



# CONTACT

*Official Journal of*

## New Zealand Vietnam Veterans Association Inc.

*Representing Vietnam Veterans and their Families*

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### THE LAST POST



42569	L/Cpl PJ McCaughan (Peter) V6 RNZIR	15/01/20	44808	Gnr PJ Boylan (Peter) 161 Bty RNZA	10/01/21
30202	Lt Col (Rtd) KC,Fenton (Ken) HQ V Force	20/12/20	43972	Pte WKW Tamihana (Tami) V5	21/01/21
308185	L/Cpl D. Condon (David) 161 Bty RNZA - W3	23/12/20	40790	Cpl VL Lalonde (Vince) V4 & V5 RNZIR	31/01/21
805582	L/Cpl MS Rouse (Murray) V6 RNZIR	09/01/21	41991	Gnr MG Bell (Dingo) 161 Bty RNZA	05/02/21

44212	Pte MJ Mengelberg (John) V6 RNZIR	07/02/21	79021	MALM (Rtd) RK Brumfit (Rob) 41 Sqn RNZAF	21/02/21
43791	Pte FS Williamson (Fraser) V5 RNZIR	15/02/21	942913	Pte BP Abernethy (Bruce) V6 RNZIR	12/03/21
31358	Col WP Riley (Rtd) Walter Visitor	16/02/21	63634	JD Munro (John) V6 RNZIR	17/03/21
300832	Cpl FE Hart (Fred) W2 RNZIR	17/02.21	775104	WO2 GP Eyles (Graeme) 1NZATTV	17/03/21

E kore rātou e kaumātuatia  
 Pēnei i a tātou kua mahue nei  
 E kore hoki rātou e ngoikore  
 Ahakoa pehea i ngā āhuatanga o te wā  
 I te hekenga atu o te rā  
 Tae noa ki te aranga mai i te ata  
**Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou**  
**Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou.**

They shall grow not old,  
 as we that are as we who are left grow old:  
 Age shall not weary them,  
 nor the years condemn.  
 At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
 We will remember them,  
**We will remember them**  
**We will remember them.**



### LEST WE FORGET

The compilation of information as detailed in this 'Last Post' is to the best of our knowledge, an accurate account of our findings.

However, our sincere apologies if this is proved not to be the case. Please advise of any amendments or additions as necessary *and we will take the appropriate action*

Death of a Vietnam Veteran: If you know of the passing of a Vietnam Veteran (whether a member of our association or not), please contact the secretary. She/he will disseminate the information and where possible, a representative of the association will attend the funeral.

Editors Note: Post 20 March 21 Last Post entries will be published in the next edition of the Contact Magazine



## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

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*The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Association.*

Welcome to this, the March 2021 issue of the Contact Magazine. The next issue of the Magazine is due out in June 2021.

### Incoming Correspondence

The following is a letter from a United States Vietnam Veteran. I know it will be of interest to many of you.

*My name is Rick Sullivan and I am a Vietnam Veteran. I am reaching out to let you know we are hosting an online event to honor the military service of Vietnam Veterans.*

*On Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm (Eastern Time – USA), Gilchrist will be presenting our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration. This year is going to be special as we are creating a moving video message for Vietnam Veterans. For the first time we will be able to reach Vietnam veterans and their families not only in our state but across the United States and around the globe.*

*Would you be able to share the attached invitation to this virtual celebration with veterans and others involved with your organization?*

*The video is powerful, meaningful, and heart felt. We have a very moving interview with Joe Galloway, one of America's premier war correspondents. Mr. Galloway became the only American civilian to receive the Bronze Star with "V" because of his heroism during the Battle of la Drang in November of 1965. We also have a fascinating story of an airman and an orphaned Vietnamese baby during the Vietnam War. In addition, we have salutes from representatives of all of the branches of the military and a message from Maryland Governor Hogan. For more information and to register for this free event, go to:*

**["Welcome Home Celebration"](#)**

*'Press CTRL on the keypad and hover cursor on the link' and 'Click'*

*I look forward to hearing from you and hoping you can help us spread the word about this celebration to our fellow Vietnam Veterans and their families.*

*Be safe and well,*

*Sincerely,*

**Rick Sullivan**

USMC 1967-70 & Vietnam Veteran

Gilchrist Military Veteran Volunteer

\*\*\*

### Our National Reunion 06-09 Dec 21

This is the topic that we are currently focusing on. Included in this Contact Magazine is information for you to ponder on and start your planning and preparation. There are still action items that we are working on, and will need additional time to resolve. We will endeavour to minimise these factors as best we can.

### ANZAC Day 2021

Who cannot forget ANZAC 2020, we stood on the streets of our homes to pay homage to those warriors who had paid the supreme sacrifice so that we may live in freedom. It was humbling to see so many people honouring our 'Fallen' in this way. Fantastic effort across Aotearoa. So what does ANZAC 2021 have installed for us?. We'll just have to play it out. Covid 19 being the deciding factor.

### The Onward Bar Taupo

Wowww' this is a Roopu on the move. I've heard so much about the Onward Bar and there's no shortage of praise and support for whom they are and what they represent. The word has spread far and wide. Firstly I commend the founder , Gary Brandon AKA Johnny Slash and his foresight for bringing his dream to fruition. I hear people saying 'This is the place' As I write this article and at this present time I see the membership of the Onward Bar approaching 3000. Now that's saying something.

Click on the link below to watch a video between Johnny Slash and Dion Jensen of 'Success for Soldiers' - 'The Lion Academy'. It gives an excellent overview of The Onward Bar Taupo journey

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fD84sHwxmUM>**

We will be heading that way to honour ANZAC Day 21.

I close with this quote from Steve Buyer

*For those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, we are grateful, that such man and woman were amongst us.*

*For those who continue to serve, we honour their commitment.*

*For those who return to civilian life, we honour your service.*

**Nā Victor Timu**

NZVVA Comms



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

### THE PRESIDENTS PATCH

Wow, how time flies.

Kia ora all,

Hope you are all conforming to the protocols of Covid 19. Us up here in Tamaki / Auckland are not adjusting well to the lockdowns. Great coats on, great coats off. A sign of the times and we just have to get used to it. Sounds familiar, and we survived.

Talking about “old”, while I was in Christchurch / South Island, 17 Jan – 19 Feb (visited Queenstown, Westport, Westport RSA, Rangiora RSA and Templeton RSA ) I dropped in on a few old faces, met new ones. What a good catch up. That West Coast, beautiful place, and the sun was out most of the time I was there.

While in Christchurch Lucky Munro and I did recce's for accommodation, various venues and support from Burnham Camp. It's definite, all else permitting, the New Zealand Vietnam Veterans National Reunion will be held in Christchurch from Monday 6 Dec – Thursday 9 December 2021.

Refer to the Commemorations/Memorials/Reunions Rep on page 8 for futher details

The 9th December 2021 is significant in that it marks 50 years to the day the last Rifle Company, Victor Six (V6), was withdrawn from the Republic of South Vietnam. Christchurch being the departure point for the RNZIR Infantry Companies made this the logical choice of venues for staging our National Reunion 2021.

I can recall that the New Zealand Vietnam Veterans have paraded down Auckland once and twice through Wellington, but never in Christchurch.

Time is moving on, and so has life challengers. In view of this it is timely to advise that those veterans over the 75% NZ Veterans Disabilty threshold, that you may use the Travel Concession from Veterans Affairs. We recommend that you go to the NZ Veterans Affairs website and check it out.

### **The Manurewa RSA - Home of the NZVVA**

On a seperate note, we're proud to announce, the Manurewa Returned Services Association is now the official home of the New Zealand Vietnam Veterans Association A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed, sealed and delivered. An excellent rapport has been established amongs both parties and is marked with NZVVA flag flying proudly for all to see.



We are also fortunate to be able to store our administrative documentation and merchandise on the premises making it more economical, accessable, and convenient for our purposes.

Planning is uderway to install a TV Monitoring Screen, interfaced with speakers and cameras in order to faciliate Zoom Meetings and Powerpoint Presentations. This equipment will be made available to be used at the discretion of both the NZVVA and Manurewa RSA.

The Association acknowledges the Manurewa RSA President, Cliff McMahon and his 'Team for their past, present and future support.

Well guys, e hoa ma, that's me for now, take care , stay safe and keep in touch. Noho ora mai.

#### *He Whakatauki / Proverb*

*Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi*

*With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive*

By working together we can all flourish

**Andy Peters**  
**NZVVA National President**



**TE KOOKONGA  
KAUMAATUA  
Kaumaatua Corner  
Ronald Miki Apiti**

Kawhia Moana  
Kawhia a Kai  
Kawha a Tangata.  
He hokinga atu ki tooku nei ukaipo.

Kawhia by the sea  
Kawhia Food abundance  
Kawhia People of the multitudes.  
Returning to my birth place.

The above proverb relates to the people of Tainui Waka living in Kawhia centuries ago prior to them dispersing to the four winds of Aotearoa / New Zealand and it also relate to my returning home.

I retired from working 15 January 2021 and sold my home at Weymouth Auckland, and brought a retirement Bach in Kawhia.

Saturday 26 February 2021, I was invited by David Stone, The Principal -Te Mata Law Ltd, Barristers and Solicitors Chancellors, to attend a Special presentation of medals at Pakipaki, Hastings, by the Defence Force to four families of soldiers who have passed on who served in D Company of the 28 Maori Battalion, who never received their Medals on their return home from WW2.

Present was Mr Robert Bom Gillies of Te Arawa the only surviving member of B Company of the 28 Maori Battalion. The Rt. Hon, Meka Whaitiri, Minister for Veteran Affairs, including Defence Force, Navy, Army and Airforce, fellow veterans and the public, Total of over 300 people attended to witness this historical event.

17 April 2021, is the next presentation at C. Company Building, Gisborne. 50 to 60 families will be presented to receive medals from Defence Force that their fathers and uncles who served in C Company, 28 Maori Battalion also did not receive their medal's on returning home to Aotearoa / New Zealand.

The question was asked why? There are many theory's, I was told that, many changed their name and age so they could join the Army, so on their return home they either return to their original name or address unknown. Another was that, members of the 28 Maori Battalion preferred to have the medals presented rather than have it mailed to them. My late father in-law who was shot in

the hip by a German Stuka dive bomber, used to say to my son, He did not want his medals because it did not put bread on the table. My father in-law went on to become a very successful farmer at Omori Tokaanu, Turangi. He was Tiger Raroa of Ngaati Porou who served in C.Company 28 Maori Battalion.

This kaupapa was the brainchild of David Stone, Ngaati Kahungunu, Pakipaki ki Heretaunga. Three years ago, while at home on Annual leave, he asked his father if he had his grand-uncle's medals, his father said no, so with the relevant information he received from his father he rang Medal Section Wellington. Medal Section told him that, according to their records his grand-uncle never received them. From this information David said quote "I started to wonder how many more did not receive their medals. So began the long arduous task researching and found that well over 300 did not receive their Medals who served in the second world war. So, he decided to concentrate only on the 28 Maori Battalion because this is the unit his grand-uncle served in.

He never ever received any funding from Government. He did take his kaupapa to the Waitangi Tribunal and it was put before the Crown and was turned down. And it became a one-man crusade. He rang me who should he contact at Medal Section, I told him to contact Jack Hayes who may help him. And his research went from there. He kept updating me of where he was at and also went on National TV to promote what he was doing and including Radio Waatea.

His efforts have been rewarded with Defence Force presenting the Medals to the families and will continue around the country.

At Pakipaki I was asked by one of the public at the hui, "if perhaps David may have opened up a can of worms", I said "no I do not think so, because this kaupapa is not only for the 28 Maori Battalion but also other Battalions who served in the New Zealand Division during World War 2 and I do believe it will be on-going, but it will be up to their representative to do their own research, I would imagine..

My relationship with David. He and my son went to Hato Paora College in Feilding and both went on to University. David went onto Law School Wellington University and my son Waikato University studying GIS. David also represents my tribe at the Waitangi Tribunal Hearings and so do my son with Mapping.

In terms of our Rifle Company reunions this year 2021; I understand that Victor Three Company will be holding

their Reunion in Christchurch in June including Victor Two in November at Te Awamutu and Victor Six who will celebrate to honour and remember their withdrawal from Vietnam 50 years ago in Christchurch 10 – 14 December 2021.

My apologies to the other Companies and units, as I do not have their reunion dates.

Our National Body, 'New Zealand Vietnam Veterans Association' (NZVVA), will also hold our National Reunion in Christchurch 6 – 9 December 2021.

Finally, I am enjoying my retirement in Kawhia.

Ngaa mihinui,  
**Ronald Miki Apiti**  
Kaumaatua NZVVA & RNZR&SA.

\*\*\*\*



**JOKERS CORNER**  
**Laughter the Best Medicine**

Two Infantry Officers were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up....

A technician walked by and asked what they were doing. "We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole", said one officer, 'But we don't have a ladder."

The technician said, 'Hand me that wrench out of your toolbox.'

He loosened a few bolts, then laid the pole down. He then took measuring tape from their toolbox, took the measurement and announced, "Eighteen feet, six inches" and walked away.

The second officer shook his head and laughed and said: "Look at this bloody civilian, We needed the height and this fool gave us the length!"

\*\*\*

My dad used to get shot from a cannon at the circus. When he retired they had to close the show.

They couldn't find another man of his caliber.

\*\*\*

An artillery captain was made a saint by the Catholic Church.

One could say he was cannonized,



**FROM THE DESK  
OF THE TREASURER**

**Membership Subs – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31 March 2022**

It is that time of the year when membership subscriptions are due for the 2021/2022 year. Thank you to those who have already paid or have paid in advance for additional years, your membership cards should have been received by now.

If you have not received an up-to-date card showing "Expires 2021/2022" or later recently, it means that your membership expires on 31 March 2021. To continue being a member of the Association, please send \$20 to PO Box 72260, Papakura, Auckland 2244 or direct credit the amount into the Association's bank account. The details are:

BNZ, Papakura  
02-0400-0504697-00

As soon as we receive your subs, your membership card will be mailed out to you. For those members who receive their Contact by email, confirmation of your current postal address will ensure that your card is posted to the correct address.

If you have any questions about your membership, please email me at  
[treasurer@nzvietnamveterans.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@nzvietnamveterans.org.nz)

**Cheques**

As you are probably aware, banks are phasing out cheques. This means as from the end of June the Association's bank which is the BNZ, will no longer accept any cheques that we would normally receive from our members for subs or purchases from Q Store for deposit into our account.

Please ensure that if you intend to make a payment by cheque, that we receive it before this date.

All payments after this time will need to be made by internet banking or by depositing by a terminal at a BNZ branch. You can do this without having a card by putting the bank account details in.

Please remember to put your details, name and service number so that I can match up the transaction to the correct member. An email confirming that you have put the money in the account would also be helpful if you are able to do this.

**Carol Taylor**  
**NZVVA Treasurer**



**FROM THE DESK OF  
THE WELFARE REP  
'Strive & Thrive'**

Kia ora koutou e te whanau o Te Ope Kātua O Aotearoa

Tēnēi te mihi mahana nui ki a koutou.

Kei te manakitanga pai kia koutou i tēnē wā.

Hi, to all our Defence Force Personnel  
Much warm greetings to you all at this time

I have heard on numerous occasions that we're getting older. Some even saying 'we're over the hill and on the pill'. Well, that kind of thinking is not in my DNA. I'm inclined to go with the adage, 'That when the going gets tough, the tough get going' At the end of the day we have a choice. What inspires me to take up the challenge are my Tamariki, Mokopuna (Children, Grandchildren) Now that's a powerful incentive in anybody's book.

**He whakatauki tēnēi - Here is a proverb**

*Kaua e mate wheke me mate ururoa*

*Do not die like an octopus, instead die like a hammerhead shark.*

That is to say, 'Do not give up so easily, instead fight until the bitter end'

**Warrant of Fitness**

I saw an interesting post on Face Book, It set out to encourage people to go to their GP and ask for a Warrant of Fitness. I liken it to a Body of Fitness. It was said with a hint of humour, but it made a helluva lot of sense to me. This came about because of a young soldier in Australia who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Could earlier medical intervention resulted in a more favourable outcome? we will never know. So 'Team' if in doubt, shout' Go for your 'Body of Fitness' as soon as possible.

**Challenging Health Issues**

We are hearing of many of our veterans who are in a medical facility and facing very challenging health issues, On a positive note, it is encouraging to hear that our fellow veterans are visiting their 'Buddies' and are telling others to do the same. The comment was made that 'I want to see my buddy now and not at a Tangi/Funeral' I'll have to go along with that.

**Falling Through the Cracks**

It has come to note that some of our people are falling through the cracks. This is disturbing. I've heard it said that these people should get off their backsides and do something about it. Well, there is more to it than that.

We have people of varying intellectual abilities, ethnicities, backgrounds and a host of other personalities and traits. And there it lies. We need to eliminate the negatives and accentuate the positive and help these people out. Like we've always said 'Look after the Troops'

**Local Support Advisors - LSA's**

These are people who have attended an LSA training seminar and/or course of instruction by qualified Tutors. The primary aim is to ensure that LSA's are conversant with the protocols and administrative procedures pertaining to Veterans Affairs New Zealand, If called upon, they can act as an intermediary between VANZ and a Veteran. These are voluntary people out there doing an amazing job. Unfortunately they are low in numbers and we certainly need more volunteers to take up the role.

**Working with VANZ**

There have been scathing remarks and acts of frustration made against VANZ. I don't believe this to be entirely justified and no amount of frustration and / or anger is going to resolve the problem anytime soon. There are ways and means of coming to a satisfactory conclusion, If necessary; you can ask for assistance from your local RSA or seek the assistance of an LSA. When submitting any application to VANZ ensure that you cross the T's and do the I's, Equally important is ensuring that all questions have been fully answered. This is a common mistake that people have made and it only prolongs the process.

**Are your Affairs In Order**

Have you completed due processes and diligences to ensure that your loved ones are catered for when you depart this world. There is so much to do here, so much so that I would highly recommend that again, you seek the assistance of your local RSA or LSA. Don't procrastinate, initiate.

Well 'Team' that's it for me. No criticism please, I'm just filling in for the 'Welfare Rep,  
Kia pai to rā - Have a great day

Mā te wā / Until next time

**Victor Timu**

NZVVA CommsRep



**FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMEMORATIONS/  
MEMORIALS &  
REUNIONS**

Kia Ora All: This is our proposed:

**PROGRAMME FOR NZVVA 2021 NATIONAL REUNION**

**Day 01 – Monday 06 December 21**

Ser	Timings	Event	Remarks
1	1500 - ????	Registrations Open	Q Store available
2	1700 - ????	Mix and Mingle	Drinks / Finger food Open to all Whanau and Contemporary Soldiers, Past and Present Members

**Day 02 – Tuesday 07 December 21**

1	0600 - 0900	Breakfast	
2	0900 – 1000	Board Buses for Burnham	
3	1000 – 1300	Powhiri - Welcome	Whaikorero – NZVVA Speakers Identified Oral Presentation and Static Display by 2/1 Bn Light Lunch / Afternoon Tea
4	1300 – Late	Free Time – All inclusive	Opportunity for Corps / Sub Unit self directed activity if desired.

**Day 03 – Wednesday 08 December 21**

1	0630 – 1000	Breakfast	
2	1000 – 1200	AGM – Venue TBC	(Consider activities for our Associate Members, Family and Friends)
3	1200 -1230	Interlude - Coffee	
4	1230 - ????	NZVA Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spouse/Partners entitlements after the NZVVA has passed.</li> <li>• Possibility of a Face to Face appointment with a NZ Veteran Affairs Case Manager</li> </ul>
5	1800 – 1900	‘NZVVA National Presidents Happy Hour / Shout	
6	1900 - 2359	Reunion Dinner	

**Day 04 – Thursday 09 December 21**

1	0630 – 1000	Breakfast	
2	1000 – 1030	Form Up –	Medals to be Worn
3	1030 – 1100	March to Bridge of Remembrance	
4	1100 – 1200	Parade / Church Service	
5	1200 – ????	Light Lunch / Reunion Closure	Departures

**Footnote:** This programme is not cast in stone. Some minor amendments may occur, In view of this an events programme will be posted on a Notice Board displayed at the Reception Venue.

**SELECTED ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION**

**NAME: The Breakfree on Cashel 06/09 DEC 2021**

**Email from Kate Refers:**

We are happy to offer 10% discount so the static room only rates are as follow for Breakfree on Cashel

1. City Urban Double \$92.00
2. City Urban Queen \$110.00
3. City Urban Twin/King \$126.00
4. City Urban Premium \$139.00
5. Breakfast rate is \$17.00 per person
6. Car parking available at \$15.00 per day

263 Rooms

For lunch and dinner in Cafe 165, please present your Gold Card for 10% off food and beverages

Full descriptions are available online at < <https://www.breakfree.com.au/cashel>

**For Reservations**

Please call +64 3 963 7100 or email < [cashel.res@breakfreeresorts.co.nz](mailto:cashel.res@breakfreeresorts.co.nz)

Our friendly team will be happy to help.

If you need anything else please don't hesitate to call me

**NAME: The Novotel Cathedral Square Christchurch 06/09 DEC 2021**

60 x Superior Rooms (Twin Double or King) @ \$169.00 Room Only  
9 Rooms available for limited mobility Customers

\*\*\*\*

**NAME: The Ibis Christchurch 06/09 DEC 2021**

80 x Standard Rooms (Twin Double or King) @ \$119.00 Room Only  
11 Rooms available for limited mobility Customers

\*\*\*\*

**Three Booking Methods**

1. Phoning Reservations  
03 3722119  
03 3722113
1. Emailing: [H6592-RE@accor.com](mailto:H6592-RE@accor.com)
3. Booking on the Website – Use **Code BGPG** – Go onto the website using this link  
4. <https://all.accor.com/new-zealand-fiji/index.en.shtml>

This link is an excellent source of information about the various Accor Hotels located within the confines of the Christchurch CBD.

Once you have selected your hotel and the dates, click on special rates, and enter the **Code BGPG** in the ‘Special Rates Area’ This will get you the special rates.

These Rates will also apply to pre and post accommodation requirements for early arrivals and / or late departures

Other potential Venues Under Consideration are the:

- Rydges:
- Quest:

**Bil Compton**

NZVVA Commemorations/Memorials/Reunions



## FROM THE DESK OF THE INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECH

Kiaora koutou e hoa ma

### **PRIVACY ACT**

A new Privacy Act came into effect on the 1 December 2020. The Privacy Act 2020 (the Act) repeals and replaces the Privacy Act 1993.

The Act strengthens privacy protections. It promotes early intervention and risk management by agencies (the name used for any organisation or person that handles personal information) and enhances the role of the Privacy Commissioner.

The Privacy Act has 13 information privacy principles which set out how the NZVVA should handle personal information. Under the Privacy Act, the NZVVA must follow a set of rules when handling personal information. These rules govern:

- How we can collect personal information
- How we store personal information
- How we use and share personal information

We at the association were aware of the new act and have implemented necessary changes to conform to the new act.

The follow link has a detailed break down of the new Privacy Act 2020:

<https://www.privacy.org.nz/privacy-act-2020/privacy-act-2020/>

### **NZVVA DATABASE**

We still continue to work on the database to make sure all the information recorded is accurate. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vic Timu and Carol Taylor for help in maintenance of the database system.

If you have had a change in details please advise us via email so that we can continue to ensure the accuracy of our records.

Anthony (Tony) Poa  
NZVVA ICT



## FROM THE DESK OF THE QM

A lot is happening at the moment with of course our National Reunion being our primary focal point.

I am currently in discussion with my 'Suppliers' and looking at various options in terms of our merchandise design and variety.

We aim to have one-off example items of merchandise and have these available for display at our 2021 National Reunion. We figured people could identify and choose what they want and make their orders accordingly. This may be a cause of inconvenience for some, but it will ensure that we do not get lumbered with an unnecessary surplus of stock. We will also bring down whatever existing stock that we have available for sale. EFTPOS payment options will be available on the day.

### **Raffles**

We will be running a raffle to help raise funds. More details on this will be confirmed in the next edition of the Contact Magazine June 2021 and/or on FaceBook Closed Groups.

### **Sales**

Sales are steady. The cost of postage has eaten into our meager profits and henceforth we are again having to review our costs. The prices will inevitably increase but we will endeavor to keep this to a minimum.

### **A must 'Entry' to Mark on Your Calendar**

Just a reminder, 06 to 09 December 2021 Our National Reunion in Christchurch. I have already booked my flights and accommodation.

Now there's no turning back. I guess it's all about moving 'Onward'

That's me, Over and Out?

Ken Ford

**NZVVA Quartermaster**

\*\*\*\*



**JOKERS CORNER**

**Laughter, the Best Medicine**

What kind of tank flies?

A Peter Panzer

# Q STORE

The following products are what we currently have available in our Q Store. All include postage within New Zealand. For overseas orders, please send an email to Secretary@nzvietnamveterans.org.nz, and they will be in touch

1.		Tie Cost \$35.00	2.		Beanie Cost \$30.00	3.		Scarve Cost \$35.00
4		Cap Grey with Helo Cost \$20.00	5.		Cap NZVV Cost \$20.00	6.		V Force Patch Cost \$15.00
7.		NZVV Number Plate Border - Cost \$30.00 Pair	8.		NZVVA Banner Cost \$10.00	9.		NZVV Plaque Cost \$55.00
10		VVNZ Blazer Pocket Cost \$15.00	11		NZVV Lapel Badge Cost \$5.00	12		NZVV Patch Cost \$15.00
13		'Proud to be a Vietnam Veteran' Veh Bumper Sticker Cost: \$10.00	14		NZVV Emblem - Veh Bumper Sticker Cost: \$15.00	15		Polo Shirt Cost \$35.00

# Q STORE

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16	Polyester Jacket Cost \$75.00	17	T Shirt (No Collar) Cost \$25.00	18	Sticker / Transfer Large Cost \$8.00 (pair)
19	Sticker / Transfer Small Cost \$5.00 (pair)	20	Face Mask Washable Cost \$10.00	<p><i>All orders include postage</i></p> <p><i>All clothing can be black or grey and can either be labelled with 'Vietnam Veteran' or 'Vietnam Veteran Supporter'</i></p>	

**Note:**

**All stock can be worded to include : 'Vietnam Veteran Supporter' to cater for 'Family/Whanau'**

Please submit your order or any queries direct to the NZVVA Quartermaster: Details as follows:

Ken Ford - Ph: 092669972, Mobile: 0212338547, Email: [centurionm41@gmail.com](mailto:centurionm41@gmail.com)

## MAKING PAYMENTS TO NZ VIETNAM VETERANS

**Currently we have three methods you can choose from to pay money to NZVVA:**

**1 - Internet Banking**

**2 - Cash Deposit at any BNZ branch**

**3 - Postal Payment**

**For the first two methods, you will need our bank account details as follows;**

**Bank: BNZ, Papakura, New Zealand**

**Account Name: Ex Vietnam services Association Inc**

**Account Number: 02 0400 0504697 00**



## Order Form

<u>Ser</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Qty/Size</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Tie	\$35.00		
2	Beanie	\$30.00		
3	Scarve	\$35.0		
4	Cap Grey with Helo	\$20.00		
5	Cap NZVV	\$20.00		
6	V Force Patch Black & White	\$15.00		
7	NZVVA Number Plate Border	\$30.00 a pair		
8	NZVVA Banner	\$10,00		
9	NZVVA Plaque	\$55.00		
10	VVNZ Blazer Pocket	\$15.00		
11	NZVV Lapel Badge	\$5.00		
12	NZVV Patch	\$15.00		
13	'Proud To Be A Veteran Veteran Vehicle Bumber Sticker	\$10.00		
14	NZVV Symbol above VV Sticker	\$15.00		
15	Polo Shirt	\$35.00		
16	Polyester Jacket	\$75.00		
17	T Shirt No Collar	\$25.00		
18	NZVVA Sticker / Transfer Large	\$8.00		
19	NZVVA Sticker / Transfer Small	\$5.00		
20	Cammo Mask	\$10.00		

*All orders include postage*

*All clothing can be black or grey and can either be labelled with 'Vietnam Veteran' or 'Vietnam Veteran Supporter'*





## REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me/us for the 2021 Reunion

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be accompanied by: First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment:

Enclosed is full payment of \$100 per person

For "Early Bird" Fee if paid by 1 September 2021

Save \$50 by registering early

Payment has been Direct Credited

to BNZ Account No. 02 0400 0504697 006

\*Ensure your name and reg no. is put as a reference

Or

I intend to pay by installments

Enclosed is part payment of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Part payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ has been Direct Credited to

BNZ Acc No. 02 0400 0504697 006

Full payment to be made by 1 September 2021

\*Ensure your name is put as a reference

If payment is made after 1 September, the full cost of registration is \$150 per person

### IMPORTANT:

I agree to adhere to the following conditions pertaining to refunds should I have to cancel:

1. Cancel on or before 1 September 2021 – Full Refund
2. Cancel during October 2021 – 90% Refund
3. Cancel during November 2021 – 75% Refund
4. Cancel on or after 1 December 2021 – Nil Refund
5. All cancellations to be notified in writing to: Treasurer, NZVVA, PO box 72260, Papakura, 2244 or email treasurer@nzvietnamveterans.org.nz

(Please email completed form to [treasurer@nzvietnamveterans.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@nzvietnamveterans.org.nz) or post to PO Box 72260, Papakura)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



## HERE THERE & EVERYWHERE

Coming in from RNZIR

### REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST V6 RNZIR

#### The Withdrawal

Reflecting on the withdrawal of V6 from Nui Dat to Vung Tau on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 1971 and the four weeks stay there was for me as the CSM a waste of bloody time. The worry of boredom with the potential for disciplinary havoc was a concern. Thankfully, the influence and leadership of the Platoon Sergeants and their Section Commanders helped to control any misconduct. The boss didn't want to know unless the offence was serious.

Before we moved to Vung Tau between 9 Oct and 7 Nov, the Coy was kept busy securing the eastern sector of Nui Dat and the Long Tan Rubber Plantation. Section patrols and ambushes were routine operational tasks that were planned to give the impression things were operationally normal. Those remaining in base set about quietly packing equipment. The nights were especially quiet and gave this eerie feeling akin to sadness. Though we were heading back to Singapore to families and friends, the thought of leaving this place was reflective of so many memories good and bad. It was sad.

The camp was to be left intact. Unexploded ammunition, grenades were dumped. The wire and mines surrounding the camp were left untouched as were the tents and sandbags. The Coy lines would be a ghost camp.

In support of our last few days there, we had a section of APC's in support. This group was led by a New Zealand Officer who allowed soldiers to have some fun hooning them around the camp road.

I don't think many slept that last night. I didn't. It was an early fly out next morning and walking to the plane I had a final look at a place that over the past seven months had always been such a welcoming sight after weeks on operations. But now..... Vung Tau!

We all knew what was on offer in Vung Tau. It was a time for creative thinking. We were allocated the R&R Centre in the middle of town. Platoons made up their own activities that included lots of beach time. At night they would spend time with the Australians at the Peter Babco Club doing what soldiers do or frequenting the

local bars. Those visits became less and less as money ran out. Acknowledging there was a small chance of some active action, security patrols were organised 24/7.

The Coy was also training for the final farewell parade. A competition was held to see who would have the shiniest spit polished boots for the parade. I have never seen in my whole military career anything like what was produced. Boots were spit polished from the toe cap to the top of the boot. On parade it was a special sight.

John Carde our Padre provided some diversion by adopting a local orphanage. The place was very dirty with just born babies left at the door. Soldiers from the Coy volunteered to go clean the place up. From memory I think it took two days and the soldiers were left to wonder how they could get basic furniture to make the place more liveable. The answer was at the Peter Babco Club where the Australians had stored everything ready to be shipped back to Australia. The boys reckoned they wouldn't miss a few beds, mattresses, blankets, pillows, sheets, a refrigerator (or 2) tables and chairs plus anything else they could lay their hands on. Our CQMS John Richardson used his influence to pull a few strings and to get what was needed.

Meanwhile all the Coy SNCO's had developed a relationship with American helicopter pilots and over a few drinks I spoke to a pilot and asked what it was like to fly in a cobra gun ship. He was a test pilot and was flying a cobra the next morning and invited me to fly with him. I jumped at the opportunity. Next morning after being picked up I was given a brief, provided with a helmet, gloves and settled into the gunner's seat. Once in the air he asked where I would like to go. I asked if we could fly over Nui Dat and so we did. The camp had been stripped. Almost nothing stood. Nui Dat as an operational base was no more. Some JNCO's were attached to US Shore Patrols and found that to be an experience.

In 2016 myself, Wayne Hutchinson and Tubby Nicholls from V6 took a group of year 12 students from Tikipunga High School to Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore. We visited the area of our camp and found the remains of a defensive wire fence we had placed around us during our last few days there. That's all that remained.

And so, the last farewell parade alongside our Australian mates was held at Vung Tau before, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December having ushered the Coy into the waiting C130 we left.

Nga mihi  
Richard (Dick) Shepherd



## HERE THERE & EVERYWHERE

Coming in from the Rangiora Cartels

Kia ora dear reader. My name is Pat Duggan, and This Contact contribution comes from the centre of the civilised world - Rangiora. Some time ago I was asked by Vic to write an article on our group of VN Vets here in Rangiora and I finally got off my bum and as a result this is it. Please don't stop reading because there is a lot of good stuff further on.

Some 4 years ago a group of 4 Vietnam Veterans were sitting in the Rangiora RSA on a pension Thursday enjoying a few drinks and each other's company and as usual telling a lot of bullshit stories when the discussion turned to the whereabouts of other VN veterans in the North Canterbury area. It was from this small gathering that, like the Phoenix rising from the ashes, rose the 'Rangiora RSA Veterans Bullshitters Cartel'. The small group of 4 that started this are now known as the 'Founding Fathers' and to be honest we, the founding fathers, are really happy with the way things have progressed since we started.

Initially we were all Vietnam Veterans but since then we have expanded our collection of rascals to include all veterans and from what was a group of 4 is now 23+. We enjoy each other's company, we enjoy telling our bullshit stories and as well as a few beers and we also enjoy humour, we will extract the Michael (Take the Micky) out of all and sundry because let's face it humour fixes everything apart from a STD. I can report that we have the total support of the Rangiora RSA Executive (more on that support later). Our RSA President also enjoys our company.

The group meets every pension Thursday from about 1600hrs onwards and members may come and go as they like. Stay for 5 minutes or 5 hours – we don't mind. There are no subs, no minutes from meetings, no pressure, no dress code (apart from the RSA one) but be advised that a roll call of sorts is done every fortnight and if a member doesn't turn up, we make sure we know how they are and when was the last time anyone saw them? It's our way of keeping in touch with our fellow veterans and If the individual has not offered apologies, they can rest assured, we will talk about them in their absence because that's what we do. To record the attendance, we

usually take a group photo which we publish on the Vietnam Veterans and the Vietnam Veterans and their families Face book pages along with other veterans pages and it goes along with an appropriate somewhat humerous report.

The only rules we have is that we don't like rules. We don't like organising things or planning things because we are all too long in the tooth and lets' face it were all pretty useless at that anyway. We can always rely on 'the other guy' to sort things out. Membership is in the main from the North Canterbury area, but we do welcome others from out of town and to illustrate that we now enjoy the regular attendance of a vet who lives in Christchurch but now works in Rangiora and is now a regular at our meetings/conferences/gatherings. Please be advised that anyone thinking of joining or visiting they should be aware that they must bring along their own supply of bullshit stories. Ours are getting tired now so we need new blood and bullshit to keep us going. We also have other members from outside the town who join us on a semi regular basis, one from Ashburton for one who quite regularly joins us from Wellington. Also, from across the ditch, we often see Bob Smith and Wayne Amberger. So, there it is dear reader, your official invitation to come to one of our conferences on Pension Thursdays.

You may also gather that we, from time to time, do get visitors and they are always assured of a warm North Canterbury welcome so if you are contemplating a visit just make sure it's on a pension Thursday. Just come in the main entrance to our RSA and look to your left in the Kippenberger Lounge, you will usually see us there but be advised that occasionally when the weather is really hot we may gather in the outside bar which can be accessed right after you buy a beer. Go through the clubrooms and look straight ahead into the outside bar. We will probably be there. Don't forget to scan before you enter, we want Rangiora to remain COVID-19 free. Visitors of note who enjoyed our company in the past include the ex-Minister of Veterans Affairs, Ron Mark. Ron has enjoyed the company of our astute bunch of scallywags on more than one occasion. Jacinda still hasn't attended but then again neither has Donnie from the US. Donnie reckons he is a better bullshitter than all of us put together.

Now it's not been a smooth road all the way dear reader, believe it or not we had our detractors. Early in the piece we noted some derogatory comments in response to our postings on Facebook. Well, we read the comments and looked at ourselves and at what we are doing, and we collectively thought – where is this crap coming from and

why. We are simply veterans helping veterans and we may do things differently to others out there but hey, our system works, we have, since we started, increased the patronage of our Rangiora RSA and we have definitely made a positive impact on the Veteran Community so to our detractors we say, 'suck it up buttercup'. FYI our regular Cartel attendance numbers have also increased markedly.

As I said earlier, we enjoy the strong support of our RSA President and Executive, so much so that this year on Vietnam Veterans Day, 18 August 2021, our RSA has agreed to financially support our commemorations. The executive has given us a rather large sum of money to help in our planning. FYI the commemorations will start at 1100 hrs at the Rangiora Cenotaph for a service of Remembrance, following that there will be a short stroll to the RSA. I say stroll because we don't want to incur expensive costs like getting roads blocked off for a parade mid-week and let's face it most of us have forgotten how to march in step anyway. At the RSA we will gather to renew old acquaintances and start telling more bullshit stories.

Entertainment and a light snack will be provided at no cost to those attending. The Cartel was very firm when it came to financing so we have started our own fundraising campaign to keep costs down and right now we are looking quite flush dollar wise. The Cartel also don't want attendees to have to put their hands into their pockets unless it's to buy a beer. We can also report that we have had several sizeable cash donations from Veterans outside of Canterbury (namely Auckland and Wellington) and as a result the donors have been invited to attend but they will have to pay our version of managed isolation, (Pay for their own motel) and the Cartel won't be picking up the tab for any travel or booze either. FYI an outsider from Ashburton has already booked his motel and a Vet from Wellington tells me he has booked his flights. Now please dear reader if you want to come along on the day you will be made most welcome but please let us know so that we can arrange catering etc. My role in all this is one of scribe so, if you are contemplating a visit email me on [pjd161@outlook.com](mailto:pjd161@outlook.com) and we can discuss things in more detail. Also keep an eye on our regular postings on Facebook to keep up with our goings on.

Well dear reader you are now aware of our Cartel and what our aims, dreams and aspirations are. We are totally focused on our fellow veterans and we do it

without the usual bullshit that quite often accompanies support offered from elsewhere. Come and join us for a visit, we are all house trained (well most of us are) and you won't walk away unhappy that's for sure. We thrive on bullshit stories so come along and tell us yours.

Keep your powder dry and warmest regards to you and



yours from the Rangiora RSA Bullshitters Cartel.

**Pat Duggan**

Rangiora RSA Veterans Bullshitters Cartel

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**JOKERS CORNER**  
**Laughter the best medicine**

A private ran to his General, sending a message from the front lines. He was in utter distress.

"Sir! We are outnumbered three to one, and..."

"Private! Get me my red shirt," he interrupted, "When I bleed in battle, I don't want the soldiers to be discouraged."

"Sir! You don't understand, they have battalions of heavy artillery, and their tanks are twice the..."

The General interrupted again, "Private! Get me my brown pants..."



HERE THERE &  
EVERYWHERE



## NZVVA NATIONAL REUNION 2021 EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

Coming in from the Horowhenua Artillery Association

### Annual Gunners Day Luncheon

The Horowhenua Artillery Association will be holding their annual Gunners Day luncheon at the Levin RSA on Wednesday 26th May 2021.

#### Programme of Events:-

1055 - 1105 hrs: Parade in front of RSA flagpole.

Medals to be worn

1105 - 1200 hrs: Fellowship

1200 - 1315 hrs Luncheon/Guest Speaker

1315 - 1330 hrs AGM

1315 onward - Fellowship continued

Guest Speaker: To be advised

#### Cost:

The cost of the luncheon is yet to be confirmed, but will be no more than \$35.00

We are in a situation where we find that our members are getting smaller as the years go by and it would be great if any ex 161 Bty members from Kapiti, Manawatu, Rangitiki and Wellington could come along and help us celebrate this yearly milestone on the Gunners calendar. Not wishing to be in any way exclusive, we would also love to have any veterans from other corps or services who would like come along and join us.

Any who would like to attend would you please e mail

your intention to Joan Harrison (Secretary) at: - [bryce\\_joan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bryce_joan@xtra.co.nz) or phone 063689816 by 5th May 2021.

Details for payment which will have to be by Internet Banking will be sent out after that date and after costs are finalised.

#### Joan Harrison

Secretary

Horowhenua Artillery Association

After some debate the NZVVA Committee have come to the conclusion that the registrations for our upcoming National Reunion will include an:

**CURRENT REGISTRATION = \$150.00 Per Person.**

**HOWEVER!**

#### **EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE**

**IF YOU REGISTER BEFORE THE 01 SEPTEMBER 21**  
**REGISTRATION WILL COST YOU \$100.00**

Ladies/Gents/Families/Friends. this is:  
**NOT A MISPRINT**

The reality is that we are reaching our twilight years, and I really don't think I need to elaborate any further.

Sufficient to say, that it is a hard pill to swallow when the only opportunity you get to meet and greet long lost friends, is at a tangi/funeral.

Well we have the golden opportunity to fix that now

#### **LETS MAKE IT HAPPEN**

Registrations forms will be sent out, in one way or another and, as soon as possible.

#### Victor Timu

NZVVA CommsRep