

# Veterans Affairs

SPRING 2022

TE TIRA AHU IKA A WHIRO






A new life in Aotearoa  
New Zealand


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*The Veterans' Affairs magazine 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 Veterans' Affairs magazine are not necessarily those of Veterans' Affairs or the New Zealand Defence Force.*

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 **HEI MANA MŌ AOTEAROA**  
**A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND**

 **Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

# Tēnā koutou katoa

## Welcome to the spring edition of our magazine.

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Veterans' Affairs magazine. As we head into warmer weather, this brings with it a chance for us to get back out into the community and reconnect with our veterans and their families. We are currently planning our next veterans' forum and this will see us heading to Ōtautahi Christchurch. Having deferred this forum from last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will, all going well, be at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand between 10.00am and 2.00pm on 31 October, with a number of other organisations and agencies that provide support to veterans and their whānau. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for details on how to register for this event.

In the previous edition of the Veterans' Affairs magazine I mentioned that we had launched Te Arataki mō te Hauora Ngākau mō ngā Mōrehu a Tū me ō rātou Whānau – The Veteran, Family and Whānau Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy Framework. The response to our call-to-action from other agencies and departments who are keen to support veterans, has been overwhelming. We continue to share the policy framework far and

wide and we're working through with other agencies how best to collaborate and ensure better outcomes for our veterans.

I will have a further update on this work in the next edition of this magazine. I would like to thank all those who took the time to make submissions on the proposed Veterans' Affairs Approved Information Sharing Agreement (AISA) during the six week public consultation period. It was important that the general public and our veterans understood what was being proposed, and that they had an opportunity to have their concerns heard by making a submission. It's unlikely that any decisions about the proposed AISA will be made before the New Year. We will keep you updated on progress.

Until next time please continue to take care of yourselves, your mates and your loved ones.




**Bernadine MacKenzie**  
Head of Veterans' Affairs

### The Ōtautahi Christchurch Forum

On Monday 31 October Veterans' Affairs and other veteran support organisations will be in Ōtautahi Christchurch for our first face-to-face forum of 2022. We'll be at the Air Force Museum between 10:00am and 2:00pm, 45 Harvard Avenue, Wigram.

It will be great to see you and if you could also encourage your veteran friends along as well. Please register at:

 [www.va.mil.nz/otautahi-christchurch-forum/](http://www.va.mil.nz/otautahi-christchurch-forum/)

### An interim reduction of our phone lines

From Monday 19 September until the Christmas break, we will be reducing the hours of operation for our phone lines to 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday to Friday, outside of any public holidays. This is an interim measure to enable Veterans'

Affairs time to combine two teams, with the objective that the new combined team will be able to provide each caller with a more assistance and to lessen the times that they will have to transfer the caller to another team. If you have an enquiry outside those hours you can email [veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz) at any time. For an emergency please call 111, or for a counsellor free call or text 1737.

Cover shot: Dr Ellen Nelson with with some of the children that she and her team brought to Aotearoa New Zealand. The full story is on page 6.

# Remembering Lance Corporal Pralli Durrer

**A memorial service to mark the 10th anniversary of the death of Lance Corporal Pralli Durrer who was killed in action in Afghanistan was held in Nuhaka on 4 August.**

LCPL Durrer, along with LCPL Rory Malone was killed near Dahane Baghak in the Shikari Valley, Bamyán Province in a firefight that was to become known as the Battle of Baghak.

The memorial service was held at LCPL Durrer's final resting place, Kaitamure Urupa, Manutai Marae in Nuhaka. It was attended by family members and a group of his QAMR Crib 20 colleagues. His son Reef Pirika flew over from Australia for the occasion.

The service was officiated by Linton Chaplain Major Brendan Drew. During the service a Roll of Honour was read, acknowledging the nine other Ngati Tumataunga soldiers who died in Afghanistan, including

Corporal Luke Tamatea, LCPL Jacinda Baker and Private Richard Harris who were killed just 15 days after LCPLs Durrer and Malone.

LCPL Durrer's cousin, former soldier Cam Burrows who helped organize the service, said the anniversary not only served as an opportunity for personnel to remember and celebrate Pralli's life, but was a means by which soldiers past and present could meet Pralli's whanau for the first time and share their experiences and memories of him.

"We would really like to thank WO1 Shannon Brears, RSM QAMR, and WO2 Benny Meade SSM WEC SQN QAMR for facilitating a visit of the Unit for Pralli's son Reef and family before the service. It was an experience that will be cherished and remembered always by Reef."

**"It was an experience that will be cherished and remembered always by Reef."**



LCPL Pralli Durrer.



LCPL Rory Malone.



Corporal Luke Tamatea.



LCPL Jacinda Baker.



Private Richard Harris.

# Te Arataki mō te Hauora Ngākau mo ngā Mōrehu ā Tū me ō Rātou Whānau

## The Veteran, Family and Whānau Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy Framework

In the Winter issue of our magazine we told you about the planned launch of this Policy Framework, Te Arataki mō te Hauora Ngākau mō ngā Mōrehu a Tū me ō rātou (Te Arataki). This is the name that was gifted to the work by some of the veterans who worked with Veterans' Affairs and others to bring it to fruition. It is the first ever detailed examination of the mental health and wellbeing of veterans in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The article in our Winter issue traced how this work had been developed to the point where it was going to be officially launched. That launch took place on 29 June at Parliament. There was a Zoom link available and a number of people who weren't able to be there in person, were able to watch the event and hear the speeches of the Minister for Veterans and the Minister of Defence (who was also speaking as Associate Minister of Health). The Minister of Health was not able to be present, but has also endorsed the Framework.

The aim of Te Arataki is to alert other Government agencies to the challenges that are faced by veterans after service – and the families that support them. These are the sorts of things which are not often understood by agencies and departments who do not work closely with veterans. Te Arataki sets them out very clearly – and also sets out what has been learned by research internationally about what can best support wellbeing for veterans and their families.

We hope that the framework will encourage other agencies to develop their own strategies to support veterans.

You can see a video of the launch at:

 [youtu.be/GKsHsao-e9k.com](https://youtu.be/GKsHsao-e9k.com)


Veterans' Affairs has begun the first steps to help other agencies adopt and operationalize the framework.

Once the launch was over, the next phase of the work on Te Arataki began. This has involved

Bernadine MacKenzie, as head of Veteran's Affairs, meeting with a large number of agencies and departments, accompanied by two other members of the working group that developed the framework, Willie Apiata VC, Veteran Advisor, and Dr Mike O'Reilly, who is the Veterans' Affairs Clinical Adviser. Their mission was to talk with these organisations about veteran wellbeing and what they might be able to do to contribute to this. As Bernadine has noted in her message at the front of this magazine, the group has had a very positive reception from all of those they've called on.

This is a great start. We'll be keeping you informed in future issues of this magazine about how the action plan that's being developed, based on Te Arataki, is shaping up.

More information about Te Arataki can be found online at:

 [www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/about-veterans-affairs/our-programmes/mental-health-framework/](http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/about-veterans-affairs/our-programmes/mental-health-framework/)



Andy Peters.

**A powerful message:**

The video “Come home” was produced for the launch. It features veterans who describe their experiences and challenges that they faced after leaving service.

This video can be viewed on the Veterans' Affairs Youtube channel or at this link:

 [youtu.be/QE14qkV0CLO.com](https://youtu.be/QE14qkV0CLO.com)



Hon. Peeni Henare, Willie Apiata (VC), Hon. Meka Whaitiri.

# Saving her team and their families, Dr Ellen Nelson

**Dr Ellen Nelson, a former Defence Force engineering officer, and her team, including Chris Parsons and Martin Dransfield, spent 10 months to get her former Afghan team members and their families out of Afghanistan after the country had fallen.**

Ellen joined the New Zealand Army in 2003 as an Engineer, 2 Engineer Regiment and primarily served with the Construction Troop. She served in Afghanistan, CRIB 17, between 2010 and 2011, as the Engineer commander and her team included 5 kiwi soldiers and 15 locally employed civilians (LECs). Their role was to maintain infrastructure on New Zealand bases and to manage construction projects in the community. She was very proud of her team.

“It was a highlight of my career.

They were great people – we were an absolute a team. We hung out together, worked together, and the locals were a big part of it. They all made it into my heart.”

In Ellen’s team the LECs, also referred to as New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Allies, were labourers, plant operators, carpenters, plumbers, and electricians.

After the Taliban came to power, Afghans that had worked in defence or security for the previous Government and with any of the coalition forces were in grave danger. In August 2021, Ellen was asked by an Interpreter, who had worked with the New Zealand forces in Afghanistan and, now in New Zealand, whether she could help get a cousin out of Afghanistan. Ellen agreed to try, but the mission soon expanded to help get out all the Afghans and their families who had worked with the Kiwi forces.

The Government and NZDF had evacuated Afghan civilians, but those flights were suspended by the bombing of Kabul Airport. All of the people who had worked with the NZDF, around 60 LECs, were still in Afghanistan.

Ellen agreed to help, but the barriers were immense.

“While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade had committed to support these people, there was no clear pathway to get these people out. All existing policies and procedures didn’t work for these people. They had no internet, no passports, no money, and MFAT didn’t have anyone on the ground.”

The first step was to sort out the paperwork for the families. Ellen and her interpreter friends spent many weeks, working until 2 or 3am, night after night, meticulously compiling identification documents and all the paper work for each of the LECs and for each member of their family. She filed NZ visa applications for several hundred evacuees.

“Compiling documents from people who are on the other side of the world, who don’t speak English, have no access to internet, and were in hiding was a tricky task”.

The aim was to get the 60 LECs and their families out of Afghanistan. It was common for these families to have 5, 6 and 7 kids, so this totalled several hundred people. Of all the people that Ellen was hoping to bring out, two thirds were children. By September 2021 she had managed to get all the NZ visas.

Unfortunately, the how was unclear and the project was on a knife-edge. Then, in what Ellen describes as a “Magical week”, a team formed around her, a team that could get those families out. Chris Parsons (former Deputy Chief of the NZ Army and former Commanding Officer of SAS), Martin Dransfield, a serving officer, and one other veteran, contacted Ellen and offered their support. They brought experience and connections, they also delivered the ‘how’ and hope, and the four became a tight-knit team.

Following some media coverage of Ellen’s team’s efforts to help the LECs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Nanaia Mahuta agreed to collaborate with Ellen and her team, to develop a plan to evacuate the LECs from Afghanistan. Through October 2021 to May 2022, the team regularly met with MFAT, contributing their experience, connections and skills. Ellen’s team also raised several hundred thousand dollars to cover travel, accommodation and food costs.



The team was supported by many more people; the media, other volunteer advocates, several critical Afghan interpreters, and of course, the many dedicated Government officials.

In November 2021, the first LEC families began to leave Afghanistan. They left for another country, before flying to New Zealand. Over the following months all the families crossed the border. The last family arrived in June 2022. Every single person that Ellen and her team obtained NZ visas for, 563 people, were safely evacuated to NZ.

"It's a miracle that they're all safely in New Zealand."

Ellen cried with relief.

"I don't think I'd be the only person who felt this way. I assume that other Kiwi soldiers, especially those who worked alongside LECs, would be relieved that they are safe."

In many ways, this had been Ellen's second Afghanistan deployment.

"It has been hands-down the most challenging, emotionally draining and difficult task I have ever been involved with in my life. There were times when I didn't know how it would end, but I couldn't walk away from it. I would never have forgiven myself if one of those people died and I thought maybe I could have done more. I made a promise that I am going to do every single thing in my power and beyond to help these people."

In July the families gathered together to honour Ellen, Chris and Martin. When she walked into the room, she was overcome.

"It was overwhelming! All these little children with signs saying "Thanks Ellen for saving my life."

A video of this reunion:



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gxb02PhX0rM&t=5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gxb02PhX0rM&t=5s)



She began this project for the male LECs she had worked alongside, but it was their children particularly the girls that touched her most.

"When I saw them, especially the little girls, I had this real sense of hope for what their future has for them in New Zealand. It's radically different to what was ahead of them in Afghanistan. Some of them were facing the prospect of being forced to marry Taliban soldiers. Now they are going to go to school, they are going to be educated if they want to, they will have a career if they want to, marry and have children with people if they want to. It was incredible."

**"When I saw them, especially the little girls, I had this real sense of hope for what their future has for them in New Zealand."**

**Dr Ellen Nelson wrote about her experience and in particular the leadership lessons of her team's quest to save the Afghan families.**

**You can find that article here:**



[www.groundedcuriosity.com/high-performance-teams-and-leadership-lessons-afghan-evacuation-task](https://www.groundedcuriosity.com/high-performance-teams-and-leadership-lessons-afghan-evacuation-task)



Martin Dransfield, Ellen Nelson and Chris Parsons.

# Commemorative Fund

## The Hutt Valley Malayan Veterans Association held a Malaysian Night in conjunction with the NZ Malaysian Society at the Tawa RSA on 30 July.

Sunday 31 July marked 62 years since the end of the Malayan Emergency. It was a conflict between the Malayan Communist Party and the British administration.

The veterans association and Malaysian society commemorated the end of the Malayan emergency by sharing stories from that time, all over delicious Malaysian cooking.

“It was an opportunity for the younger Malaysian people to see just a few of the many New Zealanders who helped to defend their native country”, said Bill Russell, a member of the Hutt Valley Malayan Veterans Association.

When the Last Post was played, veterans were asked to stand and put on their medals, so that the Malaysians who attended could see some of those who had answered the call to defend their country all those years ago.

The Veterans’ Affairs Commemorative Fund contributed to the printing of a booklet and a decorative place mat for the event.



Bill Russell, J Col Razlan Razali Malaysian DA and Maj (Rtd), Paul Rosenzweig President of the South Australian Malayan Veterans Association.

If you have a commemorative project coming up, our Commemorative Fund may be able to help. This fund can make a contribution of up to \$5,000 for a New Zealand-based commemorative project that recognises veterans’ sacrifice.

For more information, check out:



[www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/remembrance/commemorative-funding/](http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/remembrance/commemorative-funding/)

## New provider for internal house cleaning

The Veterans’ Independence Programme is a set of services, offered by Veterans’ Affairs, to help veterans keep their independence. They include gardening and lawn mowing, internal house cleaning, podiatry, external house cleaning and medical alarms.

Earlier this year the contract expired for internal house cleaning services, and, we are required to go to market and ask for tenders for these services. We then follow very strict Government and NZDF procurement guidelines and rules.

Paramount Services Limited was selected as the new provider for interior cleaning. They’ll be providing the same services for up to two hours per week.

Veterans’ Affairs Manager of Veteran Services, Sharon Cavanagh, has said that “Although the procurement process and selecting the new provider took longer than originally anticipated we are thrilled at the outcome and are looking forward to working with Paramount Services”.

You can find out more information about our Veterans’ Independence Programme here:



[www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/a-z/veterans-independence-programme/](http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/a-z/veterans-independence-programme/)





## Your wish list for your retirement can come true, it just needs some planning.



Derrick McMillan, Chief of Staff, Defence Health Directorate, HQ NZDF in Wellington enjoys spending time with his family and grandchildren on their lifestyle block and riding his motorbike(s).

Derrick is looking forward to his retirement.

"I've had a busy and rewarding career with the NZDF, since joining the Army as a Private soldier. My career has taken me around the world and recently I returned from a three year posting to Singapore. My operational deployments have included Cambodia, East Timor, Bosnia, and the Middle East, and I've also spent time in the Pacific, South East Asia, the UK, and the USA."

It is these experiences that reinforced Derrick's view that he needed to plan ahead.

"Some of the places I've been to, were perhaps were not in the best shape, but they made me think of what the future may look like for me and my family and to ensure that we are prepared financially."

His physical wellbeing goes hand-in-hand with his financial wellbeing. He completes a gym session after work each day.

"Dedicating time to my physical wellbeing is a no brainer and so is allocating time to my financial wellbeing, so I was an early adopter of KiwiSaver."

"When the NZDF launched the NZDF Savings Schemes, I saw the additional benefits which could boost my

preparedness for retirement. I then switched to the NZDF KiwiSaver Scheme and also set up a FlexiSaver account to ensure we had a contingency fund, for whatever life throws at us."

Having a career protecting and rebuilding nations, Derrick was keen to ensure that his family was also thinking of the future.

"My grandson Harry arrived just before the NZDF scheme started, so I signed him up on the day the scheme launched."

"My recommendation to all Veterans, especially the younger ones, is that if you are not saving for your future now, talk to the experts at the Force Financial Hub. Don't put off having a conversation about your future because you have time on your side now, but that won't be the case forever."

The financial experts can help you take care of things and give you the time to focus on things that are important to you.

"I trust those experts to look after my savings and just check my account occasionally online and via the NZDF Savings Schemes' app, which is great."

"It is essential to save for our retirement. During my career I've seen a significant change in society, especially now with people trying to get into their first homes, so saving for that is also important and is possible with NZDF."



Derrick McMillan, Chief of Staff, Defence Health Directorate.

**"The financial experts can help you take care of things and give you the time to focus on things that are important to you."**

To find out more or to join the NZDF Savings Schemes, visit:



[www.nzdfsavings.mil.nz](http://www.nzdfsavings.mil.nz), or Google 'Force Financial Hub'

Financial advice is available by contacting Become Wealth:



0508 BECOME  
(0508 232 663)



[hello@become.nz](mailto:hello@become.nz)

The New Zealand Defence Force KiwiSaver Scheme and NZDF FlexiSaver Scheme are issued by Mercer (N.Z.) Limited. Product Disclosure Statements are available at:



[www.nzdfsavings.mil.nz](http://www.nzdfsavings.mil.nz).



SOLDIERS, SAILORS & AIRMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

# SSAANZ 2022

## *David Benfell*

**This year was SSAANZ's biggest year in terms of the events that we put on and how many veterans participated. By the end of 2022, we will have organized twelve events for veterans, and we will have walked hundreds of kilometres together.**

We've taken veterans on a Kaikoura fishing charter (12 vets), five hunting courses (53 vets), traversed the Southern Alps (where 11 vets completed a crossing of the Alpine divide East Coast to West Coast) and around the time of the publication of this magazine, we will be traversing the Ruahine Ranges.

In November, SSAANZ will be in the Tongariro National Park running events for vets and their families. Next year we will be in the Southern Alps for the Southern Traverse 2023 Amuri Pass.

There are still spots available for our fifth traverse of the Alps. Check out our website for details, we would love to have you aboard.

SSAANZ may be able to pay the costs of an event for any veteran who may be experiencing financial or health stress's. If you, or anyone you know, could use a SSAANZ challenge to reconnect with their military whānau please email us at:



[info@ssaanz.co.nz](mailto:info@ssaanz.co.nz)

We're aiming to create an Armed Forces community that maintains its bonds through adventure, shared experiences, and outdoor challenges. Feeling isolated is a common experience for veterans after they leave service, but through our outdoor events we maintain their military bonds, build their health and wellbeing and we give them something to look forward to.

For all our events and any enquiries, check out our website or email us:



[www.ssaanz.co.nz](http://www.ssaanz.co.nz)



[info@ssaanz.co.nz](mailto:info@ssaanz.co.nz)

SSAANZ will be at the Veterans' Affairs Ōtautahi Christchurch forum, 31 October, Air Force Museum. More information about the forum can be found on page 2.



The SSAANZ Intermediate Hunting Skills Course.



On the 2020 SSAANZ Southern Traverse (the fifth time for SSAANZ).



The SSAANZ circumnavigation of Mt Ruapehu, including the Tongariro Crossing.

# The Coastwatchers of Tarawa

**In October 1942, seventeen New Zealand coastwatchers on the Tarawa atoll, in the Gilbert Islands (now Kiribati) were murdered by the Japanese occupiers.**

Coastwatchers were military and civilian personnel from New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. Stationed throughout the Pacific, around New Zealand and even on the Auckland Islands, most were volunteers and their role was to keep a 24-hour watch for enemy ships and aircraft. They were an important part of the Pacific War intelligence network, and for those close to the front line, like those in the Gilbert Islands, the risk of capture was high.

Many of the Coastwatchers were telegraph operators and were or had been employed by the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department.

In 1941 coastwatching stations were established in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. The Gilbert and Ellice Islands were strategically important, as they are close to the Marshall Islands, which in 1941 were held by the Japanese.

Shortly after Pearl Harbour in December 1941, seven coastwatchers were captured by Japanese forces on

Butaritari in the northern Gilbert Islands. They were transported to Japan as prisoners of war. When the Japanese overran the rest of the Gilbert Islands in August and September 1942, seventeen more coastwatchers fell into their hands.

These men were either Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force soldiers or civilians from the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department. They were imprisoned in an asylum on the islet Betio, part of the Tarawa atoll.

On 15 October 1942 American warships and aircraft bombarded Tarawa. During the attack, one of the prisoners appears to have escaped from the asylum. He was hunted down and killed. Later that day the remaining prisoners and five other civilians (three British and two Australians) were beheaded.

At about the time of the Tarawa murders, the New Zealand Chiefs of Staff were considering whether or not to enlist the civilian coastwatchers.

There was a concern that as they were engaged in military duties the Japanese might treat them, if captured in civilian clothing, as guerrilla fighters and shoot them. However, being enlisted or otherwise did not save any of the coastwatchers that day in October 1942.

The murdered New Zealand coastwatchers were posthumously mentioned in dispatches for “exemplary conduct in coastwatching and communications duties in the Gilbert Islands area in the face of the enemy, despite overwhelming odds and the knowledge that relief or escape was impossible”.

The United States Marines erected a memorial to the coastwatchers, on Betio, Tarawa in 1944, and this was replaced in 1948 by a memorial centred on a granite cross. In Wellington, a memorial to the coastwatchers, close to the NZ Post building, was unveiled in October 2014.



The first (now replaced) memorial to New Zealand coastwatchers on Tarawa. Photo credit: US National Archives and Records Administration, USMC Record Group 127.



The Gilbert Islands (now Kiribati) Coastwatchers Memorial on the corner of Whitmore Street and Waterloo Quay, Wellington. Photo credit: John Halpin, 2019. Licensed by Manatū Taonga for re-use under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 3.0 New Zealand Licence.



# Online Cenotaph

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Since relaunching in 2015, the Online Cenotaph has developed a resource of over 130 Cenotaph Stories. These range from interviews with living veterans, articles acknowledging commemorative events such as Passchendaele and Anzac Day, to those stories that highlight lesser known military events and individuals.

Stories have been written by Auckland War Memorial Museum staff and by other contributors, such as academic researchers and whānau. The Online Cenotaph welcome story suggestions and support people to submit content for the Cenotaph team to create new posts.

The Online Cenotaph would also love to expand the range of stories being told to include the perspectives of veterans from more recent conflicts.

Here are some of their more recent stories:

## **Lieutenant Commander (Ret) Ralph John McNabb**

Lieutenant Commander (Ret) Ralph John McNabb served in the Royal New Zealand Navy for 46 years between 1973 and 2021. His impressive institutional knowledge is a true asset to New Zealand Naval research.

[www.aucklandmuseum.com/mcnabb](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/mcnabb)

## **Ngāti Raukawa Sacrifice and Suffering in 20th Century Wars**

Despite large loss of land and disregard from the Crown in the 19th century, 50 years later Ngāti Raukawa men were enlisting in large numbers to fight in World War One, and later World War Two. This article outlines the research conducted by Te Kenehi Teira and Heeni Collins as part of a report commissioned by Crown Forestry Rental Trust, Wellington (Wai 2200 Porirua ki Manawatu Inquiry).

[www.aucklandmuseum.com/ngati-raukawa](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/ngati-raukawa)

## **80th Anniversary of the Women's Royal New Zealand Naval Service**

This article was written in collaboration with the National Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy in celebration of 80 years since the establishment of the Women's Royal New Zealand Naval Service. In this article we highlight the many roles of Wrens during the Second World War, and the legacy of their service post-WWII. Thank you to the Collections Team at the Navy Museum for sharing their expertise.

[www.aucklandmuseum.com/wrnzns](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/wrnzns)

## **Serious business: Women in the Army**

July 2022 marked the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. Formed in July of 1942, it was the last of the three women's services to be established. In this article, Gail Romano (Associate Curator, War History) discusses the history of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps from its inception.

[www.aucklandmuseum.com/waac](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/waac)

If you have completed Operational Service and would like to submit a story or be interviewed by a Cenotaph team member please get in touch with Victoria Passau, *Online Cenotaph & Enquiry Services Manager*



[vpassau@aucklandmuseum.com](mailto:vpassau@aucklandmuseum.com)

# Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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## *Special Message from the Head of Veterans Affairs:*

**It is with great sadness that Veterans' Affairs acknowledges the passing of Her Majesty Elizabeth II, Queen of New Zealand. As Head of State, Her Majesty was also the Head of the New Zealand Armed Forces.**

Since 1952, veterans have sworn or affirmed allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen as our Monarch and as Head of the Armed Forces of New Zealand. The Queen's Colours of the Royal New Zealand Navy, the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and those of the regiments of the New Zealand Army, have been very tangible and public statements of the close relationship that existed between those who serve in New Zealand and Her Majesty.

All of the ten visits the Queen has made to New Zealand have been supported by the Armed Forces, from the very first one in 1953-54, when she presented the Royal New Zealand Air Force's first colour at Whenuapai Air Base, and later presented a new colour to the Royal New Zealand Navy at HMNZS Philomel (at Devonport).

Her last visit was in 2002, as part of the celebrations of her 50th Jubilee.

Many of our veterans will have personal memories of being part of the ceremonials for these visits – and some of you may have met the Queen yourselves, or your families may have done.

Her Majesty awarded the two highest gallantry awards to New Zealand service personnel made during her reign. She awarded a posthumous George Cross to Sergeant Murray Ken Hudson in 1974, and then, in 2007, she awarded the Victoria Cross for New Zealand to Lance Corporal Bill Henry "Willie" Apiata.

Her Majesty also expressed the wish that further recognition be given to the family of Lance Sergeant Haane Manahi DCM for actions during the Second World War for which he had been recommended for the Victoria Cross.

This resulted in a special award in 2007 of an altar cloth for use in the local church, a ceremonial sword on permanent loan from the Royal Collection, and a personal letter from Her Majesty to Lance Sergeant Manahi's family in recognition of his gallantry.

The Queen's constant dedication and commitment to her duties was an inspiration around the Commonwealth. She was much loved – may she rest in peace.

We now welcome as our new monarch King Charles III. As Prince of Wales, he has also been a regular visitor to New Zealand, and he holds several honorary New Zealand military titles: Admiral of the Fleet in the Royal New Zealand Navy; Field Marshal in the New Zealand Army; and Marshal of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He will retain these honorary titles as King.

I would like to end this message with a quote from our new King in his first address to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth after his mother's death:

***Queen Elizabeth's was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today.***

**Bernadine MacKenzie  
Head of Veterans' Affairs**



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

# NZDF in action

## Around the world

New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to Europe have quickly integrated with international partner militaries and commenced supporting Ukraine's self-defence.

NZDF logistics personnel are working within the International Donor Co-ordination Centre (IDCC) in Germany assisting multinational efforts to cohere and coordinate the movement of donated military aid to Ukraine.

The first Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) C-130 Hercules flight transporting military aid between staging centres in Europe has left New Zealand.

The Hercules will be based at the Royal Air Force base at Brize Norton, United Kingdom. It will fly to centres in Europe to load and transport military equipment consignments to forward staging points from which the equipment is moved into Ukraine.

Outside the Pacific, the NZDF routinely has 110 personnel working throughout the world. Of those 50 personnel are working with the United States and Canadian militaries and 40 personnel are working with the United Kingdom's Armed Forces in various roles. Around 20 personnel are working throughout Asia. Additionally, in Esquimalt, Canada, 165 NZDF personnel are currently supporting the Frigate Systems Upgrade of HMNZS Te Mana.

Twenty-six RNZAF P-8A crew trainees are embedded with the United States Navy in Jacksonville, Florida, for training on the new P-8A aircraft.

A contingent of 32 personnel deployed to Turkey to participate in Anzac Day commemorations.



## Operations

**Personnel deployed on major peace support operations, training missions and headquarters positions around the world:**

**31** personnel to the Multinational Force and Observers in Egypt, including the Force Commander.

**12** personnel to the United Nations Command and Military Armistice Commission in the Republic of Korea.

**8** personnel to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation based in Golan Heights, Lebanon and Syria.

**6** personnel in the Middle East in roles associated with the Defeat-ISIS Coalition in Iraq.

**4** personnel to Honiara, Solomon Islands

**3** personnel to the Combined Maritime Forces Headquarters in Bahrain

**3** personnel to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

**1** personnel deployed to UK Maritime Trade Operations in United Arab Emirates as part of our Maritime Security commitment.

## NZ and the Pacific



Six soldiers are in Fiji supporting the Republic of Fiji Military forces as they conduct professional training courses.



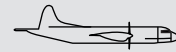
One member of the NZ Army band is providing training and mentoring to the Republic of Fiji Military Band and Fiji Navy Band.



Four Army engineers are supporting reconstruction of a secondary school in Fiji following Cyclone Yasa in December 2020.



A Boeing 757 transported the Prime Minister and her delegation to Singapore and Japan.



A P-3K2 Orion completed surveillance patrols and compliance checks of fishing fleets off the coast of Banks Peninsula.



Around 100 personnel are working with the Australia Defence Force and Pacific security forces in Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu.



The NZDF is hosting personnel from Australia, Canada, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga, UK, USA and Viet Nam on courses in New Zealand.