

ARMY NEWS

ISSUE 541
APRIL 2023



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SMA.NET

Model Thinking

Tena Koutou all

Now well into the month of April and approaching Anzac Day, you'll get the feeling 2023 is going to be a fast year.

There's a pace to normal military-life and we shouldn't fear a tempo we control. Maintaining that balance however comes with practice and it's something we'll all get better at as regeneration takes its course. Noting hollows in our small force, some of you will naturally be in new ranks and fresh appointments, making any extra task a little more daunting. New roles will create novel challenges and this stretches us beyond our routine operating limits. That's Army growth, but I ask – how do we better direct it?

Leading efforts. Since late last year, I've progressively talked about the role of Non-Commissioned Officers, a simple model and a time to shine. In this time of change and pace, both the Officer and NCO cohorts have different but aligned roles to undertake. Senior officers are making big decisions about the design and direction of Army. COs and OCs are consuming this – and applying it to your units. As discussed by LCSM in March's edition, LCC and their role is one of sharpening all-arms competency, hardening individual preparedness, and in time – achieving full 'platform readiness'. Outcomes like these are preceded by NCOs, (including SNCOs and WOs) who are shaped by solid training foundations and are prepared to shift perspectives to train and develop an Army of 2025 forward.

Being shaped by best practice, shared doctrine and lessons from current fights is a constant institutional effort. As Army CAPSTONES mature, you will start to see that shift in thinking – a sort of 'uploading of new software', embedding that into training, and then into our actions as soldiers. What's important for us all, is to stay alert, mobile and agile. This is mental agility and maturity at its best. If we do this right, we'll not only be generating a force, we'll be building a better one!

Strengthen and Sustain.

In staying with a model of NCO effort vectors – let me add two last verbs to your vocab. Re-training as an Army requires soldiers and NCOs who continually learn. While All-arms and trade skills are the mainstay – strengthening professional development, private study, short-courses and reflecting on military history are critical to gaining a level of 'cognitive overmatch'. I will continue to advocate NCO development – but you must make the first move.

As I link the opening remarks of 'tempo' to the last effort-vector of sustain – we are conscious of the pressure and tolerance soldiers are managing day to day. The sustain effort is a duty of care for all leaders to exhibit. This is about 'increasing the soldiers' shelf-life' in the job while using every resource in the NZDF arsenal to ensure well-being. In nearly every Army across the world, forces are acknowledging the tensions of leading and training in a management-constrained world. To abate this learning curve, junior through senior leaders need support from mentors, coaches, peer leaders and a wide range of professionals.



So – now you have a model. **Shape** the force and own your purpose, **shift** the thinking and rewire; **sharpen** individual skills gaining mastery in the basics, while **hardening** the physical performance and grit we need to win; lastly – **strengthen** the learning edge of our blade and sustain the NCOs and YOs of the force by enhancing access to broad well-being.

Get after it. SMA

WO1 Wiremu Moffitt
16th Sergeant Major of the Army

Cover: A soldier offers emotional support following the Cyclone Gabrielle devastation.
Photo: Sergeant Caroline Williams



NZArmy



NZDefenceForce

The Army News is published for the Regular and Territorial Force and civilian staff of the New Zealand Army.

Editor: Judith Martin

Ph: 021 240 8578 E: armynews@nzdf.mil.nz
www.army.mil.nz

Printing: Bluestar, Petone.

Design: Vanessa Edridge, DPA, NZDF

Editorial contributions and letters are welcomed. They may be sent directly to Army News and do not need to be forwarded through normal command channels. Submit them to The Editor, Army News, DPA, HQ NZDF, Private Bag 39997, Wellington, or by email.

Deadline instructions: Army News is published on the third Tuesday of each month, except January. Please have all contributions to the editor by the first of the month.

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ISSN 1170-4411

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LOOKING BACK

The Gallipoli landing.
Photo: National Army Museum

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou
We will remember them



A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY



Army's Strategy is very clear on the need to grow a future force that is resilient; has the right attitude, skills and knowledge to be both agile and adaptive in the execution of its duties; and is one that lives its ethos and values.

At the absolute heart of this force is, and always will be our people. You. You carry the mantle of those that went before us, the burden of today's challenges, and you continue to position our Army for the future. You are critical to every mission we undertake, every success we have. And you are respected for it.

For your part you commit to our ethos and values and, through your actions and behaviours, encapsulate Army's culture, professionalism and aspirations.

My role, and that of your senior leadership, is to ensure we give focus, purpose, and energy to Army and that we maintain a culture that prepares our people to meet the demanding requirements of current and future operating environments, and that we afford you every opportunity to be the best you can be. It also requires that we target our resources where they can achieve the most effect and that every effort is made to ensure that you and your families are supported.

In the last two weeks these latter two requirements have gained greater emphasis through the announcement of a range of financial initiatives to better recognise your service. These included a one-off payment to all Regular Force members and civilians; targeted Army retention payments to critical trades, ranks and Waiouru-based personnel; and, an interim sustainment allowance to be paid in conjunction with field allowance.

The team from Army General Staff followed up this announcement with a series of briefs at all our camps and bases which enabled both supporting information to be provided and issues with the eligibility criteria to be identified. Subsequently, we have made adjustments to that criteria to ensure that it is more easily implemented and better meets your needs.

The downside of these initiatives was that our financial resources didn't allow more people to benefit fully from their payment. This is regretted however, to those affected please know that it does not mean your service is valued any less. It isn't – it simply is a result of limited funding and an acknowledgement of where current shortages in ranks and trades exist. I would also ask that you, indeed all in Army, note the on-going efforts in two other areas to ensure we better recognise the great work you do for our nation.

Work continues on permanently lifting your pay from the 1st of July this year to a level that is more competitive with the broader NZ labour market. We remain

hopeful that by May we will be able to provide details of what these increases will look like. The second area of work, which has just commenced, is a full review of allowances (including the military factor) to ensure that they are fit for purpose and appropriately compensate you for the type of work you do and the conditions within which you do it. It is planned that this review will be completed by the end of the year and that implementation of a new allowance regime will occur on or before mid-2024.

Without exception, whenever I hold central briefings or visit units, concerns regarding the appropriateness of our current allowance regime are raised. Workforce pressures and limited resources have meant that to now many of these concerns have not been addressed. What is absolutely essential, now that this review has been formally established, is that when you are given the opportunity to provide input you do so. Don't rely on someone else to raise an issue on your behalf – we all have a responsibility to ensure that the review team have a full understanding of what matters and to whom, and that the review team is provided all the information they need to develop the best possible outcomes. It's important we get this right so when the opportunity presents, lean in.

These investments in our people serve two purposes. First and foremost, they ensure that every effort is being made to remunerate you at an appropriate level and, in a way that acknowledges the unique demands that service places on you and your families. Secondly it is one way – by no means the only way but a pretty important one none the less – that, as senior leaders, we can recognise the quite extraordinary efforts you go to and the quite exceptional results you achieve. And, if by doing so, we can demonstrate how important you are to our Army and motivate you to do even better next time then, we are in a pretty good space.

**Major General John Boswell
Chief of Army**

Minister of Defence Andrew Little



Kia ora. I'm pleased to introduce myself in this service magazine as your new Minister of Defence.

It's not territory that's completely unfamiliar to me, due to my time in the intelligence portfolios and working closely with my predecessors Ron Mark and Peeni Henare when they had this role. Both my grandfather and father have been in the army; my father was a retired British Army major. As a backbencher I spent time visiting Waiouru and I spent a week with the Navy, including two nights at sea on board HMNZS Otago. I've been to Camp Taji twice and visited Afghanistan. While passing through the Persian Gulf, I went on patrol with a P-3 Orion.

One of my first experiences as Defence Minister was being on board HMNZS Te Mana during commemorations at Waitangi. Recently I did a tour of all our defence bases across the country where I met personnel, viewed the estate, and got to see how our defence forces train to do the incredible work they do.

It's an honour to have this role. I come to this job with an immense respect for the sailors, soldiers, aviators and civilians in the Defence Force, and I'm extremely grateful for the effort they put in to serve our country.

That not only stems partly from my upbringing, but also from what I've seen and heard. In February I got to visit personnel in Hawke's Bay during the Defence Force's

Cyclone Gabrielle relief efforts.

The ability of our people to establish themselves at short notice, setting up a base of operations to help people at a time of extreme disruption and distress, is just amazing. I know, through talking to civilian volunteers, that the sense of reassurance in having NZDF personnel turn up is invaluable.

During those visits and thinking back on all the contact I've had with NZDF over the years, I see the professionalism of our people, the humility they tend to bring when we're engaged with people outside the service, and every time I come away feeling an incredible sense of pride. We are incredibly well served by the Defence Force.

I know there is real pressure on the NZDF in being able to do everything the government of the day might ask of them. There has been a loss of personnel, and that has an effect on decisions about what we can do at any one time. Seeing the tremendous effort in the Hawke's Bay, I'm deeply aware that if our Defence Force was called upon for another operation in New Zealand, in the Pacific or somewhere else in the world, it would put real pressure on our capability.

Remuneration is something I've had advice on. Right across the public sector generally we've got challenges with that. That issue,

among others, is a priority for me and requires me to engage with my ministerial colleagues. I'm also keen to make sure that the attrition NZDF has been suffering from in the past three years doesn't get worse.

Covid has compounded these challenges, but the geopolitical situation is changing and the Pacific region is intensifying in terms of the attention it gets from bigger powers. We have to be able to project a stance that reflects Aotearoa New Zealand's values and what we are prepared to stand up for.

In the end, my role as Defence Minister is to do what I can to advocate for the NZDF to best serve the interests of New Zealand. My job is to have discussions with colleagues, around the cabinet table, to make sure we are using NZDF to maintain our reputation as a country that makes a contribution and protects our values. We should always be alert to the possibility of being tasked to assist in any part of the world. Our Defence Force should be prepared for that and be ready to provide the most meaningful response possible.



SURPRISE VISIT MAKES CENTENARIAN VETERAN'S DAY

When veteran of 25th Battalion, Walter "Wally" Malcolm became a centenarian in 2021, he received a special visit from Staff Sergeant Richard Davis, on behalf of East Coast Company, 5th/7th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

A conversation on a subsequent visit sparked an idea for SSGT Davis, and unbeknown to the Waipukurau returned serviceman, SSGT Davis put the wheels in motion to give Wally a surprise follow up visit on 31 March this year. "Wally was part of a crew that uplifted over sixty Indian motorcycles to support the New Zealand War effort for WWII.

Wally mentioned this to me on our last visit, which started the wheels turning on planning a follow-up trip," said SSGT Davis.

Calling on his step-father, Garry Alve, owner and rider of a 1937 Norton motorcycle, and family friend Jim Lord, owner and rider of Indian motorcycles, SSGT Davis requested their assistance to enable his plan to come to fruition.

Jim kindly allowed SSGT Davis to ride a 1941, Model 741 Indian motorcycle from his own collection to assist in the surprise.

The three hatched a plan to see Wally in his Waipukurau home, arriving dressed in period clothing and on the Army Indian motorcycles.

"Jim also supplied the genuine Army issue greatcoats, jerkins and helmets, which Wally enjoyed putting on. The great coat in particular brought back many memories for him.

"Wally even tried to mount one of the bikes, and can probably still ride one better than me," he laughed.

The 25th Battalion fought in the North Africa and Italy campaigns. Wally can recall many of the skirmishes he was involved in, especially Orsogna in Italy where



he was captured, along with 52 others. As a Prisoner of War (POW), he travelled by train from Italy, through the Brenner Pass to Germany, spending four days crammed in cattle wagons with no food and little water. Arriving in a camp with approximately 3,500 POWs situated outside Munich, it consisted of seven barracks, each housing 350 men. He recalls the camp being bombed by an Allied air raid which took out five of the seven barracks. Fortunately, Wally was housed in one of the two remaining.

The battle honours awarded to the 25th Battalion for its work as an infantry battalion were entrusted to the Wellington Regiment, Wellington West Coast and Taranaki Regiment, and Hawke's Bay Regiment and later formed 5th WWCT RNZIR and 7th WnHB RNZIR Bn(s) which amalgamated and now form 5th/7th Battalion RNZIR.

"Our visit was delayed due to our response efforts to the National State of Emergency from Cyclone Gabrielle which 5/7 was heavily involved in. It all went off in the end though, and Wally really was chuffed with the visit," said SSGT Davis.



NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA ARMY CHIEFS SIGN PLAN ANZAC

The New Zealand Army has reinvigorated its longstanding cooperation with the Australian Army with the signing of Plan Anzac.

The Bilateral Service Cooperation Plan creates a formalised framework for many well-established work streams between the two Armies, including sustained cooperation across strategic engagement, capability, training, readiness and common personnel issues.

Chief of the New Zealand Army Major General John Boswell says it's a significant step forward for the trans-Tasman strategic partnership, with a focus on improved interoperability.

"As close neighbours and allies, we have a mutual commitment to support each other's security, closely coordinate our efforts in the South Pacific, and maintain a shared focus on the security and stability of our wider region. This plan ensures our Armies can continue to effectively contribute to that," he said.

"Plan Anzac will reflect a broader defence relationship, one that is open, based on mutual respect and

is enduring. It reflects the value of Land Power to both nations, and the value which interoperability between the Australian and New Zealand Army brings to Combined Joint Operations.

"This agreement will make sure both Armies can work as efficiently as possible, complementing each other's capabilities and capacity. It provides a focus and framework to take ongoing conversations and engagements between allies and mates, and formalise these to improve existing cooperation.

"We will be able to better share lessons and learning across capability development, doctrine for training, and many other areas related to the generation, and in the New Zealand Army's current case, the regeneration of land combat capability."

The plan will balance the enduring characteristics of the Anzac relationship, such as close integration in capability, training

and readiness; and retention of sovereign capability and capacity to act in support of independent Joint Force operations.

The objectives in the agreement are based on long standing trans-Tasman Defence cooperation, captured in the 2018 Joint Statement on Closer Defence Relations.

Another key outcome of the plan is that both nations will cooperate to support common objectives for broader interoperability and standards as members of the American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies' Programme (ABCANZ). Through Plan Anzac the two Armies will work towards the common goal of having a New Zealand Motorised Infantry Battle Group within an Australian led Brigade, capable of working to ABCANZ division standards.

Cooperation will also continue between the nations' Special Forces, improving enduring operational interoperability between



a New Zealand Special Operations Task Group and an Australian Special Operations Task Force on combined or multinational special operations missions.

"Our Armies have a deep history of operational service, organisational cooperation, regional partnerships and mateship. For more than 123 years, we have served our nations, supported global peace and upheld regional stability – together. We will continue to do just that," Major General Boswell said.

Above: New Zealand Chief of Army Major General John Boswell (right) and Australian Chief of Army Lieutenant General Simon Stuart signing Plan Anzac in Wellington, reinvigorating longstanding cooperation between the two armies.

Corporal Storm Harrison

OP AWHINA: Our Cyclone Gabrielle response

Local Army Reserve Force soldiers rescue Esk Valley residents from raging floodwaters

Hearing people on rooftops screaming out for help in the dark while floodwaters circle around them is something Corporal Storm Harrison will never forget.

CPL Harrison was one of two New Zealand Defence Force personnel who were first to respond to the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle, heading into Esk Valley in the dark of night to try and save as many people as they could.

On the Monday night he said he was put on standby, but everyone thought they would be OK as Auckland was taking the brunt of the bad weather.

Early in the morning on Tuesday he received a call from Staff Sergeant Davey Forbes asking him to meet him at Bayview Fire Station as soon as he could, as the river banks had burst at Esk Valley.

"She was pretty chaotic down there, people running around the volunteer firefighters were scrambling to get out, and the lights were out so people had torches."

After turning up he said himself, SSGT Forbes and two firefighters and two police officers headed out in the Unimog.

"We said 'we have got to go, people are screaming for help, we can hear them screaming from the rooftops'."

They headed to Esk Valley, but as soon as they tried to go on State Highway 5 they had to reverse back due to floodwaters being too high.

"We could see the top of the roof of the house on the corner, the water was right up and it was pelting down, we thought we would enter the water and as soon as we entered the headlights went out and we couldn't see anything, so we had to reverse back up."

They adjusted their plans, heading for Hill Road to try and drop down into Esk Valley on one of the alternate routes.

There were a number of trees down on the road they were trying to get down, and while they were heading that way they came across a man, running around in bare feet, looking for his pig dogs.

As soon as they got through to Esk Valley school he said you could see the water was right up, and they could see tanks and containers just floating past in the water.

"We could hear people yelling out for help, it's something we will never forget in the dark."

CPL Harrison tried to drive into the flood waters once again, but again they were so high the headlights of the truck were submerged.

They had 2 spotlight LED lights, so SSGT Forbes and a police officer got up on the cab of the

Unimog and used spotlights so CPL Harrison could see while driving.

"You could see the current was going hard and you thought holy s... this is bad."

"Driving into the water and the good old Unimog got us so far but you couldn't keep going."

CPL Harrison said they called out to people they could hear 'hang on, we can hear you, we are here'.

It felt like hours that they couldn't do anything and then he said the Surf Lifesavers turned up with their boats, and locals started to turn up with jet boats, all driving around trying to save people.

As the sun started to rise, CPL Harrison said he could see down the end of the road there was a yellow sign now visible with black arrows on it.

"I thought yes, we can go there, so I said 'hang on boys we are out of here' so we honed through the water and silt and got through to rescue people."

When they got out to get people he said you could feel things hitting your legs under the water, having no idea what it was at the time.

"The first house there was a lady and her two kids.

"They had been up there since midnight and by this time it was 10.00am when we got to them."

"They had been sitting there for a long time and they were still people north of them clinging on, waiting for help."

"We had a quick chat as we got them into the truck and she said, 'thanks for coming, I thought we were over but as soon as I saw the Unimog turn up we knew we were alright'."

"That was a good feeling."

They rescued them and took them back to Eskdale School, before heading back up the road to see where they could help.

He said the water went down pretty quickly, and from there they could see how badly affected the area was.

"The silt, I can't describe it."

His friends parents lived around there and needed help, so they headed over in the Unimog to assist them.

They got to the driveway and CPL Harrison thought he could run up the drive to them, but instantly got stuck up to his waist in the silt.

"I couldn't even move that's how thick the silt was and it was just dragging me down."

He said to get out of it he lay down on his stomach and had to crawl.

When he got to his friends parents he said 'we aren't going back that way', but then they discovered the best way to deal with silt was to run or walk very fast, to stop you sinking into it.

More of the 5/7 Reservists turned up from there, and CPL Harrison said he transitioned to checking all the houses in the area to make sure they had got everyone.

"We went to one house and it was lucky the doors were soft because of the water, so I said to my Private that was with me, just stay there I will go first."

As the doors were soft, CPL Harrison was able to break them down to go in and make sure each house was cleared.

"I kept him behind me incase I found people."

They came to another house and found three people in it, who were all OK, and at this point the water was still flowing up to CPL Harrison's chest.

"We said if you are safe there, stay where you are but if you want to come, come now."

From there they carried on, with CPL Harrison having both a police radio and FENZ radio to keep in communications with them.

He said he was asked to go and clear a specific address, and he had to tell them the house was actually no longer there.

"That house has been destroyed, all that was left was the floor, about 100 metres down there was the roof."

"100 metres up in the avocado trees was the dishwasher."

He said they spent a long time going around clearing houses.

"You don't really think about what's on the other side of that door, you usually clear rooms with weapons but this time you're breaking doors to search for people."

"But the motivation was this is in our town, this is our home, these are our people we know so that's what kept us moving."

CPL Harrison was a Regular Force soldier who left but has stayed a Reservist ever since.

He credited his soldier mindset for the fact he didn't fear for his life during this, as he said you don't really think about yourself, you think about how you can help others.

"I didn't really think about my own safety."

Something that hit him hard was hearing about the child who died in the floodwaters, and he said that kept driving him to continue to help people.

"You think of your own tamariki and if..." he trails off, unable to finish his sentence.

"It's just your job really, I have little kids too and I think it will hit me well later what we did because there is still people that need help, that are out there isolated."

"It was a long, hard day that day and it wasn't just me, there was heaps of us out there doing what anyone would do to help."

"When we heard about that little girl, that was hard, especially as a father."

"For us when you think of that you think I would do it again to save as many people as I could."

He estimates they managed to get 12 people out in their initial rescue.

After that, the Regular Force personnel started to turn up and help coordinate things, and started working to reach those isolated communities out in Puketapu and Rissington.

"Lots of us had local knowledge so we knew shortcuts."

"That's helped big time to coordinate things."

CPL Harrison has been working since this night to help get to isolated communities by road, pushing through and focusing on helping others rather than himself, as his business is now up in the air.

"My civilian job that's up in the air as that was wiped out in the floods, so keeping busy keeps that off my mind."

He owns trucks and drives them for Pan Pac Forest Products, which was destroyed in the flood as well as any trucks that were parked there.

CPL Harrison said he had taken his own truck home that night, so he had that still, but the Pan Pac building was lost.

"When I found that out I was stunned, it's such a huge mill."

He plans to step back and assess what his next step will be, and said his family, including his dad, brother and wife, had been amazing, with his dad and brother helping sort the business side of things out, while his wife was holding down the fort at home with the kids while he was out responding.

Responding with SSGT Davey Forbes and working alongside other 5/7 reservists was a relief, he said.

"Rank is rank, but this is family (5/7), this is whānau."

OP AWHINA: Our Cyclone Gabrielle response

Quick-thinking Army comrades help set up pulley lifeline for Dartmoor

As soon as he heard about the damage wreaked by Cyclone Gabrielle, New Zealand Army Reserve Force soldier Lance Corporal Aäron Marinus threw his pack over his shoulder and left his Rissington home on foot to assist with the response.

After 10 kilometres of walking and hitching rides, the 36-year-old linked up with his 5th/7th Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment unit. Their brief was simple – re-supply the isolated township of Dartmoor with food, water and fuel.

“I wasn’t sure how we were going to get the supplies into Dartmoor as the Mangaone River was still too dangerous to drive through. Anyway, we turned up to do a recce where the bridge used to be and there were a few locals there.

“We managed to shout loud enough across the river to organise a time to meet and deliver supplies.”

He received an unexpected surprise when he found himself working alongside an old friend from his days in the Regular Force, Lance Corporal Rex Tanoa’i-Mamapo.

The pair had served with the Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles at Linton Military Camp and went through extensive driver training together.

Faced with the Dartmoor dilemma, Lance Corporal Marinus and Lance Corporal Tanoa’i-Mamapo put their military training to use and came up with a plan. Using a dinghy and the strength of fellow personnel they set up a

pulley system to transport supplies across the river.

Lance Corporal Marinus works as a linesman for Powerlines Hawke’s Bay when he’s not carrying out Reserve Force duties, and has heard the system was still being used.

“In fact, I was having a yarn to some of my linesman mates and they’re using it to get themselves and gear across, so it’s been widely beneficial,” he said.

For 28-year-old Lance Corporal Tanoa’i-Mamapo, working with Lance Corporal Marinus on the cyclone response was like a reunion.

“Putting our driving training together and what we’d learnt with Wellington East Coast Squadron, we brought that into our tasks with 5/7 Battalion. And with our different knowledge it gave us a different way to execute a plan and make the task successful.”

Both soldiers travelled extensively during the cyclone response, and like many locals they had to come to terms with the new face of the ravaged landscape.

They were both struck by the resilience of the effected communities felt a personal obligation and sense of

pride in assisting their fellow New Zealanders.

“This is on our backdoor step and really gives you drive to help people,” said Lance Corporal Tanoa’i-Mamapo.



Drum Head Memorial Service

On Sunday 5 March Padre Chris Purdie conducted an open-air memorial service at the Soundshell on the Napier foreshore.

“This served as a reminder to us that lives have been lost in the Hawke Bay from Cyclone Gabrielle. It called us to focus on what we were doing in helping the community,” says Padre Purdie.

The combined Engineer Task Group was joined by representatives from local iwi, the NZ Police, the Napier City Council and Civil Defence.

A Drum Head service is a military tradition of forming a centre for worship using drums carried in battle. The drums were loaned by 5/7 Battalion.

The contingent sent from Fiji to assist with the Hawke Bay disaster response included three firefighters. Their deployment coincided with the Fijian Fire Service celebrating its centenary. The Operation Awhina team in Napier joined in the celebrations in true Fijian style, with a cake and a kava ceremony, hosted by the Napier Fijian community.

Trying to navigate getting supplies out to hard-to-reach communities isn’t an easy task, but two Army specialists from 5th Movements Company helped organise the logistics of supporting those hard to reach places with aerial supplies.

Lieutenant Zoe Williamson coordinated the air movements side of the distribution center out of Hastings Showgrounds, while Sergeant Leslie Baker worked out the quantities the helicopters could safely manage for each mission.

LT Williams said it was a mammoth undertaking, with volunteers and New Zealand Defence Force personnel all working together to get supplies to those hard-to-reach areas.

Orders for what needed to go out came through the New Zealand Defence Force operations email set up at the Hastings Showgrounds before being passed on to the volunteers.

Volunteers then packaged up the orders before they were moved outside for LT Williamson’s team to coordinate.

They were then tagged for what community they are heading to, and the correct helicopter was assigned an appropriate load, with the Defence Force NH-90s helicopters able to take larger loads.

Helicopter pilots were then given longitude and latitude coordinates from LT Williamson, before they headed out to complete the task.

As well as running the loading at the showground, LT Williamson also had an aerial delivery detachment at Bridge Pa, who were working on securing underslung loads to the NH-90s for larger goods, including generators and water pumps.

“This has been pretty busy down here with the helicopter

loading, we loaded 22 one day and the days before were similar.”

SGT Baker arrived keen to get on the ground and help out.

“The NH-90 can take up to three tonnes on the hook.”

Working out how heavy the load carried can be depends on a variety of factors, such as altitude, temperature, and how far it’s going to be flying, he said.

“Higher the weight, the shorter distance it can be carried.

“We moved nine generators, one communications cable and two water pumps that all went out to isolated communities at one stage, all by underslung load.

“Most of the generators were used to power up cell towers damaged during the cyclone. The towers are usually powered by wind or solar and it’s done by back up battery that come on for 48 hours.”

The generators were dropped beside cell towers and then SGT Baker said they would go back a few days later and move them again to somewhere else to be of use.

“It’s being rigged, it’s going somewhere, it’s being used again.”

SGT Baker said real time training for underslung loads was usually gained in the Pacific Islands, or in disaster relief, so normally doing this kind of work was done on planned exercises.

They weren’t just working alongside their own New Zealand Defence Force personnel, but also helping internally load the civilian helicopters taking part in the efforts.

The days were long, about 13-14-hour days, but it was great work, he said.

“There were people whose whole houses have been wiped out, and they are out at the Hastings Showgrounds helping.

“That staggered me, these people have lost everything and yet they were still out here giving back.”

Doing what they were doing and being able to help those in isolated communities was rewarding, he said.

“All that training I have done for years is worth it.”





2 ENGINEER REGIMENT RESPONDS

2 Engineer Regiment threw everything it had into the support effort following the devastation wrought by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Major James Brosnan, OC 25 ESS commanded his unit's response during the immediate aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle.

"The task was originally to primarily support Civil defence and Emergency Management south of the Tutaekuri River to the Central Hawke's Bay Southern boundary line near Dannivirke. We had medics, construction trades, combat engineers, plant operators, and various vehicles. We also had on board troops from 16 Field Regiment and 2 CSSB

"Our unit deployed into a very ambiguous situation, with NZDF capabilities being deployed in a 'staged' approach. As such, we were more task-organised to provide a wide range of military effects opposed to just engineer effects."

The key tasks 2 Engineer Regiment achieved included route reconnaissance of rural roads south of the Tutaekuri River and establishing supply links to isolated communities. Soldiers checked on the safety of people in the rural communities and delivered humanitarian aid wherever they could.

Its teams helped establish a Regional Distribution Centre, until it could be handed over to Civil Defence and Emergency Management to manage. Aid packages were prepared for distribution by both road and air.

Sappers reinforced Task Unit Taniwha with the plant detachment clearing many of the back-country roads to Tutira.

"The team deployed into an ambiguous environment in which the community were still finding their feet after the initial impact of Cyclone Gabrielle. The team showed flexibility to execute a wide range of tasks, some outside their trained skillsets, and utilised mission command to operate within a broad command intent.

"While not all tasks were what we trained for in combat operations, our training, experiences and

knowledge still allowed us to provide successfully tailored military effects that supported other agencies to manage the overall response to the operation.

"What was also pleasing to see was the ability to quickly form as a task organised unit and get on with the job to ensure we were helping the community of Hawke's Bay."

The impact was tangible. During a route recon task, the engineer GS Section located and made contact with a small farming community that had been isolated for six days because of a washed out bridge and swollen river. Engineers were able to identify all locals and deliver emergency aid to support them for additional days. "In support of the intelligence cycle, our patrol report was sent through to CDEM ECC in Hastings for awareness. Less than 24 hours later, the team at the Regional Distribution Centre had developed an aid package for aerial delivery to the community, and it was followed up days later with a ground delivery."

The New Zealand soldiers were joined by a contingent of Fijian soldiers who integrated seamlessly into the relief effort.

"Our hard-working Fijian brothers could not have done a better job," said Major Michael Lawry, OC 3 Field and Emergency Response Squadron.

"It was humbling to be able to reassure and assist the rural isolated communities, as the operation transitioned towards recovery. Our operation supported rural communities by providing mobility to enable essential farm supplies and stock to be moved. The RFMF were hosted on a farm in Patoka and were also able to test their skills on sheep shearing and helping out around the shed."



Engineers' key tasks

- Establish aerial ropeway (flying fox) to move supplies across blown out bridges for Rissington and Dartmoor
- HMEE clearance of roads
- Inkspot operations (where the engineers stayed with the community for a night and were able to provide morale, play sports, and do repairs on community infrastructure and support cleaning up)
- Route reconnaissance

OP AWHINA: Our Cyclone Gabrielle response



ARMY BAND SENDS AROHA TO THE EAST COAST '35'

A positive and calming message to those along State Highway 35.

The New Zealand Army Band has dedicated a cover song to the people of the East Coast of the North Island.

The piece is the award-winning song '35' by New Zealand Youth Choir Ka Hao featuring musician Rob Ruha.

It references State Highway 35 which runs up the East Coast. The road, and the communities it connects, was badly damaged during Cyclone Gabrielle.

Lance Corporal Cameron Burnett, the band's Digital Channels and Content Manager and director of the project, says the band had been booked to tour the East Coast and they had been rehearsing this very song for the locals.

Then Cyclone Gabrielle struck. "We saw the devastation and we thought, we have to do something. The band prides itself on being able to cheer people up when they need it; something that we have done in the digital world ever since the first Covid-19 lockdown with our isolation music videos. '35' was already in the works to perform so we thought, this is the least we can do."

The band's goal was to replicate Ka Hao as much as they could, which meant plenty of vocalists while fitting it to the Army Band's instrumentation.

"We're lucky to have many fantastic vocalists in the band," says LCPL Burnett. "Staff Sergeant David Fiu took the lead on the vocals, and the rest of the vocalists sang a verse or two each while providing harmonies on the chorus." The rest of the vocalists were Corporal Campbell McKellar, Lance Corporal Joel Williams, Private Shannelee Etches, Private Sylvia Vail and Private Frankie Daly.

"The musical arrangement was by our awesome arranger Sergeant Riwai Hina. He's very efficient. If you want to cover a song, he sends out an arrangement very quickly. As for the audio track, this was produced, engineered, mixed and mastered by our Sound Engineer Corporal Marc Ellis who, yet again, has done a fabulous job."

The video was filmed in a garden setting at Burnham Army Camp. "It's a really lovely kind of setting. It feels nice and calming, and that was the vibe we wanted to give off with the video; simple and positive. The song wasn't about lights, being flashy or highly technical. We wanted it to be positive, simple and calming."



Private Smith, at your service

By Sergeant Caroline Williams

As the Media Delivery Manager at Whakaata Māori (Māori Television), Private Hoani Smith serves his community, his church, his work, his whānau, and is now proud to be serving his country.

After researching the Reserve Force online, the now 54 year old, decided to apply. Having doubts as to whether he would be accepted due to his age, he didn't tell anyone he'd started the process, including his whānau. To his surprise his application was successfully progressing.

"It was then time to make a plan with the rest of the whānau to see how this could work for everyone. And we found a way through – in time for my application to be accepted. Fortunately they were really supportive," he says with a grin.

PTE Smith has always remained fit, is a vegetarian and with his positive outlook on life has thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of Army life. He has developed an enormous respect for those training him, the Army as an institution, and admires the way staff lead the recruits.

"I've been working at Whakaata Māori since its conception 19 years ago, starting out as a sound engineer. I now manage 33 people in my role so looking at different and effective leadership strategies will definitely benefit my employer," he says.

PTE Smith was selected to lead the Haka for the RTF 167 Graduation Parade in December, and admits it was a humbling experience.

"At another time it would have been someone else's opportunity.

This time it was mine and I just happened to be in the right place in my life to be able to say I was up for the challenge. There was a real sense of kotahitanga (unity) among us all, having the platoons come together to march out. And performing 'Tu' was part of that, an essential element in coming together to honour those from Ngāti Tūmatauenga who served before us. Especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice."

Due to his age and stage in life, people have been curious as to why PTE Smith has joined the ResF. He's keen to share his experiences with anyone who asks.

"I'm keen to talk about it because it actually helps me better understand my responsibility and my place in the scheme of things," he says.

"The achievement gives me a heightened sense of belonging beyond wanting stuff for myself. People get that notion of stopping for a moment and actively giving back to their community and our country. The notion of being proud of where we're from and the huge privilege we enjoy living in Aotearoa."

PTE Smith is looking forward to serving his country, assisting in disaster relief within both New Zealand and the Pacific as well as considering serving in places like Antarctica.



JOIN OUR WĀHINE AND TĀNE WĀNANGA

Come together to kōrero about our cultural diversity

Where: Rongomaraeroa o ngā hau e whā Marae (New Zealand Army National Marae) Waiouru

When: Wāhine Wānanga: 27–28 June
Tāne Wānanga: 18–19 July

Wānanga have a critical purpose within our learning journey where success, growth and the creation of a strong understanding can be achieved in a safe and supportive environment.

Both Wānanga are sponsored by our Deputy Chief of Army, Brigadier Rose King with the purpose being to provide an opportunity for Wāhine and Tāne at the 2LT to CAPT, PTE to SSGT and equivalent civilian levels to come together in a respectful and safe environment to share perspectives and develop an understanding of the cultural diversity across our NZ Army.

The aim is to bring together personnel from across Ngāti Tūmatauenga to help form a strong and culturally resilient organisation ready and able to represent Aotearoa New Zealand.

Nāu te rourou nāku te rourou ka ora ai te iwi

For any questions email army.peopleandculture@nzdf.mil.nz



Register to attend at <https://kea-learning.nz>

NZDF research reveals thousands of WWII campaign medals never claimed by veterans

For the first time since the 1950s, in-depth research has been carried out into how many Second World War campaign medals awarded to ex-serving New Zealand veterans were never claimed, and what may have led to this.

Recent media publicity has highlighted that approximately 15 percent of the Second World War campaign medals awarded to members of 28 (Maori) Battalion were never issued.

New research undertaken by New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) historian Matthew Buck reveals there was a low rate of uptake of medals by Army and Air Force veterans from across the New Zealand armed forces and those of other Commonwealth countries.

"According to my research, around 75 percent of New Zealand Army and Royal New Zealand Air Force veterans refused to apply for their Second World War campaign medals in the first few years after distribution began in March 1950.

"Given the importance placed on medals today, it's hard to fathom that only around a quarter of New Zealand Army and Royal New Zealand Air Force veterans claimed their medals by 1960. After that the take-up appears to have been nothing more than a dribble – less than a third of a percent annually," said Mr Buck.

There were only two exceptions to the pattern of low uptake uncovered by this research. They were Royal New Zealand Navy veterans, who received a special "Naval Prize Money" payment of £5 10s if they applied for their medals; and the families of the nearly 12,000 New Zealanders who died in the war, who received their medals automatically in the mail.

We don't know exactly how many Army and Air Force medals remain unissued because there were no general surveys of the rate of uptake after 1960. If this rate was similar to that of 28 (Maori) Battalion, however, we estimate around 22,000 New Zealanders who served overseas during the war may never have been issued their medals.

"The main reasons given by veterans for not claiming their medals were that, unlike First World War veterans, they were required to

apply for them and the medals were issued without their names, ranks and service numbers engraved on them. Many felt that this made their medals valueless," said Mr Buck.

"Most complaints from New Zealand veterans centred around having to go 'cap in hand' for something they'd earned, which they felt should have been awarded to them as of right. There was also a perception that it was vainglorious to apply for your medals.

"Others expressed the view that there were too many medals, and that they were awarded far too widely and to groups who they considered undeserving."

Mr Buck notes that, by comparison, there was an almost 100 percent uptake of war service gratuity payments, which in some cases could amount to the money needed for a house deposit.

The Government of the time adopted its course of action because of the sheer number of medals, and a five-year delay between the end of the war and the delivery of medals to New Zealand.

"It was estimated in 1950 that engraving all the medals would take six years. By this stage, moreover, the Government had become convinced that the low take-up of medals elsewhere in the Commonwealth showed that engraving the medals would do little to persuade veterans to apply for them," said Mr Buck.

Defence Historian John Crawford notes that the response should not be seen as surprising.

"By the early 1950s the Second World War was well over, and authorities were very focused on the war in Korea and the risk of it escalating. Those who had served were generally young men, now well established in civilian life with young families. Their military service was well behind them and they were past being told what to do by the military," said Mr Crawford.

"For many of these men there had been no glamour in what they had been through, with horrific and brutal memories and lost friends.

Moreover, everyone had served. They knew what their neighbours and friends had done in the war and they didn't need medals to know that."

Mr Crawford said that, three generations later, perceptions around the medals have changed and it is important they are claimed.

"They are no longer a statement of service to their peers, but rather a tangible connection to a group of men and women who have all but passed. The medals help keep alive their memory, encourage families to learn more, share their stories and wear the medals with pride."

The NZDF Personnel Archives and Medals team encourages families to enquire about whether medals have been issued. The team routinely checks for outstanding medallic entitlements whenever information is requested from a personal file.

For information on how to apply for medals, visit: Medal applications – New Zealand Defence Force (nzdf.mil.nz)

For information on service records, visit: Service records – New Zealand Defence Force (nzdf.mil.nz)



Defence historian Matthew Buck

NZDF PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE FREEDOM SHIELD 23-1

New Zealand Defence Force personnel took part in Exercise Freedom Shield 23-1, a readiness exercise to respond to crisis situations on the Korean Peninsula and enhance regional security.

The exercise was a simulated wargame led by the United States Forces Korea (USFK) and Republic of Korea (ROK). The United Nations Command (UNC) HQ is supported by the United Nations Sending States (UNSS) nations who provide additional personnel to the UNC HQ. Seven personnel from across the three services participated to cover various roles augmenting the HQ UNC.

The UNSS exercise participants had the opportunity to visit the Joint Security Area which involved a tour of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the border between North and South Korea.

NZDF Senior National Representative, Colonel Paul Curry said it was a privilege to participate on this exercise.

"We have a long standing and valued relationship with the UNC and we enjoy and benefit from opportunities like this one to train with the UNC HQ alongside the UNSS. This exercise provides essential development for our people to gain knowledge and skills within the UNC setting and to build strong professional and personal relationships with our UNC military whānau."

This iteration of Ex Freedom Shield introduced new scenarios which centred on defensive operations. There was a significant emphasis on Information Operations and learning opportunities linked to current conflicts. The exercise scenario spanned conventional operations to non-conventional and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. This allowed HQ UNC to develop procedures and functions that had not previously been exercised, such as medical evacuations and input from national command elements.

Exercise Freedom Shield achieved the outcome of increasing readiness of the UNC Alliance in response to a potential crisis on the Korean Peninsula, whilst enhancing interoperability and strengthening professional relationships with the contributing nations. Particular highlights were the visit to the DMZ, working alongside so many different contributing nations and experiencing the Korean culture and cuisine.



From left, W/O Glenn Whitley, SLT Chloe Andrews, MAJ Belinda Noonan, COL Paul Curry and SGT Matthew Lopdell.



TE OPE KĀTUA O AOTEAROA
DEFENCE FORCE

VOLUNTARY EDUCATION STUDY ASSISTANCE

Semester Three, 2023 applications are being accepted. You may submit your request for funding within 90 days of your study start date. Apply online (ILP) at Training & Education, New Zealand Defence College (NZDC), Learning Toolkit VESA Application (e-form).

Applicants should be aware of their responsibilities prior to making an application, IAW Defence Manual of Learning (DMoL), Part C, Chapter 2: Voluntary Education Study Assistance. This chapter of the DMoL and its subordinate process manual, replaces SADFO 3/2016 in relation to study that starts on or after 01 July 2023.

Other than a new policy to govern eligibility and study criteria, as mentioned above, VESA has:

- Increased postgraduate and undergraduate funding limits
- Introduced the option to study micro-credentials at Level 4 or higher, that sit on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework

Prior to starting the application process, applicants are to:

- Confirm the level of study is right for them with Defence Learning, NZDC
- Advise their 1-UP of their study intentions
- Provide supporting paperwork including study documentation from the official learning provider website (ready to attach to your e-form application)

Contact your local Adult Learning Tutor, Defence Learning, who can assist you with your application. If you have any queries, please email our Tertiary Services & Support Advisor at nzdclearnvesa@nzdf.mil.nz



HEI MANA MŌ AOTEAROA
A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

Cheating the peat, stopping choppers bogging on Campbell Island

By Dave Williams

Army engineering expertise could mean a future helicopter landing zone on a boggy sub-Antarctic Island.

During a recent Operation Endurance mission in HMNZS Canterbury to Campbell Island, members of 25ESS conducted a survey around the scientific encampment at Beeman Cove.

Campbell Island is known for its peat, the surface organic layer composed of partially decomposed plant matter, which has generally accumulated under waterlogged conditions.

At Col Lyall on Campbell Island, embarked Sir Peter Blake Trust researchers discovered the soggy peat, which is generally oxygen deficient and acidic, went down to a depth of 3.3 metres. In short, it's soft and deep and you wouldn't want to land a heavy helicopter in it for too long.

As such, Operation Endurance helicopter operations were limited to dropping underslung loads and touch-and-go deliveries of people and equipment using an RNZAF Seasprite helicopter from the ship's flight deck.

"They landed on this mission but the wheels sunk into the mud by about half a foot. It's not something you could regularly land and take off from," said Corporal Laochailan McGregor, section commander of 25ESS of the Royal New Zealand Engineers.

The plan is to establish a more suitable helicopter landing pad at Beeman Cove, the main centre of Campbell Island and the site of DOC and MetService buildings.

This will allow heavier helicopters, such as the NH90 and others, to properly land and unload.

So the NZ Army engineers on Op Endurance, in the short time they were on the island, evaluated three potential sites for the pad.

They were looking at the aerial approach and exit areas, site access and the layout of each site.

Lieutenant Levi Hibbert, troop commander of 2nd Field Squadron, Royal New Zealand Engineers, said the three sites were near an old storage building, a large grass field behind the camp and an old fuel storage concrete pad, which will need a further two tanks that need to be removed.

"We've got all the data we need from that so we just need to go away and do some calculations and reports and see which one would be the best," LT Hibbert said.



EOD EVALUATION WEEK

9-13 OCTOBER 2023

Are you looking to pursue a new challenge?

Do you want to be part of dynamic and operationally focussed team?

Does working with new and emerging technologies, and highly professional, motivated soldiers sound like the workplace for you?

E Sqn (EOD), 1NZSAS Regt are requesting nominations for the upcoming EOD trade Evaluation. Successful candidates will be fit, motivated, and highly disciplined soldiers capable of decisive action in complex and challenging environments.

You will also meet the following *minimum* requirements:

- Hold the rank of Private (Band 4)
- Have a full class one vehicle license
- Hold a confidential vetting security clearance
- Have a minimum medical grade of A4, G2, Z1 (RFL minimum G2)
- Complete the EOD evaluation week and an evaluation by an NZDF psychologist as suitable to operate as an EOD team member.

If you are successful, you will commence your EOD training at the next available opportunity.

Once qualified your future postings could include support to domestic, expeditionary, or special operations with locations in Auckland, Linton, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Further training and opportunities include:

- EOD Team Leader Qualification
- Tactical and Assault IEDD Training and Support to Special Operations
- Advanced EOD and High Threat IEDD Training
- CBRNE Training and Operations, and
- International Training and overseas Operational Activities.

If you want to find out more or apply, visit <http://org/nzsof/LP/Recruiting.aspx> and download your AFNZ 3 today.

For further information, please contact SSM, E Sqn (EOD), ESQN.EOD.SSM@nzdf.mil.nz

EOD are also now directly recruiting officers from any trade and any service. For officers wanting to pursue a career in EOD please contact OC, E Sqn (EOD) for further information on this process. ESQN.EOD.OC@nzdf.mil.nz
Nominations close Fri 29 September 2023.

Defence Public Affairs photographers have selected their favourite Army-related images to share with *Army News* readers, and here they explain how they got the shots.

These images are the work of Petty Officer Chris Weissenborn.

1



2



3



1. This shot was taken on Ex Cartwheel in Fiji, a very hot and humid day, and it took a while to drive up to the exercise area using my 4x4 driving skills. Focussing in on the eyes, and blurring out the background by using a narrow depth of field for me tells a story. In this case I captured a nice portrait of a soldier all cammed up that portrays professionalism in his environment.

2. Can be a bit tricky to get these sorts of photos, there's a lot going on, and when they get the green light things happen fast. For this shot, it's not like you can climb on a pair of step ladders to get a higher angle, so instead you have to just hold the camera high at arm's length, and hope it's well framed. I took a couple of test shots first to get the right flash balance with the outdoor lighting. The flash takes a short while to recycle before it can fire again, so timing is crucial.

3. Light was getting very low at the Landing Zone near RNZAF Base Woodbourne. I was provided with a pindrop on google maps, and an approximate time of the jump. The Hercules aircraft made several high passes before you could see the parachutes deploy, then I quickly made my way across a ploughed field to get the best angle. Some Photoshop editing has been done to this image to make it look more dramatic.

4. Another photo from Ex Cartwheel in Fiji, as I'm normally based with the Navy at Devonport, I don't always get the opportunity to cover Army exercises. I gained valuable knowledge about the way a mortar team operates, you can't just walk into the area where they are firing from, there are rules, regulations and a procedure that must be



followed. For this shot, a low angle and a very high shutter speed of 1/2000th of a second was used. Capturing the flash from the mortar round being fired was very tricky, so the shutter was pressed, and held down on the continuous setting just before the round was inserted.

EIGHT QUESTIONS

**Lieutenant Colonel
Vanessa Ropitini**



Being the only female soldier in a class of 30-odd men was like having 30 brothers, says LTCOL Vanessa Ropitini who commissioned from the ranks and is now Commanding Officer of 2 CSSB.

What influenced your decision to join the Army?

I grew up in the country in a working class family. I had an older sister and two younger brothers. We made our own fun, and led an active, outdoors lifestyle. Sport was a big part of my life and I didn't really want to give any of that up. When it came time to make a career choice, my small town world didn't really offer much. There was an Army Recruiting office down the road from where I lived, so I went in there to find out what being in the Army was all about. The recruiting NCO made it sound exciting and adventurous, so I applied to join.

Were their other careers you considered?

At the same time as applying for the Army I applied to attend Teacher's College in Hokowhitu to train as a PE Teacher. Back in those days they only selected 4-5 people to train per year. I missed out on selection after getting through to the interview stage. So effectively, the Army was my best/only option!

What was it like when you joined?

When I first joined, I realised that the recruiting NCO and the information he gave me did not actually educate me in what the Army was all about. I thought the Army was the Army, not different Corps/Trades, Officer/soldier. I was very naive and had very little understanding. Army life was a lot different to what it is now. People did not care what they said to one another, instructors were encouraged to make students feel stupid and insignificant, as it was believed that this would create a resilient and 'thick skinned' individual who could cope when faced with harsh conditions. It was also awesome to leave one family and march straight into another family. I was the only female in my

class of 30-odd males and it was like having 30 brothers. They were pretty protective I must say.

When I reflect on my early years in the Army, I can now see that I was dealt some harsh hands compared to that my male colleagues. I can't categorically say that was because I was a female, but it sure looked like it from my perspective. I wouldn't describe my journey in the Army to be a battle, but I sure have battled to get to where I am.

To be CO of a logistics battalion you would have to be, among other things, very well organised. Does the Army provide good training?

The NZ Army provides world class training. This has been demonstrated to me on numerous occasions, none more so than working with coalition partners on exercises and operations. Because we are such a small force, our soldiers and officers need to be able to multi-task and lend a hand where necessary. The bigger, richer, more equipped forces often write us off or underestimate our capabilities. Boy, do they get a surprise once they see how we operate and what we can achieve. I have learnt quickly that I need help to be organised now that I am a CO! There is so much to be across. There are six sub-units across the North Island, with 450+ people. It is very true when they say 10% of the people take up 90% of your time.

What have been some of your memorable deployments, and why?

I have to say all of my deployments have been memorable. I am a real people-person and thrive in an environment where I am meeting new and diverse individuals. This has occurred on all of my deployments. Being deployed on

operations gives me a sense of purpose and reinforces the point of difference being in the Army gives you. This is not a job, it is a lifestyle. That may sound corny but I believe it. You don't join the Army to get rich and famous, you join to serve, to do good, and do the things you would never get to do in a 'normal' job.

What are the challenges facing young soldiers today?

Our people are facing the same challenges as NZ society right now. The cost of living is very high compared to what it has been, and our remuneration has not kept pace with inflation. The soldiers and officers that have joined over the past three to four years are only now beginning to understand what it is like to be in the Army. Operation Protect was a different deployment, necessary, but challenging for our force. The attrition has left hollowness in the critical middle management level of our unit. We are very short of NCOs and CAPT-MAJ. The flow on effect is a lack of coaching and mentoring. The day to day interactions with those level people is taken for granted when they are there, but the impact felt acutely when they are not there. 2CSSB has a lot of amazing people putting in significant effort to make sure we can meet our outputs and provide support where it is required. They proved this spectacularly when the balloon went up after TC Gabrielle.

How do you stay in touch with what soldiers/young officers are thinking, feeling etc?

I have four children ranging in age from 13-23. They are very quick to keep me informed about what is important to their generation. That is the start point. Being present is the other way. As much as I can I try get out of my office and talk to

the soldiers and young officers. Not that they want to talk to me! Some of them appear uncomfortable or embarrassed that the CO is talking to them. I want them to know that it is really important for me to know them. To understand what their perception is about decisions, unit culture, and how we can do better. I might be the CO, but I certainly do not have all the good ideas and innovative thoughts. It was RNZALR Corps Day recently and it was so good to be out with the unit members enjoying each other's company and having fun!

What keeps you awake at night/ what do you do to relax?

I am too exhausted at the end of the day to stay awake! But binge watching Yellowstone sometimes keeps me awake at night. Seriously, I am really worried about the continued attrition. We can't do what we need to do without people. I want to support, protect and reward those that have stayed in, and want to reassure those that have left that the door is fully open for them to come back when they are ready. I am an active relaxer so my time for that is on the hockey field. I still play competitively in Wellington, thinking I can keep up with the young rabbits. It was pretty awesome last season, myself and my two daughters (14 and 18) played in the same team. All of my children are very sporty also, so watching them participate in their chosen sports is also good for the soul.

THE EYES AND EARS OF OUR ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

By Charlene Williamson

Electronics technicians are the eyes and ears of the New Zealand Army's electronics systems, responsible for the maintenance and repair of over 200 specialised electronic and optical systems.

Sergeant (SGT) Tearoa Wright, from 3rd Workshops Company, 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion based at Burnham Military Camp has been in the Army for 12 years.

Being an electronics technician appealed to him as it not only sounded interesting, but he also thought joining the Army would offer something different and challenging.

"I enjoy the feeling of fixing something that's broken and watching it go out the door and be used," he said.

In his current role, SGT Wright is the section head of the electronics technicians' section which involves ensuring that production outcomes are met, and apprentices are trained to a standard where they can work in first line workshops.

"As an electronics technician you can work on a variety of equipment such as sights (optical, night vision equipment, thermal), radios, Light Armoured Vehicles (LAV), and if you've done the course BIOMED and specialist artillery equipment."

The role involves a lot of fault-finding and diagnosis to ensure that Army electronic equipment is maintained to high operational standards, as well as inspecting, testing, maintaining and repairing communication systems.

SGT Wright says that variety is what he enjoys most about his role.

"Because we support a lot of different equipment, it keeps the job interesting. It isn't just the equipment that keeps the job interesting, it's the variety in what we do in the Army.

"I enjoy the fact that I can be sitting at a desk, fixing something on the bench, in the field supporting, on a course, and doing different thing on a semi-regular basis."

Electronics technicians are the experts on electronic equipment and are the go-to person if soldiers have questions about the equipment they are using.

As part of his apprenticeship SGT Wright gained a Diploma in electro technology, but now electronic technicians will work towards a New Zealand Certificate in Electronics Engineers Level 4 with the potential for more study as they progress through the ranks.

As an electronics technician he has been a part of a number of overseas exercises including the largest bilateral combined training activity between the Australian Defence Force and United States military, Exercise Talisman Sabre.

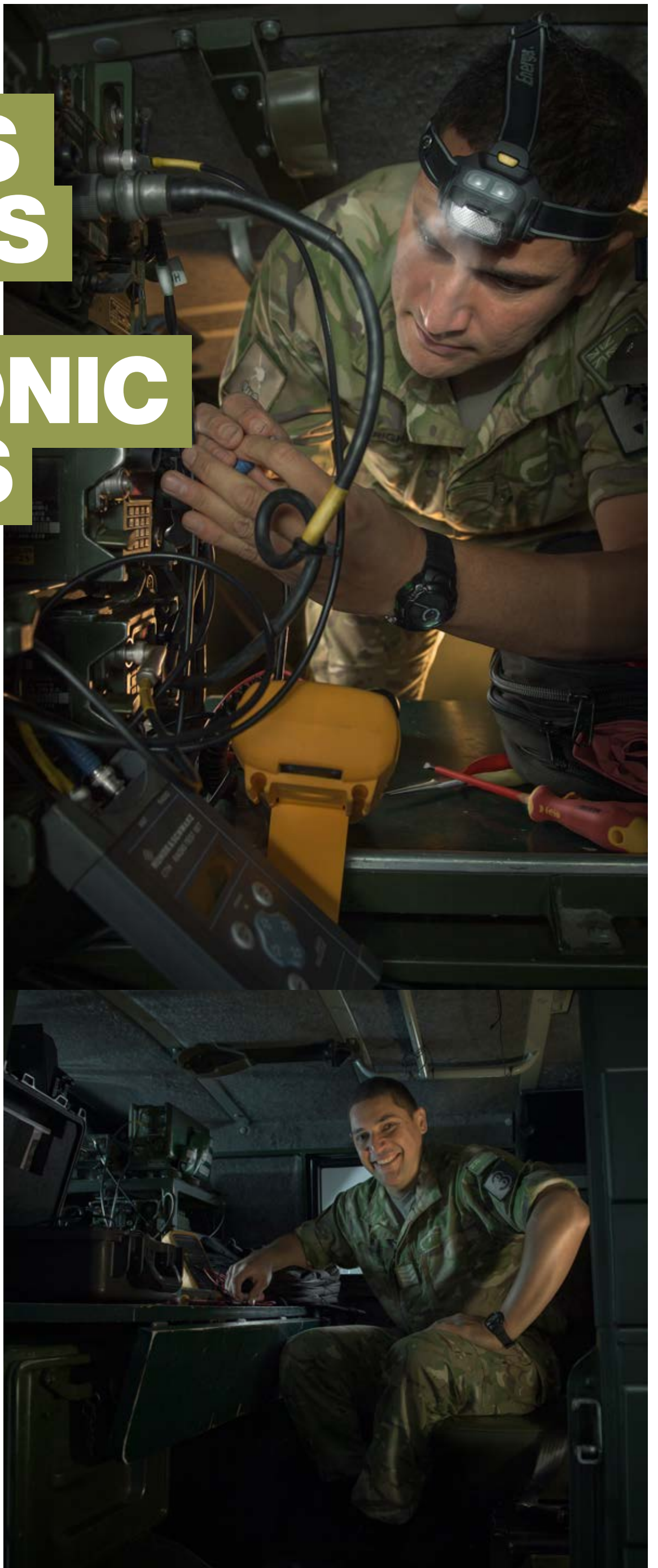
"I was the LAV Recovery Driver during that exercise as well as the electronics technician support.

"As the electronics technician support I was one of just two whose job it was to ensure the turrets on the LAV remained operational, as well as the communications and other equipment. This meant that we would diagnose faults that occurred and repair or replace faulty equipment," said SGT Wright.

He said, as an electronics technician, the thing he has most enjoyed working on is the NZ LAV.

"It is made of different systems all working together and sometimes when it faults, a small fault on an innocuous system can lead you down a very interesting rabbit hole."

For more information on joining as an electronics technician in the NZ Army visit defencecareers.mil.nz





5/7 Battalion hosts Central Area Cadets at Linton Military Camp

Soldiers from 5/7 BN hosted all Cadet Units from Central Area New Zealand Cadet Forces (NZCF) at Linton Military Camp (LMC) for a MARS-L familiarisation shoot and a range of other activities each year.

Cadets from 10 Army Cadet Units in the lower North Island (Central Area NZCF) descended on LMC for this event recently. With LMC's range currently out of operation for maintenance the MARS-L familiarisation shoot was conducted on the Mobile WTS range. The familiarisation shoot is conducted under one-on-one supervision with a shooting coach who puts the weapon to the state of action before passing to the cadet for the shoot. Apart from being an interesting experience for the cadets, several of them also passed on the shoot.

obstacles. Conducting it in the rain added to the challenge.

Cadets also visited the Military Police in LMC for an introduction into the role of MP's and an overview of search procedures. They then trained to search vehicles for contraband. All 12 sections locating most of the items of interest.

A regular activity is also to visit the LMC Fire station to work alongside engineers. This included kitting up in level-2s with Breathing Apparatus and each getting a chance to do a range of activities such as moving through fire or extinguishing a blaze. Cadets also used these skills to push through a pretend fire and extract a casualty. Additionally, the Sappers put them through a sensory deprivation activity removing touch and sight senses to simulate being in a smoke-filled building.

The Units also conducted their annual swim test and fieldcraft training on camouflage and concealment and correct hootchie setup.

At the end of the shoot 5/7 BN presented awards to the top shot, CDT Isaac Junc (City of Upper Hutt Cadet Unit) and to the cadet who best exemplified 3CI (values of both the NZDF and NZCF) CDTSSGT Esme Collett from Wellington City Cadet Unit.

LMC PTIs ran the cadets over the recently revamped confidence course with many cadets pushing their own personal limits and taking up the chance to attempt optional



CDT Isaac Junc from CUHCU being presented Top Shot for the weekend.

RESERVE FORCE Q & A

A regular column answering your questions about the NZ Army Reserve Force (ResF).

What questions do you have?
Send queries to timothy.sincock@nzdf.mil.nz

Seamless Transfer Regular Force Engagement (STRFE)

If a Manager/Unit is looking for an individual to help with projects or to fill essential vacant positions, you can email AGS.SBR.Cell@nzdf.mil.nz for an Expression of Interest (EOI) form. Once completed, the ResF Workforce Advisor (ResF WA), who manages the AGS Standby Reserve (SBR), will distribute the EOI form to those personnel in the SBR that meet the criteria.

If a suitable candidate is identified, the unit/manager will work with the ResF WA to offer the member a STRFE.

ResF – How to access free medical treatment for NZDF work related injuries

NZDF work related injuries to ResF members requiring medical treatment are covered by ACC. When the officer or soldier presents to a GP or A & E department, the requirement is to fill out an ACC form describing the work related incident, naming the employer as NZDF, and the claim will get passed automatically to NZDF AEP who will cover treatment surcharges.

It is not a requirement to see a NZDF health practitioner prior to filling in the ACC form.

Did you know...

Territorial Force (TF) is our correct name in accordance with the Defence Act 1990 which is why "Territorial Force" is still used in legislation and NZDF policy documents.

Reserve Force (ResF) is our preferred name and brand and is used internally, for example on our Human Resources systems (SAP) and in command directives, and externally, for example in public relations and recruiting. Using the title "Reserve Force" also aligns us with the term used by our Defence partners around the world.

Army Reserve (ARes) refers to the reserve liability (two or four years) incurred by most members of the RF or ResF on release. Members of the ARes may be activated by Proclamation of the Governor-General in time of war or emergency in NZ or overseas (see sections 2, 16 and 40 of the Defence Act 1990).

Questions answered ...

In the March issue of Army News, I saw information regarding financial benefits available through NZDF Benefits. How do we find more information please?

Answer: The NZDF has been in discussions with financial partners and stakeholders to provide you the most up to date financial support information available. NZDF offers presentations to Reserve Force units that can take place in the weekend or evenings.

If you would like to book a presentation at your unit, please email benefits@nzdf.mil.nz. NZDF Benefits require a notice period of four weeks.

What's happening?

The Interim Sustainment Allowance of \$50 is also for ResF:

CDF has approved the payment of an Interim Sustainment Allowance of \$50 in recognition of the valuable work that members of the NZDF do for New Zealand. The criteria for the new allowance will mirror the criteria for OEA-L and will

be in addition to the current rate of OEA-L of \$25.82. The payment will be backdated to the effective date of 17 Mar 23.

This payment is temporary while the review of allowances is undertaken and will conclude on 1 July 2024, or earlier if the overarching review is completed before then.

Our people

NEW PLAQUE REMEMBERS ETTIE ROUT, SAFE SEX PIONEER

A plaque to remember the work of World War One safe sex pioneer Ettie Rout is to be unveiled in the Rarotonga cemetery where she is buried.

The NZ Remembrance Army has arranged the plaque. Spokesperson Teresa Cousins said it was important to not forget the pivotal contribution Ettie made in keeping troops sexually safe in WWI. "Even if she was ostracised from society for doing so. She took her own life in Rarotonga thinking she was forgotten and unappreciated. The plaque unveiling shines a light on her genius in keeping our boys from unnecessary harm while away from NZ in Egypt and France."

Ettie Rout's grave is in the Avarua Cook Islands Christian Church cemetery.

Rout was a daring and adventurous woman who pioneered safer sex initiatives for New Zealand troops in WWI.

She designed a safer sex kit which was adopted by the New Zealand Army – and at her insistence it was compulsory: soldiers had to take one when going on leave. In Paris she set up safer sex brothel – and ran a total social and sexual welfare service for New Zealand troops.

She saw the high venereal disease rate among New Zealand soldiers as a medical problem, not a moral one. Telling the men not to take the risk of having sex clearly didn't work. She was accused of 'trying to make vice safe'. She answered, 'Why should it be left dangerous?' – as she developed methods that worked.



Ettie Rout is in the centre, hat-less.



Bugler Doug, 85, turns out no matter what

Cambridge bugler Doug Rose may be 85 but he has no intention of packing his musical instruments away.

The former New Zealand Army Band member's musical talents are in demand all year round, but particularly so on Anzac Day.

"I have always been in brass bands since I first picked up a cornet when I was nine," says Doug.

He enlisted in the New Zealand Army Band in 1967, and completed 15 years with the band. He then transferred to 16 Fd Regiment RNZA as Cadre NCO to the Artillery Band in Auckland for a further five years to complete 20 years service. He remains a member of the Cambridge Community Band, and the Matamata Brass Band.

"I love playing my cornet, and the camaraderie of being in a band. I consider it an honour to play on Anzac Day, and also to sound The Last Post at a veteran's funeral."

For the latter he uses a 1916 bugle. "It has a beautiful sound – there's nothing like it."





MANY HANDS MAKE HAPPY FEET

Two signallers got hands-on with little blue penguins at Napier Port.

They might be the world's smallest penguins, but they can still be a disgruntled handful when you want to take them from their nest and tag them.

A Napier Port penguin expert called on two soldiers to help with gently holding kororā /little blue penguins while she quickly applied a tag.

During the Cyclone Gabrielle relief operations, Signaller Aaron Mulligan and Corporal Torquil McLeod-Jones were at a temporary Army facility near Napier Port's kororā sanctuary when they were approached.

"This lovely lady came up to the Corporal and I and said, hey, would you guys be able to help us get a tracker into a penguin?" said SIG Mulligan.

"I thought, that's an offer you never get in your life."

Cautioned that penguins bite, the pair donned gloves. SIG Mulligan carefully extracted a seven-week-old chick from its nesting box and, with a bag placed over its head, the tracker was able to be injected and the penguin returned to its nest. CPL McLeod-Jones had his own close encounter shortly after.

The sanctuary, created in 2019, was reported as a world-first on-port penguin sanctuary in Hawke's Bay media. Despite the industrial nature of a port, it provides a safe space as it is free of threats like dogs, cats and humans.

According to the Napier Port's website, there are around 90 breeding pairs in the sanctuary.

EXERCISE BARDIA 23

After intensive pre-deployment training (PDT) in Burnham Military Camp, a Reserve Force (ResF) Platoon Group deployed on Exercise Bardia 23 recently.

The Platoon Group, comprised of personnel from each of the ResF Infantry Battalions, with attached support personnel, was to be integrated and train alongside 4th/3rd Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment (4/3 RNSWR) as part of the Australian Defence Force Exercise Waratah Run 23. This was conducted by 5 AS Brigade at the School of Infantry, Singleton Military Area.

The PDT consisted of a variety of training activities to set the scene for the onset of Exercise Bardia 23 including a mobilisation bullring activity to check deployment status, weapons zero, both by day and night, and section and platoon tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) standardisation, focusing on teamwork, group dynamics, communication, and preparing for battlefield tasks.

The Force Element was enabled to confirm employment of the Mini Image Intensified Night Vision System and Advanced Target Pointer Illuminator Aiming Device. Section training included blank field firing, fire and movement, and, as a platoon, training in tactics, techniques and procedures. The platoon then went through country briefs on understanding climatic conditions, being prepared medically and the general layout and concept of Exercise Warratah Run 23.

"The PDT was conducted successfully, from the point of view of both trainers and soldiers. The programme was clear and well-structured allowing all ResF participants to concentrate in Burnham, mobilise and prepare as an integrated Platoon Group, and in line with normal deployment standards," said Contingent Warrant Officer, WO2 Dion Beker.

The Reserve Force Platoon Group deployed by RNZAF 757 to Richmond RAAF base, Sydney, and taken from there to Holesworthy Army Camp to concentrate with 4/3 RNSWR personnel and prepare for the theatre induction phase.

THE INVICTUS JOURNEY 2023

By Charlene Williamson

The Invictus Games is the only international adaptive sporting event for Injured, Wounded, or Ill (IWI) current and former service men and women.

The Games use the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate broader awareness of the physical and psychological injuries sustained by those who dedicate their lives to the service of their country.

In 2023, The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is sending a 22-strong team to compete at the Invictus Games in Germany. The sixth Invictus Games will take place in Düsseldorf from 9–16 September 2023. The team is made up of both serving and ex-serving members, including veterans, of the NZDF.

It has been a long road for this team, having mostly all been selected in 2019 for the 2020 Games which did not go ahead due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Major General (MAJGEN) John Boswell, Head of Mission of the 2023 Team said when he was given the opportunity to be Head of Mission for the 2023 Games in Düsseldorf he didn't hesitate.

"I have always looked to be involved in sport either as a competitor, administrator, spectator or manager. What a great opportunity to follow my passion whilst at the same time supporting our IWI."

He said all our service men and women have his utmost respect, but none more so than our IWI community.

"It's great that NZDF is able to provide our IWI with the opportunity to represent our Defence Force at an internal event of the profile of the Invictus Games.

"From a personal perspective, to be in a position where I can support that community with their recovery and rehabilitation is both humbling and a great honour.

"I am absolutely determined to give the group of athletes who are representing our defence force at Düsseldorf this year the best possible experience, as both individuals and as a collective, that I possibly can," he said.

Commander Julie Fitzell, 2023 Invictus Team Manager said she is grateful for the opportunity to manage the team that will travel to Düsseldorf in September.



The Chief of Army, Major General John Boswell teams up with Melissa Hansen for a game of table tennis.

"I believe my role is to create a safe, supportive and trusted environment for each sporting competitor to have the best opportunity at preparing themselves on their journey to recovery and rehabilitation.

"If I can be a key enabler in helping each of our competitors along in their journey, then I am doing my job as a manager."

The New Zealand Team are sponsored by Fulton Hogan and Dynasty.

Jules Fulton, Executive General Manager – Culture at Fulton Hogan said they first got involved with Invictus through their involvement with the Limited Service Volunteer (LSV) Programme.

"Willie Apiata, VC, who champions both LSV and Invictus came and spoke to our Senior Managers Meeting in 2015 and gave us an excellent overview of the programme and what it meant to those who serve or have served.

"It is important for Fulton Hogan to support causes such as Invictus because it is tangible commitment to our purpose of Creating, Connecting, and Caring for Communities."

Dynasty first started working with the New Zealand team in 2015 and the relationship has continued since. They have outfitted our teams and their families since 2016 with all the kit and clothing they need while competing and

supporting at the Games.

Tyler Rakich, Dynasty Co-Founder said as business they are right behind the cause and the team.

"It's massive for us. The role we play with our partners is to give the best kit possible so they can succeed at whatever they're doing. For the New Zealand Invictus Team it's extra special because of what the people wearing the kit have done for their country.

"We love seeing the team wearing our New Zealand brand on the world stage. The athletes and their families all have amazing and inspiring stories."

The team, who haven't been together as a collective for a few years enjoyed reconnecting with each other, and getting in some valuable training time recently in Burnham. With just under six months till the Games in Düsseldorf, the team is fired up and rearing to go as they each focus on their individual and team sports.

MAJGEN Boswell said a great quote from a US athlete on the Invictus Games website sums up what it mean to be a part of Invictus.

"Up until my awareness of the Invictus Games, all I had been doing was living in memories. In my mind my life has been over and I was just waiting to be done because I'm not capable of doing or living like I used to. I'm starting to think, that my game has just begun"



"Train hard team, compete well, and let's have fun doing it – the game has just begun," said MAJGEN Boswell.

Under the motto "A HOME FOR RESPECT" the city of Düsseldorf, together with the German Armed Forces, will welcome 500 competitors from more than 20 nations as well as around 1,000 family members and friends to compete in ten disciplines.

The team's journey can be followed on [facebook.com/NZInvictusTeam](https://www.facebook.com/NZInvictusTeam) and keep an eye out for more on our team as they progress towards Germany.

Did you know the team has its own haka?

In 2017 the Toronto team debuted the Invictus haka in Canada. The haka, written by former team member Darren O'Callaghan, is inspired by the Invictus Poem written by William Ernest Henley in the late 19th Century.

"Ko au te Rangatira o taku aitu, o taku wairua" – "I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul".

Our team:

Stacey Adam

Jack Church

Michael Cotton

Stevin Creeggan,

Jared Davidson

Paulette Doctor

Leigh Gurney

Soren Hall

Melissa Hansen

Tira Kaa

Stephen Limbrick

Buffy Little (co-captain)

Caroline Mitchell

Adam Modd

Quintin Monk

Robert Pearce (co-captain)

Daphne Pringle

Jason Rapana

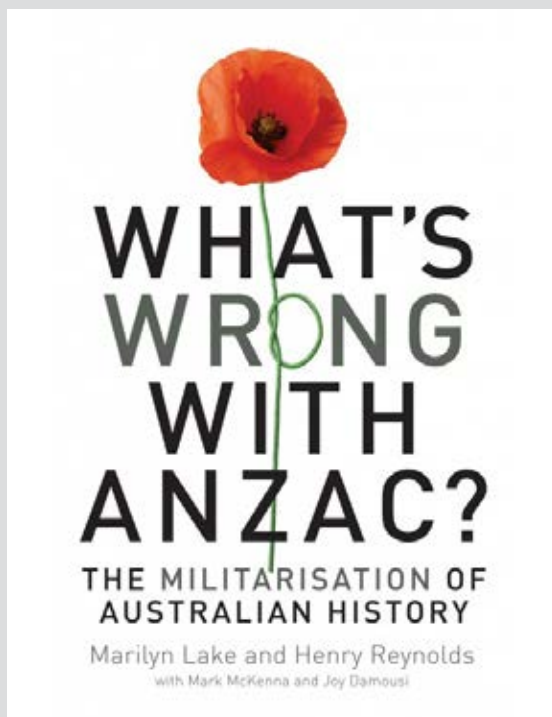
David Sanderson

Sonny Tavake

Lindsay Thomas

Andrea McNabb

BOOK REVIEWS



What's wrong with Anzac? The Militarisation of Australian History

By Marilyn Lake and Henry Reynolds with Mark McKenna and Joy Damousi

Published by University of new South Wales Press, 2010

So what is "wrong" with Anzac Day? ...well, nothing with the day itself or the concept of marking and commemorating sacrifice, but, if you accept what these authors have to say then quite a bit with what the day has become. Both books are Australian and present and discuss what the authors see as problems with the way Australian society sees, understands and acknowledges Anzac.

As you can see from the publication dates, neither of these titles are new. Anzac Day has long been a sacred cow, the assumption that there could be anything "wrong" with it, or the way we mark it seems almost somehow sacrilegious. In Australia, ANZAC (note – all in upper case refers to the military formation) has, for sometime, been "used" by politicians to define what it means to be Australian. Anzacs have been placed on a plinth as a group to be looked up and emulated in all aspects of life – theirs was a noble sacrifice and we'd all be better people if we were more like them, or so went the political liturgy.

The first book, as you might expect given the publisher, was written by academics and caused a storm of outrage when it was first published... "How DARE these people who have never even worn a uniform for their country question anything about it!"...but question they did. Academics can, and do, often hold a critical

mirror up to the society they are part of and that's what they've done here. The primary issue they have is with the way history has become distorted and, they claim, Australian military veterans have become beyond reproach.

Each chapter has been contributed by an academic with an interest in the field and frankly some of them clearly don't understand the military and/or have a beef with the teaching of any history involving the wearing of uniforms and use of weapons. That being said though, some of the points made about the way Australian military history has been co-opted for political ends or is taught in place of other types of history seem quite valid and make for good rational discussion.

Overall it is an interesting and relatively quick read, I can just about guarantee you won't agree with everything in it, but it WILL make you think. You might think "these people are bloody idiots", but equally you might think there is some validity to some of what they say.

"Anzac Day has morphed into a sort of military Halloween. We have Disneyfied the terrors of war like so many ghosts and goblins. It has become a day when some dress up in whatever military costume might be handy. Where military re-enactors enjoy the same status as military veterans. The descendants of citizen soldiers swell the ranks of parades their grandfathers might have avoided, claiming their share of the glory and worship, swimming in a sea of nostalgia. Sort through all this and you'll find the servicemen and women increasingly standing to one side. Those who have fought fiercest in Uruzgan's narrow green valleys and on its vast brown hills forgo their uniforms more often than not. They don't want honour that rides with hubris. Or glory bestowed by a society that fetishizes war but doesn't know the first damn thing about fighting it. A surfeit of honour can scar today's returning soldiers as much as insults scarred our Vietnam veterans."



Anzacs's Long Shadow The Cost of Our National Obsession

By James Brown

Published by Redback, 2014

The second book is altogether more groundbreaking. James Brown is a former Australian Army Officer with operational service in Iraq and Afghanistan. His primary thesis here is that Anzac has become dangerously distorted in the public imagination and understanding due to political hi-jacking and the gradual decline in the understanding of the nature of operational service. Because so few members of modern Australian society wear, or have worn a uniform their understanding of military service and what it entails comes from movies, or literature or 100 other sources which do not speak with an authentic veterans voice, thus misrepresenting service. As a result veterans have turned their backs on Anzac events increasingly run by people seeking to venerate their own grandparents, who have a rose tinted understanding of what those grandparents did, or, more importantly that there are people in their own communities, who thanks to service in places like Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq could greatly aid that understanding.

Brown wrote this book in the lead up to the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings. He was, as a recent veteran, especially critical of the amount of money spent to commemorate the dead, when such money was conspicuous only by its absence from the budgets of organisations dedicated to providing mental and physical help to living veterans.

But some of this is not just an Australian phenomenon. In New Zealand we also see, with the passing of the WWII generation, Anzac Day parades run by community groups and others who don't have a veteran's

understanding of what service means or entails, but who misrepresent the deeds of their ancestors and earlier generations while ignoring the lived realities of their own neighbours.

Brown's perspective is, I believe, best understood and explained in the quote from his introduction above. There is a lot in what he has to say, as a veteran of contemporary operational service, which will resonate with fellow contemporary veterans. I hope this book becomes widely read.

Book reviews by Jeremy Seed



SOLDIERS OFFICIATE AT THE 2023 BUNNINGS NEW ZEALAND TOUCH NATIONALS

Four NZDF Touch referees played a part in the annual New Zealand Touch Nationals held in Palmerston North last month.

The four-day competition involved gender and mixed provincial teams competing in the Opens and Masters Grades, some 1,500 competitors, watched by over 7,000 spectators spread across 15 fields, and officiated by 97 NZ National Touch Referees. The NZDF were represented among the referee contingent by CAPT Jonty Hooson, WO1 Mario Ropitini, WO2 Stace Bannister-Plumridge and CPO Taua Rewi (Navy).

Our referees had their own personal goals and aspirations leading into the competition including upgrades, rankings and finals appointments. They averaged three games a day, assessed by the National Referee Coaching Panel, who evaluated on and off field performances. The referees exceeded all expectations, achieving the following accolades:

- CAPT Hooson:** Open Level 4 upgrade, and named in the NZ National Referee Development squad.
- WO1 Ropitini:** Appointed the 45 Men's final, Senior Level 4 upgrade, and NZ National Masters High Performance Referee squad.
- WO2 Bannister-Plumridge:** Appointed the 40 Men's final, Senior Level 4 Upgrade, and NZ National Masters High Performance Referee squad.

All three Army referees will be considered for the Federation International Touch (FIT) World Cup selection to be named in April 2023. The FIT World Cup will be held at The University of Nottingham, England in July 2024.

WO2 Bannister-Plumridge said as officials, it was their chance to give back to the game of Touch. "Having our own Army/NZDF referees, means we can provide a high level of officiating for our own inter unit/ship/base and Inter-Services Touch tournaments.

"For those thinking of hanging up their playing boots, or who desire to be involved with Touch Refereeing, feel free to contact any one of us, and we'll steer you in the right direction. Finally thank-you to the NZDF WO, WO1 Mark Mortiboy, DSD for coming along to the opening ceremony to tautoko our teams and referees and for the NZDF Sport committee for supporting us on our journey, ngā mihi nunui rawa."



WO2 Bannister-Plumridge



WO1 Ropitini



Captain Hooson

WANDERERS' CRICKET A SOCIAL HIGHLIGHT

The historical Army vs Wanderers cricket match took place recently.

The Wanderers' Cricket Club's first association with the NZ Army was to assist with reintegrating returning service men from World War Two.

First played during the 1946/1947 cricket season and continuing into the early 1980's, the match was played semi-regularly before gradually fading away. In April 2021, headed by Brigadier Hugh McAslan and ex-test cricketer Evan Gray, the fixture saw a re-emergence coinciding with the Army's 175th and Wanderers' 75th anniversaries.

The Wanderers won the toss and chose to field first, putting the Army up to bat on an uncertain pitch and slow outfield which offered a challenging innings for the batsmen. After 40 overs the Army side scored 152 runs with 9

wickets lost, a decent score for the Wanderers to chase down. Due to some great catches from the Army side the Wanderers managed 116 runs all out.

Overall it was a great day for both sides with the top players being Hewson (Wanderers) managing four wickets, and Parkinson (Wanderers) with 43 runs from 63 balls. A social night at the Officers Mess concluded the day and talk of continuing the annual match was paired with drinks and friendly banter.

The Wanderers Cricket Clubs Charter is to promote the sport, with a current focus on supporting the growth of youth and women's cricket.



NZDF WOMEN'S INTER-SERVICES RUGBY 2023

Nominations are being called for the NZ Army Women's Rugby Team to contest Inter-Services 2023 in Woodbourne OTP 1 – 5 May 23.

Those players interested are to contact WO2 Alan Brill DTel 3436420 or Alan.brill@nzdf.mil.nz





Army PTI and Hurricanes POU fullback Corporal Chrystal Mayes on a mission.

Photo: Mags Media NZ