

**RNZAC ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER #234 August 2024**

**Meetings**    **Happy Hour: Thursday 5 September 2024 at 1700 hrs  
at the Papanui RSA.**

**Whose is it?**



**QAMR**



01/08/2024 **JNCO  
Promotion Course  
24/04.** Congratulations  
to LCPL's Ngo and  
Goulton on their  
graduation today on  
the Linton JNCO  
Course. We wish them  
all the best as they  
look to utilise the  
knowledge and skills  
from the course in their  
current positions and  
future roles.



### **Warrant Officer Class Two Promotion**

06/08/2024 Congratulations to WO2 Maw on his promotion today in front of the regiment. WO2 Maw is the SSM of WEC Sqn and the promotion is a testament to his performance and hard work over the last year. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank his wife and boys for their continued support during his current posting.



### **Return of Wellington East Coast Mounted Rifles Guidon to Hastings District Council**

08/08/2024 Today members of the regiment participated in a ceremony to return the WECMR Guidon to the custody of the Hastings District Council. The Guidon Party was escorted by a NZLAV and Bushmaster from WEC Sqn. The ceremony recognised the historical significance of the guidon to the Hawkes Bay region and the relationship between the unit and council. QAMR would like to thank Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst, Charlie Ropitini and all those that attended or supported today's ceremony. Special mention to Sister Catherine at the Carmelite Monastery in Christchurch for her time and efforts with the restoration work on the guidon. The official laying up of the guidon is still to be conducted. Information will be available once the date has been confirmed.



### Royal Military College - Duntroon Graduation

Congratulations to the RNZAC's newest commissioned officer, 2LT Sarah Sturm. 2LT Sturm started her training at OCS(NZ), before being selected to compete her studies at the Royal Military College - Duntroon in Canberra. She attained the Battalion Quartermaster position and today carried the Kings Colour during the Graduation Parade. 2LT Sturm will post to the regiment on returning to NZ. Big shout out to the three gentlemen in the picture with 2LT Sturm, all former unit members.



17/08/2024 Congratulations to CPL Josephson WMR on completing the SNCO Course today. The course was both enjoyable and challenging with a lot of work crammed into the two weeks. Great to see reserve force personnel able to attend courses and benefit from the networking and professional development opportunities.



### **SNCO Promotions**

19/08/2024 Congratulations to SGT Autagavaia and SSGT Margison on their promotions this morning. Both promotions are acknowledgement of hard work, experience and commitment to their respective Sqns. Well done to both.



### **Exercise PHANTOM MAJOR Battleprep**

23/08/2024



### **Warrant Officer Parchment Presentations**

30/08/24 Congratulations to WO2 Haines and WO2 Valentine on the presentation of their WO Parchments by the CO this morning. WO2 Haines' wife Gail joined him to celebrate the recognition of this significant career milestone.

### **Admin & Log**

In the last newsletter there was a link to a u-tube video with a former RNZAC Blackhatter giving a sales pitch for Supacat. For those that don't know Supacat is the premium supplier of special forces vehicles to the western world, including our SAS here in NZ.

If you have tried the link you will have found it doesn't work. Apologies for that. It was spotted by our Treasurer when Supacat UK first posted it. He thought this is great and shared it with a select few Blackhatters, one of whom passed it on to the newsletter editor.

Turns out it was posted by mistake by the UK division as it was still an active tender and therefore Company confidential so Supacat when they became aware of it, pulled it from u-tube and likely used a size 12 boot to reinforce the message to some unlucky marketing executive!!

You can have a look at Supacat on their website: <https://supacat.com>  
Mike Sheppard

### **Cambrai Commemoration 2024 – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

We will be commemorating Cambrai this year on Saturday 23rd November. Usual format, Church Parade, followed by nibbles at the Papanui RSA and then the RNZAC Association Annual General Meeting.

At the AGM this year we will be approving an updated set of rules for the Association. The New Incorporated Societies Act has changed how we need to do things, so to register under the new Act we will need to update the rules. A draft of the new rules will be sent to members prior to the AGM.

Nominations are open for anyone who wishes to join the RNZAC Association Committee. Half a dozen meetings a year allow us to organise our functions and keep the Association functioning. Anyone that is interested in joining the Committee should talk to Len Haynes, our current President.

### **Upcoming Functions**

The Committee is working on our social program for the remainder of this year and early next year. There will be an update in the next newsletter.



### **Answer: UK Challenger 3**

Prototypes of a new tank, described as the UK's most lethal, have rolled off the production line. The Challenger 3 tanks are being built at the Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land factory in Telford. The first vehicles have entered a trial period and will be tested under operational conditions, the Ministry of Defence said.

The tanks have advanced armour and a range of technology which makes them the most lethal and most survivable ever operated by the British Army, it added. The project will

ultimately see the Army's fleet of 221 Challenger 2 main battle tanks slimmed down to 127 Challenger 3s, and will use the existing chassis. They will be able to travel up to 60mph (97kph), with an increased range and be the UK's first fully digitised tank, allowing them to share information with other vehicles.

Defence Secretary Grant Shapps, said: "In a more dangerous world, the need for vehicles such as the Challenger 3 is imperative, as the threats facing the UK evolve." He said the new tanks would be integral to the UK's deterrence against war.

The Army's director of programmes, Maj Gen Jon Swift, said the Challenger 3 tanks were critical to the Army's warfighting capability and contribution to Nato. He said delivery of the eight prototype vehicles marked a significant milestone on the Army's modernisation journey.

The Challenger 3 will remain in service until at least 2040, and is being delivered under an £800m contract, which the Ministry of Defence said had created up to 750 jobs. The contract has also attracted £40m of investment in Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land's Telford facility, the department added.

19 April 2024, Richard Price, BBC News, West Midlands

## **Humour**

### **Be careful what you ask for...**

A sixteen-year-old came home with a Porsche, and his parents began to yell and scream, "Where did you get that car?"

He calmly told them, "I bought it today."

"With what money?" demanded his parents. "You can't afford a Porsche!"

"Well," said the boy, "this one cost me fifteen dollars."

The parents began to yell even louder. "Who would sell a car like that for \$15.00?" they asked.

"It was the lady up the street," said the boy. Don't know her name -- they just moved in. She saw me ride past on my bike and asked me if I wanted to buy a Porsche for \$15."

"I don't believe you," moaned the mother, "you don't even know her. Who knows what she wants next? John, you go right up there and see what's going on."

So the boy's father walked up the street to the house where the lady lived and found her out in the yard calmly tending to the flowers. He introduced himself as the father of the boy to whom she had sold a Porsche for fifteen dollars, and demanded to know why she did it.

"Well," she said, "this morning I got a phone call from my husband. I thought he was on a business trip, but I learned from a friend he has run off to Hawaii with his secretary. Then apparently she stole all his money and stranded him there! Well, he called me, without a

dollar to his name, and asked me to sell his Porsche and send him the money. So that's exactly what I did."

### **Problem solving...**

According to a news report, a certain private school was recently faced with a unique problem. A number of girls were using lipstick in the school bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick, they would press their lips to the mirror and leave dozens of lip prints.

Every night the janitor would remove them, only to find the girls to put them back the very next day. Finally, the principal decided that something had to be done.

She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the janitor. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the janitor, who had to clean the mirrors every night (you can just imagine the yawns from the little princesses).

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, she asked the janitor to show the girls how much effort was required.

He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it.

Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

### **Reminders**

RNZAC Association Web site: [www.rnzac.co.nz](http://www.rnzac.co.nz)  
Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted.  
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**Mike Smith, Editor**