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8 December 2023

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 2024-UPDATE

Author and Publisher Matters

Since my last general update on 21 August 2023, the Trust has been working closely with Matthew Wright, our Author and Carolyn Lagatehau, Editorial Director Oratia Media limited on a continuous and very tight cycle of proofreads, edits and amendments. In parallel with that cycle, Matthew has been completing the endnotes and index for the book.

We are now in the closing stages of that cycle with the final proof copy, after signoff, scheduled to be sent to the Printer during the period 18-20 Dec 23. A print proof will then be dispatched by the Printer to Oratia for signoff on 29 Dec 23.

During the same period, the Trust, Author, and Publisher have been involved in the design of the cover for the History. We signed off on the final of the cover on 1 Dec 23. We are very excited about the cover design that we and the Publisher have come up with. We all believe that it will attract the attention of potential readers as soon as it is seen on bookstore shelves.

We are very pleased to have reached the final stages of the publication phase at the end of what has been five years of extensive work by both the Trust and its contracted author, Matthew Wright.

The books are scheduled to arrive in New Zealand from the Printer in early March 2024. This will be preceded by commercial marketing activities by the Publisher in February 2024.

The Launch of the Book

The book is expected to be officially launched by the Trust at a special event in Palmerston North on Friday 5 April 2024. Planning for that event is proceeding well and a separate update on the finalised details, including its location, will be released during February 2024.

Confirmed Book Orders

I am very pleased to advise that since my call for book orders via the special update on 19 Oct 23, 77% of our holdings have been spoken for through the receipt of confirmed orders. This is an incredible response for which we extend our grateful thanks.



This great response means that there are now only a limited number of books left for sale by the Trust at its discounted rate. Please get your orders in so that you do not miss out.

All orders are on a first come, first served basis, and will be registered in the order that we receive them.

We expect the book to be retailed commercially for just under \$100.00. We are offering an early bird discounted price of between \$85.00-\$90.00 (Including handling and posting charges of \$20.00-for all of New Zealand) per book. For those residing overseas actual international handling and postage rates will have to be applied.

We do not require payment at this time. This approach allows the Trust to carefully monitor the retail price after publication and offer a further discounted price, where appropriate, to ensure continued reasonable pricing of the book in relation to the price of commercial sales at time of publication.

What we ask for in return is that you remit payment promptly please when approached to do so in March next year when the books will be in country being readied for distribution in April 2024. Thus, "confirmed orders" from you please are essential to our ongoing management of the project process. Thank you.

These early bird parameters which have been established to benefit members and ex members of the RNZAC, will not be able to be held at that level for ever. So, I would encourage you all please to get your orders in quickly to take advantage of these favourable terms.

Please provide the following details in your emailed confirmed order to Ian Bolton: - ian.bolton@xtra.co.nz

1. First name
2. Last name
3. Full shipping address including post code
4. Confirmation of your email address for contact regarding your order
5. Contact phone number
6. Number of books required

Project Funding

In my last update on 21 Aug 23, I advised that we had raised 87% of the required funding to complete the project which left 13% still to be raised.

Since then, that percentage has been reduced down to 8.9%. On behalf of my fellow Trustees, I extend my grateful thanks to the 20 individual donors (most of whom have donated before; many more than once and some more than that again), the Canterbury Branch of the RNZAC Association, and the Mounted Trooper Association who all generously contributed to this achievement between 21 Aug 23 and now.



I also want to acknowledge all those who continue to launch their own fundraising initiatives to support the Trust. These efforts by folk who, although very busy in their own right, still find time to put schemes in place to help us financially, are greatly appreciated.

Funding continues to be the greatest threat to the successful completion of this project.

Throughout this project this Trust has worked hard to make savings where we can and keep operational costs down. These measures, coupled with the personal generosity of my fellow Trustees who have all supported the project financially as well, have contributed to enabling us to continue this project up to now.

So, I ask for your continuing financial support please so that we can fund the remaining fees and expenses of this project.

Every donation, regardless of the amount, helps us to get across the finish line.

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.

Next Update

My next regular update will be sent on 31 March 2024.

Special updates will be sent out before then, when required.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Trust, I extend best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Graeme Ready'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a simple blue ink scribble that resembles a stylized signature or a mark.

Graeme Ready
Chair
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