



## C-O-N-N-E-C-T-I-O-N-S

Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA — **September 2022**

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PO Box 38-905 Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt

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*The Lower Hutt Memorial RSA meets on Friday from 4:30pm to 6:30pm  
in the Members Lounge at the Petone Workingmen's club 47 Udy Street, Petone*

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### ***9 SEPTEMBER, 2022 NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE MOURNS DEATH OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II... NZDF***

We acknowledge with sadness the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Monarch who had many deep and abiding ties with New Zealand's military forces.

Chief of Defence Force Air Marshal Kevin Short said Her Majesty's ongoing dedication to her duties was an inspiration to the NZ Defence Force, particularly in the challenging times throughout her reign.

"Her dedication and commitment resonated with us all as it is the ultimate example of service which underpins everything we do as members of the New Zealand Defence Force," he said.

"While there will be a sombre mood acknowledging Her Majesty's death, it is also a time to appropriately celebrate her more than 70 years as our Monarch and her contribution to all walks of life and to the Armed Forces."



The Queen had a special relationship with the NZDF. As head of state, Her Majesty was the head of the NZDF and its three Services, Royal New Zealand Navy, New Zealand Army and Royal New Zealand Air Force.

“She holds colonelcies and captain-general roles in a number of Army units and we also appreciate that she was the first member of the Royal Family to join the Armed Services as a full-time member.

“While we celebrate and mourn her long and rich life, we also celebrate the accession of the new King,” Air Marshal Short said.

The Queen visited New Zealand 10 times over her lifetime.

In her first visit to New Zealand in 1953-54, among her first duties was the presentation of the Royal New Zealand Air Force’s first colour at Whenuapai Air Base. She also presented a new colour to the Royal New Zealand Navy at HMNZS Philomel (at Devonport).

The NZDF will have a major role to play during commemoration events over the coming days, including the State Memorial Service, and ceremonies surrounding the accession of the new King. We will provide details of these activities in due course.

In 2016, the Queen appointed the Prince of Wales with the following honorary 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.

As head of state, Her Majesty is also the head of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and its Services: the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), the New Zealand Army and the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF).

Because of this, all members of the Defence Force are required to swear or affirm their allegiance to Her Majesty and to her heirs and successors.

The Queen’s authority is also expressed in numerous symbolic forms. These range from the design of the colours, flags, badges and uniforms of the armed forces to the ‘Royal’ prefix given to the RNZN and RNZAF and to many of the corps and regiments of the Army.

It is also reflected in the prefix ‘Her Majesty’s New Zealand Ship’ for New Zealand naval vessels. In practice and by statute, many of the Queen’s formal duties are delegated to her New Zealand-resident representative, the Governor-General, in that office holder’s capacity as Viceroy, acting in the name of and on behalf of the Sovereign, and as Commander-in-Chief of New Zealand.

It is the Governor-General, for example, who commissions officers to command the forces, and who usually presents military colours and gallantry awards in the Queen’s name.

Underpinning this formal relationship was the Queen’s personal bond with members of the Services, which is given concrete form in the military appointments held by Her Majesty and other members of the Royal Family. The current military appointments held by the Queen are:

- Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery (1953);
- Captain-General of the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps (1953);
- Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers (1953);
- Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (1964); and
- Air-Commodore-in-Chief of the Territorial Air Force of New Zealand (1954)

Each appointment signalled that the corps or regiment had established a direct and personal link with Her Majesty, who was to be kept informed of their more important activities and who would visit them during her tours of New Zealand.

Members of the New Zealand armed forces have also visited her in the United Kingdom and attended significant Royal and other events, such as the coronation in 1953 and the unveiling of the New Zealand Memorial in Hyde Park London in 2006 and the RAF Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park London in 2012.

Queen Elizabeth was the first reigning Monarch to tour New Zealand, visiting on 10 occasions in 1953-54, 1963, 1970, 1974, 1977, 1981, 1986, 1990, 1995 and, for the last time, in 2002 as part of the celebrations for her 50th Jubilee.

During her reign, Her Majesty retained a direct personal responsibility in many areas.

The two highest gallantry awards to New Zealander Service personnel made during her reign, for example, were personally approved by Her Majesty on the advice of the New Zealand Government. These were the posthumous award of the George Cross to Sergeant Murray Ken Hudson in 1974, and the Victoria Cross to Lance Corporal Bill Henry “Willie” Apiata in 2007.

In 2006 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 took the form of the gift from The Queen of an altar cloth, a personal letter from The Queen and the presentation of a sword on permanent loan from the Royal Collection.

The Te Arawa Sword of Gallantry for Hanne Manahi was presented to Te Arawa by His Royal Highness the Duke of York on behalf of Her Majesty on 17 March 2007.

The Queen also personally approved all designs for flags, standards, colours, badges and other insignia bearing her Royal Cypher and/or Crown, and the Battle Honours awarded to units during her reign before they were officially promulgated.

On two occasions she personally presented Queen’s Colours to the New Zealand armed forces. These were:

- The Queen’s Colour of the Royal New Zealand Navy (1953)
- The Queen’s Colour of the Royal New Zealand Air Force (1953)

### ***SEPTEMBER IN NEW ZEALAND MILITARY HISTORY... by Keith Garwood***

#### **New Zealand’s first special forces**

The Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) was formed in Egypt in 1940 to carry out covert reconnaissance and intelligence gathering missions behind Axis lines in the deserts of Egypt and Libya. Although the primary mission of the LRDG required it to avoid attracting attention, it was sometimes used offensively, such as during the Western Desert Campaign in the assault on the town of Barce, Libya and the nearby Italian military airfield on the night of 13/14 September 1942.

The attack on Barce was part of a coordinated operation codenamed Operation Agreement which had as its purpose the disruption of supply lines, and involved the British Commandos attacking Tobruk, the Special Air Service attacking Benghazi, the Sudan Defence Force attempting to capture Jalo Oasis and the LRDG attacking the town and airfield of Barce.



New Zealand members of the LRDG pause for tea in the Western Desert, 27 March 1941, with their Chevrolet trucks in the background.

After a desert trek of 1,859 kilometres involving a double crossing of the Great Sand Sea of Western Egypt and Eastern Libya the two LRDG patrols, designated Operation Caravan, attacked their assigned targets. The British G1 Patrol attacked the town and Italian barracks, while the New Zealand T1 Patrol attacked the airfield. The New Zealanders destroyed or damaged 23 mostly Italian aircraft on the ground, and from that point of view can be considered a success. But overall, Operation Agreement was not successful, and a heavy price in men and equipment was paid during the withdrawal phase with Axis forces being well and truly alerted and ready for allied forces as they withdrew.



The New Zealand Squadron of the LRDG is considered to be the forerunner of the 1<sup>st</sup> New Zealand Special Air Service Regiment and as such the Squadron and its men are commemorated by the LRDG memorial at the SAS Regiment compound at Rennie Lines, Papakura



**Lower Hutt Memorial RSA (Inc.)**

## **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING**

**2022 – 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**11:00AM SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

### **ANZAC LOUNGE**

At Petone Workingmen's Club, 45 Udy Street, Petone

### **AGENDA**

- Apologies
- Minutes of the 2021 – 2022 AGM
- Reports:           President  
                          Support Services  
                          Darts Adjunct  
                          Trustees  
                          Financial
- Notices of Motion
- Election of Executive Officers
- General Business

*Only financial members of the LHMRSA for 2022 are eligible to attend this meeting.  
Please bring a mask.*

### ***LHM RSA SUPPORT SERVICES***

The LHM RSA offers Support Services for all Returned and Service personnel (and their spouse/partner, or dependants). Assistance can be tailored to individual needs via grants or assistance with expenses for:

- Doctors' visits and prescriptions
- Dental
- Optical
- Audio impairment
- Specialist visits
- Funeral expenses (conditions apply)
- Mental Health

As well as home and hospital visits, assistance with a variety of home help services may also be available. Step-by-step assistance with understanding and using Internet Banking is offered too.

If you require assistance from the LHM RSA Support Services Team for any contingencies other agencies cannot assist with, phone PWMC Reception on 0-4-568 5404, and ask for an appointment with the LHM RSA Support Services Team, and leave your contact details.

### ***WELFARE OFFICER***

The LHM RSA and the PWMC jointly fund a Welfare Officer. Dale Ansell of the MAF Committee will be available to assist all Members with their welfare concerns. Office space has been established for Dale in the LHM RSA Office/Library, which is situated downstairs, off the Members Lounge. Appointments can be made to see Dale for Tuesday 9am to 1pm; Wednesday 9am to 4pm; and Thursday 9am to 1pm, at Reception on 0-4-568 5404.

### ***ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS FROM VETERANS' AFFAIRS NEW ZEALAND***

Veterans can get the following assistance from VANZ to help with quality of life issues, including:

- Lawns and gardens
- House cleaning
- Gutters cleaned
- Windows and external house washing
- Help may be available for internal windows
- Home modifications to assist entry and exit (e.g. ramps)
- Furniture modifications
- Attendant care (short term basis only)
- Adaptive clothing and footwear
- Personal alarms (in case of falls, etc.)
- Assistance with applications for funding of mobility scooters
- Travel allowances (conditions apply)
- Assistance with medical costs and hearing loss

The above is available to all who served prior to 1 April, 1974 and includes all operational deployments and routine service deployments. This also covers those who served after 1 April 1974 in various theatres since Vietnam.

For further information or clarification, contact your Veterans' Affairs Case Manager directly on 0800 483 8372, or e-mail [veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz)

If you are already dealing with VANZ and are having to wait a long time to see an appropriate professional, make contact with the LHM RSA Support Services and if we can help speed up the process with VANZ, we will.



# LHM RSA SUPPORT SERVICES

## Financial Assistance Application

Email: [lhmrta@gmail.com](mailto:lhmrta@gmail.com) — Website: [www.lowerhuttrsa.co.nz](http://www.lowerhuttrsa.co.nz)

**Financial assistance may be available for Returned or Services personnel, their partners or dependents. Such assistance is discretionary as may be determined by the LHM RSA Executive Committee.**

*(Please provide proof of Military Service if not a financial member of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA).*

Name:.....

Membership No..... Service No.....

Address:.....

Phone No:.....

Email:.....

*I wish to apply for LHM RSA financial assistance towards the cost of approved Support Services expenses, which has been directly incurred by myself.*

Total expenditure incurred \$.....

*Category of assistance sought:*

Optical	Hearing	Dental	Specialist	GP / General Prescriptions	Discretionary	Funeral Grant
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

*(Please attach original receipts & details of expenditure incurred)*

Bank Account No:.....

Name of Account:.....

Signature..... Date.....

**LHM RSA Use Only**

RECOMMENDED:(Name)..... (Signature).....

Date:..... **APPROVED:** (Category).....

(Name)..... (Signature)..... Date:.....

*If you wish to contact a member of LHM RSA Support Services Team; Phone 568 5404 and leave contact details.*

## ***RSA MERCHANDISE ... RNZRSA***

Have you seen the range of RSA branded gear available on the RSA website? Getting kitted out with hoodies, t-shirts, jackets and caps from our store helps us support veterans with 25% of each sale coming back to the RSA.

Many of the items on sale can be individualised with the name of your local Association e.g. 'Lower Hutt.' In the event of an item or size being unavailable we will contact you with other alternatives. If there are no alternatives you will be fully refunded.

Check out the range on our website: [www.rsa.org.nz](http://www.rsa.org.nz)



Prices (Top row): RSA Hoodie \$70; Hartley Check Shirt (Mens & Ladies sizes) \$93; Heavy Weight Fleece Jacket \$62; Pocket Polo Shirts (Mens & Ladies sizes) \$35  
Prices (Bottom row): Soft Shell Vest (Mens & Ladies sizes) \$60; Mens Soft Shell Jacket \$69; Half Zip Crew \$67; Adults 5 panel Snapback Cap \$34; T-Shirt (not shown) \$19

## ***PROPOSED APPROVED INFORMATION AGREEMENT... Veterans' Affairs***

A proposal to make it easier to share veteran information between Veterans' Affairs and other government agencies is out for public consultation.

A number of government agencies have contact with veterans and the information that they learn about them, when shared, will be able to improve the support for them, as well as the support we provide to our veterans.

The proposed Veterans' Affairs Approved Information Sharing Agreement (AISA) will be a formal agreement that is made into law through an Order in Council. However, before the Government approves the proposed Veterans' Affairs AISA, they need to be sure that the people most impacted by it and the general public understand what is being proposed and have had the opportunity to have their concerns heard by making a submission.

More information about the proposed AISA can be found [here](#). There you will find the specific veteran information that is proposed to be shared, the specific government agencies involved, and all the documents material related to the proposed Veterans' Affairs AISA.

[We would love to hear your thoughts.](#)

