



# Hauraki News

“Whaka tangata kia kaha”

**August 2016 Issue No 84**

Official Newsletter of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated

Compiled & Edited by Des Anderson

Secretary: Mrs M Kareko, 91 Windsor Road, Tauranga

Registered with the Charities Services # CC35879

Website: **6haurakiassoc.org.nz**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/6th-Hauraki-Association/230175227024470>

[tauranga.kete.net.nz/ remembering War](http://tauranga.kete.net.nz/remembering-war)

**To review Hauraki News prior to 2008**

<http://tauranga.kete.net.nz/remembering-war/topics/show/1287>

## President's Report

The Hauraki News is still in production. Just need some catching up.

Thanks to all of you who have sent me photos & articles from their area.

At a Formal Dinner held in Tauranga, the CO 3/6 RNZIR, advised me of the intention to move the Hauraki Colours to the HQ 3/6 RNZIR based in Auckland. Lt Col Olly Te Ua followed up with an official letter. See below. I then sent a copy of the letter to all members, I had on my email data base. All the reply emails sent to me, were positive for the move. The most common request was when will the Colours be leaving; so, a honour parade could be organised to escort the Colours out. I received one dissenting emailed reply. Catherine Clarkson has given me permission to publish the email, see below.

As you realise the 6 Hauraki Association is registered with the new Charities Services. I have attached the purpose and structure (see below).

The Committee is intending to have small informal get together at such places like the Waihi Beach RSA, for lunch. Under this plan, if you can attend an event, please advice. It is the intention to have events in different areas. If you have a suggestion of a venue, please advice, anything will be considered.

The 3 ANR Association has invited us to join in their events. It is our intention to co ordinate with 3ANR Association when ever we can.

It has been suggested the Hauraki News places a “where are they now” article. If you would like to find some one, drop me a line.

Your Committee has acquired another 50 Challenge Coins which are now on sale at \$35.00 each. Your committee has also found a new source for “Hauraki Port”. So “all is well”.

Kia Kaha

Des Anderson

## **Purpose & Structure**

### **Charitable Purpose**

The promotion and fostering of good fellowship and comradeship amongst past and present members of the Hauraki Regiment and the maintenance and encouragement of interest in the activities of the 6th Battalion Hauraki Regimental. To assist our mission the Association has developed and maintains 6 Hauraki Association museum.

**Note: The main sectors, activities and beneficiaries are bolded.**

Activities:

Provides advice / information / advocacy

Acts as an umbrella / resource body, Provides human resources (e.g. staff / volunteers),  
Development of Hauraki Regimental Museum

Sectors:

Arts / culture / heritage

Education / training / research, Community development, Employment, Sport / recreation,  
Development of Hauraki Regimental Museum

Beneficiaries:

General public

Children / young people, Older people, People of a certain ethnic / racial origin, Family / whanau,  
Migrants / refugees

### **Entity Structure**

All past and present serving members of the Hauraki's and including personnel who have appropriate association with 6th Battalion. The museum is the keystone to the Association main purpose.



At the Holy Trinity Church - Hauraki Birthday 2016 – Hauraki Colours  
Ross Bagot, Ken Brown, Des Anderson, Warren Banks  
Robin Coster, Katherine Brown, Vince Copeland





Made by Ray Crafts; on the Occasion of the joining together of the Auckland (Countess of Ranfurly's Own) and Northland Regiment and the Hauraki Bn Group. On the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012. To be known as 3/6 RNZIR.

3/6 RNZIR

6th Aug 16

Mr Des Anderson  
President Hauraki Association  
PO Box 2146,  
TAURANGA 3140

Dear Des,

#### **MOVE OF 6 HAURAKI COLOURS TO AUCKLAND ARMY CENTRE**

I am writing to let you know that I am intending to move the 6 Hauraki Colours from Tauranga to the HQ of 3/6 Battalion at the Auckland Army Centre. This move is part of the ongoing integration of the two units. I am confident that the most appropriate location for them is in Auckland at the HQ where they will be prominently presented outside the CO's Office alongside the Auckland Colours.

It is notable that 101 years ago the Auckland Infantry Battalion was made up of soldiers from four regional Territorial Regiments: 15<sup>th</sup> (North Auckland) Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> (Auckland) Regiment, 16<sup>th</sup> (Waikato) Regiment, and 6<sup>th</sup> (Hauraki) Regiment. Each regiment provided an Infantry rifle company that made up the four rifle companies of the Auckland Infantry Battalion. This gives both units a powerful common bond and given this association in history the Hauraki Colours will be at home and will be well cared for at the HQ of the amalgamated unit.

The Hauraki colours will be treated equally with the Auckland Colours at any occasion where our unit colours are paraded. Should in the future the colours be laid up they will be returned to Tauranga to be rested in a suitable location consistent with their historical links.

I will make sure you are informed of the details for the move as it will involve an appropriate ceremony to mark the occasion. I hope members of the Hauraki Association can be present and involved.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information.

Yours Aye  


**O W. TE UA, ED**  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding Officer  
3/6, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

Dear Lt Col Te Ua

I have been forwarded a copy of a letter you wrote to Des Anderson outlining your intention to rehouse the Hauraki Colours to Auckland.

As you can imagine there will be both hurt and reluctance amongst past and serving Haurakis to see their precious Colours leave the district.

For many years the Colours were housed at the City Council Chambers both for reasons of security and a nod to the Hauraki's freedom of the city.

For a period of time I worked for the City Council Treasury Dept. it gave me immense personal pleasure and pride to have the privilege of seeing them on a daily basis.

The Colours were later moved to the "new" Battalion Headquarters in 11th Avenue when they were completed in the 1980s.

The purpose of Colours is a rallying point for the troops at battle, so it is fair to say that irrespective of the numbers of men left standing or in this case the size of the unit that remains in Tauranga, be it one man or one hundred men, the Colours being here in Tauranga are central to the mana of the Hauraki's that remain here.

It is for that reason and it is my firm belief that the Colours home is in Tauranga and I fear that by placing them in Auckland the appropriate ceremonial use of the Colours will logistically be a challenge that simply falls into the "too hardbasket".

I hope other people share their thoughts with you and that you will be persuaded to re-consider your decision to relocate the Colours.

Kia Kaha

Catherine Clarkson  
22/08/2016

Dear Catherine

Thank you for your email below dated 22 August.

My apologies for taking so long to reply to you.

I have given your request serious consideration.

I am confident that the mana of the Haurakis will not be diminished whether the Colours are located in Tauranga or Auckland. It is appropriate that all the Colours of 3/6 RNZIR are co-located at the Battalion HQ with the CO and RSM. As a result of this consideration the Colours will be moved to Auckland in the near future. I will advise Des of time and we will conduct a service in Tauranga to mark the occasion.

I wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards

Olly Te Ua.

**Lieutenant Colonel Olly Te Ua**

Commanding Officer, 3/6 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

*Pour Devoir/ Sisit Prudentia / Whakatangata Kia Kaha*

**NEW ZEALAND ARMY**

M +64 21 735 208

[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)

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|-----------------------|
| Letters to the Editor |
|-----------------------|

Hey Des, **here's** some old pics I found, you may want to put them in the old 6 Hau files. Waikato Uni Det training Whangaparoa 1989, & Huey Heli lift, Rangipo desert, 1991

Kerry Just





UNI DET – Training at Whangaparoa – May 1989





The Commanding Officer, Lt Col John Dick, leads the Bn at a charter parade in Paeroa in 2003. The Mayor, Basil Morrison, is taking the salute. Officers to the Mayor's left are (L to R) Trevor Leigh, Hon Col John Allen, Vince Copeland.

Photo by Russell Skeet

Des

I penned this anecdote while on the way to Wellington recently – for publication in Hauraki News

“In the April edition of the Air New Zealand magazine “Kia Ora” in a 3 Wisemen Menswear advertisement, a bloke called Mike Pirrit, when asked about the person who had most influenced him, answered ‘A grumpy bugger called Pene Reuben’ The advice, incidentally, was do your 100% best at work and switch off at home. The point of this narrative is not so much the advice, as the person – no, not Perrit, whom I do not know, but Pene Reuben, who, for the sake of this story I will concede to knowing, assuming of course that it is the same Pene Reuben who was a sergeant in the 6<sup>th</sup> (Hauraki) Battalion mortar platoon in 1982. I joined 6 Hau in 1978 as a private in the Mortar Platoon (rising to the exulted position of number one on the mortar) and was commissioned into the same platoon in 1982, having served four years with the platoon. Pene (from Thames) and Dennis Baker (from Tauranga) were Sergeants, as was John Royal from Paeroa. Our Cadre NCO was the redoubtable Trevor Sexton. Pene worked in a local timber mill, Dennis was a panel beater and John Royal worked for a bank, while I was (in 1982) a clerk for Dalgety NZ in Thames, a stock and station company. At that time, the platoon was quartered in Paeroa and had an outpost (so-to-speak) at the drill hall in Thames where I maintained an office as platoon commander. The hall at that time was primarily used by No. 37 Squadron Air Training Corps and we T.F. used the premises monthly, alternating with the Paeroa Hall. I have often recalled the extreme good fortune

I had, as a newly commissioned officer, to have men of the calibre of Pene, Dennis and John as my instructors – and Trevor Sexton also, although it was some years before I grew to fully appreciate the value of an excellent Cadre NCO. One other outstanding personality of my junior officer years was RSM Merito. It has come to me, on many occasions to tell a story that involved Kei Merito and Pene Reuben.

The mortar platoon was in Waiouru conducting a weekend shoot, way out the back of the training area. It was early to mid-afternoon and we had just conducted an excellent shoot and were thoroughly pleased with ourselves, and were parked up on the side of a track out back enjoying one of those pauses that just seem to happen at the conclusion of training. But we didn't move off in any great hurry, rather the column remained parked up with the guys chatting and brewing up. Anyway, time was passing and we had to get on the road to Tauranga and then Paeroa and clean up the kit and vehicles and get everyone away to their respective home locations. Not quite understanding the pause and eager to start, I stood at the head of the column and barked out some sort of order to get going. Predictably, for those who have experienced such situations, nothing much happened - so I repeated the yelling. From out of no-where, seriously – nowhere – the R.S.M., Mr Merito appeared, marching in parade ground fashion (no easy thing in the field), pace stick tucked under his arm and perfectly parallel with the ground, and stopped, facing me, mere inches away. He said to me, quietly, "Sir, you do not have a dog and bark", turned on his heel and marched back to the Skippy (landrover). Who knew he was even there? It ought to be known that new junior officers are not necessarily the first to recognise Warrant Officers Class One or senior battalion officers. Anyway, after an awkward moment, Sgt Reuben appeared at my side and said, equally quietly, "Sir, if you want something to happen give some orders, don't bellow at the crowd like some old cow in season", or words to that effect. To which I feel sure I replied, "very good sergeant, carry on" or something similar (ha ha ha - not). It did not immediately occur to me that the scene may have been a set up and that Pene was positioned by the R.S.M. deliberately rather than conveniently. Maybe not. Whatever. In any event the lesson was learned and the column, shortly thereafter, moved off. Whatever may have been my skill in leadership and command, it was not for the want of example and guidance from such men as Kei Merito, Pene Reuben and Dennis Baker, that I developed. Perhaps the first lesson a junior officer might usefully learn is humility – especially in the presence of skill, knowledge, experience and competence possessed by such men as I have referred to above. I do not know of the career achievements of John, Dennis and Mr Merito, but Pene rose to the highest level of saw-milling management in New Zealand, and demonstrates the inestimable value of Territorial Force service, especially when coupled with individual ability and drive.

It's funny what you read on board an aircraft eh?

Whakatangata kia kaha.

Russell Skeet

Hello there Des

I know it been a very long time since we were in contact I did send for my father medals thank you for that I just need to get them put on their plaque I have been very busy with life and being a landlord and in the process of starting to sell

Our homes in Rotorua. I keep an eye on the Hauraki page looking at the news letters knowing that my father would have still been in the army, that was his life and very much enjoyed it. It would be neat meet you at some stage before setting off down the road to the South Island Christchurch where my mother raised me and father use to come and see me when he could.

I do hope this email finds you well I'm sure it will this you being amongst the lads of the army

A hello to anyone else that may be still in the army of my father's blattoon. I must get in touch with the one in Hamilton who puts the medals on the plaque.

Ok well as father would say Kai kaha

Kinds regards

Terrys Olds daughter

Juanita

## Museum

Projects under construction:





The **Lecture Room** is being upgrade with the assistance of the 6 Hauraki Assoc. When complete I will place photos in the next Hauraki News.

Other projects are: upgrade the **former Commanding Officers Photos**; by digital enhancement & framed with ultra light glass.

Create & upgrade the **book/ video library**.

Create & upgrade a **digital unit history**.

Upgrade the **museum data base computer system**. This now for consideration at the next committee meeting.

All **unit photographs** (about 5,000) are now at the Hauraki Museum having being converted into the digital form, as part of the project of recording unit history by the Tauranga Public Library

### **Tauranga Memories**

Go to

**Tauranga.kete.net.nz**

Choose **remembering War**

If you have some photos we can use to record unit history, they will be returned without damage: please contact Bob Mankelow.

Without the donation of items, money & voluntary time your museum would not be the show case it is,

Thank you everyone

Des Anderson

President

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| <b>Tauranga WW100: Remembering WW1.</b> |
|---|

Their Mission Statement;

“Tauranga WW100 will provide a forum for networking amongst organisations that intend to mark the 100 years of World War One. It will provide an opportunity to discuss ideas, receive assistance with planning, and create opportunities to work together on ceremonies, events, projects, activities and education programmes that commemorate World War One”.

The Somme – Tauranga Heritage Collection exhibition here on Mount Mainstreet!

|

Ingrid Fleming

The Somme: From Tauranga to the Trenches

Take in the stories of Tauranga men who fought and died in the terrible battle of the Somme, 100 years ago.

The Somme: From Tauranga to the Trenches is the latest WW1 exhibition from the Tauranga Heritage Collection. It features maps, quotes, photographs and facts relating to New Zealand's efforts at the Somme. It also reveals the connection Tauranga has to “that terrible battle” through the stories and images of many of the Tauranga men who fought and in some cases died there.

The exhibition will open at the Phoenix car park downtown Mount Maunganui on 15 September 2016 - One hundred years to the day New Zealand entered the fray on the Western Front. It will also travel to the Papamoa and Greerton Libraries.

“The Gallipoli experience of 1915 has overshadowed New Zealand’s enormous contribution on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918. It was on the Somme that the majority of New Zealanders were killed or wounded during the First World War. And it was here that New Zealand experienced its worst days in military history in terms of loss of life.

The Battle of the Somme was New Zealand’s first major engagement on the Western Front. It took a huge toll on the 15,000 members of the New Zealand Division who were involved. Roughly one in seven of the division who fought on the Somme was killed, and about four in every 10 were wounded.” - New Zealand Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Date: 15 September – 29 September - Free entry.

Start time: 10am - 3.30pm

Location: Phoenix car park



**The container at Mount Maunganui**



describing the devastation of the village of Flers.



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This map created by the  
Ministry for Culture and Heritage  
shows the advances the NZ Division  
made over the course of three  
battles in September and  
October of 1916.

George Ra

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Son of Hori Rangitiki  
Occupied

Priv  
1st Maori Co  
Enlisted

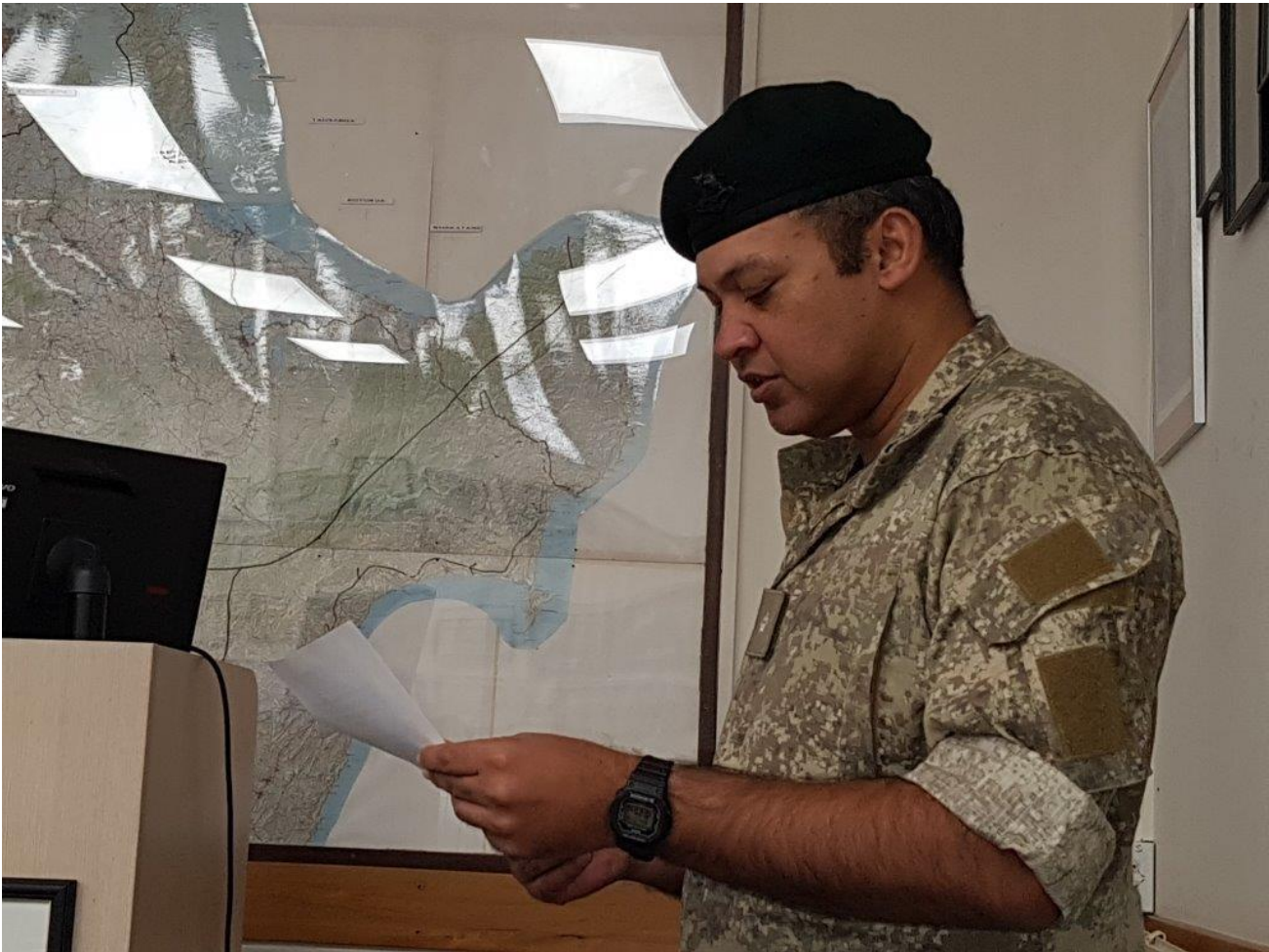
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31 Augu



Inside the container



## Presentation of New Zealand Defence Service Medal



Major Vince Copeland, Officer Commanding, Hauraki Company, 3/6 RNZIR: reading the citation of the NZDSM – Ross Bagot

### NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE SERVICE MEDAL

The New Zealand Defence Service Medal was instituted by Royal Warrant in April 2011 to recognise attested military service since 3 September 1945.

The Royal Warrant for the NZDSM allows for one or more clasps to be awarded with the medal.

The number of clasps awarded to an individual will be determined by the type(s) of military service undertaken by the individual. There are four clasps which can be awarded with the NZDSM: REGULAR, TERRITORIAL, C.M.T. and NATIONAL SERVICE.

The New Zealand Defence Force service medal with clasp(s)  
Is award to:

**ROSS BAGOT**



Col Warren Banks presenting the NZDSM to Ross Bagot



Ross Bagot wearing his new NZDSM with Col Warren Banks





Ross Bagot with family

## **COMMITTEE 2016- 2017**

**Patron:** Honorary Colonel Graeme Vercoe  
**President:** Des Anderson, tel. 07 571 1951 Home 0274 764 073 Mobile  
[des.anderson@actrix.co.nz](mailto:des.anderson@actrix.co.nz)  
**Vice President:** Kenneth Brown  
**Secretary & Treasurer:** Marion Kareko, tel. 07-576 0277 Home  
[mkareko@hotmail.com](mailto:mkareko@hotmail.com)

### **Committee:**

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Bob Mankelow                           | Mike Purcell     |
| Kevin Hayden                           | Erik Kristensen  |
| Warren Banks                           | Kim Webster      |
| Karen Cross                            | David Cross      |
| Rueben Kelly                           | Paul Couch       |
| Tony Brooke                            | Mike Halliday    |
| Lee Morgan                             | Charlie Harrison |
| Mike Myers-Kay                         | Steve Davis      |
| Boof Richardson                        | Debbie Davis     |
| Diane Myers-Kay                        | Mike Purcell     |
| John Harris                            |                  |
| Penny Burgess (Welfare Representative) |                  |

### **Area Representatives:**

|             |                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Auckland:   | Paul Couch,                      |
| Coromandel: | Russel Skeet                     |
| Tauranga:   | See Committee                    |
| Whakatane   | Bazz Porter                      |
| Rotorua:    | Te Kei Merito                    |
| Rotorua:    | Dave Galvin                      |
| Rotorua:    | Mike Purcell                     |
| Hamilton:   | Stu Foster                       |
| Hamilton:   | Barry Ngaheue                    |
| Te Aroha:   | Gordon Eagleson, tel. 07-8846675 |
| Hawkes Bay  | Rueben Kelly                     |
| Gisborne    | Dave Greaves                     |
| Linton:     | Charlie Harrison                 |
| Waiohuru:   | Mike Halliday                    |

**Museum Curator:** David Cross

This newsletter is compiled by Des Anderson, President, of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated. It contains many personal views and comments which may not always be the views of the Association or Committee.

If for any reason you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to [des.anderson@actrix.co.nz](mailto:des.anderson@actrix.co.nz) with the word 'remove' in the subject line or body

6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated

Application Form

New Membership  
**Full**

Renewal Membership  
**Associate**

Regimental Number

Date of birth

Full Name

Partners name (if applicable)

Full Postal Address

Telephone Number (home)  
Mobile

Business  
Email

Brief resume of service with 6 Hauraki  
(Include dates & appointments)

Highest Rank Held

Service in other Units

(If Associate member - your association to 6 Hauraki Assoc.)

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Date Joined**

**Receipt Number**

**Membership Number**

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**Secretary M Kareko**

**91 Windsor Road Tauranga**

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