

**RNZAC ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER #230 April 2024**

**Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 2 May 2024 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.**

**Whose is it?**



**QAMR**



The Waikato Mounted Rifles supported the Civic Service in Hamilton on ANZAC Day and other services across the Waikato region.



15 QAMR unit members attended the ANZAC Day game between the Warriors and the Titans at Go Media Stadium. The occasion marks only the second time an ANZAC Day game has taken place in NZ. Fans had the opportunity to look through NZLAV and Bushmaster vehicles, as well as CPL Hughes representing the Army as the flag orderly. The regiment is grateful for the invitation to be a part of such a special occasion and thanks all personnel for their involvement.



This year, SCOTS Sqn sent a catafalque guard to parade in Hawera and Kaponga, South Taranaki. The guard began the day early, starting with the dawn service in Hawera.

On completion of the dawn service, the SSM of SCOTS presented the Hāwera RSA with a NZ SCOTS memorial frame (Received by RSA president Mr Sean Trott). Young soldiers visited the QAMR Guidon for the first time in St Mary's Church, Hāwera. The Guard then completed the Kaponga Civic Service, followed by tea, biscuits and engaging with the local community. Homeward Bound, there was a quick stop into the Whanganui RSA.



15 April: Acknowledgement of Long Service  
On behalf of the regiment and corps, QAMR would like to acknowledge WO1 Sincock's 40 years of service. WO1 Sincock is a former unit RSM whose distinguished service and dedication to the RNZAC and Army was recognised by a presentation last week.

We thank WO1 Sincock and his family for their efforts and sacrifice over the years, and wish them all the best as he continues his service in the Army.

## **Admin & Log**

### **Book Launch - "THOSE WHO HAVE THE COURAGE".**



The book launch of "Those Who Have the Courage" was held at the Cosmopolitan Club in Palmerston North on Friday 5 April 2024. Those who attended were given the opportunity to meet QAMR personnel and see their display of vehicles and equipment.

Speeches of welcome and the history of the trust was given by Graeme Ready. Matthew Wright talked about the research required and the writing of the book. Colonel Trevor McComish – Colonel Commandant RNZAC- talked about the background behind the original decision to produce a book, the difficulties (loss of historical information, etc), and the trust being established to complete the history of the RNZAC. A representative from the publishers

also talked about their side of the story and how they were particularly impressed with the professional and friendly manner when working with the trust.

Not only was it a special book launch, it was also a great opportunity for a reunion. People came from all over the country. Serving members of the Corps, and members of the RNZAC Association and MTA were also there. Lots of fun, catching up, and reminiscing with tales told that for all sorts of reasons could not make it into the official history. Our thanks go to all those who



participated in producing the book and those who supported the book launch. The author, Matthew Wright, FRHistS, has kindly given permission to publish his speech in this newsletter. [Copy of speech attached to email ed,]

**David Harrison**

### **Akaroa Cenotaph 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

Association member and President of the Banks Peninsula RSA, Jim Coubrogh, was the main speaker at a public event in Akaroa to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the unveiling of the Akaroa Cenotaph. Attached to the newsletter is a copy of the Akaroa Mail newspaper article. With thanks to Bruce Tweedy.

### **Warning Order:**

Mid-Winter Dinner: For your diary. The mid-winter dinner for members and partners and friends will be held on Sunday 23 June at 1200hrs at the Chateau on the Park, Christchurch. Further details will be provided later.

### **Answer: Australia Unmanned M113AS4**

**Australia's EOS tested an unmanned M113 with a combat module, controlled from a distance of 550 km**

**In parallel with the newly created ground-based drones, Australia is successfully working out the path of transforming old armoured vehicles into ground-based drones**

The transformation of existing weapons and armoured vehicles into unmanned systems is a rather promising answer to the question of working with outdated models. Therefore, in Australia, under the auspices of the Office for the Implementation of Robotic and Autonomous Systems (RICO), they are quite actively moving towards transforming M113AS4 into a ground-based robotic platform.



To do this, this armoured personnel carrier, which is partially decommissioned in the country and replaced by the Korean AS21 Redback, was equipped with a remote control system and an R400 combat module (RWS) from Electro Optic Systems, which is known in Ukraine for supplying Slinger anti-aircraft systems.

According to the company, the next stage of testing of the system was carried out, during which targets were hit at ranges of 300 and 600 meters, but the peculiarity was that the weapons operator was 550 km from the vehicle.

A group of Australian military personnel was also trained, which, after a short course, successfully destroyed air targets in the form of drones at ranges of up to 500 meters.

On the part of Defense Express, it should be noted that Australia is actually quite actively moving in the creation of optionally "manned" armoured vehicles, because when converting the same M113AS4 into a drone, all controls for humans remain in place. And Australians have been working on this topic for quite a long time.



In particular, back in November 2021, BAE Systems Australia handed over 20 M113AS4 to the military for testing machines in the role of drones. And their first field test took place back in 2019.

## **Humour**

### **Robbers and Lawyers...**

A gang of robbers broke into a lawyer's club by mistake. The old legal lions gave them a fight for their life and their money. The gang was very happy to escape.

"It ain't so bad," one crook noted, "We got \$100 between us."

The boss screamed, "I warned you to stay clear of lawyers!  
We had \$500 when we broke in!"

### **... and one more in keeping with the theme:**

I never wanted to believe that my Dad was stealing from his job as a road worker. But when I got home, all the signs were there.

#### **A Different Pet...**

A man walks into a pet shop and says to the owner. "Ok I want to buy a pet, but I don't want a boring or normal pet - no cats, dogs, or birds - I want something different." The pet shop owner informs him that he has a talking centipede. "Really?," the man replied, "How much?" The owner informs him that the talking centipede is \$50. Happy with the unusual offering, the man pays the money and takes his new pet home.

On getting home he lays the match box with the centipede in it on the table, opens it and says "Hello Mr. Centipede, fancy going to the pub for a few drinks?" The centipede says nothing. Figuring it must be tired from the journey, he decides to leave it for an hour and try again later.

An hour later he opens the match box and says "Hello mr centipede, fancy going to the pub for a few drinks?" The centipede again says nothing. Starting to get suspicious, the man decides he will give it one more hour, and if the centipede doesn't talk, he will take it back to the shop for a refund.

An hour later the man opens the match box and says "Hello Mr centipede, fancy going to the pub for a few drinks!?" The centipede says "I heard you the first time!!! I'm just putting my shoes on!"

#### **Reminders**

RNZAC Association Web site: [www.rnzac.co.nz](http://www.rnzac.co.nz)  
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**Mike Smith, Editor**