

Hauraki News

"Whaka tangata kia kaha"

February 2018 Issue No 88

Official Newsletter of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated
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http://www.facebook.com/pages/6th-Hauraki-Association/230175227024470

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

I sent out a request from members to send articles, photos and stories to place in the Hauraki News February issue. I have had a great response. I have completed the Newsletter on deadline as some of the requests are time sensitive. Some of the articles I have placed onto our Facebook. Thanks to all those who have sent letters, stories, articles, photos & news clippings.

I wish to thank Sue Baker Wilson QSM, from the NZE Tunnelling Company; for inviting members to the Human Connection to be held in Wellington. President Col Don McKenzie from 3 Auck North Regimental Assoc has invited all "Hauraki's" to their monthly luncheon held in Auckland. Our own Robyn Coster for allowing the Association to have a shoot at "Costers Farm" in the Kaimai's. Hauraki Ken Graham, for his article of when Woods men became Hauraki's. Sgt Lee Morgan for WW1 100th Battle of Passchendaele commemorations 2017. Without your input the Editor would not be able to have a Hauraki News

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The Hauraki Coin (token) has been selling well; since it went onto Facebook. I am trying to get the Facebook system worked out? But then I have struggled along with 88 issues of the Hauraki News. I keep threating the Editor too upgrade the system, but seem to get nowhere?

Keep an eye on the Facebook

Kia Kaha Des Anderson

News from 3/6 RNZIR

WW1 100th Battle of Passchendaele commemorations 2017

The colours are the physical representation of the spirit of our unit, its threads tell the story of our battle honours and sacrifice, those threads connect our past to the present but also extend out into the future.... those are the battle honours yet to be won, are our junior leaders being grown and developed, are our soldiers prepared to step into harm's way....

To the Queen

A toast to the Queen and colours delivered at Tyne Cot Cemetery 12 OCTOBER 2017 by SGT L Morgan



The 3/6 Colour Party, SGT M. Brown, LT D. Moyle, WO1 C. Dewes, SGT L. Morgan In October 2017, 2/4 and 3/6 Battalions paraded their colours in Belgium as part of the 100th Battle of Passchendaele commemorations. The contingent was large with a defence force band, a Maori cultural group, ceremonial group, youth ambassadors

selected from throughout New Zealand and a command team led by Col Brett Wellington. Our travel to Belgium was courtesy of 40 Squadron RNZAF. The Hauraki colours were paraded at Tyne Cot Cemetery, in front of dignitaries including Prince William and Princess Astrid of Belgium. Tyne Cot is the largest commonwealth cemetery in the world, where 11965 soldiers lay buried of that number 8000 are in unnamed graves. The Colours were also paraded later at Polygon Wood as part of a sunset ceremony.

Military cemeteries are scattered throughout the small municipalities in and around Ypres, they are a constant, towns and farms have grown around them. They appear with regularity they are sombre places that are, without exception immaculately maintained, and sadly without exception there are numbers of unnamed graves, soldiers laid to rest who could not be identified.



A small Commonwealth War Cemetery surrounded by crop fields two other WW1 cemeteries are located within 300 metres, clusters of war cemeteries are not uncommon around Ypres

Background:

Ypres, with its shattered buildings and streets had become a powerful symbol to the British. Soldiers would regularly make their way through its cratered ruins to occupy positions on the frontlines, making their way past the remains of the once majestic cloth hall and out through the towns ancient battlements. At the time these soldiers British, and Dominion were the last soldiers holding the line against the Germans on the western front. Britain's Ally Russia in 1917 was disintegrating into revolution and the French Army was riven with mutiny and had been severely weakened. The Americans would not arrive in force until 1918.

In 1917 the Ypres salient projected into the German defensive line like a spearhead. The British Expeditionary Force and Dominion forces occupying it were exposed on three sides. Opposing armies of a scale normally reserved for the vast open terrain of the Russian battlefront were crammed into the sector. The shear concentration of firepower was enormous.

In the four months between July and November 1917 Five hundred thousand soldiers were either killed, wounded, gassed or drowned in the Ypres salient as part of the campaign to take the Passchendaele ridge. It was part of Field Marshall Douglas Haig's larger gamble to break through to the Belgium Coast. Ostensibly to capture the ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge from where German U-boats threatened to cut Britain's supply lines.

Seen today, Passchendaele ridge, rises above the surrounding farmland, it occupies a dominant position. In 1917 it was the highest point of the Ypres salient. The surrounding ridges would barely register on a map today, the terrain is low, and the ridges are only slight gentle rises.

On the 12th of October 1917, 960 New Zealand soldiers were to die or later succumb to their wounds attempting to secure the Bellevue spur. The Spur was key terrain that projected from the Passchendaele ridge. Taking it would prevent the advancing Divisions from being cut down by enfilade fire. Heavy persistent rain, flooded streams, ineffective artillery barrages, a hellish moonscape of mud and craters would mean that many New Zealanders would be cut down. Wire that was meant to have been destroyed was still intact as the New Zealanders began their advance into no man's land on the morning of the 12th.

That day the ridge would not be taken, the ANZAC's would be turned back by the German's. Many wounded and dying would remain in no man's land unable to move. The scale of the disaster remains unequalled in New Zealand military history. The capture of Passchendaele would be left to the Canadians some months later under General Currie.

During our time overseas, the Padre would quote a word of the day, a biblical word or historical phrase before we began our duties.

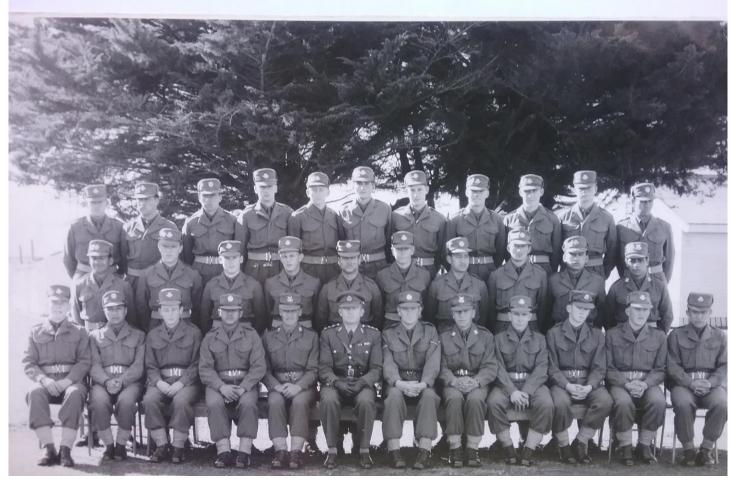
It is fitting that the last word of the day should be as we re-case our colours.... a multitude of silent witnesses, it is a term that was often said by the padre, but it was also said by King George the first time he visited Tyne cot cemetery. He said that the ultimate advocates for peace were the multitude of silent witnesses.... the fallen that were lying in Tyne cot. To the multitude of silent witnesses laying in cemeteries and battlefields across the globe, to peace.

A toast to the colours and fallen. Delivered at Arch Hill, Auckland by Sgt L Morgan

When Woodsmen became Hauraki's

It was 1960 and the Government had ceased compulsory military training (CMT) for

WOODSMEN IN THE ARMY
6 HAURAKI AT PAPAKURA CAMP 1961



all 18yr olds, a couple of years prior. There was a change of Government and it was envisaged by them that we should grow our Territorial military reserves to greater numbers. The Defence Department promoted a recruitment drive to enable this to happen and it was suggested to all employers, including Government departments to allow able bodied employee's to join the NZ Territorial Force as long as it didn't have an adverse effect or financial impact with the day to day operations of the business or the department's work.

At this time there were about one hundred NZ Forest Service Woodsmen trainees based at Kaingaroa Forest, about thirty four miles south east of Rotorua, not far from Murupara on the road to Waikaremoana. These guys were living in a hostel in the forest village and one of them, after talking to a delegate from the NZ Workers Union, learnt about the Defence Departments recruitment initiative. This created some exciting discussions amongst some of them, as living 24/7 at the hostel wasn't the most glamerous lifstyle outside working hours. Only an occasional trip out to the Waitapu Hotel on the main Rotorua-Taupo road was a highlight. Murupara, in the other direction, wasn't much of an option as they had a local policeman who patrolled the hotel there quite vigorously, so that wasn't much good for 18yr olds. Of course to be in a bar legally in those days you had to be over 21. If caught, and that happened with a bit too much regularity, it was a kick up the backside, instant ejection and a warning, don't come back again — or else!.

After hearing about joining the army, four of them went into Rotorua one Friday and presented themselves to the Defence Department officer who was based with the Department of Labour. Following a lengthy interview with some searching questions from the recruiter it was established that with their working background they would be very suitable as territorial soldiers. Although one of them was keen to be in the artillary, firing off its big guns, it was finally agreed that they would be attached to the NZ Infantry 6th Battalion Hauraki Regiment. Immediately after that meeting these blokes bought a half dozen of their favourite Waikato XXXX and headed off down to Government Gardens and sat next to the Blue Baths for a refreshing discussion about the situation. All agreed fairly quickly that it appeared to be a good and suitable activity outside of their, at times, dreary existance in Kaingaroa. About two hours later they returned and all signed the registration forms to become 6 Hauraki's.

On their return to the hostel they told the others what they had done and had committed to. Following some explanations and with some exitement these four had unwittingly become the local recruiters as more than another twenty young men signed up after that. The Forest Service bosses were taken by surprise but were understanding of the arrangement.

After passing the usual medical checks the first official duty was attending a parade that was held in the Kaingaroa Village Hall organised by a Hauraki Captain based in Rotorua. It was basically a bit of drill but mainly explaining what being a territorial soldier was all about and what was required of us. All good – and we were all keen and ready to perform. As it turned out it was near the end of the year and the first exercise would be reporting for Annual Camp and basic training at Papakura Military Camp. Wow – this camp was big and thriving with a couple of hundred personel as well as a large camp village of many houses. After being shown our barracks it was off to the Q store for uniform issue along with other daily working gear including the traditional maroon rugby jersey, khaki shorts and sand shoes for PE. Following daily 5 mile runs, twice weekly route marches around the rural roads of Papakura and Ardmore in full kit and finally mastering the extreme confindence course, our PE instructor Sgt Bill Poka started becoming a bit more human in our eyes. He became a good friendly bloke to us after the first couple of weeks and even coached a couple of us on how to be better at playing golf. He even arranged a five minute break during our runs, outside the Ardmore Teachers Training College, coincidently at the

same time as most of their female students were having a lunch break together sitting under the trees outside their front gate The obvious chat ups took place and a few permanent relationships blossomed from those well timed stops –thanks Bill!. The diminutive Staff Sgt. Howie James was our senior NCO and what a strict but fair man he was. Not long returned from a campaign in Malaya, with his flash imported Studebaker he returned with , he treated us real good, not as loud and strict as Staff Sgt's had a reputation of being back then. I'm sure that was helped by one of his rellies, Alan Fairhurst, being in our unit!. I'm also sure that some of you reading this will have known Howie and would confirm that he was an absolute example of a good kiwi bloke.

The three years of our service as Hauraki's ceased at the end of 1963 following the completion of our training with the Forest Service. As we previously knew, we would be posted to other Forest Headquarters throughout New Zealand and our time had come to an end. At this time a couple of us resigned from the Forest Service and joined the regular force. The late Rangiaho (Mac) Herewini was one and he served one tour with the RNZIR Whiskey 1 Company in Vietnam and later became a member of the SAS. Alan Fairhurst was another who became RF. The numerous visits to the Kauaeranga Valley in the Coromandel Forest near Thames for exercises in what was called "jungle training" as NZ's deployment then was in Malaya. We were required to defend our position from a combined invading force made up from members of the Nth Auck's, Auck's, SAS and the Air Force's Land Survival Squadron. Apart from the SAS it was no problem as these city soldiers were quite uncomfortable in the bush and it appeared by their actions they would have been better off patrolling in Queen Street on a Sunday night!. Hours on the Ardmore shooting range, small arms and navigation courses, watching the SAS close armed combat training and for us Kaingaroa boys, heading into Auckland on well earned weekend leave (r+r), were some of the many highlights and memories of the times being a 6 Hauraki at Papakura. Some, who while on leave in Auckland would meet up with RNZN Philomel sailors from Devonport and frequent the Freemans Bay Hotel next to Victoria Park. To our surprise and luck, there was some sort of arrangement between the Navy, Police and the Hotel owner that allowed under 21 servicemen in uniform to drink in the public bar (until they got noisey). It was from there, after 6 o'clock that Pte's J Atkins, K Graham and B Howard accompanied a couple of sailors to receive the traditional tattoo from a gentleman called Tiger Mitchell in Herne Bay, who appeared to be the unofficial tatooist to the navy. We were also involved with the change over from the WW2 Royal Enfield 303's along with the retirement of the Sten and Bren machine guns. We enjoyed the envious task of firing hundreds of rounds ("shooting in" they called it) of their replacments, the new FN/SLR rifles and the Stirling machine guns. The attached photo that includes 21 Hauraki's, is taken at Papakura when many of us were attending a two week exercise that was mainly for the changeover of that armoury. Also the caps as shown in the photo that were Infantry issue back then didn't last too long as official NZ Army headwear. Because of numerous complaints about them being of similar design and a unwelcome reminder of what both the German and Japanese were wearing during WW2, they were quickly withdrawn from official issue.



Ken Graham

Letters to the Editor



President Col Don McKenzie & Col Doug Ross

Greetings Des

We (Regimental Assoc) have instituted a luncheon on a regular basis with two veterans from WWII.

One is Col Doug Ross, an ex CO of the Auckland Regiment and veteran of the Pacific and Italian campaigns.

He is 96-year-old and joined the Hauraki Regiment in Paeroa in 1939.

Another old vet is approaching his 101 birthday and joined the Auckland Regiment in 1938. Served in the Pacific.

We meet at the old Commercial Travellers Club (now Remuera Club) in Ohinerau Street Greenlane.

First Friday of the month, every month except January.

Timing is 12. noon for 12. 30p.m

"The Infantry Table"

Other tables are for Engineers, Gunners and Navy.

All Haus welcomes

RSVP to me by email close to the day if coming to enable the caterer to set up the correct table places.

The next luncheon being Friday March the 2nd.

donaldk@newzealandfarms.org.nz

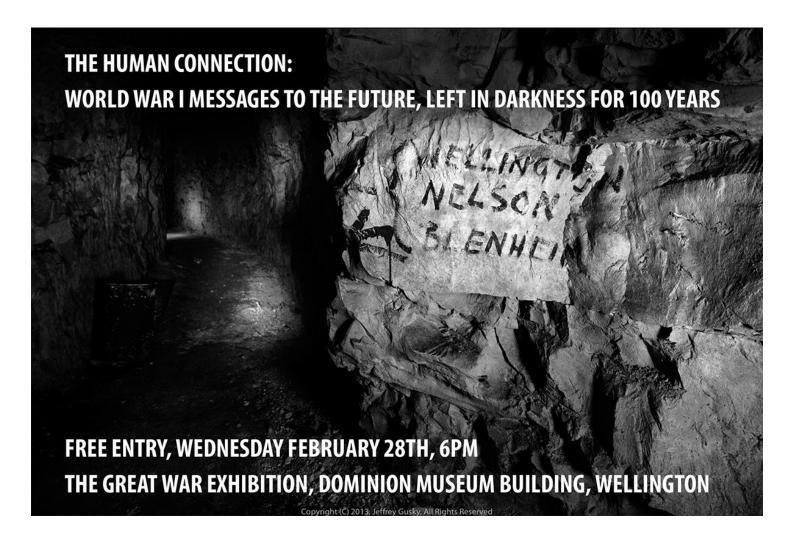
Best Wishes Don McKenzie

Des

Everyone in this photo (except my beautiful wife) served with me in the army (except Uncle Neil who served before my time.) — with Michael and Rosemary MacPherson, Quintin Ihei-Kiripa, Geoffrey Dick, Raymond Alesana, Alan Patterson, John Furey, Samantha Jaschke, Warren Banks, Major John O'Reilly, Bruce Chave, Steve Williamson, Neil Hindrup, Robin Moore and Rahiri WiHongi.

John





The Human Connection:

World War 1 Messages to the future, left in darkness for 100 years

Free entry

6 pm Wednesday February 28th 2018.

The Great War Exhibition, Dominion Museum Building. WELLINGTON

In 2014, National Geographic Photographer, Emergency Physician & Explorer, Dr. Jeff Gusky made a startling discovery. The underground site with the most WWI soldier's inscriptions anywhere on the Western Front was filled with century-old,

handwritten messages by ANZAC soldiers. ANZAC forces hold the record as most prolific, having written more graffiti than any other army of WWI.

The most prolific American WWI unit was New England's Yankee Division, which included Native American heroes who volunteered to fight though they would not be offered citizenship until years after WWI. They left behind emotional carvings reflecting their ancient tribal traditions in underground cities in Picardy, not knowing that other native peoples like the New Zealand Maori were also contributing to the war effort and leaving their mark underground 100 miles north in Arras.

Thousands of WWI soldiers lived in hundreds of underground cities throughout The Great War. The vastness of this network of WWI underground cities is still largely unknown. Now in total darkness, these are time capsules which form a direct human connection between then and now. The passage of hundred years seems like only a day. Once illuminated by electric lights, the walls of these underground cities contain beautiful works of art carved by soldiers who reconstituted a human world underground as the world's first modern mass destruction raged on the surface.

Dr. Gusky's presentation will take the audience on an emotional journey to experience The Hidden World of World War I. He invites you to help him gain a deeper understanding of those who travelled to France 'From the Uttermost Ends of the Earth'.

Caroline Toplis
Cultural Affairs Specialist | Office of Public Affairs
Embassy of the United States of America



Hi Des,

I don't know if this is what you are after but check out the link and do what you will with it. We're always on the lookout for any more sponsorship 😥

https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/101296383/linton-military-camp-personnel-walking-in-full-firefighting-kit-at-relay-for-life

I was a medic with 6 Hauraki from 91-96 if memory serves. I'm currently a Radiographer with the Role 2 Surgical Facility.

On a side note, the attached pic is of myself and Willie Apiata at the Officer Cadets Mess in Waiouru (2014) with a very nice framed set of 6 Hauraki memorabilia we founding in the mess and grabbed for the photo. Discovered over a quiet beer or two that we were both on Ex Tasman Reserve in 1994 together!

Regards, Lieutenant Julian Thacker

Sergeant Murray Ken Rakena Hudson, GC

Sergeant Ken Hudson was an outstanding soldier who fought for New Zealand overseas and then came home again. He was the first Maori soldier to receive the George Cross and other military medals. But here in Opotiki he is proudly remembered as a son of Whakatohea and a fine-looking young man who became a loving husband and father. He was a man who put others before himself.

Ken Hudson, who was known to family and friends as Kina, was born in Opotiki on 24 February 1938 to Tua and Piki Hudson. He attended Opotiki Primary School for seven years and went on to Opotiki College. At lunchtime, Ken would sometimes



sneak out to raid the fruit trees leaning onto the backfield of the college. A little girl called Shona, who lived over the fence, often caught him red-handed up her trees. Shona was a name he would remember.

After leaving school Ken qualified as a mechanic, then joined the army as a private soldier in 1961. He was very quickly sent overseas, to Malaya, where he served for nearly two years. After coming back to New Zealand, he was promoted to Lance Corporal and did many courses like Basic All Arms Instruction, Parachuting, Demolition and SAS. He went to Borneo for a time then returned home again.

The army decided they wanted to make a statue that would show a New Zealand infantryman of the time and they needed a model. They needed someone well-built and good-looking who also seemed to show qualities a soldier needed like courage and discipline. Ken Hudson was all of these things. He was chosen to be the model for a silver statue which was displayed in Singapore and later in New Zealand.

During a visit back to Opotiki for a wedding, Ken met again with Shona Martin, the girl from under the fruit trees. She had now grown up. Before long they became husband and wife and together had two children, Cory and Luana. Shona went with Ken on his next overseas posting, to Singapore, and remained there while he fought in the Vietnam War. Life in Vietnam was fraught with difficulty and the family was glad when he was able to return safely to New Zealand. Sadly, the danger was not over for him.

On the 13th of February 1974, Ken Hudson, who was now a sergeant, was in Waiouru helping supervise a live grenade-throwing exercise. He was talking Sergeant Graham Fergusson through the drill when he saw that the grenade had already been armed and was now live. At that moment he told the other man to throw the grenade quickly but for some reason he didn't respond. With only seconds left, Sergeant Hudson leapt forward, grabbed the man's hand and tried to throw the grenade from him. But he just wasn't quite fast enough. The grenade blew up and killed both the men.

Sergeant Hudson had tried to stop the accident from happening. When he saw that the other man was in danger, he could have stood back and saved himself. Instead he showed great care for Sergeant Fergusson and great bravery, putting his own life at risk. He attempted to save the life of a fellow soldier and for this he was awarded the George Cross. Only two New Zealand soldiers have ever received the George Cross, which is the highest military honour outside of war.



Lorraine Laws on-Barrett

In memory of SGT Kena Hudson G.C. (ex Cadet Opotiki College Cadet Unit) the following I thank for Attendance at the Unveiling of his new headstone 10.02.18: SSGT EDGAR, SGT MARTIN, LCPLS JANE, EDGAR, GERRARD and CDT WHYTE.





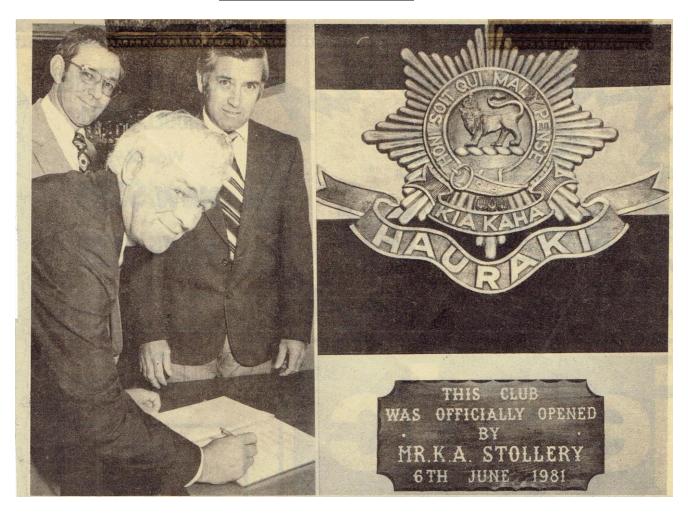


2Lt Gavin Nicol received a very special award from New Zealand Vietnam Veterans Association President John Deazley for his work amongst the Vietnam Veterans and others. Sir was very surprised.

Katrina Nicol from Opotiki College Cadet Unit



From the Archives



Supplied by Ray Crafts.

MR Stollery (at left) signing the visitors book at the new clubrooms. He is watched by Warrant Officer II S. Kyle, left, and Sergeant Parker. At right, the plaque commemorating the opening.

150 attend club official opening

MORE than 150 people attended the official opening of the Tauranga Army Garrison Club's new premises on Saturday night.

The premises, situated at the corner of 11th Avenue and Devonport Road, are part of the Ministry of Defence Tauranga headquarters.
One of the club's foundation members, Mr
K. A. Stollery, officially opened the new premises.

The club president, Sergeant G. Parker, said the new clubrooms were a big improvement on the old ones in Dive Crescent.

The rooms were built on a mezzanine floor in what was the powder room of the old Tauranga dairy factory. Their construction was the last phase of the factory's renovation.

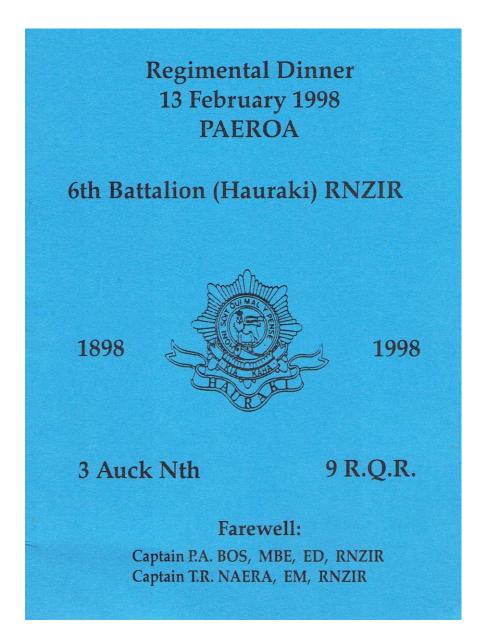
The renovations were completed last month.

The Garrison Club was open to members of all the armed services in the Tauranga area and associate members who had the interests of the services at heart. Its aim was to foster comradeship between the services.

The members helped pay for the cost of the new rooms with money they had been raising since the club opened in Dive Crescent in 1964.

They had raised more than \$18,000 toward reconstruction costs.

Still open: Join in with the members. Open every Friday night from 1600hrs till later.



If you missed the Regimental Dinner you missed a good night.

On the 8th December 2018; the WBOPCU, Unit Commander- Captain Eli Crawshaw, Executive Under Officer - Under Officer Jordan Radka, Company Sergeant Major-Warrant Officer Class II Bradley Taylor attend the Mount Maunganui RSA annual grants, donations and scholarships evening.

When the Unit started in 1998, the Mount RSA was one of the first organisation to donate funds and provided support for the setup of a New Zealand Cadet Corp Unit in Tauranga. Every year the Mount Maunganui RSA have continued to support the Unit by donating funds for the running of the Unit, equipment upgrades and purchasing of new equipment. In turn the Unit helps the RSA with Poppy Day, Anzac Day, Commemoration Services throughout the year, Veteran lunches and any other service they require of us.

Tonight, WOII Taylor accepted this donation on behalf of the Unit and gave a thank your speech on behalf of the Unit to the Mount Maunganui RSA, President and Mount RSA members.

Thank you again Mount Maunganui RSA for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated





Some of the trophies to be awarded to the WBOPCU; cadets, NCO's & Officers.

The Imperial Daughters Trophy for the most Efficient Northern Area New Zealand Cadet Corps Unit has returned.

This trophy was present to the Unit at Final Parade by the Executive Officer of the New Zealand Cadet Forces, Squadron Leader B. Sinclair. Receiving the trophy on behalf of the Unit was Warrant Officer Class II B. Taylor.

Just been advised:

The WBOPCU has won the Te Rangatahi Annual Efficiency Trophy 2017. Well done.





Western Bay of Plenty Cadet Unit at the Final parade held in Tauranga December 201

COMMITTEE 2017- 2018

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Joshua Bishop

Penny Burgess (Welfare Representative)

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Auckland: Paul Couch, Coromandel: Russel Skeet Tauranga: See Committee Bazz Porter Whakatane Rotorua: Te Kei Merito Dave Galvin Rotorua: Mike Purcell Rotorua: Hamilton: Stu Foster Hamilton: Barry Ngaheu

Te Aroha: Gordon Eagleson, tel. 07-8846675

Gisborne Dave Greaves
Linton: Charlie Harrison
Waiouru: Mike Halliday

Museum Curator: David Cross

This newsletter is compiled by Des Anderson, President, of the 6th 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 with the word 'remove' in the subject line or bod

6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated

Application Form

New Membership <u>Full</u> Renewal Membership Associate

Regimental Number

Full Name

Partners name (if applicable)

Full Postal Address

Telephone Number (home)

Mobile

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

<u>Date Joined</u> <u>Receipt Number</u>

Membership Number

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91 Windsor Road Taura

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Subscription Rate New Member \$20.00

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