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About VA News





VA News is published four times a year by Veterans' Affairs New Zealand—Te Tira Ahu Ika a Whiro.

Our team takes care in writing great content and—to the best of our knowledge—has sourced accurate information.

The views expressed in VA News are not necessarily those of Veterans' Affairs or the New Zealand Defence Force.

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Please note our Hamilton PO Box is now closed.

Cover image: Korean War descendant Donnie Crossland — full story on page 6.



New Zealand Government

From the Head of Veterans' Affairs

Tēnā koutou katoa

As the impact of COVID-19 continues to develop in New Zealand, and everything seems to be changing around us and around the world, I want to take this opportunity to reassure you that our commitment at Veterans' Affairs continues to be making sure that we're able to support you and your whānau, in this ever-changing environment.

On Wednesday 25 March the government declared a state of civil emergency and at 11:59pm that night all of us in New Zealand went into a national lockdown for the first time in our history. We were all told to stay home and stay safe, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The lockdown is something that none of us would have expected to experience in our lifetime. We are all in this together. In the words of our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, "be kind, stay home, and break the chain."

This is what is happening in VA. All our staff are now working from home. Your regular payments will continue to be paid. Our inbound phone lines are now closed, but staff can call you back if you need. I'm sure you'll understand that in the current environment, there'll be some delays. We will also be calling all our clients to check in and make sure you have all the information you need relating to the current COVID-19 pandemic. If any changes are made to the way we are working, we'll let you know via our Facebook page and on the newly created information hub on our website at www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/covid-19. We have also dedicated two pages in this edition of VA News to information about our response to COVID-19 and what you can expect from us.



Bernadine Mackenzie,
Head of Veterans' Affairs

I know that many of you will be marking Anzac Day in a different way this year. While there will be no official Anzac Day ceremonies, it will still be a day when we can remember and acknowledge all those who have served, and continue to serve today. Our fallen will be the silent sentinels this Anzac Day as we reflect on the sacrifices made by so many in the shaping of our lives and of our history.

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou.
We will remember them.

We are all being asked again to make a sacrifice – and to play our part so our fellow New Zealanders may live.

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata
It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.

To all of you, your families and whānau – be strong, take care, and be kind. Together we will come through this.



Survivors' Reunion held at Motuihe Island

More than 100 "Survivors of the Rock" reunited on Motuihe Island in February and once again, the matelots climbed the island's notorious hill to what was the site of HMNZS TAMAKI for 22 years.

Motuihe Island was known as 'the Rock' to more than 15,000 new naval recruits who trained there between 1941 and 1963.

Former Chief Engineer Leon Kovaleski says he came up on the 2.40am railcar from New Plymouth to Auckland, and joined up at 17 in 1963.

"I was in the very last intake, and I had no idea what I was getting into. I had no idea what was going to meet me and I had no idea what the next three months held. The instructors made you do things and at the time you had no idea what these things were going

to contribute – like going down to the beach to collect a wet bucket of sand" he said.

"What it did do in later years was instil this idea of being dedicated to one thing and being absolutely under orders and doing what you are told."

Mr Kovalski served for over 20 years in the Navy, doing his part two training in Devonport and then posted to a then new ship, HMNZS TARANAKI, for his first two and a half years. He served as an electrical engineer for all his time with the Navy.

Most of the attendees hadn't been back to 'the Rock' since basic naval training, and this time they didn't have to carry up two buckets of wet sand or fall in and run a circuit of the island.

The exchange of dits flowed among the Navy veterans as they gathered on the island for a ceremonial unveiling of a memorial plaque and were addressed by the Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Proctor.

The plaque says, "This memorial marks the site of HMNZS TAMAKI where more than 15,000 recruits



undertook their naval training during the establishment's 22 years on Motuihe Island. This commemorative plaque is dedicated to the officers, instructors, ship's company and trainees who served here. Their Spirit lives on. Pursue the path of excellence."

Pictured, from top:
The royal guard made out of HMNZS TAMAKI sailors.

The reunion attendees call three cheers for the Navy.



How Veterans' Affairs is responding to COVID-19

Following the announcement that New Zealand's COVID-19 Alert Level is at Level 4 (Eliminate) all our staff are now working from home. They have secure and reliable access to our IT systems, which means clients will continue to receive critical payments.

Like many other organisations, we have activated our business continuity plan. Our leadership team continues to remotely meet daily, and is working to ensure we can continue to operate.

You'll need to contact us differently

Our inbound phone lines are now closed – but you can still leave a message on 0800 483 8372.

Case Managers are still be able to do outbound calls, which means we can call clients who need to speak to us.

You can also email us at veterans@nzdf.mil.nz, and we can call you back. If you, or someone you know, doesn't have access to email then ask a trusted friend or family member to email us on your behalf. All we need to know is your phone number.

Please note it may take us a bit longer than normal to get back to you.

We appreciate your patience during these unprecedented times.

We're continuing to make regular payments

We will continue to make regular payments to clients. This includes:

- War Disablement Pension
- Disablement Pension
- Independence Allowance
- Weekly Compensation
- Weekly Income Compensation
- Surviving Spouse or Partner Pension
- Children's Pension
- Dependant's Pension

Some Veterans' Independence Programme services are suspended

We have worked with our Veterans' Independence Programme service providers to understand what services they are continuing to provide. This only affects services provided in New Zealand.

Our providers have stopped delivering services that involve home or face-to-face consultations. This is a temporary measure while the Alert Level is high.

Services that are suspended:

- house washing, provided by Chemwash
- lawn mowing and gardening, provided by Crewcut
- housework services, provided by HealthCare NZ
- podiatry, by Foot Mechanics (who are contacting clients with the option to have virtual consultations)

Services that are continuing:

- medical alarms, which will continue to be monitored by Red Wolf Medical Alarms

If you have questions about any of these services, contact the provider directly. Please be patient and kind while they experience an increased level of queries.

We have stopped non-essential work

We have suspended some of our commemorative programmes until further notice. These programmes are:

- Veteran's Pin and Certificate of Appreciation
- Commemorative Travel Contribution

Suspending these programmes frees-up staff to support our colleagues in other parts of Veterans' Affairs. This ensures that we can continue to provide critical support to veterans and their whānau.

We are also strongly discouraging commemorative travel following the New Zealand Government's advice against all international travel.

All our outreach events remain cancelled until further notice. This includes our:

- Auckland case management clients
- RSA Forums
- presentations and expos on NZDF camps and bases.

What you need to do

We are all in this together. Eradicating the disease is vital to protect people's health and ensure our health system can cope and look after New Zealanders who become sick.

The government has established a dedicated website with everything you need to know about COVID-19 in one place, including:

- how you can stop the spread of the virus
- what you need to do at each alert level.

 covid19.govt.nz

Young people commemorate the Korean War

Young people from South Korea and New Zealand had a once-in-a-lifetime cultural experience and a priceless opportunity to remember the Korean War at the Korean Vision Camp 2020 in Wellington and Waikanae.

A Statement of Intent was signed in Seoul last year between Veterans' Affairs New Zealand and South Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans' Affairs, during which Veterans Affairs' New Zealand agreed that the Camp would be held in New Zealand this year. The Camp brought together young people from South Korea and New Zealand, some of whom were descendants of Korean War veterans.

The Camp was also an opportunity to thank Korean War veterans for their service and to acknowledge their sacrifices through a programme of commemorative activity, cultural experiences, and appreciation activities.

The programme featured three commemorations, including special services with Korean War veterans, which were highlights for many of the participants.

New Zealand participant Donnie Crossland's great-grandfather, James Mason, served with the Royal New Zealand Navy in the Korean War. He brought photographs of his great-grandparents with him to the camp. "I held the photos during the wreath laying at Ōtaki School when we were standing with the veterans, so it's kind of like I brought him with me" he said.

Emma Catto, another New Zealand participant, found the experience



of commemorating the Korean War with South Koreans moving because it was the first time that she had connected with people who her grandfather had fought to defend. "It was really meaningful to do a reading with my Korean buddy because our grandfathers fought on the same side during the war. Connecting with her on this Camp has been really special" she said.

South Korean and New Zealand participants spent a lot of time getting to know each other and bonded over the experiences that they shared together on the Camp. "It's really cool to see that even though we're from two different cultures just how similar we can be" said Ben Dobbie, a New Zealand participant.

The Camp closed with a special appreciation lunch for Korean War veterans at New Zealand Parliament featuring performances from

participants. The lunch was attended by His Excellency Mr Seung-bae Yeo, Ambassador for the Republic of Korea and Liz Huckerby, Chief People Officer for the New Zealand Defence Force.

The programme of activity for the Korean Vision Camp 2020 was supported by the South Korean Ministry of Patriots and Veterans' Affairs and New Zealand's Veterans' Affairs. The aim was to enhance the friendships that were established between those who served in the Korean War.

Above:
Changsoo Jung with a Korean War veteran at Ōtaki School.

Camp participants with a Korean War veteran at the appreciation lunch.



Camp participants at Waikanae beach.



Camp participants and veterans at Ōtaki School.



Vanessa Joplin and Jee Woo Lee paying their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

Grandparented rates from 1 April 2020

War Disablement Pension

| Ordinary rates | | Rates for those with severe disablement | | Rates for those with severe disablement: Aged 60 years and over | |
|-----------------|------------------|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| Disablement (%) | Weekly rate (\$) | Disablement (%) | Weekly rate (\$) | Disablement (%) | Weekly rate (\$) |
| 5 | 11.55 | 105 | 242.55 | 105 | 266.81 |
| 10 | 23.10 | 110 | 254.11 | 110 | 279.52 |
| 15 | 34.65 | 115 | 265.66 | 115 | 292.23 |
| 20 | 46.20 | 120 | 277.21 | 120 | 304.93 |
| 25 | 57.75 | 125 | 288.76 | 125 | 317.64 |
| 30 | 69.30 | 130 | 300.31 | 130 | 330.34 |
| 35 | 80.85 | 135 | 311.86 | 135 | 343.05 |
| 40 | 92.40 | 140 | 323.41 | 140 | 355.75 |
| 45 | 103.95 | 145 | 334.96 | 145 | 368.46 |
| 50 | 115.51 | 150 | 346.51 | 150 | 381.16 |
| 55 | 127.06 | 155 | 358.06 | 155 | 393.87 |
| 60 | 138.61 | 160 | 369.61 | 160 | 406.57 |
| 65 | 150.16 | | | | |
| 70 | 161.71 | | | | |
| 75 | 173.26 | | | | |
| 80 | 184.81 | | | | |
| 85 | 196.36 | | | | |
| 90 | 207.91 | | | | |
| 95 | 219.46 | | | | |
| 100 | 231.01 | | | | |

Veteran's Pension and Lump Sums



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Veteran's Pension

| | Gross weekly rate (\$) |
|--|------------------------|
| Single living alone rate | 490.73 |
| Single sharing accommodation rate | 451.29 |
| Relationship rate | 372.27 |
| Relationship (partner not receiving superannuation or pension) | 705.26 |
| Relationship (partner not receiving superannuation or pension) legacy rate | 744.54 |

Lump Sums

| | Lump sum (\$) |
|---|---------------|
| Lump Sum Payment on death of veteran | 6,166.58 |
| If veteran was, before 1 April 1990, receiving a war veteran's allowance under the War Pension's Act 1954 | 15,548.53 |
| Lump Sum Payment on death of spouse or partner of veteran | 4,702.19 |

The weekly rates for the Veteran's Pension are shown as gross amounts. The exact payment you receive will depend on your own tax circumstances.

Questions about Veteran's Pension and Lump Sums

For information about the Veteran's Pension and Lump Sum Payments contact the Veterans' Pension Centre.

Freephone 0800 650 656

www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/contact-us/veterans-contacts.html

Scheme One entitlement rates from 1 April 2020

Disablement Pension

| Impairment rating (%) | Weekly rate (\$) |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 5-7 | 11.56 |
| 8-12 | 23.11 |
| 13-17 | 34.66 |
| 18-22 | 46.20 |
| 23-25 | 57.75 |
| 26-30 | 69.30 |
| 31-32 | 80.85 |
| 33-37 | 92.40 |
| 38-41 | 103.96 |
| 42-47 | 115.51 |
| 48-49 | 127.05 |
| 50 | 138.60 |
| 51 | 150.15 |
| 52-54 | 161.70 |
| 55-57 | 173.25 |
| 58-61 | 184.81 |
| 62-66 | 196.36 |
| 67 | 207.92 |
| 68-74 | 219.45 |
| 75 | 231.01 |
| 76 | 242.56 |
| 77 | 254.11 |
| 78 | 265.65 |
| 79 | 277.21 |
| 80 | 288.76 |
| 81 | 311.85 |
| 82 | 334.96 |
| 83 | 358.05 |
| 84 | 381.16 |
| 85-100 | 406.57 |

Other weekly rates

| | Weekly rate (\$) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Surviving Spouse or Partner Pension | 170.41 |
| Dependant's Pension | 170.41 |
| Children's Pension | 182.47 |
| Weekly Income Compensation | 995.37 |

Annual payments

| | Annual rate (\$) |
|---|------------------|
| Children's Bursary (Orphans and Children of Veteran's Pension) | |
| Full Time Year 9-13 | 964.42 |
| Full-time Tertiary | 1,144.39 |
| Part-time Tertiary | 482.15 |
| Children's Bursary (Other Children) | |
| Full Time Year 9-13 | 482.17 |
| Full-time Tertiary | 572.16 |
| Part-time Tertiary | 241.07 |

Allowance

| | Weekly rate (\$) |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Decorations Allowance | 33.15 |

Note: The Allowance for Decorations is available for recipients of United Kingdom Gallantry Awards only.

Rates and entitlements Common to Scheme One and Scheme Two from 1 April 2020

Weekly rates

| | Weekly rate (\$) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Travelling Allowance | 26.63 |
| Battery Allowance | |
| Monaural | 1.12 |
| Binaural | 2.27 |
| Clothing Allowance | |
| Loss of two limbs or parts | 24.53 |
| Loss of leg or part | 23.68 |
| Loss of arm or part | 17.15 |
| Use of mechanical appliance (maximum) | 17.15 |
| Soiling of clothing | 17.15 |

Lump sum payments

| | Lump sum (\$) |
|---|---------------|
| Retirement Lump Sum | 35,552.80 |
| Asset Threshold for Couple (excl. house or vehicle) | 323,207.30 |
| Asset Threshold for Single or Couple (incl. house or vehicle) | 538,678.83 |
| Motor Vehicle Grant | |
| Total Lower Body Impairment | 19,784.18 |
| Severe Lower Body Impairment | 8,903.46 |
| Motor Vehicle Fitting Controls Grant | 3,194.31 |
| Funeral Expenses | |
| Transportation of body within same locality | 692.10 |
| Transportation of body to a different locality | 1,384.20 |



Life post-service the focus of Auckland expo

More than 150 people attended a Post-Service Employment and Wellbeing Expo at AUT South Campus in Manukau on Saturday 29 February. The expo was for service personnel who were looking to transition out of the New Zealand Defence Force and those who had recently transitioned. It was open to all ex-service personnel.



“Civilian life can be very different from what someone has known in the military, and we hope that the information that was available at the event can help smooth the path for those who have left one of the services, or are thinking of doing so.”

– Bernadine Mackenzie
Head of Veterans' Affairs



The expo focused on employment opportunities and the support available after service. Recruiters, the business community, and support organisations came together at AUT to provide a one-stop shop for former service personnel.

Recruiters from organisations including Air New Zealand, Babcock, ExServices Recruitment, the New Zealand Police, and the Department of Corrections provided information about employment options outside the services.

Support organisations, including the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association, the No Duff Charitable Trust, and the Veterans of Combined Forces Surfing Association were also available, to talk to about what they could offer to ex-serving personnel and their families.

Head of Veterans' Affairs Bernadine Mackenzie said the expo format made it easy for those who had left service to find out what was available to them once they had become civilians.

“We held three expos last year aimed at those who had served in Vietnam, and they were very popular. This time we focused on younger veterans, who are either already out of service or planning to leave shortly.”

“Civilian life can be very different from what someone has known in the military, and we hope that the information that was available at the event can help smooth the path for those who have left one of the services, or are thinking of doing so.”

The Minister for Veterans, Hon Ron Mark, was at the expo, as well as the Warrant Officer of the Defence Force, WO1 Mark Mortiboy. The three

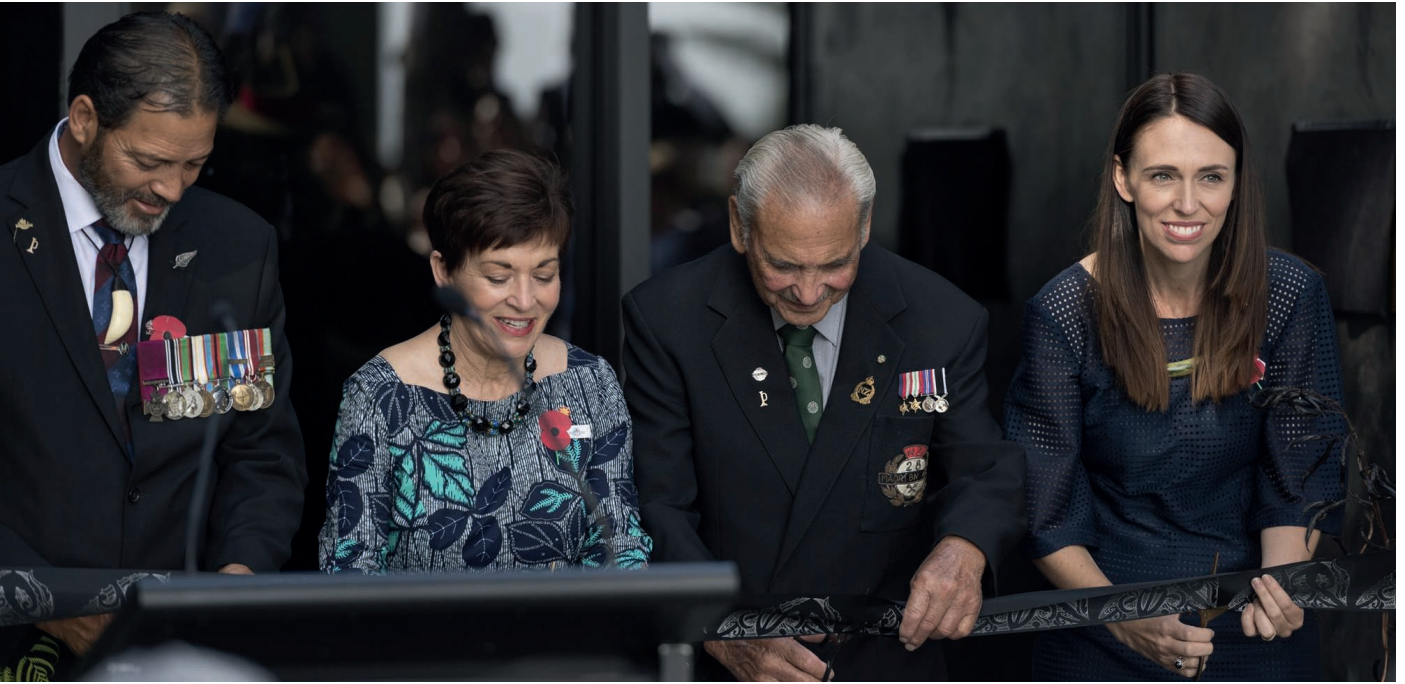
services were represented by WO Wayne Dyke, Warrant Officer of the Navy; WO1 Clive Douglas, Sergeant Major of the Army; and WO Kerry Williams, who represented the Warrant Officer of the Air Force.

Veterans' Affairs hosted the event in partnership with AUT and Ranfurly Veterans' Trust.

Opposite:
Sergeant Terraine Hollis with an attendee at the Veterans' Affairs stand.

Above, from top:
Representatives from Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Representatives from the Department of Corrections.



Museum honouring Māori military service opens at Waitangi

On 5 February Te Rau Aroha, a museum honouring Māori who fought in conflicts in New Zealand and overseas, was opened on the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

Te Rau Aroha is a term of respect given to those whose actions display courage and serve others. This name was given to a canteen truck that was sent to the 28 (Māori) Battalion in 1941. The truck had been bought with funds raised by children at Māori schools.

The opening of Te Rau Aroha was attended by over 1,000 people including Robert Bom Gillies, the last surviving member of the 28 (Māori) Battalion's B Company, Willie Apiata VC, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, and the Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy.

From top: Willie Apiata VC, Dame Patsy Reddy, Robert Bom Gillies, and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern cutting the ceremonial ribbon at the opening of Te Rau Aroha.

Te Rau Aroha, the 28 (Māori) Battalion canteen truck, being prepared for the opening of the museum.

