNCL Level** **2** (Heritage Section) and **Mezzanine Floor** (entrance via alleyway between George Street and The Square), depending upon availability. Following separate invitations will confirm dates, timings, and venues, together with any associated RSVP and/or health and safety requirements.

**2024 Programme:**

**Jan** – 80th anniversary of the lifting of the siege of Leningrad (almost 900 days, September 1941 to January 1944)

**22 Jan 1944**- 80th anniversary of the Allied landing at Anzio, behind German lines in Italy

**6 Feb** – (Tues) Waitangi Day

**8 Feb** (MMMHP) – “28th Māori Battalion” in the Second World War and the “75th Anniversary of the release of the “Blue Smoke” by Ruma Karaitiana, Rangitane.

**Feb**- 80th anniversary of 3 (NZ) Division landing on Nissan Islands, Solomons in 1944

**Feb**- 80th anniversary of the Allied bombing of the monastery at Monte Cassino in 1944

**1-31 March** – PNCC Heritage Month in Palmerston North

**24 Feb** – War Animal (Purple Poppy) Day

**1-3 Mar** – Felding & District 150th anniversary celebrations/events

**3 March (MCE - Sun)** – Explore Esplanade Day (with NZDF display?)

**4-10 March** – **PNCC Local History Week**

**7 Mar**- 80th anniversary of the first use of New Zealand aircraft in a raid on the Japanese base at Rabaul, Papua New Guinea

**14 Mar** (MMMHP) – “The 80th Anniversary of the Battle for Cassino” (Feb-Mar 1944), by LTCOL (Rtd) Dr Glyn Harper, QSM

**26 Mar** (Tue – EPLP) – “(BRIG) Sir Geoffrey Peren: His Lifelong Connection with the Land”, by LTCOL Dr Peter Wood, ONZM, in Room SGP 3.42, Sir Geoffrey Peren Building, **Massey University Campus,** 1830 to 1930 - (a **PNCL Heritage Month** programme addition)

**Mar**- 160th anniversary of the Battle of Orakau- New Zealand Wars -31 Mar to 2 Apr 1864

**11 Apr** (MMMHP) – “The Royal NZ Army Medical Corps, its establishment in WW1 and the Awapuni Medical Memorial, by MAJ Andrew Brooks, RNZAMC, XO, Deployable Health Organisation (DHO), Joint Services Group, NZDF (Linton Camp)

**19 Apr** (Fri) RNZRSA National Poppy Day

**24 Apr** (Wed - EPLP) – “The 160th Anniversary of QAMR”, by LTCOL Jacob Murray, RNZAC, Commanding Officer, Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles (QAMR), Linton Military Camp

**25 Apr** – (MCE - Thurs) ANZAC Day (Dawn and Civic) Parades and Services in Te Marae o Hine/The Square and elsewhere in Ashhurst, Bunnythorpe, Linton Camp and the Māori Battalion Hall.

**29 Apr**- 160th anniversary of the Battle of Pukehinahina/ Gate Pa, 29 Apr 1864

**6 May** – 1st anniversary Coronation Day for HM King Charles III

**9 May** (MMMHP) – “The 60th Anniversary of Konfrontasi and the Borneo/Malaysia Conflict”, by WO1 (Rtd) Dave Hayward, MBE, MSM, RNZIR, 4th Sergeant Major of the NZ Army

**6 Jun** 80th anniversary of the D Day landings, 6 June 1944

**13 Jun** (MMMHP) - “The 25th Anniversary of the East Timor/Timor L’este Conflict”, by LTCOL Martin Dransfield, ONZM, RNZIR, Waitangi Tribunal Project Director, Army General Staff, NZDF

**25 Jun** (Tue - EPLP) – “The 80th Anniversary of the RNZAF Flying Boats and other aircraft of 5 Sqn, RNZAF”, by GPCAPT (Rtd) Rick Bulger and SQNLDR (Rtd) Hugh Francis, RNZAF

**28 Jun** 1914- 110th anniversary of the assassination of Grand Duke Francis Ferdinand

**11 Jul** (Thu - MMMHP) – “The 80th Anniversary of the D-Day (Normandy) Landings in France in June 1944”, by RADM (Rtd) David Ledson, former Chief of the RNZN

**28 Jul** 1914- 110th anniversary of the commencement of the First World War

**8 Aug** (Thu - MMMHP) – “30th Anniversary of UNPROFOR and the Bosnian Conflict”, by BRIG (Rtd) Phil Gibbons, ONZM, Senior National Officer, Op RADIAN 3

**18 Aug** (Sun) – Vietnam Veterans Day

**27 Aug** (Tue - EPLP) – “Operation DRAGOON – Second D-Day into France in August 1944”, by Dennis O’Rourke, RNZN, and NZ Police (Rtd)

**24 Aug** 1944- 80th anniversary of the Allied liberation of Paris

**29 Aug** 1914- 110th anniversary of the occupation of German Samoa by NZ troops

**12 Sep** (MMMHP) – “70th Anniversary of RNZN Support to the Borneo/Malaysia Conflict”, by CDR (Rtd) Richard Jackson, RNZN

**10 Oct** (Thu - MMMHP) – NZ Land Wars Month – “The Battle for Orakau”, by LTCOL (Rtd) Dr Cliff Simons, ED

**22 Oct** (Tue – EPLP) – “NZ Forces into Samoa in the First World War, in 1914”, by LTCOL DR Peter Wood, ONZM, Director of the NZ Wars Study Centre, NZDC

**28 Oct** (Mon) – NZ (Land) Wars Day

**11 Nov** – (MCE - Mon) Remembrance (Armistice and Poppy) Day Parade and Service in Te Marae o Hine/The Square and NZPPT launch of more streets and sites of significance, following the service.

**11 Nov** (Mon - EPLP) – Remembrance (Armistice) Day – “The Italian Campaign in 1944 - 80th Anniversary” commemorative presentation, by LTCOL (Rtd) Dr Glyn Harper, QSM

**14 Nov** 110th anniversary of the invasion of Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) by British forces (lasted until 1918)

**28 Nov** (Thu – MMMHP) - “The 80th Anniversary of 3rd (NZ) Division in the Pacific during the Second World War”, by LTCOL DR Peter Wood, ONZM, Director of the NZ Wars Study Centre, NZDC

**3 Dec**- 110th anniversary of the formation of the ANZAC Corps in Egypt in 1914

**Other notable anniversaries in 2024:**

160th anniversary of the formation of Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles

110th anniversary of the commencement of the First World War

110th anniversary of HMS Philomel being acquired as a training ship.

110th anniversary of the creation of the Australia New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC)

80th anniversary of the creation of a NZ Corps (Cassino) and NZ Division operations at Cassino

80th anniversary of D Day

80th anniversary of the Polish uprising in Warsaw (1 August)

80th anniversary of 5 SQN RNZAF being re-formed to operate flying boats.

70th anniversary of NZDF involvement in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in Israel and Lebanon

30th anniversary of New Zealand commitment to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia

25th anniversary of NZ involvement in INTERFET and UNTAET in East Timor/ Timor Leste

10th anniversary of the withdrawal of the NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team from Bamiyan Province in Afghanistan

**2024 Notes** – During **Local History Week and Heritage Month** (in March), other military heritage activities are likely to be included. Likewise, other presentations on **contemporary military** strategy **and NZDF plans** will be arranged during the year. Other activities could include the “**Battle of the Bridges**” event in March (or later in) 2024 (hosted by Linton Camp and run by the Corps of RNZE and Defence Recruiting) in Te Marae o Hine/The Square.

Otherwise for **2025-2029**, a similar format/pattern as in previous years for both EPLP and MMMHP programmes, two major commemorative events (or MCE - ANZAC Day and Remembrance (Armistice) Day), plus potential for an annual NZDF activity/event, provided by Linton Camp (1 (NZ) Bde) and RNZAF Base Ohakea, as Charter partners of the PNCC. **Note that 2024 and 2025** hold some significant anniversaries of military campaigns from the early NZ Land Wars, through until more recent time and will be reflected in the respective programmes for each of these years. 2025 will also be the **180th anniversary of the** **establishment of the NZ Army**.

MMMHP sessions are normally held on the second Thu in each month, Feb through Nov, in the **Heritage Section (Second Floor, PN City Library)**. EPLP sessions are normally held on Tue evenings (except for Mon in Apr) in the months of Apr, Jun, Aug and Nov, in the **PN City Library** **Mezzanine Floor (entrance off alleyway between George Street and The Square)**. Other military history presentations by visiting historians and book launches/releases are also programmed throughout each year and will be advised separately. Event invite posters will confirm all timings and venues for these activities.