

## RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #240 March 2025

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 3 April 2025 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

### Whose is it?



### QAMR

#### **4/03 Chief of Army Commendation**

The regiment congratulates WO2 Marsh on receiving this esteemed award today, acknowledging his outstanding performance with the introduction into service of the Bushmaster Protected Vehicle - Medium (PV-M) capability.

This award highlights his exceptional dedication to driver training, fleet management, policy and SOP development, and stakeholder engagement.

Furthermore, the regiment recognises the vital support provided by his family, present at the ceremony, in enabling his exemplary and continued service.





### **5/03 Unit Medals Ceremony**

We are delighted to extend our congratulations to SGTs Robertson, Royle, Rutherford, and Sumner-Cummins on receiving recognition for long service and good conduct, and operational service at a unit medals ceremony today.

Congratulations are also in order for CPL Moseley on receiving a Formation Commanders Commendation for his outstanding efforts on Operation TIEKE.

Well done to all recipients for their commendable performances and dedication to service.

Special mention to the partners who attended today's ceremony, recognising the invaluable support provided by families to our personnel.

### **6/03 Armoured Intermediate Course**

Congratulations to the students who have successfully completed the AIC.

The course is designed to equip JNCOs with the necessary skills and techniques to perform the role of an instructor in an armoured combat unit and assists in students gaining an insight into the roles and responsibilities of a Troop SGT.

Special mention to CPL Tomlinson for receiving the Top Student award. We also wish to acknowledge CPL Moseley's notable performance and express our gratitude to the staff for their efforts and guidance throughout the course.



### **7/03 International Women's Day Event**

LCPL Blackwood recently had the privilege to accompany the Chief of Army to an event at the British High Commissioner's Residence celebrating International Women's Day.

The event brought together female leaders from across the country and was aimed at celebrating the progress, achievements, and contributions of women, while inspiring the next generation to strive for success.



This experience reinforced the importance of solidarity and proactive support among women, particularly in traditionally male-dominated sectors like the military.

Congratulations to LCPL Blackwood on her selection to attend the event.

### **8/03 NZLAV Gunners Course 25/01**

Congratulations to all of the students who qualified this week. The course focused on developing a technical understanding of components and the application of gunnery drills. This entailed transitioning students from the use of simulation into the live firing environment in Waiouru, where they qualified by engaging targets while static and on the move.

Special acknowledgement to TPR English who was awarded the Top Student. Thanks to the Gunnery Wing staff and those personnel from the regiment who helped support the course.



### 10/03 Support Squadron Promotion

Please join us in congratulating the newly promoted CPL Galvin on his promotion, which was officially acknowledged today in front of the sqn.

His family attended the ceremony, where his daughter presented him with his new rank. We wish him continued success on behalf of the regiment as he prepares for a very busy year ahead.



### **15/03 Waikato Mounted Rifles Training Weekend**

Congratulations to CAPT Yelash and SGT Joblin on the presentation of their NZ Efficiency Decoration and Efficiency Medal respectively, in recognition of their dedication and service to the Territorial Force.

Congratulations also to newly promoted CPL Port and LCPL Richards on their promotions, presented by the CO.

Well done, gentlemen, on your recognition of performance and long service.



### **19/03 NZ Scottish Squadron SNCO Promotion**

The promotion of SGT Meads was formally recognised today in a muster parade attended by the regiment and his family.

This achievement is a testament to his performance and experience, marking a significant milestone in his military career.

The CO used the occasion to address the regiment and Combat Team Wolfpack members, as they prepare for the upcoming Ex SANGRO and the intense period of activity leading up to TALISMAN SABRE.



### **20/03 Burnham JNCO Promotion Course 25/01**

Congratulations to LCPL's King and Simpson on completing the JNCO Course today.

This course is a significant career milestone, training soldiers from diverse units and trades in leadership and subordinate management.

Congratulations to all award winners and graduating students on their efforts and achievements throughout the course.





### **21/03 Exercise SANGRO Battleprep**

Combat Team Wolfpack's preparation for Ex SANGRO. The Combat Team is made up of personnel and equipment from QAMR, 16 FD, 1 RNZIR, 2 ER, 1 CSR and DHO. The live and non-live training will enable the combat team to practice and demonstrate their combined-arms skills in both offensive and defensive scenarios by day and night.

The combat team order of battle:

- 180 personnel,
- 18 NZLAV,
- 6 NZ Bushmaster 5.5, and
- 5 HX 60 MHOV.

From blowing up bridges to soldiers engaged in trench warfare, anti-tank javelin missiles and combat vehicles in full flight, Exercise Sangro is set to test the New Zealand Army's range of capabilities and pack quite the punch.

Over the course of a week and a half, close to 200 soldiers will descend on the Argo Valley in the Waiouru Military Training Area, to conduct a series of high intensity exercises.

### **23/03 Awards for Service - Operation MOHUA**

On behalf of QAMR and the RNZAC, we are proud to acknowledge the approval for acceptance and wearing of the US Joint Service Commendation Medals awarded to WO1 Montgomery and WO1 Porteous for their meritorious service whilst deployed on Op MOHUA.

The awards were for their commendable efforts in their role as Force Readiness Assessment Officer in 2020 and 2022 respectively. Congratulations gentlemen.



## **Admin & Log**

### **First Outing for 2025 – 4WD Trip to Scotties Hut in St James**

Late January 2025 and a small group gathered in Hanmer Springs for a trip to Scotties Hut in the St James Recreational Area. A quick briefing and it was off and over Jacks Pass and heading towards St James. Our Trip leader for the day remarked that the road was in really good condition. Why became clear at the St James Station where preparation was underway for the annual horse sale today!! This early only about 20 4WD's parked up near the station.

Beyond the sale yards the road returned to its normal pot holed self. A quick stop at the locked gate and into St James itself. A good track, especially in the dry, you'd almost take a rental car in. Four stream crossings with very little water in them, and after an hours travel we made Scotties hut for lunch. Some hunters were staying there, having brought in a side by side vehicle on a trailer!!

After lunch we headed back out and took a side track to the naturally occurring hot pools that have been cemented into 4 separate hot pools next to a cold stream. Deserted when we got there, but over the next half hour there was a constant stream of vehicles and people on foot or by bike coming to soak away the dust.

We headed back out about 3pm and this time as we passed the horse sale at St James, there would have been more than 200 4WD's there and one helicopter!! An evening's meal out in Hanmer capped off a great day. Look forward to more folks joining us next year.

Mike Sheppard



**Scotties Hut**

### **Association BBQ**

Bruce and Mery Tweedy put on the beginning of the year BBQ 16th Feb. What a great venue and a super turn out by the members. We had 22 members. 2 were from the friendship group of David and Jan Harrison. They are Ivan and Sheila. They both mixed in well. Ivan was great on the BBQ a great help.

Everyone had a good catch up and a few laughs. Everyone commented on how wonderful Bruce and Merys property is. A few dipped their feet in the pool but that was as adventurous as it got. So from myself, the committee and members a big thanks again to the Tweedys for their hospitality.

Len Haynes





Further to LT Luca Vignolini's request for RNZAC Mess Dress... 'What I'm after is the RNZAC Winter Jacket (red and green), Waistcoat and Trousers, and if possible, the Summer Jacket (White).'

Anyone willing to sell or donate their Mess Dress to the current generation of RNZAC Officers please contact Luca Vignolini Executive Officer – New Zealand Scottish Squadron, QAMR RNZAC. [luca.vignolini@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:luca.vignolini@nzdf.mil.nz)



**RNZAC Association Subscriptions for 2024/25 are now due - (\$30.00)**

At the AGM in November the members voted to retain the same subscription for the 2024/25 year. The subscription of \$30.00 can 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.)

The subscription helps the Association to maintain the RNZAC Association Website and to support important projects. Your continued support of the RNZAC Association is much appreciated. The subscription must be paid by 31st August 2025.

Mike Sheppard, Treasurer, RNZAC Association

## **Answer: Russia T72**

### **Russia's T-72 Tanks Are Disappearing from the Battlefield**

For decades, the T-72 tank has been a symbol of Russian military power. It has been used in conflicts around the world and remains one of the most recognizable Soviet-era armored vehicles. However, recent reports suggest that Russia may be running out of these tanks in its war against Ukraine, reports WP.

Richard Vereker, an OSINT analyst, has been tracking Russian military losses. He notes a sharp drop in the number of T-72 tanks lost on the battlefield in recent months. In March, only a handful were recorded as destroyed. Despite this, Russian forces are still losing large numbers of armoured vehicles.

The difference is in the type of tanks being lost. Since the start of 2025, nearly two-thirds of Russian tank losses have been T-80 series models. Ukraine has also been destroying more T-62 tanks, some of which date back to the 1960s. Videos from the frontlines show both original T-62 models and upgraded T-62Ms from the 1980s being hit.

Vereker believes these figures indicate a shift in Russia's tank strategy. With fewer T-72s available, they are relying on a mix of slightly newer and much older models. The third most commonly lost tank is the T-90. This is Russia's most advanced tank in Ukraine. Vladimir Putin once claimed it was "the best in the world." The war has proven otherwise. While the T-90 is more effective than older Soviet designs, it has not been able to turn the tide of battle.

The T-72 first entered service in 1973 and quickly became one of the most widely used tanks worldwide. Poland and many other countries have operated various versions of it. When introduced, it was praised for its firepower and mobility. It has a 125 mm 2A46M cannon, two machine guns, and an engine with 780 horsepower. This allows it to reach speeds of up to 60 km/h.

Ukraine has managed to destroy not only standard T-72 models but also more advanced variants. Some of the most notable include the T-72B and the T-72B3. The latter is equipped with a Sosna-U sight and enhanced reactive armour, making it one of Russia's more dangerous tanks.

The pattern of losses suggests that Russia's stock of T-72s is depleting. Whether they can continue replacing them with older or newer tanks remains to be seen. What is clear is that the war in Ukraine has tested Russia's armoured forces like never before.

Anna Hartz Mar.26 - 2025 10:30 AM CET Dagens.com

## **Humour**

### **In celebration of St Patrick's Day**

#### **Visiting The Doctor...**

Dr O'Mahony tells his patient: "I have bad news and worse news, John."

"Oh dear," John replies. "What's the bad news?" asks the patient.

The doctor replies: "You only have 24 hours to live."

"That's terrible," says the patient. "How can the news possibly be worse?"

Dr O'Mahony replies: "I've been trying to contact you since yesterday."

### **Taking Out An Advert...**

"Is that the Ballycashel Echo?" asks Mick.

"How much would it be to put an ad in your paper?"

"Five pounds an inch," a woman replies.

"Why? What are you selling?" "A ten-foot ladder," said Mick before slamming the phone down.

### **Council Workers...**

Two Irish lads were working for the local county council. One lad would dig a hole and the other lad would follow him and fill the hole in. They worked up along one street and then down the other. They then moved to the next street and did the same, working flat out all day without stopping.

A passerby saw what they were doing and was amazed at the hard work, but couldn't understand what they were at. So, he shouted over to the lad digging the holes, *'I don't get it – why do you dig a hole, only for the other lad to fill it in?'*

The lad wiped his brow and sighed deeply, *'Well, I suppose it probably does look a bit odd. You see, we're normally a three-man team. But today the lad who plants the trees phoned in sick.'*

### **and finally - One last shot...**

Paudie goes into a bar and orders seven shots of tequila and one Guinness. The barman lines up shots and goes to get the Guinness. When he comes back with the pint, all seven shots are gone.

The barman says: *"Wow! You sure drank those fast."*

Paudie explains: *"You would drink fast too if you had what I have."*

The barman asks: *"What do you have?"*

The guy reaches into his pocket and says: *"Fifty cents!"*

**Reminders**

RNZAC Association Web site: [www.rnzac.co.nz](http://www.rnzac.co.nz)

Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted. Email: [smithmd@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smithmd@xtra.co.nz)

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