

**RNZAC ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER #220 May 2023**

**Meetings** Happy Hour: Thursday 8 June 2023 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

**Whose is it?**



**QAMR**



4 May QAMR, NZ SCOTS SQN, Waiouru NZLAV range shoot complete; crews sending rounds down range by day & by night, with another fire power demonstration for the Army Depot done, now onto our next phase armoured training "Exercise Bologna 2023"



23 May. The SupTech RNZALR Senior Course was recently completed with LCPL Hyde earning the title of Top Student.

Congrats to him for representing himself and the Regt to the highest standard.

So following his success on the course today LCPL Hyde was promoted to CPL by the Commanding Officer LTCOL Murray.

Ma Nga Hua Tu Tangata  
Ake Ake Kia Kaha



25 May. Today members of the Regiment supported the Minister of Defence, The Honourable Andrew Little in welcoming the arrival of the first 18 of 43 NZ Bushmaster 5.5 vehicles. QAMR is poised and ready to receive these vehicles later in the year and begin their introduction into service.

### Last Post



Ron Cone passed away peacefully at Christchurch Hospital on Sunday, May 14, 2023 with Helen and Pita by his side, following an accident at home. Loving husband of the late Heather. Loved and respected father of Martin, Janet, Helen (Skene) and Angela. Uncle to Pita Watkins. Beloved Pop to Joshua Barker, Melody Giesbrecht and Nicolas Tsirigakis and great-grandfather to Samuel Giesbrecht and Ezekiel Barker. A service was held at the Papanui RSA, 1 Harewood Road, on Monday, May 22, at 1.30pm. In lieu of flowers donations to Age Concern Canterbury would be appreciated. Messages to the Cone family, c/- 19 London Street, Christchurch 8013.

## Admin & Log

Star News Thursday 27 April

### **Determined to Rid Ukraine of Landmines**

They're a hidden danger, and each year more than 4000 people are killed by landmines worldwide, with nearly half of the victims being children.

Tony Connell is doing his part to try and reduce those numbers.

Over the last decade, the former NZ Army soldier [Major retired, ex OC NZ Scots] from Christchurch has been helping to safely remove mines in a number of war-torn countries.



**Tony Connell with mother Moyra at Russley Village. The retirement village has knitted items for people of war-torn Ukraine. PHOTO: GEOFF SLOAN**

Connell is now working in Ukraine as programme manager for the FSD.

He says it's a non-governmental organisation with the goal of clearing mines and unexploded munitions around the world.

"We do three main things. First is education of the population about dealing with the threat of living alongside mines.

"The second part is survey teams where we go and actually look for areas that are contaminated and try and establish through direct evidence that the mines are actually there."

The third part is the tricky job of clearance.

"It is dangerous if you don't know what you're doing and you take stupid risks."

Connell was back in Christchurch visiting his mum at Russley Village, where he also spoke to residents about his work in Ukraine.

"The attitude of the people, this is what really amazes me. Ukrainians are resilient, they're determined and they will not give up."

Residents at the retirement village have been knitting items which Connell plans to distribute when he returns to Ukraine.

**- By Geoff Sloan**

*Public Interest Journalism funded through NZ On Air*

**From Bruce Tweedy...**



Hi Mike got this photo from Allen Sutton of our group at breakfast after ANZAC. We were lucky to celebrate ANZAC with Allen one of our Life Members at Victoria Park. He spent a Month in NZ with his Parents and friends. He is moving from Darwin to Gold Coast early next year. His health is much better and he was in good spirits .  
Cheers Bruce.

### **Answer: New Zealand Bushmaster**

#### **First batch of Army's new Bushmaster armoured vehicles arrive**

Thick armour, beefy tyres, and more seats for the troops. A fleet of new armoured vehicles has arrived for the Army and will soon be seen on New Zealand's roads.

Defence Minister Andrew Little was joined by military top brass and defence officials at Trentham military camp on Thursday morning for a display of the first 18 of the 43 Bushmasters purchased from an Australian firm for \$102.9 million.

The 11-tonne vehicles have powerful Caterpillar engines, run-flat tyres which can be inflated and deflated from the driver's seat, and can carry 10 passengers – more than the four carried by the Pinzgauer vehicles the Bushmasters will replace.

"It feels like a very impressive vehicle. They wouldn't let me start it or drive it, so that's understandable," Little said, after sitting in the one of the vehicles.

The Government announced it would purchase 43 Bushmasters in 2020. As the first 18 are tested and certified, the Defence Force expects the remaining to be delivered by September. Another batch of the vehicles was arriving on Thursday afternoon.

The Bushmasters are considered superior to the Pinzgauers, first bought in 2003, because of their V-shaped undercarriage, which directs the energy of any blast – from the likes of an improvised explosive device (IED) – away from the vehicle. Three New Zealand soldiers died in Afghanistan when an IED exploded under their Humvee.

Little said the shape of the vehicle was "a very important feature, learned from previous experiences when we've deployed folks overseas".

"These vehicles play a very important role for the role that our defence forces play, not just if they get sent for peacekeeping or into a conflict zone, but also for the humanitarian assistance and disaster recovery that we also do.

"Those who get sent to hazardous areas, regardless of the hazard, need to be deployed safely, and these vehicles ensure that."

The 43 vehicles will be certified for use on the road, meaning they will be seen on highways as they travel to both Linton and Burnham military camps, where they will be based.

Some of the Bushmasters yet to be delivered would be fitted out as ambulances, and command and control centres. The vehicles are yet to have communications equipment installed, something the Government allocated \$80m for in the 2023 Budget.

Thomas Manch, Stuff 17:06, May 25 2023

## Humour

**Wife: "The car is not starting. Dashboard shows the sign of a person sitting on toilet."  
Husband: "What...??  
Send me a picture."**



**Do you ever get the  
urge to start  
organizing and then  
2 hours later you're  
just looking around  
at a mess like...  
what the hell have I  
done?**



### **Reminders**

RNZAC Association Web site: [www.rnzac.co.nz](http://www.rnzac.co.nz)  
Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted.  
Email: [smithmd@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smithmd@xtra.co.nz) Phone 02108049178.

**Mike Smith, Editor**