



Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust

c/- 272B Ginn Road  
Rotowaro  
RD1  
HUNTLY 3771

31 May 2019

To all Serving Members and Members who have Served in the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps (RNZAC) and its Predecessor Organisations

Greetings,

### **THE RNZAC HISTORY PROJECT - 2019 TO 2023**

#### **Background**

The RNZAC can be traced back to the volunteer cavalry and mounted rifles units formed during the New Zealand Land Wars. Since then, New Zealand (NZ) mounted rifle units have fought in the Anglo-Boer War and World War I. Armoured units (Successors to the NZ mounted units) fought during World War II in Greece, Crete, North Africa and Italy. In addition, 1st battalion, the New Zealand Scottish Regiment fought in the South Pacific 1942-1944 and many individual members of the New Zealand Scottish Regiment (Predecessor to 1<sup>st</sup> Divisional Regiment-NZ Scottish) served with Number 4 Company, 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion, 2 NZ Expeditionary Force during World War II. Since World War II, Individuals from the RNZAC have also served in South Korea, the Malayan Emergency, Malaysia, South Vietnam and Afghanistan, and in peacekeeping and monitoring operations in India, Pakistan, the Middle East, Zimbabwe, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Timor Leste.

Whilst books have been written on some aspects of the mounted rifles and armoured involvement in the World War I and II campaigns respectively, no official history of the RNZAC, including the formation of its Predecessor units from the nineteenth century up to the organisation of armour today, has ever been written. The RNZAC Association had always intended to commission an official history of the Corps. However, a lack of resources and finance has prevented this in the past.

#### **The Current Situation**

I am therefore very pleased to be able to inform you all, that The RNZAC History Project Charitable Trust (RNZAC HPCT) has been established under a formal Trust Deed (Cleared by the Trust's Lawyers) which was signed and submitted to Charities Services, for registration on 24 May 2019.



The members of that Trust Board, together with their broad responsibilities are:

1. Ian Bolton, Retired of Christchurch (Research matters and Territorial Force Advisor)
2. Christopher Cooper, Retired of Papamoa (Liaison with the Mounted Trooper Association (MTA), the RNZAC Association (in consultation with Ian Bolton) and other organisations, (in consultation with Graeme Ready).
3. Alan Day, Retired of Napier (Financial matters and Treasurer)
4. Graeme Ready, Retired of Rotowaro (Chairperson and Secretary (initially), Project Management, research matters and, through the Colonel Commandant RNZAC, liaison with Chief of Army, Commanding Officer QAMR, the Regimental Colonel RNZAC, and Serving Members of the RNZAC ).
5. Christopher Wotton, Retired of Wellington (Deputy Chairperson, Fundraising and assisting with project management).

We are very fortunate too, that Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Christopher Pugsley, ONZM, DPhil, FRHistS has very kindly agreed to initially provide advice (as his gift to the Corps) on a pro bono basis. It is a very generous gesture from such a distinguished military historian.

### **The Purpose of the Trust**

The objects and purposes of the Trust are as follows:

1. To increase the public's understanding and appreciation of the role the RNZAC and all its Predecessor Armoured, Mounted Rifles, Cavalry and Other Units has played in the establishment and development of the New Zealand Army and the contribution they have made to New Zealand's military history by:
  - a. Producing a written history of the RNZAC and all its Predecessor Armoured, Mounted Rifles, Cavalry and Other Units to provide a resource for those wishing to research, investigate, study and find out more about the aforementioned units in the military history of New Zealand.
  - b. Providing the New Zealand Defence Force/New Zealand Army with an aid in the teaching of the RNZAC and its Predecessor Units place in the military history of New Zealand.
2. To research, request access to, collect, maintain and preserve oral and written historical records, illustrations, maps, photographs and any other relevant documents or items of the aforementioned units to enable the Trust fulfil its objectives and purposes.



## **Broad Strategies**

The RNZAC HPCT's broad strategies to achieve its purposes are to:

1. Implement a Communication Plan and a Memorabilia Donation Plan to support publication of the RNZAC History
2. Raise the funding required by 20 November 2023 for the publication of the RNZAC History
3. Produce a first manuscript draft of the RNZAC History by 20 November 2022
4. Publish the RNZAC History by 20 November 2023

To achieve these broad strategies, the RNZAC HPCT has produced a detailed Business Plan and Budget with action plans to ensure that momentum within the project, critical to the completion of the History, is maintained.

## **Letters of Support**

The Trust has received letters of support from both Major General John Boswell, DSD (Chief of Army) and Colonel (Retired) Trevor McComish (Colonel Commandant RNZAC). We are very grateful for these letters which can accompany applications for funding.

## **Funding**

Obtaining the required funding is fundamental to the success of the History. We are investigating every possible source and a Funding Plan is being produced to help us achieve this.

## **The Type of History**

I would like your feedback please on what sort of History that you want us to produce for you. Do you want it to be:

1. An operational history only?
2. A history that covers operational and non-operational history?
3. A history that includes many photographs and relevant maps and illustrations?
4. A history that includes good short amusing or interesting stories that support the flow of the main text?
5. A history that strikes a very good balance between people and organisational /equipment/operational matters?
6. Similar to a military history that you have read and thought that its format, content and style were very good? If so, please name the book.

Please take this opportunity to let the person who emailed you this letter know your wishes regarding the above. They will collate all responses and get the summaries to me.



Please do not delay this because strict deadlines are very important to getting this History done. In this regard, we will be analysing your responses from 30 June; no later. So all comments need to be in please by that date.

### **Books, Diaries, Maps, Illustrations, Good short amusing interesting Stories and Photographs**

We need your help so please have a think about what you may be holding or could get access to in the way of books, and diaries that may assist us and the Author in the areas of research. Just so you know and to avoid any duplication, I am already holding and reading:

1. The New Zealand Wars (Volumes 1 and II) by James Cowan
2. The Penguin History of New Zealand by Michael King
3. Illustrated History of New Zealand by Matthew Wright
4. Kiwi Trooper (Queen Alexandra's Own) by Ted Andrews
5. Gallipoli-The New Zealand Story by Christopher Pugsley
6. Waikato Troopers (Waikato Mounted Rifles) by Richard Stowers
7. Freyberg VC-The Man by WG Stevens
8. Rommel-The Desert Fox by Desmond Young
9. A History-Waikato/ Wellington East Coast Squadron by Arthur Fredrickson
10. Notes on RNZAC History by David "Muddy " Waters
11. Notes on RNZAC History by Major WA Simpson
12. The Divisional Cavalry by RJM Loughnan

Please post hard or digital copies (on a USB) of maps, illustrations, good short amusing interesting stories and photographs that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the History to the RNZAC HPCT C/- the address at the top of this letter. Please clearly mark each item with your name and serially number each item 1 of 3, 2 of 3, 3 of 3 etc. This will enable me to properly document your items and issue a receipt to you.

Finally do not forget please to tell me whether you wish your items to be eventually returned to you or sent to archives.

### **Summary**

The RNZAC HPCT is very excited about producing the History of the Corps and we all look forward to you all helping us where you can. There may also be amongst us, some who do not belong to an established association. If you are aware of any in this situation can you please pass this letter on to them as well? We want to make certain that everyone serving and who has served are fully informed regarding this project.



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I will plan to get updates to you every four months and there will be briefings on progress in Auckland, Hamilton, Napier, Foxton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin later this year.

**“WALK, TROT” “DRIVER ADVANCE”**

We are, at last, moving forward on this momentous journey to record our long and eventful history.

**Sincerest Regards,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Graeme Ready'.

**Graeme Ready  
Chair  
RNZAC HPCT**