

2 **COMMEMORATIVE CENTRE**

Rannerdale Veterans' Care
Honouring its Past



3 **ADVISORY PANEL**

Veterans' Health Advisory
Panel established



MESSAGE FROM JACKI

Jacki Couchman, Head of Veterans' Affairs

Kia ora tatou. This is our final edition of Veterans' Affairs news for 2014. This year has seen a number of changes – including the new Veterans' Support Act 2014 and the retirement of Brigadier Rick Ottaway from the New Zealand Defence Force and as Secretary for War Pensions. We have farewelled outgoing Veterans' Affairs Minister Hon Michael Woodhouse and welcomed our new Minister, Hon Craig Foss. We have welcomed a new Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Tim Keating. We have also farewelled outgoing RNZRSA National President Don McIver and welcomed new National President BJ Clark. I joined the NZDF as Head of Veterans'

Affairs six months ago. We have been focused on heralding in the new Act and on the changes we need to make so we're ready to support veterans and their families in new ways. The new Act continues to recognise and honour the service of our veterans and the support they receive from their families. I have been privileged over the past six months to attend some significant WWI and WWII commemorations and to meet with Korean veterans at their commemoration in Wellington. Veterans' Affairs is currently working to support commemorations at Gallipoli next year and we know there is initial work underway on fitting commemorations for the 50th



anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in Viet Nam, in 2016.

Veterans' Affairs is proud to serve and support New Zealand veterans and their families. We wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy Christmas season – Meri Kirihimete ki a koe me te whanau.

MESSAGE FROM CDF

Lieutenant General Tim Keating MNZM,
Chief of Defence Force

Looking back across 2014 I have a great sense of pride in the way we as a Defence Force have met head on the opportunities and challenges we faced. It is all down to the efforts of you, the service people and civilians who make up the New Zealand Defence Force. And of course we couldn't do what we do without the support of our families and whanau. Thank you for your commitment, dedication, courage and sacrifice.

The end of 2014 will provide for many a much needed opportunity for respite and time with family and friends, but I know that some of you in the Defence Force will still be conducting missions or

... continued on page 3



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Hon Craig Foss, Minister of Veterans' Affairs

As the Christmas season is again upon us, I would very much like to extend my best wishes to all veterans and their families.

This year has been an extremely busy one for all, and we take the time now to reflect on our achievements in terms of the introduction of the Veterans' Support Act 2014 (Scheme One), whilst continuing to honour the service of all our veterans. As families gather together over the Christmas season, we will remember those serving away from home and loved ones, and also those no longer with us.

2015 will bring the centenary of the Anzac Day Landings in April as part of our First World War Centenary Programme which will be commemorated both here in New Zealand and Australia, and of course on the shores of Gallipoli. This will be a special time for young and old, as we continue to deepen our understanding

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Thank you for your service in the New Zealand Defence Force. Your contribution on behalf of our nation is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

The gift you have provided – that of freedom, peace and hope, is one that we all hold dear.

... continued from page 2

of the First World War and to foster appreciation and remembrance of how the First World War affected our nation and its place in the world both at that time and beyond.

I am enjoying the Veterans' Affairs portfolio thus far and I certainly look forward to meeting as many veterans as I can in coming months. I know that many of our veterans enjoy the interactions they have with the staff of

Veterans' Affairs and this of course will continue under the new legislation.

In closing, I would like to wish all veterans, a very Merry Christmas wherever you might be in the world. The gift you have provided – that of freedom, peace and hope, is one that we all hold dear. May you have a safe and happy festive season and I wish you and your families all the best for 2015.

RANNERDALE VETERANS' CARE HONOURING ITS PAST

The Rannerdale Veterans' Care residential facility in Christchurch was founded in 1921 to care for severely disabled men who returned from the horrors of World War One.

All the original residents at Rannerdale were young or middle aged men, who were permanently physically disabled as a result of injuries from their active service. Men came to live at Rannerdale to receive specialist care for their disabilities, providing their families with respite while they came to terms with their changed lives.

The men returned to a changed Canterbury after the War, but the Canterbury community embraced Rannerdale and rallied around the men who lived there. Annual fundraising fetes were held in the grounds, country houses offered accommodation, and seaside holidays to Sumner provided a change of scene.

As troops arrived home, it became evident that specialist care and support was needed for many of the men. The Patriotic Fund (now the Returned Serviceman's Association), Lady Liverpool Fund, and other local charities provided the initial funds to develop Rannerdale and it was staffed at first by the Red Cross. A number of homes were established throughout communities in New Zealand, however only two remain – Montecello in Dunedin and Rannerdale in Christchurch.

The Rannerdale World War One Commemorative Centre is being created to engage and educate our community and schools about WWI, Rannerdale's role in caring for Veterans, and to demonstrate the impact WWI had on our community. It will honour the Veterans and the staff who cared for them.

Initially the Rannerdale World War One Commemorative Centre will be home to a history and resource room which will open to the public from December 2014. Phase two of the project will be the creation of a community support service for ex-military personal, Veterans and their families. The community support service will provide a space where community welfare groups can provide services to groups or individuals.

Rannerdale is looking for any photos or stories of men who stayed at Rannerdale from 1921-1940 to include on the photo wall of WWI residents.

Please contact Karen Shepard for any further information karen@takahasolutions.co.nz

Pictured: Steve Shamy with some of the many books and resources which will be available to view in the history room.



Rannerdale is looking for any photos or stories of men who stayed at Rannerdale from 1921-1940

VETERANS' HEALTH ADVISORY PANEL

The Veterans' Health Advisory Panel has been established under the Veterans' Support Act 2014 to provide advice to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs on:

- assessing the relationship between qualifying operational service and impairment for the purpose of assessing eligibility to entitlements;
- the impacts of service on veterans' health;
- monitoring veterans' health;
- injuries and illnesses for which it should be presumed that deterioration after a veteran has left service is not service-related;
- the assessment and determination of claims by Veterans' affairs and medical assessors;
- which of the Australian Statements of Principles should apply in New Zealand;
- questions relating to a veteran's loss of a paired organ;
- injuries and illnesses that may be conclusively presumed to be service-related.

The Panel will also decide how the income of the Veterans' Medical Research Trust Fund is to be applied for grants and awards.

The Veteran's Health Advisory Panel has so far held two meetings, on 28 August and 22 October. It made recommendations to the Minister on the adoption of Australian Statements



Pictured: The Veterans' Health Advisory Panel.

of Principles into the Veterans' Support Regulations and on which organs should be considered paired organs for the purposes of the Veterans' Support Act 2014. The Panel is expected to hold its third meeting in February 2015.

The VHAP members are:

- Dr Marie Bismark, Chair
- Dr Brian Cox, Deputy Chair
- Dr Alastair Macleod, Member
- Dr Ian Civil, Member
- Dr Peter Thorne, Member
- Dr David McBride, Member
- Ms Mary Daly, Member
- Dr Anne Campbell, Veteran's Affairs *ex officio* member
- Squadron Leader Dr Andy Campbell, Chief of Defence Force's *ex officio* member.

ELIGIBILITY FOR LÉGION D'HONNEUR

The Government of France is looking for New Zealand veterans of the Second World War who may be eligible for the award of the Légion d'Honneur. If you think you might be eligible and you took part in the Normandy Landings (whether in the air or at sea); and/or served on land in France or in the air over France at some date before 8 May 1945, Veterans' Affairs would be pleased to hear from you. Veterans'

Affairs will of course need to verify your service and no details will be passed to the French Embassy here in Wellington without the express permission of the veteran concerned.

For further information, please contact Aaron Hanley, Adviser Commemorations, on Freephone 0800 483 8372 or (04) 495 2070 if calling from outside New Zealand.



... continued from page 1

on standby in and around New Zealand.

Many of you are a long way from your loved ones, and are working in harsh climates and inhospitable places. Many others will be at work supporting the efforts of those who are deployed. Your commitment reflects the pattern of 2014 where you have served in a variety of tasks and areas that our Defence Force mission demands. These include major international exercises such as RIMPAC, assisting in many Search and Rescue efforts, including the search for MH370, and supporting other government departments and those around the world that require your unique skills to bring hope, peace, security and protection. Standing behind those at the 'front line', is of course a massive Defence Force team of Regular Force, Reservists and Civilians who make sure every aspect of our organisation runs well. It is together that we succeed in tasks like these, demonstrating our professionalism and delivering to exceptionally high standards.

Christmas and our summer holidays are traditionally a time where we try to pause from the pace of our roles, renew bonds with friends and family, relax a little, reflect on our own lives, and assess where we are and where we are going. I encourage you, if you can, to take the opportunity to have some time off.

Take some time to reflect on what you have achieved in 2014 and what 2015 holds. For those reflecting on the past year, know that your contribution is both valued and valuable. And remember that our service does not recognise the boundaries of geography, season or environment; it does not always give notice of intention nor make allowance for rest and respite. You are special people who serve selflessly and put the needs of the mission before self interest. In so doing, you serve as a Force for Good, for New Zealand and the world.

Together we are *A Force For New Zealand*.

Nga mihi o te wa me te tau hou
A merry Christmas and a happy
New Year

OVERWATCH 2015



OverWatch is a group that provides peer support and guidance to NZDF's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning (GLBTIQ) community – as well as to their commanders and managers, families, friends and colleagues.

As part of OverWatch's annual event calendar, three big events are coming up in February that members, supporters and peers alike, attend to celebrate the diverse workforce that NZDF offers. These events are:

- Big Gay Out (Auckland) – Sunday 8 February 2015. This annual event is held at Coyle Park and is intended to provide a family friendly atmosphere. OverWatch will be managing a stall, providing information to the public on the key NZDF equity and diversity messages.
- Out in the Park (Wellington) – Saturday 14 February 2015. Wellington hosts its own GLBTIQ event in Waitangi Park and OverWatch will be there to represent NZDF through a walking parade from Civic Square to Waitangi Park along the waterfront, as well as managing a stall promoting NZDF's equity and diversity messages.
- Auckland Pride Parade (Auckland) – Sat 21 February 2015. The Auckland Pride Parade is the final event of the Auckland Pride Festival and OverWatch will be taking part in the march. As with last year, OverWatch invites all personnel, including our "Straight Allies", to take part. Personnel will wear Service dress and march throughout the parade, usually to great fanfare from the public.

These events are important in demonstrating the diverse culture that NZDF holds and is an opportunity to show members of the public how inclusive and accepting the NZDF is. OverWatch invites all NZDF personnel, both currently serving and Veteran, and their families to take part in these events, either through getting involved or supporting colleagues to take part.

**For more information, contact OverWatch:
Overwatchevents@nzdf.mil.nz**



NOTICES

PARAPARAUMU RSA & COMMUNITY CLUB

Post-Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home and Memorial Plaque Dedication Parade

The Paraparaumu RSA extends an invitation to all Post-Vietnam Veterans (including Commonwealth and Allied) and their Families to attend a 'Welcome Home' parade, which will include the dedication of a new Memorial Plaque on the local War Memorial to recognise their service – 'United Nations and Allied Coalitions Post-1945'.

The parade will be held in Paraparaumu at 1430 on Saturday 14 February 2015, followed by a social function in the RSA clubrooms.

The form up point for veterans will be the corner of Parakai Street and Tutanekai Street, Paraparaumu at 1410 14 February 2015. Family groups will be invited to gather in a dedicated area in front of the Memorial Gates outside the RSA Clubrooms on Amohia Street. Members of the public have also been invited to line the street in acknowledgement.

Parties are requested to register their interest with the Paraparaumu RSA Manager, Don Trevethick at pramrsa@paradise.net.nz

RANNERDALE WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATIVE CENTRE

Regimental Dinner

Air Force Museum, Wigram
Saturday 28th February, 2015, 7pm

Experience the thrill of a formal military Regimental Dinner, proudly sponsored by New Zealand Defence Force, including:

- NZ Army Band drummers beat the retreat
- honour guard
- parading of the Regiments and Queens Colours

Support our veterans and their families into the future, and honour those that did not return.

Tickets: \$250 per person or \$2500 per table (10 guests). Purchase your tickets or table by contacting Ingrid Thomas at Rannerdale Veterans Care (03) 348 7128 or ingrid@rannerdale.co.nz



Contributions for Veterans' Affairs
News are to be posted to:

The Editor
PO Box 5146
Wellington 6145

or emailed to:
veteransaffairs@nzdf.mil.nz

Thank you for your service in the New Zealand Defence Force. Your contribution on behalf of our nation is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

