

Hauraki News

"Whaka tangata kia kaha"

May 2020 Issue No 97

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 To review Hauraki News prior to 2008

http://tauranga.kete.net.nz/remembering_war/topics/show/1287

President's Report

It has certainly been a new experience to be in lockdown. The closest I have come to that was during the TET Offensive in Vietnam were there was total lockdown. But as I had a Security Clearance, I had only one day in Lockdown. After a week the Government had to lift Lockdown and change to a 2200 hrs to 0600 hrs curfew, as the population could not survive, because they relied on Wet Markets for food.

Thanks to all those who sent in articles & photos of their personel experiences over the ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

Thanks to the RSM, 3/6 Battalion RNZIR for setting up the Zoom meeting. Charles, thanks for giving the Editor verbal permission to copy the Zoom ANZAC Ceremonial Service into the Hauraki News.

The Association & Members of Hauraki Company conducted a "shoot at Costers Farm". The firearms used were all legal & permission had been obtained from Robin Coster & the Coster Family, the land owners. Everyone enjoyed the day. Robin Coster has invited the Association to continue with this traditional shoot.

The Garrison has been closed over the Covid-19 Alert. To assist with the lack of an EFPOS, we have placed the Garrison into Business online banking. This means you can transfer money directly into the Garrison Account from your apt off your personel device. Previously you could transfer only to the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Association Account. I will send out the account number under a separate email message or you can get it from the bar.

Hauraki Company, 3/6 Battalion RNZIR has been quite socially active over the year, we anticipate when the Garrison reopens that will continue. We have become to realize it is the comradeship we

miss, not the alcohol. I have been told the Editor drinks Chocolate, no Rum & Coke, like the President. Please don't tell my wife, as she has the Editor drinking "Green Tea", at home.

We have a small challenge that we are working on. Our Website has been hacked. Therefore, is inoperable at this time. We are working on restoring the system. I will keep you posted.

I have been advised the next President of 3 Auck/North Association is a Hauraki. Well done, Paul Couch. All going well, the Association plan to have its Birthday Weekend 10th – 12th July 2020, including the AGM.

Kia Kaha

Des Anderson

3/6 Battalion - Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

Queen Elizabeth II has urged New Zealanders to "kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui" - to be strong, be brave, be steadfast, in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

Her Majesty sent the message of strength to New Zealanders who today enter the 13th day of lockdown.

"As people across New Zealand and the Commonwealth are experiencing unprecedented changes to their lives, concerns for family and friends, and financial uncertainty, you are in my thoughts and prayers," she wrote.

"I send my enduring thanks to those who continue to put the service of others above themselves, whether by staying at home, providing essential services, or by caring for the most vulnerable."

Through this sense of community, dedication and faith, her Majesty is confident New Zealanders will "rise to the challenge and overcome", she said.

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3/6 Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

ANZAC

CEREMONIAL SERVICE

Saturday 25th April 2020

ORDER OF SERVICE





SEQUENCE OF SERVICE

Introduction and Welcome
Invocation
ANZAC Dedication
ANZAC Prayer
Reading
Prayer for Peace
Address by CO 3/6 RNZIR
Commemoration
Wreath laying
Ode
Last Post
2 Minutes Silence
Reveille
Benediction
National Anthems

Pre-Dawn Service Music

Conclusion

Break the Flag

For an ANZAC Day Dawn Service, the NZNF is to be at the half-mast position prior to the commencement of the service.





ANZAC INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

RSM

INVOCATION

CHAP CL4 R. Koia

On this day each year, Australians and New Zealanders parade as one people to honour the Men and Women of our respective countries who made the ultimate sacrifice whilst serving in the battlefields of

The New Zealand War
South Africa
The Great War
The Second World War
Korea
Malaya
Malaysia
Vietnam
East Timor, and
Afghanistan

In acknowledging this sacrifice, we dedicate ourselves again to the ideals for which they died.

"We Dedicate Ourselves Anew"





ANZAC DEDICATION

CHAP CL4 R. Koia

ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) was first adopted by Field Marshall Birdwood when he took command of this Corps in Egypt, late in 1914.

The Australian and New Zealand Forces landed at ANZAC Beach, Gallipoli, on the 25th of April 1915.

Because of the very high Australian and New Zealand casualties that resulted from this heroic but disastrous campaign, from the 25th of April 1918, our two countries dedicate this day in memory to the fallen.

ANZAC PRAYER

Soldier

God of the past and present,

As we remember those who died in the Great War and subsequent battles, we pray that the offering of their lives has not been in vain.

We pray for those who suffer as a result of war
We commend to your care and compassion, those whose grief and trauma
cause them despair.

Give them the comfort of your presence and the courage to face the future.

Strengthen all who help them with understanding and patience.

Bless all serving personnel whether overseas or in Aotearoa New Zealand.

May the spirit of ANZAC be renewed again so that the cause of justice, freedom and peace be witnessed in the actions of those who strive to build a better world.

AMEN





READING

Reading John 15 v 12 - 13:

Soldier

My command is this, love one another just as I love .you. The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give up his life for them. and you are my friends if you do what I command.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

CHAP CL4 R. Koia

The Lord Jesus, after the Resurrection, greeted the Disciples with the words "peace be with you". Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the World gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.

May the Lord's Prayer of peace touch our hearts and minds so that the

World will one day know peace.





THE ADDRESS

LTCOL G.P Arrowsmith, CO 3/6 Bn RNZIR

In the calm of dawn, we have gathered to remember. On the morning of 25th April 1915, our Anzac troops landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula armed and ready to fight, for the place them and many others called home. It's from this act of pure selflessness and dedication to their homes, that each year we commemorate them for the sole purpose of remembering and acknowledging this utmost act of bravery.

In this quiet and sombre place, I ask you to try for a moment, to imagine that early morning and dawn of the first ANZAC Day – 25 April 1915.

Those young men were not so very different looking from many of those of today, from our children or grandchildren, from our brothers, sisters, cousins or uncles and aunties – ordinary, exceptional, every person, New Zealanders and Australians.

Stony-faced and silent, apprehensive, a little excited too probably, they slipped first into motorboats, then row boats, into the darkness of a very distant and foreign ocean.

Then the skies lit up and roared with the thunder of big guns; bullets began to whiz and spew out of the blackness with daunting rapidity.

There is a leap into the shocking cold water – into the unknown – limbs fighting the thick resistance of the last few heavy yards to the beach as bullets drop all around.

They are now scrambling across a narrow beach beneath the sharp, steep hilly ramparts held by an enemy they have never seen, and who they know virtually nothing about, except for maybe the odd mentions in childhood fictions.

Around them mates, some they have known most of their lives, others for only the last few weeks, are hit and fall killed or wounded. There is noise and confusion everywhere, but on they go.

The British war correspondent Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett provided the first reports of the landing at Anzac Cove by the newly formed Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. He wrote:





"They waited neither for orders nor for the boats to reach the beach, but,

springing out into the sea, they waded ashore, and, forming some sort of rough line, rushed straight on the flashes of the enemy's rifles"

He went on:

"There has been no finer feat in this war than this sudden landing in the dark and the storming of the heights... (The Australians and New Zealanders) were happy because they had been tried for the first time and not found wanting"

That is the legend of ANZAC, forged in a cauldron of fire over eight short months on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915; and sustained since by the combined efforts of Australian and New Zealand soldiers, sailors, and air men and women during the Second World War, in Korea, Malay, Vietnam, and more recently in Timor Leste, the Solomon Islands and Afghanistan.

But what is this special ANZAC relationship, and how strong is it today?

At its core is a 'mateship'; recognition that no matter how much we might want to beat each other on the rugby field or netball court, that at the end of the day we share more in common than we do in difference.

Our histories are similar: both young fresh colonial nations that have carved out their own identities through determination and toil. But more importantly it is out attitudes that resonate. We are irreverent, our senses of humour always challenging the status quo and conformity.

We believe that respect is earned through one's deeds, not inherited as a birth right, we are undoubtedly egalitarian. We are inventive and innovative – our back-yard inventors and number eight wire mentality is the signal that we believe problems are not barriers, just obstacles to be overcome and solved.

Certainly from a military standpoint and our NZDF Values, in each other we see Courage (Tu Kaha), Commitment (Tu Tika), Comradeship (Tu Tira), and Integrity (Tu Maia).

Standing shoulder to shoulder we can have complete confidence in each other's ability – which frees us to be one hundred percent focused on the task at hand.

So what place has this ANZAC spirit in 2020 and where to from here?





Of course New Zealand's closest strategic partnership is with Australia. We are as proud today to be the NZ in ANZAC, as were our soldiers at Gallipoli, and at Passchendaele and the Somme.

We have a tradition of mutual commitment to each other's security, and of working together in pursuit of shared strategic interests.

We work closely with Australia promoting a secure and stable Pacific. We will continue to work and operate closely with the Australian Defence Force to be able to respond to any contingency in our part of the world.

So today, as we remember the sacrifice of our Service personnel over the years, I ask all those gathered, to also dwell for a moment on the horrific loss Australia has suffered this year through bush fires and COVID 19.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those New Zealand and Australian families that have suffered such devastating loss and hardship.

For all of us who have turned out this dawn morning, at services the length and breadth of New Zealand, the 'Stand at Dawn' campaign calls for New Zealanders, wherever they are in the world, to stand at their letterbox, front door, or balcony with others from their home, in order to take a moment to remember the sacrifice of others in service of our country.

As New Zealanders, we rally, this is what 'mates' do, this is what the ANZAC spirit means.

I am a warrior of the New Zealand Army He toa ahau na Ngāti Tūmatauenga

I will serve New Zealand loyally and honourably. I will carry on the tradition of those that have served and gone before me.

I embrace the Army's core values, Courage (Tu Kaha), Commitment (Tu Tika), Comradeship (Tu Tira), and Integrity (Tu Maia), and

I will help to protect those who are unable to protect themselves.

He Hoia ahau, I am a soldier.

Pour Devoir, Susit Preudentia

Whakatangata Kia Kaha, Ka Whawhai Tonu Ake Ake

"We will remember them, ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou."





THE COMMEMORATION

Soldier

God of the world, we come before you on this day of remembrance. We come in gratitude and give thanks for all who have died to preserve the freedoms that we, who live, enjoy today.

We remember those who endured pain that we may appreciate the joy of living. We remember also, those who suffered imprisonment, so that we may know freedom.

May the strength of God pilot us
May the power of God preserve us
May the wisdom of God instruct us
May the hand of God protect us
May the way of God direct us
May the shield of God defend us

May the heavenly host of God guard us against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. We pray in hope and faith.

AMEN

LAYING OF WREATHS

Individual Families





THE ODE

Soldiers

The Ode (Te Reo / Maori)

Ekore rātou e kaumātuatia
Pēnei i a tātou kua mahue nei
E kore hoki rātou e ngoikore
Ahakoa pēhea i ngā āhuatanga o te wā
I te hekenga atu o te rā
Tae noa ki te aranga mai i te ata
Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou
Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou.

The Ode (English)

They shall grow not old

As we that are left grow old

Age shall not weary them

Nor the years condemn

At the going down of the sun

And in the morning

We will remember them

We will remember them.





THE LAST POST

Music Orderly own locations.

The NZNF is to be lowered to the half-mast position during the playing of 'Last Post'.

All military personnel who salute or present arms are to return to the attention position at the completion of the playing of The 'Last Post'.

2 Minutes Silence

For an ANZAC Day Dawn Service, two minutes silence is to be observed. The period of silence may also be at the discretion of the event organiser.

Reveille

For an ANZAC Day Dawn Service, 'Reveille' is played and for all other commemorative services, 'Rouse is played.

The NZNF is to be raised to the mast head/peak during the playing of 'Rouse' or 'Reveille'.

At the completion of a Dawn Service, the NZNF is lowered to the half-mast position where it remains in that position until 1200 hours in which it is to be then raised to the mast head/peak.

All personnel do not pay compliments during the playing of 'Rouse' or 'Reveille' but are to remain at the attention position.

BENEDICTION

CHAP CL4 R. Koia

May the God who shapes heaven and earth,
whom death could not contain,
who lives to disturb and heal us,
bless us with power to go forth,
and bring to our lives and neighbourhoods,
the peace that God desires.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be ours now and forevermore.

AMEN





New Zealand & Australian National Anthems

All military personnel wearing uniform and headdress are to salute during the playing of the New Zealand & Australian National Anthem and other countries national anthem.

GOD OF NATIONS

E Ihowā Atua
O ngā iwi mātou rā
Āta whakararongona
Me aroha noa
Kia hua ko te pai
Kia tau tō atawhai
Manaakiitia mai
Aotearoa

God of Nations at thy feet
In the bonds of love we meet
Hear our voices we entreat
God defend our free land
Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war
Make her praises heard afar
God defend New Zealand





ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free.
We've golden soil and wealth for toil.
Our home is girt by sea.
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare.
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross

We'll toil with hearts and hands.

To make this Commonwealth of ours

Renowned of all the lands.

For those who've come across the seas

We've boundless plains to share.

With courage let us all combine

To Advance Australia Fair.

In joyful strains then let us sing,

Advance Australia Fair.





CONCLUSION OF SERVICE

LEST WE FORGET



A N Z A C DAY CEREMONIAL SERVICE Saturday 25th April 2020





ANZAC DAY 2020

Hi.

It was different ANZAC Day Dawn Parade, in what we traditional been accustomed to.

I had an ANZAC Day dawn parade in our street.

As our street is a Private Street, we had a short ceremony, (as suggested by the RSA), outside house number one, on our road.

The neighbours had built a temporary cenotaph.

There were four bubbles, with all keeping the required spacing.

We had our minutes silence, followed by the Last Post, played on a phone.

I said the Ode.

To keep with tradition, my wife & I had dressed in our best parade clothes.

My wife wore my Fathers WWII medals. A tradition I had establish since the passing of my Father: was that one of my family would wear his medals on ANZAC Day.

Thanks to the RSM 3/6 Battalion RNZIR: they had set up a Zoom Meeting which I had been invited to join.

I had login prior to joining the Street Ceremony.

I then only had too rush back to re-join the Zoom Meeting, after the completion of the short street ceremony.

After the Zoom meeting, I gave a toast, to those Fallen Hauraki's, with our fine Hauraki Port.

What did you do for your ANZAC Day 2020?

I will publish your experience in the May Hauraki News, if you wish.

I have received an email from our Australian Alliance Regiment: 5/6 Battalion the Royal Victoria Regiment: referencing how they recognised ANZAC Day this year.

I will publish it in the May Newsletter.

Kia Kaha

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Hi,

In case you are getting bored with the lockdown, you may wish to spend some of your free time on helping me complete the Hauraki News – May 2020.

I would welcome articles, stories, photos or anything I can publish in the Hauraki News.



My back drop for the Zoom meeting



The Street temporary cenotaph. Photo taken the day before ANZAC Day.

Hi Des

Thanks for your email and yes this was a different parade than the norm. I always take my dog for walks in the morning and on Anzac Day I was up earlier to join my neighbourhood in the ANZAC dawn gathering.

The sunrise was awesome and at the end of my drive I heard the sound of a couple of bugles at different positions in the distance playing the last post, it almost sounded like a stereoit was quite breath taking.

I continued the walk and met a number of more neighbours in the adjacent streets, some standing with their families and a few burning candles on the edge of the footpath.

I had a chat and it was great to see them with a smile and respecting the fallen soldiers.

I could imagine you and your wife in your best clothes.... sorry mine wasn't.

A really pleasant morning and no doubt yours' was the same.

Cheers

Bill Grainger

Des

I was tasked to be guest speaker at Timaru again this year but I live in a park off Riccarton Rd where there is a huge Rosemary bush. I'm sure you will all know; the Rosemary twig is the official emblem for the particular Gallipoli campaign as that plant grows prolifically on that Turkish peninsula.

I placed a notice in letterboxes "that those in the neighbourhood are welcome to gather around this bush at 10am as long as we stay within our bubble groups, otherwise 2 metres apart, and each person can bring along their own thing do in turn".

A twig of the Rosemary bush was prior cut up and one available for everyone. A dozen turned up, including some of the nearby university students, an overseas student, a new immigrant couple, one carrying great grandfathers' medals, one in a mobility scooter, a walking frame and myself and my boy. We sang the national anthem, one did a prayer, one read a message from our PM, my boy read one of my own poems, we stood in silence and finished with a tune on my cell phone, no reason I chose it but 'Boots & Saddles' by my friends of the Household Cavalry Band. Someone was filming our service for a person overseas. After 10 minutes we waved each other farewell.

I am aware such events were held numerously as well as bagpipers playing along beaches. I rate Anzac commemorations this year as more than successful and suggest people seriously consider this as a way forward. It's alright saying a few thousand turned up for a normal public service in a particular town when in fact it is only 2% of the local population. What I am saying here, is I am told more commemorated this year.

Following from this I did my usual radio interviews. I would say we will have a big turnout for Armistice Day this year and I am continuing my training for churches (I got govt funded during the WW! centenary) to get them back to commemorating Remembrance Sunday – which you should all know – is the 2nd Sunday in November. Anyone wanting to know more about that get in touch. So yes, it was all good, if not better.

from Gavin Marriott Christchurch.

Hi Des

Our street version of the Anzac Day dawn service involved the following sequence: introduction, recitation of the Ode, sounding of the last post, minutes silence, sounding of reveille, and the recitation of one verse of New Zealand national anthem in English and te reo. This was followed by a glass of port for those who wished. The two bugle calls were downloaded off a NZ Army Band website so that we experienced a high-quality sound. As our street has a hilly backdrop forming a kind of natural amphitheatre, the bugle calls were played fairly loud so that adjoining streets could get the benefit of the effect.

At the conclusion of this street event the gathering, less a few who were getting a little cold, moved to an adjoining street at the end of which is a small memorial cairn. It is in a very pretty location on the beach. At this place we recited the Ode and laid a wreath. Those who wished to, placed a poppy at the memorial cairn. With the high tide, the lapping of the waves on the rocky shore provided a beautiful 'musical' accompaniment to our dignified little ceremony.

At both events, with the 20 or so residents standing at two metre intervals in their little bubbles, the assemblage appeared larger than it actually was.

Russell Skeet Thames





ABOVE: The beachside memorial cairn; note below the inscription on the card accompanying the wreath:

Remembering those who served and those who fell in the Great War of 1914-1918

Tararu 25 April 2020

Des

I set up a mast from one of my old sailing boats and raised the NZ flag at dawn, lowered it to half-mast, and raised it in accordance with tradition and recited the ode. Stood at the gate (felt alone, in a rural setting, but all the more meaningful for all that). Peaceful and very thought-provoking, a good and moving experience.

Bob Mack

Hello Des.

Greetings from Culburra Beach.

Unable to go to our local cancelled ANZAC service today, my daughter who usually comes here on Anzac Day, asked me to send her some photos of my National Service/Territorial days. In looking back at some old photos, a thought crossed my mind. This year must be the 50th birthday of the Garrison Club. I think it was around November 1970.

I am not sure who you could ask? I was transport Sgt at the time and the idea was dreamed up at a Sgt's Mess function. RSM Ray Delves (Regular WO1) assisted ensuring we ticked off all that was required and oversaw the whole thing. The RF staff really got behind the project.

The transport platoon was very involved, our guys went over to Waikato Brewery and picked up the Beer Taps etc. (in an RL Bedford of course.) Another driver, surname Wall, parents owned Walls Furnishing over at Mt Maunganui, supplied the carpet from a church in the Mt they were recarpeting at the time. Was a lot of fun setting it up and having regular Fridays, even better knowing it still operates 50 years later even if the location has changed.

Maybe it calls for a birthday celebration after this Covid isolation is over!

Cheers

David Forno

Des

I'm coping well their young fella. This lockdown is giving me a chance to catch up on many projects, particularly updating my vast music library. I have been in dialogue with my military band colleagues in the UK and big changes have happened over there that I will now write about and send to you shortly. from **Gavin Marriott**



Eric Kristensen at his entrance to his farm.

Hi Des,

Good to see you commemorated ANZAC Day in fine style, keeping to the confines of your bubble. I've sent you a photo of my ANZAC Service at home in isolation. My boarder Glen played a recording of the Last Post. During the day we played music in line with the theme of the day, and along with a few beers, polished off a bottle of 6th Battalion Infantry Port.

Cheers, Geoff.





Des,
My family & I set a small cenotaph in our living room where held our ANZAC Day Dawn Parade.
In Remembrance of all those who have served our country over the years.
Christine Dean

Another reshapes of military bands in the UK

It's not just New Zealand that had its military bands slashed – once in recent times, in 2012. That was expected to save a half million dollars a year, but due to ignorant informing, the saving was just half that. And what was shafted for that meagre amount? **8 out of 11 bands** – at a time when our bands were going to be badly needed for the upcoming WW100 commemorations. The newspaper headlines quoted it as "carnage for peanuts".

A friend of mine attended a lunch with the then Minister of Defence Wayne Mapp and was told (before the consultation) that he wanted just one band in NZ for each service. And guess what the final expensive report came up with months later?? That same result!

As a result, today we have just the 2 fulltime bands – the Navy and the Army and a large reserve band (RNZAF) in Wellington.

Shafted were the Artillery band, the 3rd, the 5th, the 7th and the 2nd Btn bands and the 3 RNZAF base bands.

Some of these have continued in a voluntary capacity but one by one they are falling over. That is because the older members who want to keep the tradition going and prepared to sacrifice pay for that, are dying off and younger ones won't replace them without compensation.

And has Wayne Mapp's slashing achieved results? Certainly not. In fact, it has caused more costs on occasions. The Navy band has become so busy they are having to take on reservists – like well-known singer Rebecca Nelson. The Army band is based at Burnham and to bring them up north each time costs over 10 grands.

But it could have been worse. One person wanted just one Tri Service band. But as a result of the slashings, you will now have noticed, that most overseas band deployments now are Tri Service.

I often get asked why military bands are necessary and usually the question is asked provocatively and with contempt. I do though feel like replying with "why bother having colours and uniforms. Wouldn't an army be better camouflaged in civvies!!" But I don't say that and simply don't respond to such ignorance.

This leads to bands fitting in with modern military operations where regiments and battalions are all working together and the unit distinctions are disappearing in both operation and back in training. In the UK you join the regiment not the "UK Army". I learnt this first hand when I toured with the Band of The Life Guards to NZ in 2004. Currently, each UK regiment/ battalion has their own band and jealously so. Members stand to attention at the sound of their regimental march.

But things started to change in fact over 160 years ago in 1857 when the Royal Military School of Music was established - and now about to leave the beautiful Kneller Hall next to Twickenham Rugby. This was the result of something hilarious. A massed band was formed and they were tasked quit simply to play 'God Save'. Each played it at different tempo and key. Oh dear.

The RMSM went a step further 25 years ago when alongside it was established CAMUS. The Corps of Army Music took over all the bands and bandsmen. It was necessary but with current military joint movements (as I alluded to earlier), bandsmen now get posted to a band, then another, get shoved in some regimental uniform, play a new regimental march and that has now done its dash. If you see a Guards band today you will see different coloured plumes in the bearskins. They all band swap. When I was touring with The Life Guards we had Welsh Guards bandsmen and all sorts to make up numbers. Fitting of uniforms required NZ tailoring!

In 2014 when I was a guest in London of The Household Cavalry, I attended the Queens Gun Salute. We socialised with the Royal Artillery Band to find they had all been replaced. It is a joke. I get inquiries from loyal ex UK regimental members in NZ wanting a copy of THEIR band CD. If only they knew. When the international CD was done and New Zealand's entry was our 'Hauraki' it was played by bandsmen from all over Europe.

Further to this is where does a regiment in the UK station its band. For example, the Sappers HQ is in Chatham Kent but their band is based at Tidworth Hampshire – where there are no Engineering units. The Signals want a band and the nearest is the Paras. You don't get your OWN band anymore.

The UK army decided that much waste was being done by each band having their own pop group and their own orchestra. So now there is just one State orchestra – the 24-piece Countess of Wessex based at Woolwich. There are now 3x 15-piece pop groups = The Army Air Corps, REME and Adjutant General's Corps, Yes, they are pop groups, so if those regiments need a marching band, they get one from another regiment via CAMUS.

So, it is now getting to the stage where bands will be based **regionally and not regimentally**. This will save enormously on band rooms as well. The Royal Navy (Marines) and RAF have operated their bands as one for some time.

So where are we at in the UK at the moment

Scotland has a full-time band in the Royal Regt of Scotland a 50-piece band which is distinctive in the tartan. They have some reserve bands as well. The old "regiments" are now battalions and each has their own reserve Pipe band. Plus, also there is the famous Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Pipe Band.

Wales has a full time Brass Band and a reserve band.

Northern Ireland has a reserve band – which played jointly with a Republic of Ireland band for the first time in yonks since the troubles.

The UK seems to be branding their bands now as **British Army Band...** but I note that is not the case in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland!

So, in England we have **British Army Bands State** in London which is the merged 64-piece Household Cavalry Band based at Hyde Park and Windsor. That was a recent merger of the Life Guards and Blues & Royals. They are the only Mounted band in the UK. **They do play the 'Hauraki March'**.

All the 5 Foot Guards bands operate as one really, all at Wellington Barracks next to Buckingham Palace. There are 230 of them and yes there are strong cultures between the Grenadiers/ Coldstreams/ Scots/ Irish/ Welsh. But how long that will remain I doubt. Why are there 3 bands representing 3 nations in London?? and when their makeup is redistributed by CAMUS anyway.

Now we have 4 regional band bases = British Army Bands Catterick Yorkshire, British Army Bands Colchester Essex, British Army Bands Sandhurst and British Army Bands Tidworth Hampshire. Spread out at the bases are the bands of the Royal Corps of Signals, The Royal Logistical Corps, The Parachute Regt, The Queen's Division, The King's Division, The Royal Armoured Corps, The Royal Artillery, The Corps of Royal Engineers.

2 exceptions to this new structure is The Band of the Rifles who have a different marching style (fast) and The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Musical Training Arrangements

With the closing of Kneller Hall

Phase 1 Basic Recruit Training will be run at Pirbright in Surrey.

Phase 2 Musical Training is planned to be co-located with HM Royal Marines at Portsmouth.

F or advanced musical training and promotion related qualifications there are already band facilities at Sandhurst.

from Gavin Marriott Christchurch (the writer of the words to Hauraki's March)

Des,

Thank you so much for sharing that. We are surrounded by some amazing ladies - HM being one of course, but also in NZ our Jacinda is truly inspirational, empathetic yet strong. You can see she has her dad's genes. Ross Adern was a fine Police Supt who was my liaison man when I worked with the Samoan Police Band. The increase in our police numbers is no doubt the result of how she was brought up. I believe HM and Jacinda have been in phone contact. They get on very well I'm told privately. Both HM and myself also draw inspiration from 2 other ladies (now passed on). Moina Michael from USA & Anna Guerin jointly and separately founded the red Poppy movement and in the current situation, this to me is biological warfare. We shall fight this enemy and conquer.

Whaka tangata kia kaha

from Gavin Marriott.

Queen Elizabeth II has urged New Zealanders to "kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui" - to be strong, be brave, be steadfast, in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

Her Majesty sent the message of strength to New Zealanders who today enter the 13th day of lockdown.

"As people across New Zealand and the Commonwealth are experiencing unprecedented changes to their lives, concerns for family and friends, and financial uncertainty, you are in my thoughts and prayers," she wrote.

"I send my enduring thanks to those who continue to put the service of others above themselves, whether by staying at home, providing essential services, or by caring for the most vulnerable."

Through this sense of community, dedication and faith, her Majesty is confident New Zealanders will "rise to the challenge and overcome", she said.

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On Monday, the 93-year-old monarch addressed the nation, calling on Britons to rise to the challenge of the global pandemic.

Acknowledging the suffering that many had felt because of the crisis, which has killed at least 4934 people and infected more than 47,000 across the United Kingdom.

She sought to lift spirits and offer hope to the country, drawing on wisdom from her decades as Britain's head of state to urge discipline and resolve in a time of crisis.

"I am speaking to you at what I know is an increasingly challenging time," she said.

"A time of disruption in the life of our country; a disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all."

The Queen praised the National Health Service and others working in essential services.

"I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge," she said.

"Those who come after us will say that the Britons of this generation were as strong as any.

"That the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet, good-humoured resolve, and of fellow feeling still characterise this country," she said.

Her son and the heir to the throne, 71-year-old Prince Charles, had a mild case of the disease.

She left London, the epicentre of Britain's outbreak, and took up residence at her home in Windsor with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Both the monarch and her 98-year-old husband are among those over 70 whom the British government have advised to stay home for 12 weeks.

The Queen gives yearly Christmas messages but had given an address like this on only three previous occasions. She delivered speeches after the Queen Mother's death in 2002, before the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales in 1997, and at the time of the first Gulf War in 1991.

Kia Kaha

Des Anderson President 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association

Hello,

I recently located a 6th regiment cap badge in excellent condition while metal detecting our paddocks amongst other items such as a WW1 antique brass oiler, stirrups, shells, musket balls and multiple coins dated from 1891 to 1919. I have been trying to research some history from our area but there doesn't seem to be much on the military. I'm located 3920 Russell Road, on the old Russell forest road that goes through the Ngaiotonga saddle. I was just curious if you had or where able to point me in the right direction as to find any more information on these finds. Would love to learn more about the history of these finds.

Thank you for your time, Greg Meeuwissen



6th Battalion (Hauraki) Garrison has been in operation for fifty years, this year.

Des

Spoke with Keith Stollery and got some information on how the Garrison Bar started and Keith is going to send me some notes and thoughts from its start to when he retired from NZDF in 1973/74. He has some BOP clippings when the Garrison Club as you knew it had its opening. He will look for other photos which will not be digital (good old photos).

This project will not meet your May deadline but can you get people with stories (publishable) and/or photos of the Garrison Club Bar and its events or occasions over the 49.5 years to date to make contact with me.

Paul

Hi Des

I was posted from 7RNZIR to the unit in March 1972 but I believe one of the instigators along with the late RSM Ray Delves was the Chief Clerk WOII Keith Stollery who is still alive. I have no knowledge on Keith's wellbeing but will try and speak to him by phone as Covid buggers personal visit which would be a better option to get the stories.

When I arrived at Dive Crescent there was a bar set up in a corner office (south end railway side of building) that later became the Area recruiting office and it must have been prior to 1973 that several working bees employing the skills of unit personnel (builders, electrician, plumbers, others with no manual skills) constructed and fitted out the Garrison club area on the north end of the building, Your motorbike was parked outside at a later date and you were barred from for a period. If I participated in that decision, I am glad I did otherwise you may not be President of the Association today. I moved to Auckland in May 1978 so I can cover up to then.

Can I postpone the news article until I can collect information and speak to various personnel? In the meantime, post a warning order seeking information, photographs and stories from members who served 1970 to date to deliver to myself.

Subject to Covid alert levels the Association Committee can plan for a function for late this year.

Paul

Donald,

It is our intention to hold our Birthday 9th July 2020 on the weekend of 10th -12th July 2020.

We request the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association join with you on Sunday 12th July 2020, at the Holy Trinity Church, 0800 am, Church Service.

This of cause will depend on the COVID-19 Alert at the time. We will contact with you closer to the date.

Thanks

Kia Kaha

Des Anderson President 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association

NZ Battle of Crete

Good morning

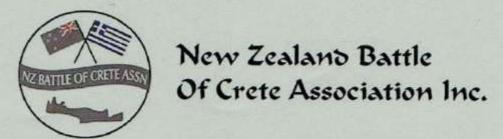
This is just an update sent to people on our email list:

- At this stage we are expecting the Mount Maunganui RSA will be open for us to have the simple Memorial Service inside on this coming Sunday 24 May at 10.30am. While we expect the attendees will be mostly from the nearby areas, all will be welcome.
- Some members may be interested in watching a documentary series on The Battle of Crete which will be running on the History Channel of Sky TV, Channel 73, starting this Tuesday 19th May at 7:30pm and will run for several episodes each Tuesday evening. Thankyou Bruce Kitchingman for letting us know about this.
- Regarding the proposed 80th Commemoration tour to Crete next year, other members are prepared to help with the planning. Vice -President Robyn Lloyd (Wellington) is available and has worked with Linda Playle, the travel agent we have used in the past and who we might use again. Deirdre Nottle and Yianni Petris (Wellington) are also prepared to help on the committee. It is best to keep the planning on hold until we have a clearer idea on potential travel to Greece.

Regards

Colin Henderson

Secretary/Treasurer



79th COMMEMORATION MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday 24th May 2019 1030hrs

Held at the Mount Maunganui Returned & Services Association (Inc.)

Welcome: Bill Newell - Mount RSA President

One minute silence

Opening Prayer: Officiating Chaplain,

The Reverend Marie Gilpin

Master of Ceremonies: Colin Henderson - Secretary NZBC

NZ National Anthem: The Reverend Marie Gilpin

Reflection: The Reverend Marie Gilpin

Presentation: Lieutenant Colonel Leith Comber (Retired)

Wreath Laying:

Benediction: The Reverend Marie Gilpin

The Last Post: Bugler – David Travers-Watt

The Ode: Norm Harvey RNZN Retired

Reveille: David Travers-Watt



The 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association wreath laid alongside the NZ Battle of Crete & the Mount Maunganui RSA wreaths.

Lieutenant Colonel Leith Comber (Retired) was unable to attend. There was no replacement presentation.

Only twenty personnel attended the Memorial Service, due to the restrictions on the COVID–19, Alert Level 2. Tables were set out with only two/ three people per table.

Honoring the 52nd Battalion a personal quest

On Remembrance Day 2018, a bridge in Narre Warren was named the Gippsland Regiment Bridge to honor the memory of the 52nd Battalion. This is my story leading to up to and reflecting on this event for which I the coordinator. The event was conducted under the auspices of the Royal Victoria Regimental Association and the Dandenong Cranbourne RSL.



The author's sister Susanne Glebov who donated all the wreaths for the occasion next to the sign for the 52nd battalion the Gippsland Regiment that now adorns the bridge

The story of my quest to the name of a bridge in Narre Warren after the Gippsland Regiment really begins in 1980. I had recently been commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry and been posted to the 1st Battalion the Royal Victoria Regiment. The 1st Battalion drew its heritage from the 58th Battalion the City of Essenden Regiment which fought in France during World War I. As a result, one of my duties when duty officer at the depot in Moonee Ponds was to turn over the pages on the battalion's honor roll at the entrance to the depot. There were over six hundred names on this list of people who had fallen in service of our country in France.

I was deeply moved by the sacrifice of those men many years before and thought it important the Australia never forgets those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for us. As the Regular army was not formed until 1948 and the Army of both the first and second world wars were raised from the Militia it is the battalions of the Army Reserve who carry the battle honors of the first and second world wars. This is also because the Army made a conscious decision to build Esprit de Corps by numbering Militia battalions in such a way as to confer on them the battle honors of AIF Battalions with the same number.

As a consequence of it being formed only in 1948 the Regular Army does not have the events of World War I and II as particularly central to its sense of identity. So later in the early nineties when as an officer in the 5th/6th Battalion the Royal Victoria Regiment I found myself depot commander of the Moonee Ponds Depot I was surprised and actually a little angry to find a brochure on the wall pro-porting to be the history of the Australian Army which started at Gallipoli and then went straight to Tobruk not even mentioning the campaigns in France or the Middle East with their large casualties. (The honor roll for the 58th Battalion had been removed but the brochure was less than a meter away from where it had previously been) then the brochure went on to mention and outline the Korean, Malaysia and Vietnam conflicts and skipped the World War II campaigns in New Guinea where I knew the 58th Battalion had fought as a the combined 58th/59th Battalion.

This was my catalyst for the events which lead to the sending of a Royal Victorian Regiment Guard to Villers Bretonneux in 1993 which I had the honor of commanding. At the time I resolved to myself that I would if it were possible to there for the 100th Anniversary on ANZAC Day 2018.



The author at Bullecourt France 26 April 1993 during the 75th Anniversary of Villers Bretonneux commemorations. Taken from the book Never Forget Australia: N'oublions Jamais L'Australie, Australia and Villers-Bretonneux 1918-1993 by Allan Blankfield – Robin S Corfield

I left the Army in 1998 and was elected to my local council the City of Greater Dandenong in 2000. I served two terms as councilor and had the privilege of serving as Mayor for one year before I chose not to seek reelection in 2005.

As I indicated earlier, I had resolved to be there for the 100th Anniversary of the battle of Villers Bretonneux on ANZAC Day 2018 indeed I had decided I would take three months long service leave from my job as a TAFE accounting teacher for this purpose some years earlier. I also thought it would be a good thing if I could lay a wreath on behalf of my city at the event so I began looking for links between Dandenong and Villers Bretonneux to facilitate this. I suspected this would be via the artillery as I knew that there was an artillery depot in Dandenong from when I served in the Reserves.

I was therefore delighted, surprised and a little confused when I found that the 52nd Battalion a battalion that fought in the battle with the 13th Brigade in World War I was re-raised with its headquarters in Dandenong after the War and named the Gippsland Regiment. I was surprised firstly that the existence of the 52nd Battalion was never mentioned in any of the local history books I had read as part of my duties as a counselor of Greater Dandenong. I was also surprised and confused as I knew that the 13th Brigade was not a "Victorian" brigade but rather was an all other states brigade raised from Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia and South Australia.

Australia in order to ensure casualties were largely spread relatively evenly across all states in the event of a battle Divisions had a spread of battalions or brigades recruited according to a standard pattern. In the First Division the 1st Brigade (Consisting of the 1,2,3, and 4th battalions) consisted of New South Welshmen, the 2nd Brigade (the 5,6,7and 8th battalions) was Victorian and the 3rd Brigade (9,10,11 and 12th battalions) was all other states. Independent Brigades the 4th and the 8th the followed the same pattern at the battalion rather than brigade level. That is why Jacka's Mob the 14th Battalion is a Victorian Battalion being the second battalion in the 4th Brigade (13,14,15 and 16th battalions). As the 52nd Battalion was split from the 12th Battalion (a predominately Tasmanian Unit) in Egypt after Gallipoli and reinforced mainly with Queenslanders I wondered how it ended up in Victoria.

The truth is that after World War I when the militia was re-raised battalions were given areas to recruit from that were based on population. Victoria now having a larger population had more battalion area than it provided in World War I so cast around for unclaimed battalions from other states to draw their history and battle honor from. After a false start with the 48th Battalion which was claimed by and later raised in South Australia the powers that be decided on the 52nd Battalion. A strong reason for this was that in the pre-war militia the 13th Brigade had previously been a Victorian Brigade and the 52nd Battalion pre-war had been known as the Hobson's Bay Regiment which was the original Victorian Scottish Regiment. Indeed the first Commanding Officer of the re-raised 52nd Battalion was Lieutenant Colonel Knox (After whom the City of Knox is named) Colonel Knox had served pre-war 52nd Battalion the Hobson's Bay Regiment being mentioned in the history of the Victorian Scottish Regiment as leading a contingent of that Regiment exercise against the regiment based in Ballarat.

Picture of the pre-war 52nd Battalion with kilts Monash Camp near Then part of the pre-13th Brigade

from a

Members of the 52nd Battalion march up

Lilydale's main street.

sign at Lilydale Lake.

Having resolved to be

commanded by Colonel Monash circa 1914.

when training at

Lilydale Lake.

war

at the

100th Anniversary and established a link to the City of Greater Dandenong I thought this link should be acknowledged by having a commemoration of some sort.

The author at the headstone of Private Wheeler of the 52nd Battalion who was killed during the battle of Villers Bretonneux in 1918, 25 April 2018, Villers-Bretonneux, France.



The author displaying the wreath laid on behalf of the City of Greater Dandenong at the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the Villers Bretonneux on 25th April 2018

The 52nd Battalion the Gippsland Regiment during World War II

At the start of World War 2 the 52nd Battalion was at first mobilized to defend Australia and then when Japan entered the war it was sent to fight the Empire of Japan's forces in New Guinea.

In the early part of World War 2 Australia's all-volunteer Army, the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was raised with officers and senior soldiers sourced from the peace time Militia and which was then deployed to North Africa to fight against the forces of Hitler's Germany.

So, when the Empire of Japan suddenly entered the War and thrust seemingly unstoppable Southward, Australia found itself with its best trained and equipped forces, the AIF in the European Theater. The defense of Australia, in its moment of peril, fell upon the hastily mobilized Australian Military Forces (AMF), Militia Units. This included Dandenong's local unit was the 52 Battalion known as the Gippsland Regiment.

The decision to re-raise the 52nd Battalion in Dandenong after the war was really a tribute to the high regard for the service of the original 52nd Battalion. It is by means of the Armies choice of the number 52 for its battalion that the Gippsland Regiment laid claim to and carried on its colors (a record of its official history) several World War 1 battle honors including the now legendary battle of Villers Bretonneux on ANZAC Day 1918. The original 52 Battalion suffered such heavy casualties at Villers Bretonneux and was disbanded soon after on 16th May 1918.

When Japan entered the war in 1941 the 52 Battalion was training as part of the 3rd Division in the Seymour Area. Both the 52nd Battalion and 3rd Division were seriously deficient in the; level of

training, the number of men serving (it was about half strength) and the equipment needed as the needs of the AIF serving in what, till then, had been the only active war front had been met at the expense of the AMF.

The year 1942 was a year firstly of alarms and setbacks in the Pacific followed by hard fought battles on the Kakoda Track and then on the Northern Coast of New Guinea. Singapore had fallen in February and with it went the Australian 8th Division also in February Darwin was bombed for the first time. In March the Japanese landed in New Guinea and pushed south, resisted at first only by Militia Units including the heroic 39th Battalion known as the Hawthorn Regiment. In the scramble to organize Australia's defense the training of Militia Battalions intensified and it became common practice to combine under-strength Militia Battalions into deplorable battalions and then move them quickly north with them taking on more and more important roles in Australia's Defence. As a result of wartime needs late 1942 found the 52nd Battalion in Queensland as part of the 4th Brigade having been transferred from the disbanded 10th Brigade and in a role defending the Brisbane Line.

On the 27th August 1942 it was linked with the 37th Battalion known as the Hunt or Henty Regiment a Militia Unit drawn from Sale and the East Gippsland region to form the 37th/52nd Battalion. The other 4th Brigade units where the 22nd Battalion known as the South Gippsland Regiment and the 29th/46th Battalion a combination of the 29th the East Melbourne regiment and the 46th the Brighton Rifles all pre-war Militia Units.

The 4th Brigade including the 37th/52nd Battalion was then deployed to Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea on 25th February 1943. By February 1943 Milne Bay would be what would be regarded in the military as a quiet or nursery sector. There was an ongoing threat from Japanese stragglers and potential saboteurs. Service at Milne Bay also represented an opportunity for further training to improve the battalion's combat skills as well as an opportunity to learn how to operate in the harsh tropical conditions that prevailed in New Guinea.

This was considered to be needed so that the battalion would be better prepared for more demanding operations against the main Japanese forces later in the war. The downside of service at Milne bay was that the base was being developed into an important logistical hub needed to support further operations in New Guinea and the later Philippines campaigns. Due to this fact the 37th/52nd Battalion found that for much of 1943, in addition to its Base Security roles and the need to keep itself combat ready, it was required to provide labor details to provide the roads, defensive accommodation and field works needed to ensure that this important base could function in the face of constant Japanese land and air threats.

By mid-September the Salamaua-Lae campaign had been successfully completed. This was followed the battle of Sattelberg. General Douglas MacArthur's then designed the pursuit phase along the Huon Peninsula campaign as the next part of his New Guinea strategy. The 4th Brigade to which the 37th/52nd Battalion was attached was now considered sufficiently combat capable and was placed under command of the 9th Division for this next operation. Its commander Major General Wooten ordered the 4th Brigade to lead the Australian main effort on the first part of this campaign which was the Advance from Gusika to Fortification Point. This operation in turn represented part of the Advance to Sio which was all part of Operation Cartwheel MacArthur's strategy to isolate the large Japanese air and naval base at Rabaul.

The Commander of the 4th Brigade, Brigadier C. R. V. Edgar's available forces for this operation consisted of his own 4th Brigade, C Squadron the 1st Australian Tank Battalion; 9 Platoon C Company the Papuan Infantry Battalion, and detachments from the 532nd EBSR (An American waterborne supply unit), Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU), Australian Army Service Corps (AASC) and the Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC). In support were the Sappers of the 2/7th Field Company and the artillery of the 2/6th Field Regiment.

Brigadier Edgar planned the Advance so that 29th/46th Battalion with a Company of 37th/52nd Battalion attached under Command alternated with the 22nd Battalion in Advancing along the Coast whilst the remainder of the 37th/52nd Battalion provided flank protection by advancing parallel to but inland from the main 4th Brigade force. The terrain on the inland route consisted of dense jungle on the seaward slopes of steep mountain ranges cut by several fast-flowing rivers in full flood as it was the rainy season. Indeed, the terrain was regarded by many of the soldiers as more of an obstacle than the enemy. That said, elements of the battalion were involved in a number of sharp fire fights with Japanese forces and the battalion lost eighteen Killed in Action during the Advance.

Following this campaign, the 37th/52nd Battalion then took part in the amphibious landing on Karker Island which in the event was unopposed as the Japanese had abandoned the Island shortly before the landing. The battalion then took its part in occupying Madang before their return to Australia in August 1944.

At a parade in Melbourne to mark their return from their first deployment in October of 1944 the Minister of the Army, Francis Forde who was in attendance made the comment "These men have done all that has been asked of them. They have been asked to do more than we could rightfully expect".

The 37th/52nd Battalion was then refitted and retrained before it was deployed to New Britain as part of the 5th Division to contain the very large number of Japanese forces at Rabaul. When Japan surrendered the battalion then moved to Rabaul where it spent several months supervising and facilitating the repatriation of the surrendered Japanese forces. Whilst at Rabaul the numbers in the 37th/52nd Battalion diminished as members become eligible for repatriation. The unit was disbanded whilst stationed in Rabaul in June 1946 and its remaining members allocated to other units.

Honors Awarded

52ndBattalion WW1

Battle Honors

Somme 1916, Pozieres, Bullecourt, Messines 1917, Ypres 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Ancre 1918, Villers Bretonneux, France and Flanders 1916 – 1918 and Egypt 1916.

2 Distinguished Service Orders (DSO), 17 Military Crosses (MC), 1 Bar to MC, 88 Military Medals (MM), 1 Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) and twenty Mentioned in Despatches (MID). Roll of honor 647.

37th/52nd Battalion WW2

Battle Honors

Capture of Lae and Gusika – Fortification Point

One Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), One MM and ten MID.

Roll of honor 31.

Lest we forget.

The Bridge Naming Event

Below is from the local paper advertising the event.

A part-time World War II militia unit who went beyond the call of duty in New Guinea will be permanently honoured at a footbridge across Monash Freeway at Narre Warren. The bridge at Prospect Hill Drive will be named the Gippsland Regiment Bridge as part of a ceremony on Remembrance Day, 11 November. The event will include veterans and family from the Gippsland

Regiment – otherwise known as the 52nd Battalion. Organiser Kevin Walsh says it is fitting to recognised the regiment – a group that was formed and based in the Dandenong district.

The original Battalion fought in the famous battle of Villers-Bretonneux on Anzac Day in 1918. In World War II, the Regiment's members who were the equivalent of a part-time Army Reserve were called up to fight in desperate circumstances. While the first-choice soldiers were engaged in Europe, the regiment was deployed to New Guinea to defend Australia from a Japanese onslaught.

"These guys served the community and were from the community," Mr Walsh said. "They came to the aid of the community in its hour of need." On the regiment's return in 1944, its bravery was highlighted by the then-Army Minister Francis Forde. "These men have done all that has been asked of them," Mr Forde said. "They have been asked to do more than we could rightfully expect."

A former Dandenong mayor and retired army major, Mr Walsh has included an array of community groups at the ceremony. Attendees include 97-year-old regiment veteran Wally Whitmore, as well as a parade of defence force cadets. Indigenous elder and Vietnam veteran Graham Atkinson, **Japan's** Consul-General Kazuyoshi Matsunaga, Colonel Mike Kalms of the 4th Brigade, and the mayors of Greater Dandenong and Casey will be part of the presentation.

There will be a flyover by Peninsula Aero Club, a performance by With One Voice Choir and a Remembrance Day service that commemorates the end of World War I.

Following the event this appeared in the local paper the Dandenong Star Journal.



Greater Dandenong mayor Youhorn Chea, Casey mayor Amanda Stapledon and Kazuyoshi Matsunaga, the Melbourne-based Consul-General of Japan in front of the bridge and a vintage war vehicle. 187235_02 Picture: ROB CAREW



The Catafalque Party stand ready on the bridge during the ceremony. 187235_01 Picture: ROB CAREW



Kathy Burgstahler reads a speech on behalf of the Casey Multifaith Network and the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network. 187235_03 Picture: ROB CAREW



The 52nd Battalion veterans Horrie Heathcote and Wally Whitmore seated at the front of the marquee. Picture: SUPPLIED



Airforce Cadets and guests assembled for the ceremony. 187235_04 Picture: ROB CAREW

Two World War II veterans of the Gippsland Regiment joined a rich ceremony launching a renamed Monash Freeway footbridge in their battalion's honour. Wally Whitmore and Horrie Heathcote were among the dignitaries as the new signs adorning the Gippsland Regiment Bridge were unveiled at Prospect Hill Drive, Narre Warren on Remembrance Day.

The regiment – formed and based in the Dandenong district – was a part-time milita unit called to action in New Guinea to defend Australia in its hour of need. It was at a desperate stage of World War II when Australia's first-choice soldiers were already engaged in Europe.

Indigenous elder and Vietnam veteran Graham Atkinson, Japan's Consul-General Kazuyoshi Matsunaga, Colonel Mike Kalms of the 4th Brigade, and the mayors of Greater Dandenong and Casey were among the attendees.

The ceremony featured a flyover by Peninsula Aero Club, a performance by With One Voice Choir and elaborate wreaths labelled with 'Mateship', 'Courage', 'Endurance' and 'Sacrifice'.

Kevin Walsh RFD
Major (Ret'd)
Former Mayor of Greater Dandenong
Event Coordinator

PS For the record the wreaths were laid by the following dignitaries

The values represented by the wreaths were the **Kakoda Values** and were explained by the reading of the **Common Statement of Inclusion** read by Kathy Burgstahler on behalf of the Casey Multifaith and the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Networks

Wreath for **Courage** made of olive leaves of peace and the courage to make peace in diversity was laid by Japan's Consul-General Kazuyoshi Matsunaga

Wreath for **Endurance** made of Gum Leaves representing our First Nations was laid by Indigenous elder and Vietnam veteran Graham Atkinson

Wreath for Sacrifice made of Rosemary for remembrance and sacrifice was laid by Colonel Mike Kalms of the 4th Brigade

Mateship didn't have a wreath but rather were two ribbons with the word mateship on it which was attached to two wreaths emblazoned "Lest we forget" which were laid by the Mayors of Greater Dandenong and Casey. The ribbons with the word mateship on them which were then used tie all the other wreaths together. This was to signify that mateship defined as honoring ones' community is the glue that binds us all together.

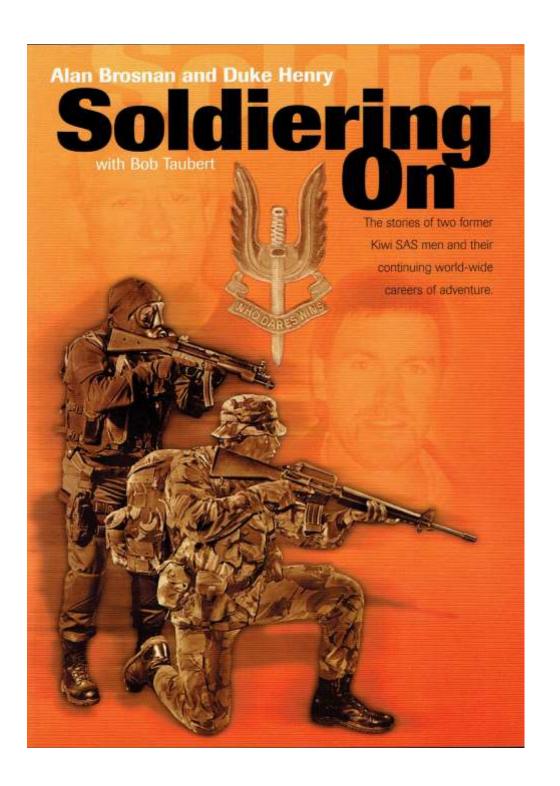
With respect to the naming event itself I shall say it had lots of moving parts and an enormous potential to go wrong as we had no rehearsal and people didn't meet each other until the event itself but due to the enormous efforts and goodwill of a huge number of contributors who I can't adequately thank enough it all went like clockwork.

Everybody donated their services apart from a portaloo service which was covered by a grant from the City of Casey.

Cheers

Martín. Secretary RVRA

Letters to the Editor



any books have been written about the exploits and accomplishments of the world's most elite fighting force — the Special Air Service (SAS). The public is constantly in awe about the feats these warriors were able to perform during their time with the SAS, but what of their time after? Not content to sit at home where their hard-won skills cannot be put to practice, many chase the "global contracts" that offer the excitement they so eagerly embrace.

This book is about two Kiwis who were compelled to chase it. Their stories will take you to their early army days including active service in South Vietnam to the 9-month SAS Selection ordeal, to the Highlands of Papua New Guinea, the crack houses on American mean streets, to war-torn Sierra Leone and the Solomon Islands, and through the crime-infested slums of Brazil's Rio de Janiero and Sao Paulo. Whether training former Communist Republics counter-terrorist troops, out-smarting Bin Laden supported terrorists in Mindanao, or protecting a Forbes 400 CEO on a luxury yacht in the South of France, the skills the government gave them are being put to good use all over the world.

Running for my life, me and my AK47... To be caught by the mutineering troops would have meant torture and ultimately death. Exhausted, I lay amongst some brush and drifted into a nervous sleep, only to be awakened in the middle of the night by a hand on my chest. I didn't have time to get scared, I had to react, it was me or him...

0400 hours. We poured out of the armored vehicle, running to the back door — explosive charge in one hand, firing device in the other, MP5 strapped to my chest. My heart was pumping, the adrenaline was high. I hardly noticed the pit-bulls as I slapped the charge on the door, took cover, and, 'boom,' the assault began...

Des

The following is an extract from a book called "Soldiering on" published in 2002, and written by Alan Brosnan and Duke Henry, with Bob Taubert. ISBN 0-9626925-4-9 and printed in the USA. The book is about two former Kiwi SAS men (Brosnan and Henry) and their continuing world-wide careers of adventure.

There is a short section in Chapter One (Duke Henry) that talks about a soldier that many from 6 Hau, 'back in the day' will remember – Tapa Dickson:

Duke says: "... Tapa Dickson became our new Platoon Sergeant and he unknowingly became one of my first mentors. He was a short, nuggety Maori in his mid-30's, extremely soft spoken and was more than a match for any of his young soldiers. Furthermore, he was a former member of the NZSAS and was held in awe by us because of the unit's mysterious reputation. He never had to raise his voice, but issued quiet verbal commands augmented with a piercing stare. Not that he gave a rat's arse, but the boys developed a deep affection for him as well. His ability to mix it up with the boys on a lost weekend and fall out of the back of an RL Bedford truck unscathed reinforced his status with us. He was a classic example of the SNCO of those days. Sergeant Dickson always led by example and always from the front. ..."

One other person mentioned in the book, this time in Chapter Two by Alan Brosnan, is Stan Pilbrow, who will be remembered as a Commanding Officer of 6 Hau.

Alan has this to say: "... As a young soldier, I came under the influence, both good and bad, of a number of people. The good influences were my boss, Captain Stan Pilbrow and his wife Denise. On weekends they would often take me under their gracious wing and I owe them a great deal for their friendship and guidance. ..."

This book is an extremely interesting read and reveals the gritty life of two Kiwi soldiers that some (former) 6 Hau personnel may know. The individuals they mention in those parts of the book that relate to their service as members of NZDF may also be known to readers so that this read becomes a personal journey recalling our own T.F.V. careers.

Russell Skeet Thames

p.s. Des you may need copyright permission to reprint those extracts I have quoted. Consent is required from Alan Brosnan.

Received permission

Hey Des and trust all is well back home

You are more than welcome to use any extracts from the book for your newsletter. Both Duke and I would agree that any mention of former soldiers and friends in any format may stimulate the memories of family members and friends alike and that can only be a good thing!

All the very best and thanks what you do to support our soldiers and their families

Alan/ Des, Discuss your interest with Alan mate no problem my end Regards Duke

Russell,

Warrant Officer First Class Tapu Dickson (Retired) Also known as Tapuraka Rikihana

21 August 1940 – 14th June 2013

NZSAS Borneo - Vietnam

6th Battalion (Hauraki) RNZIR Senior Weapons Instructor 1986 - 1989

A contingent of former NZSAS & Hauraki personal attended the Tangi at Matapihi, Tauranga. Many tributes were paid to Tapu and the life he led.

"Though small in stature and few in words, he was mighty in heart and soul, and fiercely loved by those who knew him. He lived his life with humidity, mana and hard work"

I had the privilege of serving with Tapu, both with the NZSAS & the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) RNZIR.

Des Anderson

Soldier and deerstalker has taught bushcraft for 50 years

Carly Gibbs,

Bob Mankelow followed the footsteps of his deerstalker father with a love of the great outdoors. Now 73, he's spent 50 years passing on that passion to a new generation.

Physical exhaustion is catching up with retired reserve soldier Bob Mankelow.

If his Youth Search and Rescue (YSAR) students are walking too fast in the bush, he throws them a distraction.

"'Oh, look at this tree'," he tells them. I start talking about the tree just to get a breather in. I'm not as fit as I used to be."

Exhaustion won't get in the way of his outdoor addiction, though.

He'd just started primary school when he first went bush with his deerstalker dad, and it's a chapter of his life that's never closed.

As well as a lifetime of hunting and working outside, he spent 47 years as a part-time soldier in the Territorial Force (TF), reaching the rank of Staff Sergeant in the 6th Hauraki Battalion Group.

He's also volunteered for dozens of organisations from YSAR, where he's one of seven cofounders, to the New Zealand Defence Force, where he teaches resilience training to New Zealand SAS soldiers.

His bushcraft skills come from his upbringing, and from participating in jungle warfare training.

He started teaching self-reliance in the bush and the use of native plants for medicine to his local TF unit, and then was approached by the NZ Defence Force to help with their Aumangea programme ("be strong"), which involves small groups of soldiers being taken from their normal environment into the Whanganui wilderness for 33 days.

As well as being put under pressure, Mankelow gets soldiers to hug a tree.

With their muscly arms wrapped around rough bark, he asks: "Tell me what you're feeling?

"Does the tree feel warm to you?"

"Some of them actually take it on board and feel the spirit of the tree. Others, nothing, because they are not receptive.

"I say: 'All I'm trying to do is make you comfortable with the realm of Tane. Don't be frightened of the tree'.

"A lot of these fellas, they're scared of the bush. They're not comfortable, it's not their realm.

"People grow up and have never been in the bush and suddenly become a soldier and have to do all this heavy, physical stuff, and they go off to Borneo and all over the world to get jungle training, but they're still not comfortable in that environment."

"People grow up and have never been in the bush and suddenly become a soldier and have to do all this heavy, physical stuff, and they go off to Borneo and all over the world to get jungle training, but they're still not comfortable in that environment."

Teaching bushcraft skills has landed him awards, including a Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year "local hero" medal for his ongoing work with YSAR, where his lessons have a life-saving purpose.

Students learn to take care of themselves in difficult outdoor environments and eventually aid police and skilled volunteers with official searches.

The three-year programme was launched in Tauranga in 2007 and is also offered to Auckland students.

"The potential amongst some of our young people is just fantastic," he says.

"They've got their futures ahead of them and they're looking toward it and they give it hell."

Their energy charges his soul.

He fittingly wears a T-shirt with a picture of a mountain on it and the words "hunger to explore" and "forever seeking adventures".

Fellow founding YSAR tutor Steve Campbell calls him a "volunteer extraordinaire", and while he's slowing down, the bush clearly has an anti-ageing power.

He half-jokes he won't stop volunteering until he dies.

"Going to a rest home doesn't appeal. I have trouble sitting in the backyard under the tree catching flies sometimes. I have to get up and weed a bit."

As well as YSAR, he volunteers for Land Search and Rescue (Land SAR). Ngatuhoa Lodge, The Duke of Edinburgh Award, Outdoor Education New Zealand (he is chairman), Forest and Bird, the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association, and previously volunteered for the Mountain Safety Council.

Before retirement a decade ago, he worked for the New Zealand Forest Service, Department of Conservation as a ranger - where one of his areas of expertise was whale stranding's - and then as a contractor to Environment Bay of Plenty.

He also did a stint for Work and Income with youth at risk.

He's done so much it's hard to keep track.

"The flow diagram would be interesting, wouldn't it?" he guips.

Friend Mark "Dingo" Noack, who volunteers for YSAR, LandSAR and Tauranga Response Team (nzrt16), says Mankelow has mentored a lot of people, including himself, and is a Tauranga icon.

"He's probably too generous with his time, to be honest.

"I think at one point he was with five different organisations volunteering. The outdoors comes first with Bob, everything else comes second.

"I would probably say urban life is his second home. His first home is the bush."

Mankelow has a charisma about him which keeps students on the edge of their seats.

At a recent YSAR camp, Noack watched him engage a 16-year-old in a one-on-one chat for an hour, about native plants, Māori history and how they connect.

"He's almost like a magician with presenting stuff and the way he keeps people engaged.

"The knowledge he has is phenomenal. How we're doing to download it out of his head I'll never know."

"He's almost like a magician with presenting stuff and the way he keeps people engaged. "The knowledge he has is phenomenal. How we're doing to download it out of his head I'll never know."

Born and bred

in Tauranga, Mankelow originates from pioneer stock.

His dad, Herbert "Bert" Stewart Mankelow, was the youngest of 12 children and lived in a tent before his father saw pitted the timber for a slab hut in the Waipa district.

He met Mankelow's mother Doreen Frances Watkins in Tauranga, where she was a theatre usherette, and the eldest of 10 children. They had three sons.

When Bert returned from the war, the family spent three years in a one-bedroom hut in Tauranga Domain's transit camp, before shifting into a statehouse on 19th Ave.

After leaving school, Mankelow studied to become a fitter turner/machinist with sawmilling engineers AA Edwards & Sons and was awarded a trip to Outward Bound in 1966 for being their top apprentice.

At this time, he also joined the TF and he remains on the 6th Hauraki Regiment Association committee.

His Outward-Bound experience redirected his focus to working in nature.

one of his earliest memories is sleeping under a tree with Bert, at age 5, and looking up at the stars through the leaves.

Later, he recalls the two of them eating fresh deer liver on buttered bread, cooked on an open fire beside a fantail's nest.

After Outward Bound, he got involved with setting up youth programmes Compass, and Outdoor Experiences, and worked on the construction of the Kaimai Tunnel.

A year later in 1967, a group of old soldiers was forming outdoor education centre Ngatuhoa Lodge in Omanawa.

Mankelow volunteered to be their secretary and treasurer, and assisted with their Kaimai Youth Camp Society and has stayed involved since.

He worked for Ngatuhoa Lodge as their summer outdoor education instructor, and in the winter the New Zealand Forest Service, where one of his jobs in the 1970s was to research the Kaimai Ranges' 427 different native plants and learn their Māori names.

He's since become somewhat of a guru on native plants and has 27 species in his backyard at home which he shares with wife, Jocelyn. The couple have four children.

Through New Zealand Forest Service, he also supervised work gangs in huts, teaching them life skills.

"How to cook your feed and look after yourselves," Mankelow says. "Some of these boys came straight out of school and had no idea."

He reckons lack of knowledge is even worse now that modern life is increasingly spent indoors.

Similarly, he volunteers for Tauranga's Hunts course run through the NZ Deerstalkers' Association, which trains first-time recreational hunters.

"We're getting quite a few older people doing these Hunts courses now because they've never been brought up in the family to be hunters, so they're starting off at 40 or 50 to learn bushcraft skills and how to track animals, how to bone them out, that sort of thing.

"That's cool His Outward-Bound experience redirected his focus to working in nature.



After leaving school, Mankelow studied to become a fitter turner/machinist with sawmilling engineers AA Edwards & Sons and was awarded a trip to Outward Bound in 1966 for being their top apprentice. His Outward-Bound experience redirected his focus to working in nature. Photo / George Novak

Bob Mankelow takes great pride in passing on his knowledge even though he doesn't hunt much anymore.

A bleed in the back of his shooting eye means his vision is blurred in the middle, and he's had to train his left eye instead.

"I'd rather take photos these days but I don't even take the camera half the time. I just go and enjoy the bush."

Tauranga Hunts course senior instructor Keith Theobald says Bob Mankelow's knowledge, particularly around native plants, is "unbelievable".

"He's right in his element and keeps everybody absolutely engrossed."

Theobald, who has hunted six of New Zealand's seven deer species, still goes bush at 84 and has on his wall at home a Himalayan tahr and sika head.

"It's knowledge of the outdoors that takes you into places that unless you had that knowledge, you wouldn't go," he says.

"So many youngsters these days have never been off the tar seal.

"When [our students] come back so excited and say: 'Guess what? I've got my first deer, would you like a bit of back steak? It's great to get that enthusiasm."

It's that passion that also keeps Mankelow hungry for more adventures.

"That's why I'm still alive," he says.

"Sitting by a creek and watching the water flow around the rocks, listening to the birds sing to you, the rustling of the leaves and the breeze ... It's great for the soul."



Bob Mankelow, pictured at home in Tauranga, says time spent in nature increases feelings of vitality.

Watch over by the Commanding Officer Colonel Cat. Photo / George Novak

ARMISTICE DAY 2019



TE HIHI PEACE OAKS - November 2019 Centennial

Report from Paul Couch

At the time of crafting this article Te Hihi Estate is of current interest in that it is the location of the current reality show "Bachelorette NZ" and is very close to this special place of remembrance. In November 2018 and the 4 preceding years many of the men in this "very rural" district volunteered for World War I and served as members of the two Auckland Battalions which each comprised company grouping from military areas around the then Auckland province. Both Auckland battalions had a Hauraki company made up of men from the Bay of Plenty and Rotorua area.

Alternatively, there were horsemen in the area who elected to join Mounted Rifle units under the Auckland Regiment. The expectation was they would be cavalrymen but in reality, were foot soldiers who happened to have a faster means of movement from point to point when conditions allowed.

Unlike military exercises or your annual holiday when Armistice was declared and the guns stopped at 11am on 11 November 2018 it was not a case of "Endex" and let's go home as quickly as we can. A lot of soldiers did not get back home until late 2019 and Mounted Rifle units was one

example as there was still some action being undertaken by them in Palestine and they got home late October 2019.

Te Hihi School is across the road from the reserve where the Oaks are located and the school was established in 1914.

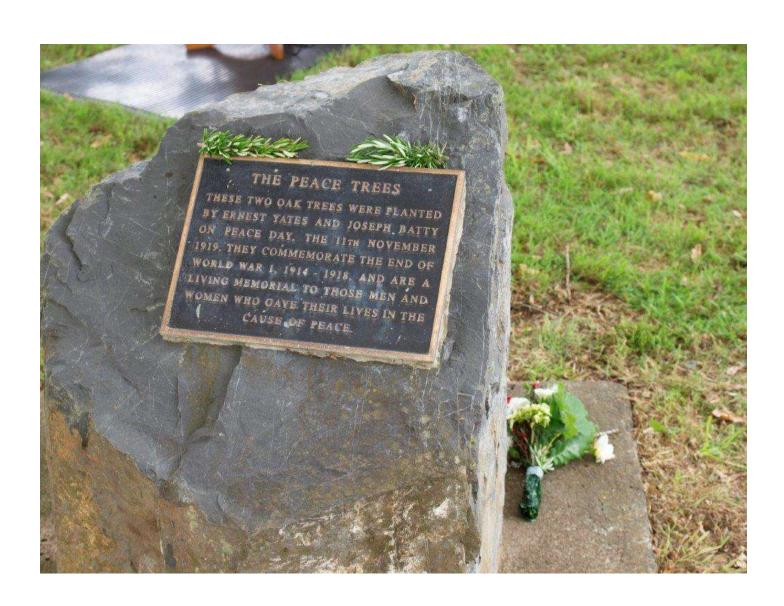
On the first anniversary the main families in the Te Hihi district were the Yates and Batty families and the community decided that in the reserve as part of the remembrance in 2019 the families would each plant an oak tree and, in the belief at the time that the horrific war had ended all wars, called them the "Peace Oaks"

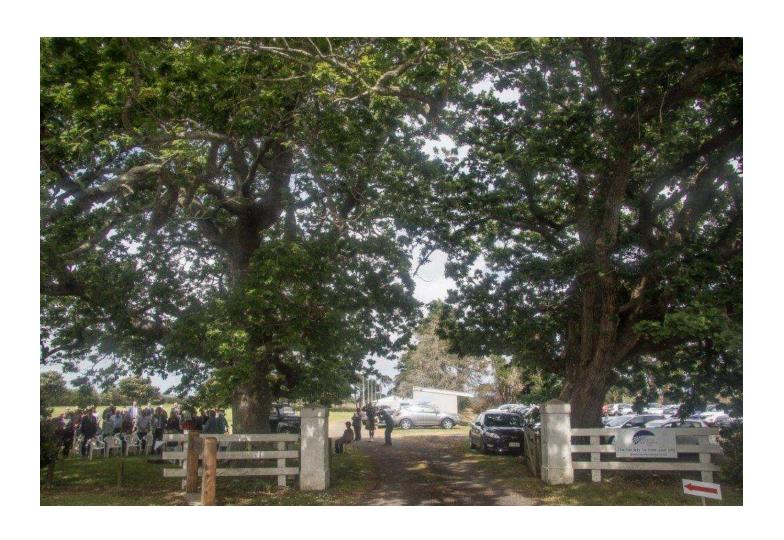
Last November after some discussions between Capt David Robertson of 3AuckNorth and on the committee of the regimental association and personnel/families in the district and with the aid of the Karaka Historical Society organised a centennial remembrance service on 11 November 2019 and was fortunate to have adults present who were children at the original planting so it was a special moment. The community did not want any RSA type service and kept it community based and that worked very well.

The service was particularly important to the people of the district as there a large turnout of locals and one particular incident confirmed its importance to the writer. A local was driving past the reserve in his Ute about 5 minutes before the service was scheduled to start, did a U turn and what seemed like less than 4 minutes later, in suit and tie, was "on parade".

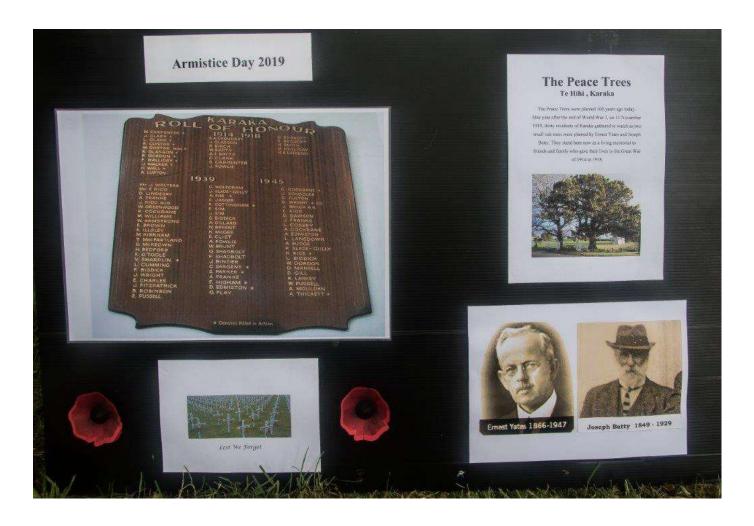
The service opened with the Te Hihi school children singing the National anthem, descendants of the original families spoke and the speech dated 11 November 1919 was read, prayers said, David Robertson is a piper so he played at various times, Capt Paul Couch representing the Auckland Regimental Association had the honour of reciting the Ode and a student from Strathallan College which is in the district perfectly played the Last Post and Reveille. To complete the service, surviving children of the two families followed by the younger generation of descendants laid posies and lavender. Then the remaining public took the opportunity to lay a floral tribute and remember.











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6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated

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

<u> </u>	7100001010	
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

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

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