

RNZAC ASSOCIATION CANTERBURY BRANCH NEWSLETTER #176 APRIL 2019.

Meetings **Happy Hour: Thursday 2 May 2019 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA**
Next Happy Hour: Thursday 6 June 2019 at 1700 hrs, Papanui RSA.

ANZAC Day 2019

The ceremony conducted at the 19th Battalion and Armoured Regiment Memorial at Victoria Park was again a fitting tribute to those who served and sacrificed so much for their country. The day was perfect with an outstanding view of the memorial, the Canterbury Plains and Christchurch City.



Like last year, as part of ANZAC Day, the segment “Remembering Veterans of the 19th”, we listened to some of Des Tomkies’ and Lachie Griffen’s experiences of war. These stories were told in a very personal way by Des’s daughter, Lyn de Groot and Lachie’s son, Peter Griffen.

It is always a great pleasure and something special to meet up and chat with members from QAMR. Lt Ryan Seibert gave a very good address about the need to look after those who have returned from past and very importantly current conflicts. Thanks go to Mark Thompson, Charles Kelly, Sean McCleary, Luke Rodgers, Liam Carroll-Baldwin and Jethro Brandish who formed the Catafalque Guard. It was very interesting to see the use of the lances instead of rifles.



The National Anthem was beautifully sung by Amber Williams from Cashmere High School. All this, along with over 600 people in attendance, the barbecue, the coffee with rum, supplied after the ceremony made it all wonderful and enjoyable experience. It was good catching up with people like Tony Connell (who had just returned from the Ukraine) and others, which all added to the occasion. Ross Bush (Parade Marshall) and all those who were involved in the organisation of this commemoration ceremony are to be congratulated and thanked.

Events Past and Future

Mentioned in Despatches (MID)

Many of you will have seen either from an email from Geoff Kreegher or by other means about members of the RNZAC whose awards were recently recognised by the Governor General. Geoff has done such an excellent job of this that I have reproduced what he sent me, as a way of further recognising those who were awarded the MID for their actions.

In February the Governor-General Her Excellency the Rt Hon Patsy Reddy, made formal presentations to veterans of the Vietnam War who were Mentioned in Despatches (MID). The presentations occurred in both Auckland and Wellington.

Mentioned in Despatches awards were given in recognition of gallantry and high levels of service. At the time, the citations were generally written by the commander of the unit involved and sometimes read out on a Unit parade. Thirty awards were presented to veterans, or to the family representatives, with a formal letter and a copy of their citation at the ceremony.

There were four RNZAC MID recipients: Martin Steeds, Julian Ballance, Douglas Morrow and William Greening Walker. Willie is the only surviving RNZAC member.

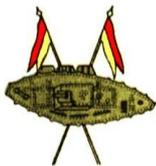
The Mounted Troopers Association salute you all for your well deserved awards.

Kind regards
Geoff Kreegher
Secretary MTA

I apologise
that a photo of
Martin Steeds
is not
available



RNZAC Association Subscriptions for 2018/19 are now due.



Subscriptions for the RNZAC Association are now due for the 2018/19 year and must be paid by the 30th September 2019. The subscription amount remains the same at \$25.00. It is preferable that subscriptions be paid by internet banking direct to the RNZAC Association:

Account number: **03 0566 0209452 001.**

(Please include your surname and initials in the details field.)

Payment can also be made by cheque made out to the RNZAC Association, posted to the National Treasurer at the following address:

Mike Sheppard, 9 Greenfield Place, Mairehau, Christchurch 8052

A reminder that under the Association rules, if your subscription remains unpaid for more than 12 months, you cease to be a member of the Association.

Many thanks for your continued support of the RNZAC Association.

Mike Sheppard, Treasurer, RNZAC Association

Acting President of the RNZAC Association



With the untimely passing of Andy Blaikie, the National Vice President – Lenny Haynes has agreed to step in to the breach and act as National President till the AGM in November at the time of the Cambrai Commemorations.

Lenny joined 1st Sqn NZ Scottish as a Territorial Force trooper in 1984 and served for 17 years, finishing as acting SSM for NZ Scots.

Warning Order: Mid Winter Dinner

For your diary: The RNZAC Assn Canterbury mid-winter dinner is to be held at the Cashmere Club on Saturday 22 June 2019. The venue will be the Cashmere Lounge. Costs and other details will be advised later.



Radio Check

From Chris Murphy ex 2 Scots: A very quick potted summary of Murphy life and career since our paths diverged. I took over Scots in 1992 from Kevin Thompson till 1996 and was then posted- to HQ 3LFG. Moved from Dunedin to Christchurch in Nov 1994 and was S2 at HQ 3LFG Christchurch for a while. Had my name in the bag for UNTSO (following in John Lane's steps!) since the early 90s and in 98 my lottery number came up. Tony Connell who was S3 at 3LFG twisted my arm to do a TOD at LCommand in Trentham which I did for about 6 months, before deploying to Israel in Apr 99. Picked up a fiancé whilst there to my, and no doubt many others, complete surprise!



RTNZ in late May 2000, and returned to Christchurch with the offer of Comdt Burnham Camp. When Alan Johnson came back he became Comdt Burnham Camp so then it was 'would you like to go to Bougainville as Operation officer MT Tonu'. On return, a science job came up at Lincoln in 2004 but at the end of 2006 I was made redundant. Fortunately I was head hunted once again and in Feb 2007 it was back to HQ3LFG as project officer. Somehow I got noticed, and at the end of 2009 was posted to Wellington with a 3 year contract extension - to Force Dev Branch...then in late 2010 they up HQNZDF Cap branch, and I found myself 'Manager, Land Introduction to Service'.

Then in 2011 came civilianization of the army and I was one of the unlucky 300 Majors and WOs to get the chop. Spent some time in unemployment and then started working for LPM Property. I was at the laying-up of the Scots colours and caught up with Thommo, Phil Wiel, Steve Buxton, John Lane, Murray Blackley, Noel Graham but it was all too fast really. Went well.

Chris

PS: We live in central Lower Hutt these days

From Barry Low: Hi there Dave, just read your March newsletter courtesy of Geoff Kreegher. Great to see the Branch functioning and would appreciate it if you would pass my greetings and best wishes on to members at your next gathering.

Meri and I are well settled in Perth, in Joondalup, about 40km north of the city centre, and enjoying retirement this side of the ditch. Many benefits that we wouldn't get in NZ and DVA does a wonderful job of looking after me when required. My local RSL is mostly ex RAN (no black-hatters at all) but we don't hold that against them!



Regards and best wishes
Barry Low

*Sorry Barry this is
the best photo I have.*

The 80th Anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Armoured Corps (RAC).



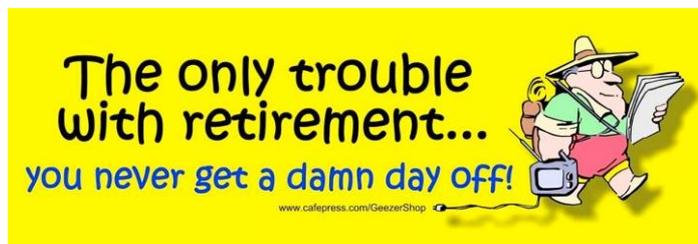
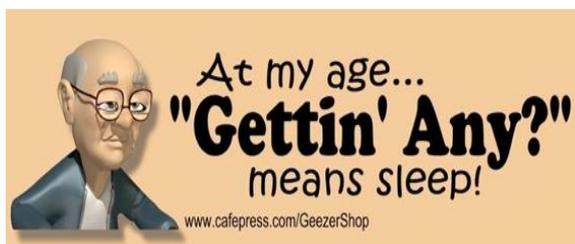
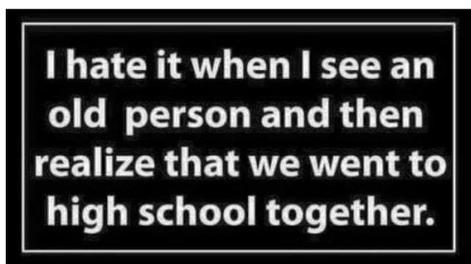
On 4 April 1939 the RAC was created. The New Zealand Armoured Corps was formed in 1942, before being given the Royal prefix in 1947. Our corps was modelled on the RAC and wears with pride the RTR Tank badge on their sleeve.



Many of us have great memories of times with RAC regiments and wish them all a very happy anniversary.

Below is a link to the 80th Anniversary Tank Display
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV693wXNQF8>

Humour The troubles and joys of mature living.



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**