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31 March 2020

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-UPDATE

Trust-Author Matters

General

The author of our History, Matthew Wright and I (on behalf of the Trust) met at Wellington on 17 December 2019 to discuss key issues regarding the History. These included, inter alia, content licensing, copyright considerations, book content and format, research methodologies, publishing considerations, the processing of manuscripts and required deadlines for the project. This very worthwhile meeting set the foundation for our future work.

Since that meeting, Matthew has recommended to the Trust that he be permitted to generally concentrate on the period 1947-2020 first as it will require the greater effort and focus to ensure accuracy and completeness. The Trust is mindful of the wealth of historical information that already exists for much of the earlier periods so we have supported Matthew in this. This prioritising will not negate some parallel work being done I on the earlier periods.

Matthew has spent much of his time already assembling Rolls of Honour and identifying content that can be placed into appendices and sidebars. The Trust believes that this also is a sound approach as much of the finished appendices/sidebars will serve as a reference point for his later research and completion of draft manuscripts.

Matthew and I have been in constant contact during this first phase of the project. Further, he produces a written progress/key issue report to me at the end of each month. This relationship allows the Trust to make sound decisions at critical points during the project.

Matthew has asked me to read all his draft manuscripts to assist his progressing of the project. I have the Trust's support in this and have therefore advised Matthew accordingly.

Familiarisation Visit to QAMR and the Combat School

On 11 Mar 20, Matthew and I visited QAMR and the Combat School to introduce Matthew to Corps units and to discuss the project and related research matters. It was a very worthwhile activity which enabled Matthew to meet members of both units, see the hangar areas and the Combat School facility as well as be introduced to the NZLAV.



I want to acknowledge the very kind assistance and hospitality provided by Colonel Glenn King (Regimental Colonel RNZAC), Lieutenant Colonel Scott Cordwell (Commanding Officer QAMR) and Major Cory Neale (Chief Instructor Combat School) and their respective Teams in enabling this visit to proceed. I am also most grateful for being provided with the names of research contacts for both QAMR and the Combat School for future liaison on such matters. This will be an immense help to me as I start to gather relevant material on both unit's histories for Matthew.

Incorporation

As a result of an application that was lodged with the New Zealand Companies Office on 17 Feb 20, the RNZAC HPCT was allocated incorporation status on 24 Feb 20. Incorporation, coupled with the measures (Independent Solicitor and Accountant as well as Charitable Trust Registration) already taken, reinforces the integrity of the Trust's work to those that we approach for financial support.

Further, it broadens our reach into those potential donors that may insist on our incorporation prior to their consideration of an application for funding assistance from us.

Trust Accounts and Charities Services Requirements

Alan Day, our Treasurer, prepared and submitted the Trust's Accounts and associated reports to our independent Chartered Accountant for review on 21 February. Our Chartered Accountant also reviewed the Performance Report and associated documentation that is required to be submitted to Charities Services by 30 Jun 20 to ensure the continuance of our Registered Charitable Trust status.

Both reviews were completed on 6 Mar 20 and all reviewed documents were approved for adoption at a RNZAC HPCT INC meeting on 18 Mar 20.

Assistance to the Trust

I never cease to be impressed by the number of folk outside the Trust who are now assisting us with gathering important and interesting historical detail as well as helping us with fund raising initiatives. It is immensely gratifying to know that the Trust is not alone and is well supported in its various project activities.

In this regard, I want to acknowledge the generosity of a donor who very kindly lent me a number of books for research purposes last year and has recently advised that he is happy for me to hold onto these for the duration of the project then archive them "for the common good" at the end of the project. This is an extraordinary act of kindness as it enables me to access these histories, when required, to assist Matthew when he sends draft manuscripts to me during the project. It also allows others to have access to the books after the project has been completed.



Reference Material

Thank you all for the many photographs that are continuing to flow in. Also for the anecdotes/stories that have been sent to me. However, I need more; much more; lots more; heaps more stories, notes and anecdotes please!

This History is a great opportunity for these stories to be published but it cannot be done unless we all share our experiences/highlights etc. Given that Matthew is primarily researching and writing up the period 1947-2020 first, there is an urgent need now to get these to me please.

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 INC C/- the address at the top right 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. Alternatively, if you have a relatively small electronic folder of material that can be sent electronically, please email it to the person that forwarded this letter to you and they will get it to me; again you will receive a formal receipt from me for all items sent.

The Trust, consistent with comments that have been put to us, wants the History to be about “all of us.” This can only be so if “all of us” get our stories, notes and anecdotes into the Trust. I ask for your support of this please.

Funding

Author's Fees and Expenses

We allocate funds received from Corporate sponsors and Trusts to the Author's research and writing fees and expenses to ensure his continuity in the project. At the moment we have sufficient funding for the Author to continue for some months yet.

We are mindful that the present circumstances affecting the country at the moment may affect our fund raising efforts in relation to Corporates and Trusts. However, we remain absolutely determined to explore every avenue and to think outside the square to ensure that we have sufficient funds to continue with this history project which is so important to the Corps. Accordingly, our Fund raising Team of Christopher Wotton and Francie Russell are conducting a funding review to ascertain additional options that might be useful to us.

The Trust's Expenses

I want to thank those Serving Members of the RNZAC and those who have served in the RNZAC in the past who have donated funds to this Project since my last Update. We are very grateful for your generosity.

Such donations are used to maintain the work of the Trust. The Trust is the engine room that drives the many tentacles of the project and your donations are critical to its ongoing work.



So, I ask please that those of you who have not yet made a donation to this very worthy project, please consider getting behind us now and helping financially. Every donation, no matter the amount, helps us to keep moving forward.

Our Account details are:

Bank-Westpac

Account-RNZAC HPCT

Account number-03-0631-0030863-000

Official Trust Receipts will be issued by Alan Day, our Treasurer for all funds received by the Trust. All our receipts are sent electronically so, please email Alan (alansday@xtra.co.nz) once you have placed a donation into the Trust Account, so that he knows where to email the receipt to. Thank you.

Covid 19

As I write this Update, I am mindful that we are now in the first week of a National Emergency and an associated lockdown in an effort to eliminate the virus. The circumstances are unique in terms of recent history and may well extend beyond the initial four weeks announced last week.

On behalf of the Trust I extend best wishes to you all and to your families that, despite the challenges that will inevitably arise, you will all come safely through them.

In this period of a National Emergency, we know too that it is possible that the Defence Force may be called upon to assist the Police. Accordingly, our Serving Members of the Corps and their families have a special place in our thoughts at this time.

Next Update

My next update will be sent out to you on 31 July 2020 after our next Trust Meeting earlier that month. That notwithstanding, I will continue to distribute special updates before then where a significant event or milestone occurs.

Sincerely,

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

Graeme Ready

Chair

RNZAC HPCT INC

Registered Charity Number CC56897

Certificate of Incorporation RNZAC HPCT 50027200

NZBN: 9429047957329