



## REGULAR FORCE CADET ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 715 Paraparaumu

Email address [rogernewth@paradise.net.nz](mailto:rogernewth@paradise.net.nz)

Website [www.rfcadet.org.nz](http://www.rfcadet.org.nz)

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# NEWSLETTER

June 2017

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### Kev's Korner

I recently read an NZ Herald analysis of a report on the NZDF deployment of 10 years to Afghanistan. The Herald detailed areas of criticism in the review regarding poor leadership, a lack of planning and the issue of sub-standard equipment to our soldiers. I wondered if the original report had made mention of the good the deployments had done and whether the Herald had chosen not to mention them. Subsequent to the Herald article there have been a number of Afghanis now living in New Zealand who have considerable praise for our soldiers.

I also read the latest Army News with great interest. There is no comparison between the Army of today and the Army I retired from 30 years ago. The technology used today is vastly different. The training and exceptional skills of today's Army are clearly evident when reading the Army News. The soldier of today goes to a kiosk to make a pay change or to apply for leave. The structure of the Army, the facilities available and the support available to soldiers is superb. Soldiers of today have an opportunity to participate in every sport imaginable. There are new weapons, new vehicles and new uniforms.

How did NZDF get to where it is today? I believe it got there by the vision of its leaders. I believe the availability of technology and a willingness of all ranks to assimilate change has kept our modern day Army on a par with the best in the world.

Do the reports on the Afghanistan experience and the changing landscape of NZDF relate in any way to our RF Cadet Association? Are we as an Association changing with the times? Are we making full use of the technology available today? Are we achieving our stated aim which is to promote and maintain esprit de Corps, comradeship and welfare for all those who served with the RF Cadets and who are currently serving or not serving in the military?

Is there still a need for the Association? Apart from wonderful newsletters written and supplied to us by Bret Bestic there have been few articles or comment made by members.

Currently we have less than 150 paid up members. Next year there is expected to be an increase in membership as Ex Cadets register for the 70th Celebrations in Wellington. Will these new members renew in 2019 and beyond?

What changes need to be made? What vision do we need as an Association?

It was most gratifying to eventually find a web master who has now got our website (in part) back up and running. That has been a major challenge but there are other challenges.

We are in discussion with the Army Museum about accessing RF cadet memorabilia that was donated to the Museum in 1998. The Museum has advised that the Association agreed in 2006 for ownership and therefore governance of the artefacts and memorabilia to rest with the Museum Trust. That provides security but we now need to discuss access to the items held.

The need for change and modernisation is occurring in other organisations as well. Currently there is discussion by some about the need to provide a better welfare service than the RNZRSA and to reorganise and /or to rename the EVSA which was set up by Ex Vietnam Veterans. Others believe it better to get more involved with the RNZRSA and change the services provided to better cater for the returned servicemen of today.

I challenge you all to think about the aims of the Association and to make your views known about the success or otherwise of the Executive. The annual AGM will be held in August and that will be an opportunity for members to make their views known.

Regards

Kevin Bromwich  
PRESIDENT

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**19<sup>th</sup> August 2017  
10.00am**

**Venue is Club Vista  
32 Marine Parade  
Paraparaumu Beach  
Paraparaumu**

**Light refreshments served after meeting**

As Kevin has mentioned in his opening, it is vital for the Association that as many as possible attend this AGM. I know that lots of people think that these are a bit 'ho hum' but for the success of any organisation, it is essential that the opinion of many is forthcoming and the Annual General Meeting is a great time to be able to have your voice heard.

### **NEWSLETTER**

In the past when we have published the newsletter, we have had huge volumes of comments from all of our members. These have always entertained everyone, but of late, we are not getting this interesting material. Unfortunately Facebook has made instant commenting a better option for lots of you, but we would remind you that there are still people who do not have Facebook – *yep I know* – or even a computer, so it is important that anything of interest or importance is also included in these newsletters to enable everyone to be kept up to date.

The RFCS Association Executive is currently exploring the design, manufacture and availability of official memorabilia including plaques, ties, cuff links, lapel pins etc. Further details will be provided in the near future.

#### **Gordon Forrester**

“I have just returned to NZ from Greg Espie's funeral in Coloundra Qld. His passing was marked with dignity and with real style. His Regular Force Cadet and Army life was well covered as was his life after the Army. Greg's Mother, his partner, his daughters and the wider family and friends were all comforted and appreciative of the support from everyone in Greg's military whanau. I am sure I am not assuming too much when I pass on their thanks to all of you. Thanks also to Burrows Class 1974 for their comradeship and support.”

#### **Tom Cook**

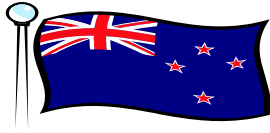
#### **Website**

As advised in the last newsletter, this is coming along slowly. There is an enormous amount of information to be transferred, but keep watching. Slowly but surely it is being created.

*As we approach the middle of the year, you will have reunions coming up later in the year. We are happy to publish any information on time, date, place etc of any of these. Just email or post any information.*

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please let us know if we can help them in any way. We now have a series of cards for ‘Bereavement’, ‘Get Well’ and ‘Thinking of you’ which our secretary sends out to all members when notified of the relevant event. Quite a few of these have already been sent out and have been very well received.

*Reminder to you all.....the more information and stories that we get, the better the newsletter will be. So send in anything that you have and maybe we can all have a good laugh.*



## LAST POST

*Sadly many of our members are passing away. Every three months it is my honour to publish their names as recognition of the part that they have played in Military life. We would like to pass on our condolences to their friends and families.*

**Arthur RAXWORTHY – Shuttleworth Class 1955**

We were only recently advised that Arthur had passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in South Africa.

**Captain Neil HENRY - 1RNZIR, NZSAS - Ardagh Class 1968**

Neil passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Courtney (Tiny) MANAIA - Rennie Class 1983**

Tiny passed away in a hospice in Palmerston North on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017, aged 51

**Ian JONES - G46650 L.Cpl, RNZE - Burrows Class 1974**

Ian passed away in Wanganui on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, aged 59

**Alan Edward FRANCIS - Burrows Class 1974**

Alan passed away in Wanganui on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, aged 59

**Peter F. HUNT - L42008 - RNZEME - Andrew VC Class 1966**

Peter passed away in the Bay of Plenty on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

**Gregory Paul ESPIE - Burrows Class 1974**

Greg passed away in Caloundra, Queensland on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017, aged 60

*The RF Cadet Association would like to convey our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of our lost comrades.*

*We would also like to send our thoughts and wishes to Terry Fell whose wife Hinga passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> June.*

*NB Burrows Class has had a really bad run over the last three months, losing three of their members, two of whom died on the same day and whose funerals were on the same day, both in Wanganui.*



