



## Hauraki News

“Whaka tangata kia kaha”

**November 2016 Issue No 85**

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

Compiled & Edited by Des Anderson

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<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.

I need some help from YOU!!!

Since the “Old Friends” has been taken off the system: I need a new way of getting in touch with former Hauraki's. Do you have any ideas of assisting? I have over 100 members who have changed their email address but have not advised me, thus they have dropped off the list. Please advise me if you change your address, and want to stay on the Hauraki Data Base. To date I am not aware of any break into my system. I treat your personnel email address as private as I can and use the “best practice” security I can.

I also need YOUR assistance in correcting, amending or adding to the HAURAKI NEWS. The copy I place on the website I can amend so it is correct. I have done this half a dozen times.

I also need YOUR assistance by send more photos & articles; plus, information & stories about our past members. A case in point; Richard Fox, who passed in December 2016. I need more information of his service in the Hauraki's and photo's if you have any.

Remember as a volunteer unit our strength & mana came from the dedication of a bunch of individuals working for a common cause. The service of these soldiers need to be remembered. Please help me in attempting to achieve that mission.

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.

Kia Kaha

Des Anderson



**Letter to the troops**

Still waiting for a story?

Ed

## News from 3/6 RNZIR

LCPL Daniel Collins (HAU Coy) has been award Reservist of the year & will represent NZ at 2017 ANZAC service in Gallipoli.

Pte Kingi also from 3/6 RNZIR came in second

Lance Corporal Daniel Collins, 3/6 RNZIR, showed consistency across all disciplines to win the 2016 New Zealand Defence Force Reservist of the Year competition. LCPL Collins, of Hauraki Company, 3/6 RNZIR, finished ahead of Private Raniera Kingi, 3/6 RNZIR, and Gunner David Zeng, 11/4 Battery, 16 Field Regiment. The challenges for the competitors included marksmanship, incident reporting, fitness, public speaking, culinary creativity with ration packs and

first aid. There was also a general knowledge quiz. Those reservist hallmarks were tested in eight stands during the day at Trentham Military Area, in and out of camp, on Saturday, 8 October. There were 11 Reservists from 10 different units around the country and different trades – from gunners to maritime trade operations – who took part. Directorate Reserve Forces and Youth Development Event and Communications Co-ordinator Byron Terris said the overall standard was incredibly high. “It was quite clear with the fitness there was one competitor who was miles ahead of the rest, but that was because he had been training for marathons. “But the winner, LCPL Collins, was consistent across everything – that was the key.”

## OBITUARIES

### FOX, Richard Sibbald.

14 September 1934 to 4 December 2016. Died peacefully in Taupo. You were always our rock. Ginks, Amanda, Sarah, Sam, Anna, Paul and John. Tangi for Richard was held at Waihi Marae on Tuesday at 11.00am.

### 462844 Tupahau Roland (Tom or Te Boss) TE UIRA

DOB 11 June 1936

We regret to advise members of the death of Tom Te Uira on Thursday 20 October 2016.

Tom served in 2 NZ Regt (1959/1961) and with Whiskey Company in Vietnam.

He served in the NZSAS and was a highly regarded unit member, despite being called “Te Boss”

He was buried at his home marae (Kai a Te Mata) in Morrinsville on Monday 24 October 2016.

Rest in Peace Tom.

Taken from FG Dec 16

Tom served with the Hauraki's during CMT; prior to joining the Regular Force.

I first met Tom on the NZSAS selection course in 1962. Being of similar build, we would always take the front of the route marches. Both of us were of a competitive nature, thus we would always not want the other to be ahead of the another. Thus, the route march would turn into a sprint between the two of us. Until “Shocker Shaw” caught up to us and made us slow down.

Tom & I were paired up in the “Klipper Ares” canoe and on land, Tom would do the cooking for us both, while I did the sentry duties. Tom’s style of cooking was to empty the ration packs together and add chilly to everything. We had many adventures together over the three years I served with the Squadron. I guess the highlight was we were both part of the four-man team that blew the cliff face down onto the DC3 that had crashed into the Kaimai Ranges.

Jim Taia & I represented the “Hauraki” at “Te Boss” farewell. I of course gave a tribute speech to a great friend, a long-time comrade, a highly respected soldier and wonderful family man. Kia Kaha.

Ed.

## Letters to the Editor

























# COMRADES BRAVE

*A History of the Hampshire Regiment*



RICHARD TAYLOR









## INFANTRY DAY 23 OCT 2016 - MT MAUNGANUI

Ours is a unique shared life. The military is not really understood in New Zealand. The infantry in particular. Certainly, less so than in the past. Mid last century NZ possessed armed forces recently severely tested and successful in battle. The peacetime army maintained a heavy motorised division including four regiments of armour and nine infantry battalions. It was fully equipped and manned. Fed by limited universal conscription and a full war reserve of kit. Its leadership was dominated by veterans of the 23 October 1942 Battle of El Alamein. The population was primed by School Cadet experience in every high school. Almost every family had a WW1 or WW2 veteran. The Korean War was raging. In our political and business leadership military experience was common. Our defence policy rested on collective defence and reciprocal military alliances with mutually respected allies. The military alliance network gave us - a small comparatively isolated heavily trade dependent nation - highly privileged access to data, kit, doctrine and professional association at very agreeable mates' rates and priorities. While also seating us at top diplomatic and trade tables.

Underpinning all this was the public belief ever since mankind stood up and started throwing rocks at each other, and certainly in the last 4000 years of recorded history, that the battlefield was a highly dangerous and lethal place. Unlike anything else. To the extent that a special social structure and set of principles was considered essential for success - it was called the 'military'.

Over time it evolved into a distinct community of shared values, capabilities and mutual confidences. With a unique set of conditions of service and discipline..... That touched all our lives.

Why 23 October? Of course, we know it recognises the New Zealand infantry effort in North Africa. A setting that modern armed forces, and their politicians, could envy. Fought, after the opening rounds of WW2 and the inevitable penalties and bloodshed for unpreparedness and incapacities were addressed. Against a civilised enemy, on terrain well suited for our style of operations, plus comparative freedom of movement and general absence of civilian or other compounding factors. But by any measure making hugely demanding claim upon humans tasked by their competing societies to resolve issues by military combat. A lethal competition requiring infantry, and armour, to find, close with, and destroy the opposing forces!

Let's get some perspective. NZ is currently commemorating the four years of attempted social extermination encompassed by the first World War. Some commentary suggests it was all a waste of time and lives, it was not our war, and perhaps too many generals had read advance copies of Blackadder's concept of operations. Each of these assertions can be refuted, but what cannot be denied is that in the field of human decision making, planning and execution - mistakes and unintended consequences do occur. Well illustrated back home in recent decades by the difficulty of identifying a single area of major political endeavour for NZ that has been a roaring success. .... And the Beehive and debating chamber were not even getting shot at!

In launching Parade 98 at Government House I made comment that in our sort of society soldiers do not start wars - politicians do - soldiers just carry them out to the extent that the material provided, guidance given, and public support permits. Accountabilities rest with the politicians who make the decisions in the best interests of the nation. Plus, the public who influence the choices and permit the resources to enable the preparedness and capability of the committed forces.

1

Quite rightly politicians call the shots. But when politics and diplomacy fails and a military option is chosen .... on forced upon a country - it is a 'come as you are' encounter. As mankind evolved and nation states emerged - their first duty was the defence and security of their people. NZ now appears keen to be in the photo op - but ducks when tasks are to be done.

I was in Australia recently when they commemorated the Battle of Long Tan. GG General Sir Peter Cosgrove made the very valid point that it is our generation who are now the senior veterans. .... We are now the shiny heads. NZ once level pegged with Australia, if not ahead, in most pro rata military benchmarks. Those days are long gone. Fifty thousand of our Australians comrades experienced Vietnam. With 500 KIA. And they maintained conscription during the period. The military factor touched a great swathe of their population. Other factors have done, and continue, to heavily reinforce it. In comparison NZ has opted out.

So, where fits Infantry Day in the current New Zealand scheme of things? What is the present state and how did it get here?

We first need to wind back to the 1950s. Our commitments were based on the political belief that if friendly nations ran into trouble. By their neighbours stating their system of government and society was so good that everyone else in the area ought to have it too. Force being applied for those unwilling. Our politicians agreed with our Allies that such international hostility was unacceptable. So, they pointed our way and we, as soldiers, saluted and off we went. As professionals - to Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam. Since then we have preferred to referee - without whistles.

Interestingly, this week on 20 October 2016 at the Vietnam - US Defence Policy dialogue in Hanoi the Vietnamese Deputy Defence Minister Senior Lt Gen Nguyen Chi Vinh said - "Vietnam supports international intervention of the US and other partners in the region if it brings about peace, stability and prosperity."

There lies the first distinction. Since 1945 the New Zealand state has not been at war. But a comparative handful of dedicated soldiers, sailors and airman really outside the public gaze, or even interest, certainly have been at war. To be routinely involved in lethal engagement on the contemporary battlefield.

The second distinction is that thanks to our predecessors a huge number of lessons were learned during WW2. Our post war training organisations, systems, and conditions of service were second to none and evolved to become specifically tailored to light infantry counter insurgency operations particularly in a tropical environment. New Zealand infantry became particularly effective and highly respected in any combat operation undertaken. With lesser roles readily mastered. We became very good at the capabilities chosen. Operational results relied on junior leadership and the effectiveness of individual soldiers. Patrolling, ambushing, shooting and fire control abilities being paramount for success against skilled, experienced and determined enemies. Such circumstances demanded acute observation, listening, and decision-making and target recognition. All reliant on manual navigation and junior command skills. Ultimately depending on collective readiness for instant effective action at very close range. The penalties for error were likely to be fatal. This was non-stop - for weeks on end.

2

This reputation for professional competence, from any component of the NZDF not just infantry, became expected by our allies. Our alliance contacts gave us opportunity to cherry pick their techniques and operational concepts and outperform the originators. This tended to offset the negatives from the growing need for NZ forces to beg, borrow or steal to make up for our increasing equipment shortcomings. And shielded the public from the reality of successive NZ Governments reducing the Defence vote to well below the allied per capita levels.

A third post war distinction, lasting over thirty years, was the 'soft' defence impact that our presence had in South East Asia. Having contributed to establishing stability in the area - we remained. As the Asian Tigers were born and the UK and Australia largely withdrew, and the Americans never formally entered, we remained a compelling local beacon for New Zealand. The battalion in Singapore, plus other NZDF elements, was an A-List invitee for diplomatic, trade, sporting, entertainment and professional military advice engagements. A unique advantage pounced upon for, and by, our government officials, traders, bands, rugby teams, cultural groups and relevant military expertise exchange. The NZ 'brand' stood high and unchallenged in the area. The SE Asia presence also provided some offset for the lucky military professionals and their families posted there. Routinely subjected to stifling budget cuts at home - to the extent of removing every third light bulb in barracks and economising on toilet paper - any opportunity to escape such restraints, gain favourable car and commodity prices, and general living conditions was a welcome and powerful recruiting and retention lever. It was also professionally highly satisfying. NZ's international military competence and reputation greatly profited from this. .... Where Infantry Day now sits is strongly conditioned by the New Zealand contribution to the final stages of the Cold War. Communism, led by the USSR, felt it had such a good system that the rest should also have it. By force if necessary. The West kept it at bay by the threat of nuclear retaliation if the Warsaw Pact thundered across Europe. It worked. And mutual annihilation was avoided. With the arms race also used as a tool to break the Soviet budget. And thus, their international objectives.

By the mid 1980s NZ was thrashing about searching for solutions to a creaking economy. Hard choices were needed. Some political elements, and many in the chattering classes, pushed the antinuclear button. As compensatory balance and perhaps seeking a 'goody-two-shoes' international spotlight? Without a formal submission on the table the NZ Cabinet decided to pull feathers from the American eagle's tail. The anti Vietnam lobby rejoiced and anti US feelings, amongst a population largely insulated from reality, was deliberately massaged. All against the very strong advice of their diplomatic and military advisors. So, at the height of the Cold War NZ shot their infantry, and the rest of the country, in both feet.

Following the refusal to accept a US warship visit, the NZ PM, who had gigglingly dismissed military advice as geriatric, retreated to the Tokelaus and out of contact. No surprise the Americans were incensed. A key plank in their decades long pressure to thwart communist ambitions was compromised. Particularly as we became excited at the prospect of NZ leading a world-wide trend at undermining the US strategy of stopping the Cold War turning hot. The US decision makers at this time were all conscious of the NZ link. That involved them basing six US Army and US Marine Divisions here and massive sea and air assets in our region during WW2.



The historic connection was further recognised. With NZ completing the North Island Main Trunk rail route in time for most NZ MPs to make the trip to Auckland to welcome the US Navy Great White Fleet on 9 August 3

1907. With the US fleet commander invited to formally officiate at the opening of the tourist buildings in Rotorua. While the United States Exploring Expedition 1838-42 prowled around the Pacific, including New Zealand, just as the Brits were weighing the options and finally making up their mind whether to commit to these lands.

So New Zealand rejected what limited capacity for reciprocity we had as allies - and effectively invited dismissal from an alliance with the strongest power the world had ever seen. ... Of course, there were matters of US policy and operation that we disagreed with then, now, and no doubt in the future. That competent politicians and officials should be able to handle. But the direct and indirect costs of this petulance was largely hidden from the NZ public. An already very modest defence capability has had thirty years of further corrosion. Denied equipment mates rates, priorities, and professional access leading to perennial budgetary hunts for further cost cutting to keep the NZDF running. That cost the taxpayer a fortune. With consequent diplomatic and trade doors, previously wide open to us, being latched only ajar. While military technology, trade competition and opportunities, and actual threats to security became deeper, wider and more complex. Contrary to the advice given - NZ political leadership proclaimed we lived in a "benign strategic environment".

Worse, the 'leadership' claimed by New Zealand standing tall and independent against the existence of defensive nuclear armed and propelled warships was accepted by only two other nations. Neutral - and landlocked - Austria. And ex-Soviet - and landlocked - Mongolia. Even more irrational in our claim at being nuclear free, while discounting hospitals, fire alarms, clinics and laboratories - while not eliminating 'icon' Lord Rutherford - was the government commissioned Somers Report of 1991. Which concluded that the Auckland Hospital emitted in any one day more radiation than the entire US Navy did in a year! At harmless levels. Current PM Key still maintaining this objective is "an article of faith" held by New Zealanders! It is misunderstood. Further, the government stoked public resentment by charges of bullying from the US for our stand. Co-incidentally Fiji went about their politics in a way that we entirely disapproved. The public record notes that infantry elements were ordered by the PM to go to and interfere in Fiji. Fortunately, Defence leadership refused and sense prevailed. It would have been a disaster. The RFMF, previously trained and commanded by New Zealand, had decades of light infantry experience maintaining two battalions in the Middle East. As it was the New Zealand response was deep and intense. Including refusing Fijian children returning to school in New Zealand.... Who deserves the red card for bullying a sovereign state?

Where sits the contemporary Infantry Day as a consequence of all this? Our hard-fought reputation gained on the battlefield during two world wars and since was placed under pressure. The professional capabilities, readiness and standards that had taken so long to create were compromised by a vicious circle of cost cutting and economies to make 'best' use of the shrinking utility of the defence budget. Less had to be stretched even further to make up for the costs of chopping ourselves from alliance benefits. It was a spiral downwards. Recruitment and retention crises added to the mix. Attrition in key areas has reached almost 20% in recent years. Consequently, we have ships tied up for years because the RNZN cannot operate them. We also abandoned our Singapore presence. Plus isolating ourselves from the alliance provisioning and network advantages. That influenced defence policy decision making. Compounded by organisational limitations at NZDF and the separate Ministry of Defence. One example. We 4

dismissed our previous expertise in light infantry operations and purchased 105 \$7million a copy LAVs! An utterly inappropriate acquisition for the NZ Army.

Our ANZUS umbrella had been folded and we stood outside, and lonely, in the rain. Reluctantly and very slowly we felt compelled to re-engage. But even more modestly. But our 1990s Bosnia contribution was so ill equipped and prepared it had to be tucked in under a British unit. To be followed by Timor Leste where minor tactical drills had decayed to the extent that the only serious casualty was left behind for seven hours! No NZ soldier had been abandoned in Korea, Malaya,

Borneo or Vietnam when many hundreds of 'contacts' with hostile forces were experienced by elements of the NZDF. The NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team, after years of familiarity in a designated area, and originally deployed with political utterances that it was non-combatant, got ambushed. Suffering fatalities, including two casualties from our own misdirected fire support. NZDF will not release the contact reports and stopped the publication of a book on the event. Although five participants were decorated or honoured. Our capacity to contribute to the current recovery phase in Iraq limited to 16 trainers - accompanied by over 100 support staff - housed in a massively defended military city. Meanwhile the RNZAF having thrown key elements of its command control and standards systems out with the politically directed elimination of their Strike capability - that Government then tried to market as 'clapped out' - found themselves unable to deliver a routine ANZAC Day ceremonial fly past without fatal casualties. And routinely suffers serviceability problems.

Starting in about 2003 NZ drifted towards restoring face and making recovery attempts. This week a breakthrough announcement said a US Navy destroyer is to visit the 75th RNZN commemorations in November. US media comment sees the visit as largely symbolic and does not mark a major change in the US defence relationship with NZ .... nor as a reaffirmation of the ANZUS Treaty. We are not an ally. Noting that in 2005 when the RNZN was invited to the 200th RN Trafalgar commemorations we declined and went to Vladivostok and Shanghai instead. But why bother with New Zealand defence at all cry the detractors? One assured factor in defence planning is that the future is uncertain. Strategic terrorism, emerging powers, state and non-state pursuit of violence, the pressures of climate change, religious clash, massed forced migration, haves and have-not poverty tensions have become global. Plus, the claims for water, living space, energy, and food including fish - attributes possessed by New Zealand - will become relentless. There are four wars raging in the Middle East right now. Where the dilemma facing the international community is the damnation if you do become involved and the damnation if you don't. Where the toe in the water show of a flag and the implication that the troops will be home by Christmas is deceitful. In the 1980s we abandoned the usual choice of nations of our size. Defence by an alliance framework - or arm ourselves to the teeth. We chose to do neither. Our standard of living is based on international trade - with people who can get all our products elsewhere. We need to pull all levers. Remove Defence as a distinguishing factor and we are bargaining from off the table - if not outside the room. Possibly our children, certainly our grandchildren, and guaranteed our great grandchildren will be unable to avoid these multiple and complex results and threats. The world will face a hybrid of challenges. New Zealand will not escape this. Into this scene now let's inject some practical and current factors entirely within the control of NZ politicians and their military advisors. Factors that are fundamental to individual and collective morale in any military force and the aftermath from their experiences. Factors that ultimately contribute to the effectiveness of the infantry. For good reason there is no military trade union. The 5

military profession is low key here and public awareness minimal. So, it behoves decision makers to pick up signals and consider their options very carefully. An NZDF report card for recent decades of effort would be very generous indeed if marked 'could do better'. In the last couple of years, I have spent considerable time attempting to engage with Defence Force leadership and its political masters on a range of topics. These people have other matters competing for their attention and have not wished to engage. The response has been either a refusal to answer or a deliberate avoidance to address the question. The subjects include:

1. The headlong pursuit of demilitarisation and civilianisation of the shape and operation of the NZDF. A Defence Review effort with this intention was very badly conceived and implemented. The revised concepts of military law and conditions of service appear to skew the underlying objectives of assisting morale, discipline and military effectiveness. Coupled with a seemingly lowest common denominator approach to what is left of military life. Training, administration and military life appears corporatised, civilianised, demilitarised and submerged by otherwise appropriate civilian social goals such as equal opportunity employment? The test will be - can it be worked by a corporal in the rain, at night, cold, with a blunt pencil, no power or fresh batteries, tired, maybe alone, hungry, scared, injured and being shot at?

2. The new Veterans Support Act also seems determined to demilitarise and deliberately constrain government duty of care for its war veterans. The training for, and the conduct of military operations, to be dominated by the goals and priorities of civilian Occupational Health and Safety - and the functions of the Accident Compensation Commission. With war veterans administered as disabled beneficiaries of the Ministry of Social Development. Future Immediate Action combat drills for infantry will have to comply with these? And Contact Reports will contain tick boxes for ACC claims? I have posed numbers of questions on this philosophy and its application. No answer. If such obligation was applied to the All Blacks then the Coach and Captain would be earning their pay by directing "Play safe out there .... stay away from the ball"?

3. The Department of Veterans Affairs. I have spent much effort in the last year attempting to engage with this organisation. There has been a steady refusal to do so. Amongst other queries I sought explanation of its goals and operation. I queried the complex operating and reporting system and its priorities. Its executive and policy relationship with the three ministers and a senior civilian NZDF executive entitled the Chief People Officer. I asked if government was intending to demolish Veterans' Affairs? No satisfaction. But to learn recently that the Hamilton Office had been closed and moved to Trentham with the loss of over 95% of its trained staff. While the CEO suddenly disappeared - without explanation or timely evidence of planned succession.

4. Combat Gallantry Awards. In committing the minimum, it could get away with the NZ Government placed all our combat elements in Vietnam under the command of another nation. Any NZ recommendations were therefore subjected to Australian rules and priorities. Subsequently we replaced the Imperial honours, awards and gallantry system with our own. Deliberately demilitarising the entire aim and process. Since embarrassingly recreated. And administered by Guidelines. While in theatre Victor 6 recommended four soldiers for awards earned during an operation spanning three days in contact with a major enemy force. Under heavy and sustained fire, they rescued the wounded crew from a knocked out Australian tank in support of the company offensive. One, recommended for a DCM was awarded the MM. The remainder failed to make the Australia quota cut. .... Commencing in 1998 the Australians have been retrospectively correcting their since admitted very flawed Vietnam award quota policy. With scores of awards - for 6

Australians..... Despite nearly 18 months of explanation and appeal the NZ authorities have resolutely refused to recognise these riflemen veterans. While simultaneously NZ has retrospectively awarded previously exclusively military 'campaign' medals to dozens of other New Zealanders, who are otherwise deserving contributors, but were not subject to military law, collective or individual discipline, task obligations, physical and performance standards, plus conditions of service .... or the compulsion to put their health, limbs and lives on the line.

Vietnam veterans are becoming the senior and largest cohort of combat war veterans in NZ. The public is largely ignorant of the defence role. And political leadership has let us down. For years. So, lobby and agitate for corrective action. The following demand initial attention:

- \* We spend \$3billion every year on defence. Very questionably. The Defence Review civilianisation debacle took, of all state authorities, the Auditor General to comment on operational readiness and capability. Adversely. Closer, and informed, examination of the NZDF is required.

- \* The misnamed 2014 Veterans Support Act pursues the reverse. Based on the principle that battlefield casualties are avoidable accidents? Challengeable by unfamiliar civilian administrators. The NZDF lists three outcomes from its existence. Including "Veteran service is honoured" It should more clearly demonstrate effort and success in this task.

- \* The Department of Veterans Affairs appears to have lost its way. Further illustrated by its negative veteran bodies repatriation decisions. Again, failing to match Australian attention to its veterans and announcing it will take five months to review the case. Callous indifference - or intention to still do nothing?

- \* The NZ political approach to medals and awards remains lost, confused, and ineffective. Decision making appears abandoned to junior staff who merely recite Guidelines.

- \* With the 2017 election looming government U-turns are multiplying and accelerating in all political areas. They clearly need reminding that 'Every NZ family has a veteran'. And be seen to reverse their dismal and deceitful record regarding national defence and veteran's issues.



Politicians like to claim NZ punches above its weight. Wrong. But some New Zealanders still do. Politicians need to step up. And fix the myth. This abdication of the national defence task has been created by successive governments. Politicians need to wake up, stop merely posing and get cracking. In all areas - not just defence. New Zealanders, past present and future, deserve much better, and expect effective corrective action.

Brian Monks Colonel (Rtd)  
23 October 2016

Dearest Mother, I am writing this in the trenches of my 'dug out' – with a wood fire going and plenty of straw; it is rather cosy although it is freezing now and real Christmas weather," wrote Alfred Dougan Chater in 1914. "My Dear Mother, well, here we are again after a very cold Christmas in the trenches," wrote Wilbert Spencer on December 28, 1914. Christmas for soldiers overseas can be difficult – for both the servicemen and the families waiting back home. But Tauranga resident Patricia Steer worked through the year to help bring some Christmas cheer to servicemen and their families. Patricia and her cardmaking army from around New Zealand created "about 500" Christmas cards to send over to current servicemen who could then choose a card, write in it and send it back to their families. "I've had a family member who's been in the army and has been overseas and I noticed while he was away that when he sent his cards back some of them were handmade ones," says Patricia. "I knew he wouldn't have made it, so I made some enquiries and found they're made by people around the country that are card makers and scrap bookers and that sort of thing. And they donate them to the army and they're sent over to where the men are deployed." It's hard not having your family around during the Christmas season, but knowing they're overseas makes it even tougher. But Patricia says the handmade cards helped her and her family. "I noticed not only were I and my brothers and sisters and sons impressed by the fact that we had a handmade card, I noticed that my sister – who's son it was who was overseas – got quite emotional when she got the first card from him that were handmade. "She said it made her feel like somebody else cared about her son, about the men that were overseas as well." Patricia packed up the cards and took them to Tauranga's army hall back in early-November to ensure there was enough time for the cards to reach the men, for them to write in them and send them home to their family. And of the 400-plus cards, Patricia made a good number of them herself. "I was aiming for about 100 and when I did 60, and a few people gave me some more, I thought: 'Oh I might get to 200.'" Four-hundred-odd cards later, Patricia has gone above and beyond her initial goal of 100. And because of her hard work, 400-plus families will feel a little bit closer to their camouflaged man or woman this Christmas.

## 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

<b>Tauranga WW100: Remembering WW1.</b>
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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”.



Organiser contact details: Hugh Bomford E-mail [hughbomford@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hughbomford@xtra.co.nz) Cell +64 27 545 8069

Ticket number: 01 – Des Anderson

RV attendance on Saturday 1st October 2016: Adult \$40.00, Children under 12 \$12.50.

2016 RV Lapel Pins (example below) \$10 – must be ordered by 20th September

Please read the following carefully as there is quite a bit of useful information in here for you.

The adult ticket price (\$40) covers: ☐ \$15 annual membership of the Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated ☐ Venue hire, ☐ Snacks, dinner, entertainment etc,

The under 12 year old ticket price (\$12.50) covers: ☐ Dinner ☐ Venue hire,

Please Note: ☐ Ticket money is non-refundable. ☐ 2016 RV Lapel Pin's are \$10 must be ordered by 20th September. ☐ Should the under 12 year old wish to be a financial member of the Association, please add \$10.

On Saturday you will be given a numbered name badge, this will also be your bidder's number for the auction and entry for any lucky number draws.

Important - You need to retain your name badge as well as lapel pin for the AGM on Sunday.

Please plan to arrive well before the Welcome which is at 3pm SHARP on Saturday 1st October.

☐ Because this event is held on NZ Defence property we have to have you all registered. ☐ We have to complete your registration before the Welcome. ☐ Arriving in the middle of the Welcome is not a good look.

P.T.O. for the Weekend Agenda  
WEEKEND AGENDA

ACCOMODATION: Ensure your arrangements are done early.

RV VENUE: Garrison Club (in the NZIR complex) cnr. Devonport Road and 11th Avenue, Tauranga. Enter through the main gate and go to the 2nd building entry at the covered walkway and up the stairs.

RV PARKING: Directly across the road at the Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre & Memorial Hall Car Park. Please do NOT park on the Defence Force property. You may come in to drop off people who would find the walk difficult and for our caterers etc. to drop off food.

RV DRESS: Tidy, informal. Traditionally servicemen and women wear medals for the Welcome. Those wishing to wear medals 'In Memorial' may do so by displaying them on the right breast. No berets or head gear to be worn inside the Garrison. After the Welcome people are welcome to 'loosen their collars'.

RV REFRESHMENTS: The Garrison Club is a licensed bar and carries a full range of alcohol, soft drinks and snacks. Everything is very reasonably priced. The Garrison is run by the 6th Battalion Hauraki

Regimental Association. Please do not bring liquor with you. There is no EFTPOS facility at the club, the closest machine is 300m up the road on the cnr. of Cameron and 11th Avenue outside the Post Office.

**ITEMS FOR SALE ON SATURDAY:** There will be a selection of new books and DVDs from Books for Africa. Paul Nes will have a selection of 2nd hand books. The Rhodesian Services Assn will have a SMALL selection of items from the CQ Store. If you want specific clothing items please order in advance.

Friday 30th September From 4pm the Garrison Club is open for an evening of socialising. There will be food and drink available at very reasonable rates. Cash bar – no EFTPOS available

Saturday 1st October 2016

**RIFLE & PISTOL SHOOT:** Starts 9am - finishes 12 (or before if ammo runs out) - so don't be late! Venue: LoadedNZ, 1069 Taumata Road, Tauranga. This is 16.8 km up Pyes Pa Road on the right as measured from the Pyes Pa Cemetery. It is just off Pyes Pa Road. The LoadedNZ signs can be seen from Pyes Pa Road. Please note: You must come up Pyes Pa Road. Taumata Road has two entrances off Pyes Pa Road - you must use the 2nd Taumata Road entrance coming from Tauranga side. Booking essential. Contact Hugh Bomford [hughbomford@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hughbomford@xtra.co.nz) CASH sales of ammo packs of value \$5, \$10 and \$20 will be available on the day. There will be an FN, SKS, .303 Martini Henry, .303 SMLE, .30 M1 Carbine, a black powder rifle, 9mm pistol and a .22 for use. Backup plan: If the weather is too wet to shoot we will put on a tour of the Classic Flyers Museum, Jean Batten Drive, Mount Maunganui from 10am. Call Hugh on 027 545 8069 to check on plans in the event of rain.

2pm RV REGISTRATION: From 2:00pm up in the Garrison Club to collect name tags etc.

3pm RV WELCOME: Everyone must be assembled upstairs in the Garrison Club for housekeeping announcements following which will be the Welcome.

Sunday 2nd October 2016 AGM: Venue - Bruce & Beth Chapman residence - 10 Satori Key, Papamoa

☐ Assemble at venue from 9.45am. ☐ AGM starts at 10am SHARP and generally runs for about an hour. Brunch follows. ☐ Brunch - \$12 per person payable on the day. Further details to be advised

### **COMMITTEE 2016- 2017**

**Patron:** Honorary Colonel Graeme Vercoe  
**President:** Des Anderson, tel. 07 571 1951 Home 0274 764 073 Mobile  
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**Vice President:** Kenneth Brown  
**Secretary & Treasurer:** Marion Kareko, tel. 07-576 0277 Home  
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**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 Ngahe
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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