

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #189 July 2020

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 6 August 2020 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA
Next Happy Hour: Thursday 3 September 2020 at 1700 hrs, Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



Social Events

Mid-Winter Lunch: The lunch for members, partners and friends will be held on **Sunday 23 August**.

RSVP to Mike Sheppard by Friday 14 August. Phone (miksan@xtra.co.nz or 027 229 1776)

Venue: The Papanui RSA, 55 Bellvue Ave Christchurch



Time 1100hrs for drinks and 1200hrs for lunch.

Dress: Smart casual. Please no jeans

Meal arrangement: Please pay for your meal at the restaurant counter on arrival.

Set menu cost \$32.00 per person buffet lunch.

Choice of: Two choices of meat, roasted and seasonal vegetables; and
choice of 2 desserts.

Wine and drinks can be purchased from the bar.

Raffles. If you can donate prizes for the raffles, please advise Barbara Baker 339 6228 ASAP. Raffle proceeds will be donated to the RNZAC History Project Charitable Trust.

Events Past and Future



**SITREP from CPL Clem Williams, QAMR,
QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S MOUNTED RIFLES, RNZAC
CLEM.WILLIAMS@nzdf.mil.nz**



QAMR has had a busy month and is gearing up for the remainder of the year with exercise planning, on-going Covid response, support to Combat School and parades for the fallen.

The Training world

The regiment is gearing back up after Gunnery Camp which tested individual Troops in fire manoeuvre drills, med, and communications. The individual squadrons are currently conducting build-up training for the next two major exercises planned for the end of the year; Phantom Major and Cassino. On top of all of that we are pushing our recruiting side in preparation for the new Bushmaster coming into service in the near future.



Bushmaster

The Minister of Defence visited QAMR just over a week ago to announce that 43 Bushmasters have been approved by Government and all 43 are coming to QAMR. This will see QAMR needing to grow a third Squadron.

Covid 19

QAMR has taken lead for the central north island as task group central (TU 650.7.2) for the Covid response. We have deployed teams in and around Hamilton, Rotorua and Wellington in support of the government's managed isolation facilities.

Parade for the Fallen

QAMR had the honour of supporting the funeral of COL (Rtd) James Brown, CVO, RNZAC. LT Gray was the Family LO, Bearing Party IC LT Hooson, and SGT Te- Whata was the Firing Party IC. This saw a contingent of 24 support the send-off for one of our RNZAC Alumni and was a great honour for those present. We shared in refreshments and the telling of tales with veterans in attendance, notably BRIG (Rtd) Neville Reilly, BRIG (Rtd) Mark Wheeler and COL (Rtd) Paul Van Den Broek.

Sign off

We hope all is well and you are taking the appropriate actions to remain in good health over this time.

CPL Clem Williams

Radio Check:

From Tony Connell

Hello all,

I am plotted to return to Ukraine on 4 August – at this stage & subject to obtaining a visa. So, I must decline your very kind offer [*speaker at mid-Winter dinner*].

I have had 4 months at home which has been a very pleasant & unexpected interlude. I am sorry that I wasn't at the RSA last week – I had forgotten about the monthly get together. However, I am sure that the usual amount of tall tales & true were spoken & good company was enjoyed.

I had the good fortune to catch up with Bruce Tait in Queenstown 10 days ago & also had a coffee with Sam Staley as we passed through Tekapo. Both were on fine form

Please pass on my best regards to all.

Kind regards Tony

From David Harrison:

Jan and I recently had a three-and-a-half-week road trip as far north as Tauranga to spend time with family and friends. On the way we met up with



Christine and Stew



Couchman, Pat Te Whaiti, Chris and Penny Cooper, Geoff and Val



Kreegher, Alan and Varna Day and Alan Emerson. Some particularly good stories and without doubt a few small lies were told. It was a great opportunity to reminisce and catch up, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

From Linda Murray: Can you please pass this on to the Blackhatters community, as so many worked with KJ and ask how he is. Ken or KJ as most know him is going through a bad patch, and despite extensive chemo treatment has been told his cancer is terminal. He is OK some days and not so hot the next. Still positive and still cracks jokes.



We have been looking for photos of KJ in his kilt or uniform and although we have plenty of photos, KJ is always the one behind the camera. Can anyone help?

Thanks Linda and KJ xxxxxx kjldmurray@westnet.com.au

[Sad news indeed and not what we had hoped for. When Jan and I last saw them in Perth in March he was still undergoing treatment and hoping for a positive outcome. Editor]

Last Post:



On Thursday 9th July I attended the funeral service of John Te Whata at the Chapel of Christchurch Crematorium, Wigram. It was a small funeral service attended by family, cousins and friends, many of which were "black hatters."

I had the privilege of serving with John during my term as OC of 1st Sqn NZ Scots, the late 1970s, early 80s. He was a person that I held in very high regard. As Chief Clerk he was a very good operator. He ran the SHQ with great efficiency. I will always remember him for his infectious smile, cheeky laugh and a wicked sense of humour.



John initially trained as a crewman within the Corps but subsequently elected to change direction and pursue a clerical career culminating in the role as Chief Clerk for Burnham Military Camp as a WO1. In total he served 20 years in the NZ Army.

During his service career he did not always enjoy the best of health. I witnessed this during his time with NZ Scots. At times illness impacted on his life considerably, but always he was able to pluck up the necessary willpower to overcome adversity. He never complained. He never gave in.

It was fitting that a number of his friends, mostly with an army background, attended the service to pay their final respect. Peter Haerewa delivered a very moving eulogy as though John and he were brothers. They had been very close friends since childhood. They grew up together, both serving in the NZ Army.

It was a pleasure to meet up with John's family and friends after the service and reminisce while enjoying refreshments.

John will be sorely missed. Ian Bolton.

Our deepest sympathy goes to John's family, friends and comrades

REST IN PEACE

From Bruce Tweedy - A beautiful send off for John Te Whata.

I attended with other Blackhatters John's funeral on July 9th, 2020 at the Christchurch Crematorium Wigram. It was a lovely service with a Maori influence that made it so special for a person that was so well respected.

John's cousin Linda spoke fluent Maori, and talked about them growing up, also his granddaughter Raana gave a beautiful prayer in Maori. John's son Johnny sang "You are my Sunshine" with the help of his mother and a family member on the guitar. Peter Haerewa gave a truly moving eulogy of a friend that he had known since young: it covered John's life so well.

He was a loved and respected man who will be missed and is now at peace. It was an honour to be able to attend such a lovely service.

Bruce



I, along with a number of retired senior RNZAC officers attended the funeral of Col Jim Brown on 20 July 2020. QAMR and other RNZAC personnel supported the funeral with the provision of bearer and firing parties.

The tributes then covered his army service, first with J Force and then with K Force where he was attached to a Centurion unit of the British Army. Following K Force he wrote a paper on the employment of Centurions in Korea. Jim was posted to Hawaii for a year to learn about M41 tanks and then returned to Waiouru as OC QAS to bring the M41s into service.



He then went back to RMC Duntroon as the NZ Instructor. On returning to New Zealand he finished his service as Commandant of Linton Camp. After retirement he became Colonel Commandant of the RNZAC - and some of you may remember him reviewing a squadron parade on horseback.

The overwhelming opinion of those who knew him was that Jim was a gentleman who had a wicked sense of humour and a veritable library of pithy sayings. He was an avid hunter and fisherman who taught many young officers the skills of deer stalking, trout tickling and fly fishing.

From Trevor McComish. [*Abbreviated*]

Our deepest sympathy goes to Jim's family, friends and comrades

REST IN PEACE

Humour.

From the Friends of Irony



BRITISH SURVEY

A recent survey in the United Kingdom asked the following question.

Are there too many foreigners in this country now?

Answer:

18% said	Yes
82% said	كم الساعة



Answer: Australian. The Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Vehicle armoured vehicle. First produced in 2005 the Bushmaster is in service with the Australian, Royal Netherlands, British, and New Zealand Armies, Japan Ground Self Defence Force, Fiji Infantry Regiment, Jamaica.

The Bushmaster is available in six variants: troop transport, ambulance, direct fire, mortar, engineer, and command. The forward central roof hatch can be equipped with a weapon mount for a 5.56mm or 12.7mm MG although Australian Army versions have a remote weapon station.

The Bushmaster family of vehicles provides high-level protection against anti-tank mines, improvised explosive devices, mortar fragments and small arms fire. It is designed to transport up to ten troops with each soldier having their own split air-conditioning system.

Powered by a Caterpillar six-cylinder turbocharged engine producing 224kW (300hp) at 2,400rpm, it has a power to weight ratio of 16kW/t, a cruise speed of 100km/h and a range of 800km plus. The vehicle is transportable in C-130 Hercules aircraft.

Reminders; RNZAC Association Web site: www.rnzac.co.nz Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted. Email: jandavid@snap.net.nz Phone 03 359 6861. **David Harrison, Editor**