

Veterans Affairs

AUTUMN 2022

TE TIRA AHU IKA A WHIRO

SSAANZ taking vets
into the wild



Tēnā koutou katoa

Welcome to the autumn edition of *Veterans' Affairs*.

In this issue

- 3 Dave Samuels, Te Puni Kōkiri
- 4 SSAANZ – Peace in the Outdoors
- 6 Rate Changes
- 8 Ex gratia payments to surviving spouses
- 9 Te Kiwi Māia
- 10 100 years of Poppy Day
- 12 Force Financial Hub – Tower Insurance
The Commemorative Fund
- 13 Connecting in the digital age
- 14 Online cenotaph
- 16 NZDF in action

Cover: Caleb Kahotea on the SSAANZ South Traverse 2022 tramp. Taken from above Park Morpeth Hut, near Brownings Pass, Arthur's Pass National Park, North Canterbury.

Photographer: Tim Pevreal

The *Veterans' Affairs* magazine is published four times a year by *Veterans' Affairs New Zealand – Te Tira Ahu Ika a Whiro*.

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of *Veterans' Affairs* or the New Zealand Defence Force.

 www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz

 veterans@nzdf.mil.nz

 0800 483 8372
(Freephone New Zealand)
1800 483 837
(Freephone Australia)
+64 4 495 2070
(rest of world)

 Veterans' Affairs
PO Box 5146
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

 HEI MANA MŌ AOTEAROA
A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

 Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

As we move through the first few months of 2022, we continue to look at how best to remain connected with our veterans. We piloted our first virtual forum in December of last year. Connecting virtually will always present some challenges as we get used to technology and the virtual way of doing things but having jumped into the December online forum boots and all, we received much positive feedback from those who participated. By the time you read this edition of *Veterans' Affairs* we should have completed a virtual forum for our New Zealand veterans who are based in Australia. Our aim is to continually improve the way we communicate and connect with you and your families and we are committed to delivering our virtual forums at other times throughout the year. Keep an eye on our Facebook page, online newsletter and website for further details.

Many of you will recall that on 30 November 2021, it was announced that two new conditions had been added to the list of Prescribed Conditions eligible for an ex gratia payment under the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Following that announcement, Veterans' Affairs contacted over 700 eligible Vietnam veterans to discuss the implications of these additions. Last month we made one-off ex gratia payments of \$40,000

each to 710 Vietnam veterans where a claim had already been accepted for one of the new conditions when the November announcement was made.

This has been a huge undertaking for Veterans' Affairs, but our work does not stop there. For those Vietnam veterans who have made an application for one of the new conditions, subsequent to the November announcement, we continue to work through the applications received. This does take time but we are working as quickly as we can and we are committed to making payments as soon as we can.

Take care of yourselves and do reach out to your mates during these uncertain times as we continue to navigate COVID-19. It's always great to remain connected with those you care about.



Bernadine Mackenzie
Head of Veterans' Affairs

Notice of a change to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure for veteran support entitlements

From 1 April 2022 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure that is used to adjust the annual rate changes, will change from CPI (All Groups less cigarettes and other tobacco products) to CPI (All Groups). The CPI indexation measure used to adjust veteran support entitlements on 1 April 2022, and annually thereafter, will change to the CPI (All Groups). This will maintain alignment with the indexation measure that will be used to adjust New Zealand Superannuation, the Veteran's Pension and other rates and thresholds of social assistance from 1 April 2022.

See Rate Changes – pages 6 and 7

Dave Samuels

Te Puni Kōkiri and Ngā Ara Whakatupuranga | New Frontiers

It's very difficult to find fault with Dave Samuels' logic.

"You only need to read the news to see that the Public Service is struggling to deliver the outcomes that Māori need and deserve. That is the situation we are facing right across our agencies whether it be in justice, health, housing, education or employment."

"Put simply, the Public Service is screaming out for Māori Leaders to assist them in the delivery of their services and obligations to Māori citizens but there is a paucity of Māori leaders in the Public Service."

His solution is to create a pathway for Māori veterans to get into the public service. That pathway is Ngā Ara Whakatupuranga | New Frontiers – a programme for Māori service people from any of the forces to transition through Te Puni Kōkiri to a career in the wider Public Service.

Dave Samuels is the Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Puni Kōkiri | Secretary for Māori Development at Te Puni Kōkiri. He knew that NZDF had the right people, because Dave is a veteran.

Following his Dad, Dave joined the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR) in 1978 as a Rifleman. First posted to the 2nd/1st Battalion RNZIR and then to the 1st Battalion RNZIR in

Singapore. In 1983 Dave was selected for officer training and graduated as a Second Lieutenant.

From 1985 to 2003 he held a range of command and operational appointments. He was in Singapore and Malaysia and saw operational service in the Sinai, Bougainville, and with the United Nations in Lebanon, Syria, and East Timor. He transferred to the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 2003, then retired from the Defence Force in June 2004 after twenty six years of service.

Since 2004 Dave has had policy and leadership roles at the Department of Corrections, the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He took up the role as the Secretary for Māori Development in 2019.

He believes that veterans have the values, skills and experience that would be valuable in the public service.

The first is a commitment to service. "Veterans have a strong sense of service" that has similarities to the "spirit of service" ethos we adopt in the public service, a commitment to make our country, our whānau, and our communities a better place.

"They also have leadership skills. Leading in the forces is much more than the common perception of just pulling rank, those leadership skills are taught and then practiced."



"The other skill that served me well in my career, and that veterans will be familiar with, is situational awareness. It is the appraisal and understanding of a situation and the context in which you are working. Very valuable in the field on operations, but also in the public service, understanding the context in which you are working helps you to get things done and bring people with you."

Dave's thoughts about what veterans could bring to the public service, echo his own service experience and that of many veterans.

"These are the values and skills for nation building. This is what New Zealand forces have done offshore in Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Bougainville, East Timor and more recently in New Zealand.

"It's an opportunity for people who have spent a lifetime in the NZ Defence Force to return to their people to continue to serve and help build a nation."



Dave's thoughts about what veterans could bring to the public service, echo his own service experience and that of many veterans,

"These are the values and skills for nation building. This is what New Zealand forces have done in Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Bougainville, and East Timor. Let's improve the outcomes for Māori by building Māori capability within our public service."

"It's an opportunity for people who have spent a lifetime in the NZ Defence Force to return to their people and help build a nation."

Left: Graduating from the Ngā Ara Whakatupuranga are Warrant Officer Ngatasha Mana, RNZAF, Warrant Officer Class One Dawn Boxer (Retired), Warrant Officer Class One William 'Billy' Cook (Dave Samuels second from the left).

SSAANZ

Peace in the outdoors



David Benfell found peace in the outdoors. Maybe it was from the wide-open space, the fresh air, the sounds of a river or a stream, the texture of the tussock or the splash of a wave - maybe it is all these things - whichever it is, it's good for Dave's soul and he knew that it would be good for other veterans.

Dave served for 5 years in the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment and then a further 9 years in the British Armed Forces, in the 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment. A training accident in Britain added to his feeling that it was time to return to New Zealand. Back home he found it hard to integrate into civilian life and experienced feelings of isolation and mental health issues. It was the outdoors that helped him.

"I got through the dark periods by going into the wild. Tramping or hunting, they worked for me."

He began tramping with friends, and soon found that he was tramping with other veterans and they were all having a good time. Dave asked himself, "Could this work for other veterans?"

In 2018 Dave established Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Association of New Zealand (SSAANZ) for any serving (no fees or subscriptions for serving members) and former members of New Zealand Defence Force either Regular or Territorial. The trustees are all veterans. This was an organisation

set up by veterans, run by veterans for veterans (and their families).

SSAANZ has filled an important role. Since 2018, SSAANZ has run 30 outings, taking over 300 veterans (and family members) on tramps, survival courses, hunting and hunting courses, scuba diving and chartered fishing trips.

All costs are subsidized by the charity and supporters. However, SSAANZ goes further for veterans that don't have many resources. SSAANZ not only keeps the charges down, but through support of suppliers and a wider support community, they can offer some places on every tramp or course to veterans for free.

"It's important to the trustees to make our events available to all veterans, and to be there for everyone."

SSAANZ aims for an event each month. At the time of writing Dave was preparing for the East to West Traverse classic. For the last three years SSAANZ has taken 12 people on a 9-day tramp across the Southern Alps. It's challenging, but like all the



Chris Budge met with the SSAANZ crew in a woolshed the night before a hunting skills course in Whanganui. It was a turning point for Chris. Chris believes that SSAANZ on that night brought him back from the brink.

By 2019 Chris believes that he had experienced 3 years of a depressive environment and that had also brought out PTSD symptoms, "I felt rock bottom, I was considering self-harm."

Chris Budge served in the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment and the Royal New Zealand Military Police between 1981 and 2000, and served in Australia, Singapore, Somalia, Germany and Bougainville.

He hadn't heard of SSAANZ until a fellow ex-serviceman told him about what they were doing. Chris and his friend attended the course where they met David Benfell (SSAANZ), and the crew of Muddy Waters Hunting NZ (a team which included serving and ex-service personnel). In that company and in that space, he was able to open up about his present challenges. It was a life saver. "They saved my life. From that very first night in the woolshed, SSAANZ gave me a way back."

Through the encouragement from the SSAANZ crew he connected with Veterans' Affairs, where he is in sponsored counselling.

Since that first course Chris Budge, now working in the Forensic IT sector, has been on a number of SSAANZ adventures and would have done more had it not been for a torn Achilles' tendon and a clot resulting in a substantial Pulmonary Embolism.

He and his 22 year old son went on the second SSAANZ Southern Traverse, which he found inspiring, "It was a great week of discovering what you can do. Loved it and loved sharing that journey with my son.

"But that is what it is about, it is a journey to stay alive."



SSAANZ has crossed the South Alps four times. This was the third group to complete the Southern Traverse.

events that SSAANZ runs, it aims to improve the wellbeing of the participants.

Dave doesn't claim to be a health practitioner. "None of us are in or from the health sector. We have our health and safety plans, but our events encourage a healthy way to live. We have found a system which works for us and others."

In the coming months, SSAANZ is doing everything and going everywhere. They are planning a 'Round the mountain' (Ruapehu) tramp, a charter fishing boat off Kaikōura, sea kayaking, an east to west 4-day tramp across the Ruahine Range, and are working with the Gore RSA to run 3 events for Southland vets.

"It's great and important to work with the RSA and all the other veterans organisations. We can achieve so much more."

Dave Benfell has found a great formula. "We've seen some amazing results. Veterans having fun together, and coming away reinvigorated."

For more information

 info@ssaanz.co.nz

 www.ssaanz.co.nz



**SOLDIERS, SAILORS & AIRMEN'S
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND**

Grandparented rates from 1 April 2022

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	12.38	105	259.94	105	285.93
10	24.76	110	272.32	110	299.55
15	37.14	115	284.69	115	313.16
20	49.51	120	297.07	120	326.78
25	61.89	125	309.45	125	340.40
30	74.27	130	321.83	130	354.01
35	86.65	135	334.21	135	367.63
40	99.03	140	346.59	140	381.25
45	111.41	145	358.96	145	394.86
50	123.79	150	371.34	150	408.47
55	136.16	155	383.72	155	422.09
60	148.54	160	396.10	160	435.71
65	160.92				
70	173.30				
75	185.68				
80	198.06				
85	210.43				
90	222.81				
95	235.19				
100	247.57				

Veteran's Pension and Lump Sums



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Weekly Rates

	Gross weekly rate (\$)
Single living alone rate	538.24
Single sharing accommodation rate	495.10
Relationship rate	408.66
Relationship (partner not receiving superannuation or pension)	774.70
Relationship (partner not receiving superannuation or pension) legacy rate	817.32

Lump Sums

	Lump sum (\$)
Lump Sum Payment on death of veteran	6,608.63
If veteran was, before 1 April 1990, receiving a war veteran's allowance under the War Pension's Act 1954	16,663.12
Lump Sum Payment on death of spouse or partner of veteran	5,039.27

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 2022

Disablement Pension

Impairment rating (%)	Weekly rate (\$)
5-7	12.39
8-12	24.77
13-17	37.15
18-22	49.51
23-25	61.89
26-30	74.27
31-32	86.65
33-37	99.02
38-41	111.42
42-47	123.79
48-49	136.16
50	148.53
51	160.92
52-54	173.29
55-57	185.67
58-61	198.06
62-66	210.44
67	222.82
68-74	235.18
75	247.57
76	259.95
77	272.32
78	284.69
79	297.08
80	309.46
81	334.21
82	358.97
83	383.72
84	408.48
85-100	435.72

Other weekly rates

	Weekly rate (\$)
Surviving Spouse or Partner Pension	182.63
Dependant's Pension	182.63
Children's Pension	195.55
Weekly Income Compensation	1,088.08

Annual Rates

	Annual rate (\$)
Children's Bursary (Orphans and Children of Veteran's Pension)	
Full-time Year 9-13	1,033.55
Full-time Tertiary	1,226.42
Part-time Tertiary	516.71
Children's Bursary (Other Children)	
Full-time Year 9-13	516.73
Full-time Tertiary	613.18
Part-time Tertiary	258.35

Allowance

	Weekly rate (\$)
Decorations Allowance	35.53

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

Entitlements Common to Scheme One and Scheme Two from 1 April 2022

Weekly rates

	Weekly rate (\$)
Travelling Allowance	28.54
Battery Allowance	
Monaural	1.20
Binaural	2.44
Clothing Allowance	
Loss of two limbs or parts	26.29
Loss of leg or part	25.38
Loss of arm or part	18.38
Use of mechanical appliance (maximum)	18.38
Soiling of clothing	18.38

Other Payments

	Lump sum (\$)
Retirement Lump Sum	
Asset Threshold for Couple (excl. house or vehicle)	347,369.25
Asset Threshold for Single or Couple (incl. house or vehicle)	578,948.74
Motor Vehicle Grant	
Total Lower Body Impairment	21,202.40
Severe Lower Body Impairment	9,541.70
Motor Vehicle Fitting Controls Grant	3,423.29
Funeral Expenses	
Transportation of body within same locality	741.71
Transportation of body to a different locality	1,483.43

Ex gratia payments to surviving spouses

Where the veteran partner died on or prior to 1 November 2018 and had a diagnosis of MGUS or hypertension.

On 30 November 2021, it was announced that two conditions have been added to the list of Prescribed Conditions eligible for an ex gratia payment under the Vietnam Veterans 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). These two new conditions are Hypertension and Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS).

Veterans' Affairs has processed over 700 ex gratia payments of \$40,000 each to current Vietnam veteran clients who had been diagnosed with one of the new conditions when the announcement was made last November.

Veterans' Affairs has also received a number of enquiries from surviving spouses and veterans' organisations including RNZRSA and NZVVA, asking whether or not an ex gratia payment is available to a surviving spouse if their veteran partner had been diagnosed with hypertension or MGUS, but passed prior to 1 November 2018 (this is the date that the US National Academy of Sciences added hypertension to the list).

We have looked again at the intent of the MOU, and have clarified that if a Vietnam veteran had been diagnosed with hypertension or MGUS and either of these conditions contributed to the veteran's death, then the surviving spouse can make application for an ex gratia payment of NZD\$25,000, even if the veteran passed on, or prior to, 1 November 2018.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets a higher threshold for eligibility for a spouse payment. These payments are smaller than those for veterans who are directly affected, but acknowledge the loss spouses have suffered from the untimely death of their partner.

Surviving spouses should contact Veterans' Affairs to discuss the ex gratia payment application process. The request for an ex gratia payment will require the surviving spouse to provide:

- their full name.
- postal and email address, and phone number.
- the veteran's full name and date of birth.
- a copy of the full death certificate showing cause of death.
- consent in writing from the executor of the estate for VA to obtain the veteran's medical records.
- a copy of the Letters of Administration/Probate/Will.
- marriage certificate or proof of relationship at time of death.
- bank account details for payment.

For more information

-  0800 483 8372
-  veterans@nzdf.mil.nz
-  www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz

Te Kiwi Māia

The Courageous Kiwi



A place for New Zealand's first responders and Defence Force personnel.

While in the United Kingdom, Royal New Zealand Navy Reservist Rebecca Nelson heard about Tedworth House and the Help for Heroes charity. It is a support organisation for UK Defence Force personnel and wondered if there was an equivalent in New Zealand, "Tedworth House was there for their defence force and veterans to take a break, recover and find help. A respite from the stresses of being on the front line."

On returning to New Zealand Rebecca Nelson, Megan Marshali and James Burt formed Te Kiwi Māia. A charitable trust with a mission to provide rehabilitation, recovery and respite to those, who – as a result of their role safeguarding and caring for New Zealanders – have sustained physical or psychological injuries.

"If you think of the [Christchurch] mosque shootings, and then you wonder, where did they all go afterwards?" said Rebecca.

Te Kiwi Māia is raising funds to build a homestead and farm retreat for first responders, Defence Force personnel and their families. Rebecca, Megan and James aim to create a supportive and inclusive environment, one with

professional assistance, and activities that promote mental wellness. It's a place for rebuilding physical, psychological and emotional strength.

Rebecca would like their retreat to be utilised by first responders, defence and their families. To be there for them before they reach their breaking point.

"It could be a place where the Police say to their crew, 'Right team, we're going to send you there for a week to decompress, to go for hikes, and be with nature'."

While funds are being raised for the homestead, Te Kiwi Māia has organised wellness retreats for groups of 12 first responders and Defence Force personnel in Auckland, with the help of Massey University.

"Te Kiwi Māia wants to work alongside the organisations with their programmes they are currently running and help provide them with the respite option – a place where our frontline and defence force personal can focus on recharging and recovery."

You can donate to Te Kiwi Māia through their website:

 www.tekiwimaia.co.nz



"Te Kiwi Māia wants to work alongside the organisations with their programmes they are currently running and help provide them with the respite option – a place where our frontline and defence force personal can focus on recharging and recovery."



Pictured right: Rebecca Nelson with the crew from the Life Flight, Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

100
years of



In 1915 Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian medical officer, conducted the funeral service of a friend who had died in the Second Battle of Ypres. Close by poppies blew in the breeze, a symbol of regeneration. McCrae wrote some verses in his notebook. It was the beginning of his famous poem *In Flanders fields*.

John McCrae's *In Flanders fields* inspired American Moina Michael and she continued the chain of events beginning at that 1915 funeral.

Moina Michael set out to have the red poppy adopted in the United States as a symbol of remembrance. The American Legion adopted it at its annual convention in 1920. At that convention was Madame Guérin.

Madame Guérin conceived the idea of an Inter-Allied Poppy Day. A day to remember the fallen and also a day which funds could be raised for the

women and children of France. She became known as 'The Poppy Lady of France', and she furthered perception of the poppy as an international symbol of remembrance.

Colonel Alfred Moffatt took the idea to the Royal New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association (RNZRSA) in 1921, and subsequently placed an order for silk poppies from Madame Guerin's charity. However, the shipment arrived too late for Armistice Day, so the RNZRSA decided to hold it on the day before Anzac Day. The first New Zealand Poppy Day was held in 1922.

That Poppy Day raised £13,166 (equivalent to \$1.34 million in 2020), of which £3,695 was sent to the people of the former battle grounds in northern France and the remainder went to unemployed New Zealand returned soldiers and their families.

For the following 100 years the Poppy Day Appeal continues to be held on the Friday before Anzac Day and continues to support veterans and their families.

 Acknowledgement:
www.nzhistory.govt.nz



"THE FLOWER OF REMEMBRANCE": A SNAPSHOT IN QUEEN STREET, AUCKLAND, ON POPPY DAY.

The claims of the men who are to-day the sufferers of the war's aftermath were brought before citizens throughout the Dominion on Tuesday of last week. In Auckland over £1500 was collected through the sale of poppies.

Lafayette, photo

Photo credit: Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections AWNS-19230503-48-5



Tower Insurance offers discount for New Zealand Defence Force and Veterans



FORCE 4 FAMILIES

Born and bred in New Zealand, Tower has been supporting Kiwis when they need it most for more than 150 years. In recognition of our commitment to our customers, we have just been named 2022 Insurance Business Awards New Zealand, New Zealand General Insurer of the Year.

In early 2021 we partnered with the New Zealand Defence Force to provide tailored insurance policies for current and former service men and women and their families.

We're proud to be the official provider of general insurance for the NZDF and to provide a special 10% NZDF and veterans discount across our house, contents, and car and boat policies. This is on top of our multipolicy discount – for an overall discount of up to 30%, for NZDF and Veteran Tower customers*.

Highlights of the INFORCE Insurance Scheme with Tower:

- 10% premium discount for all INFORCE policy holders on house, contents, car and boat policies.

- Up to 20% off premiums with our Multi policy discount.*
- Earn Airpoints™ dollars on premiums.*
- Flexible payment options.

The following benefits are available to serving personnel:

- Any kit or military equipment issued to you is covered under your contents policy as part of your personal effects.
- Special extensions to the policy covers, such as automatic storage cover when you are posted are provided, recognising the uniqueness of your working environment.
- You don't have to tell us if you move from one base or camp to another until renewal.

This is a summary only. For all of these benefits, please make sure you read the policy wording and cover documents to understand the terms, conditions, limits and exclusions that may apply.

For all enquiries or help with any of our policies, call 0800 4 INFORCE or email inforce@tower.co.nz and one of our dedicated advisers will talk you through everything you need to know.

Alternatively you can scan the QR code below and get a quote online.

For more information about the Tower Insurance offer New Zealand Defence Force and Veterans and for Kiwisaver or financial planning please contact Force Financial Hub, at

 force4families.mil.nz/force-financial-hub

Veterans, friends & family



Serving personnel



*Multipolicy and Airpoints™ T&Cs apply.

The Veterans' Affairs Commemorative Fund

Do you have a project or reunion coming up and would like some financial assistance? We have a fund set up to help make financial contributions for things such as this. We call this our Commemorative Fund.

This fund can make a contribution of up to five thousand dollars for a Commemorative Project that supports a New Zealand-based project to recognise veterans' sacrifice. These projects can include publications, memorials and education programmes. Some of the projects that we have helped to fund in the last six months include new flag poles at a war memorial, wreaths for a commemoration and names being added to a local memorial.

The Commemorative Fund can support reunions. However, the reunion must commemorate Qualifying Operational Service and it funds the event on a per veteran basis. The fund's contribution will be NZD\$50 for each veteran who attends the event. For a veteran's attendance to qualify for funding, they must have Qualifying Operational Service related to the reunion's purpose.



For more information:

www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/remembrance/commemorative-funding



Connecting in the digital age

Late last year we trialed an online veterans forum called 'Kōrero with veterans' and veterans from all over New Zealand and a few from other countries joined on us Zoom to chat and view presentations.

They heard about the support we can offer them and their whānau. They also heard from other veteran support organisations and the role that they can play in their lives. The Minister for Veterans, Hon. Meka Whaitiri joined us, spoke of the year that had been and made herself available for a Q&A session for veterans.

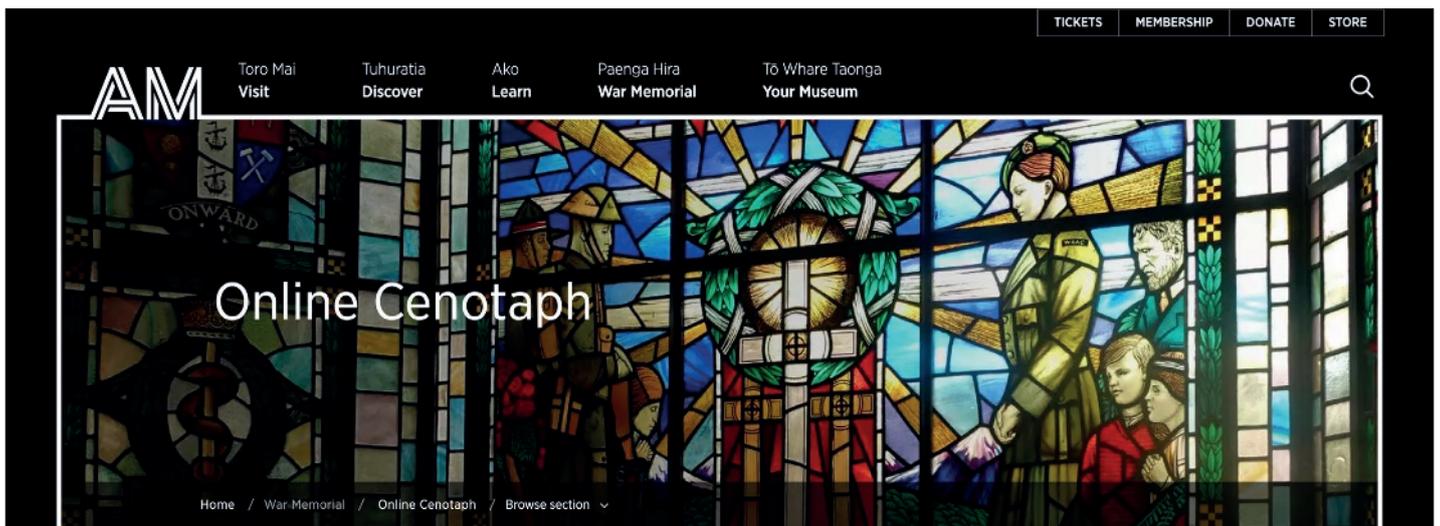
We will be offering more online forums to keep connected with you and our veteran community while COVID-19 remains prevalent in our community. As soon as it is safe to do, our face-to-face will return.

Our online forums are informative, easy-to-access, you can ask questions and you don't have to move from your dining table. Keep an eye out on our website and Facebook page for our upcoming online forums.



A digital space to share memories, celebrate lives and acknowledge loss

Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum's Online Cenotaph turns 25



Online Cenotaph

Person search

Browse

Popular searches

Custom search

About Online Cenotaph

Cenotaph Stories

How to contribute

Unknown Warrior

Online Cenotaph

MĀORI >

A national initiative, Online Cenotaph is a biographical database that allows researchers, enthusiasts, and veterans and their families to explore, contribute to, and share the records and stories of those who served for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Find a person

Search by keyword

Name/Service number

Enter name: eg. Jack Wilson

Wars and conflicts

Any war or conflict

SEARCH >

Uncover more



A collie for the service corps »

On this Purple Poppy Day, Associate Curator, Gail Romano acknowledges the contribution of the mascot Sam. Sam was 'a handsome English collie dog' gifted to the Canterbury section of the New Zealand Army Service Corps during WWI.



A Year in Review: Online Cenotaph 2021 »

It has been a busy year for the Online Cenotaph team, updating and creating thousands of records, working on numerous transcription projects with our Visitor Host and Volunteers, and working with all our researchers and contributors. Here, we share our accomplishments and highlights of 2021.



Bobby Newson »

Robert Newson, known as Bobby is a beloved member of the Tāmaki Paenga Hira whanau. We sat down with Bobby earlier this year, to chat about his experiences with the New Zealand Army. We share his story in commemoration of Armistice Day, where we come together to remember the service of New Zealanders in war and peacekeeping operations.



A Poem for Passchendaele »

To mark this year's anniversary of Passchendaele, Gail Romano writes about acts of remembrance of New Zealand's darkest day. Through poetry, featuring New Zealand poet and writer Kevin Ireland's A Fine Morning at Passchendaele and the temporary memorial Coming World Remember Me, an installation to commemorate the 100th centenary of the First World War.



The Online Cenotaph is a resource of more than 255,000 records spanning 40 conflicts. The public can contribute their own stories and images which are all then melded with the official records to form a rich history of the people and actions.

The Online Cenotaph is a biographical database that allows researchers, enthusiasts, veterans and their families to explore, contribute to, and share the records and stories of those who served for Aotearoa New Zealand.

“The Online Cenotaph has become New Zealand’s most trusted resource for stories of our service personnel, and we cannot be prouder,” says Victoria Passau, Collection Manager, Online Cenotaph.

The team at Auckland War Memorial Museum gather and share the stories of veterans and interview a small number of veterans each year.

“We find that many veterans and their families are looking for recognition of their service and wanting to share their experiences. Their stories are taonga and I’m proud that we can do this for them and Aotearoa New Zealand.”

The Online Cenotaph owes much to a group of volunteers who research veteran stories and records for inputting into the Online Cenotaph database. In the last two years those volunteers, alongside the Museum’s Visitor Hosts (available due to lockdown), have helped to transcribe more than 18,000 pages of archival records provided by Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga. In 2021 alone, more than 11,000 new records were created.

Included in those records are 4,900 from World War II Navy Records, 3,700 Korean War Army records and 800 Korean War Navy records and that team were able to enrich the

database with records from World War II prisoners of war and the Malayan conflicts.

In addition to the significant mahi undertaken by Museum staff and volunteers, the Online Cenotaph has collaborated with researchers and veterans. Victoria is thrilled with the contribution that the veterans are making.

“The Malayan Veterans’ Association have generously shared their knowledge enabling the cenotaph to collate lists of service personnel who served during the Malayan Emergency in Malaya and Borneo. And a big thank you to Bill Russell, Carol Foster and Dave Fenton for their ongoing support.”

The Auckland Memorial Museum’s own rangatira Matua ‘Bobby’ Newson served in the Vietnam War and features in the online cenotaph. They also worked with Vietnam Veteran, Douglas ‘Scotty’ Wingfield, who has been researching the Ground Crew of the 41 Squadron. There’s also veterans John ‘Trees’ Forrest and Brian Meyer who (almost) provide daily updates to the cenotaph team about the lives of their comrades. Recently Gerry Wright provided a list of naval personnel involved in Operation Grapple.

The Auckland Memorial Museum and the Online Cenotaph are grateful for the generosity of the contributing veterans, and Victoria believes that they are, once again, serving the nation.

“It’s amazing what they do. They believe that they are giving back, acknowledging Aotearoa New Zealand’s service personnel, and they are, but their work also gives us the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of our nation’s role in international conflict.”

The Online Cenotaph is about honoring service and sharing these stories.

“We find that many veterans and their families are looking for recognition of their service and wanting to share their experiences. Their stories are taonga and I’m proud that we can do this for them and Aotearoa New Zealand.”

– Victoria Passau
Collection Manager

“We will continue to search and record voices from our service people. Those voices will be there forever. These voices are taonga.”

Kei Wareware Tātou. Lest We Forget.

If you would be interested in being interviewed please get in touch.

 www.aucklandmuseum.com/your-museum/contact-us

 Online Cenotaph is at www.aucklandmuseum.com/cenotaph



NZDF Operations

December 2021 – January 2022



Around the world

The NZDF 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.

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

Operations

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

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

25 personnel to Antarctica to assist at Scott Base and McMurdo Station.

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.

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

3 personnel to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

3 personnel to the Combined Maritime Forces Headquarters in Bahrain.

NZ and the Pacific



A B757 aircraft deployed to Honiara, Solomon Islands

following unrest in the region to conduct sustainment flights delivering stores and food.



Soldiers conducted daily patrols in Solomon Islands as part of an international task force helping maintain stability and security.



Six NZDF Firefighters deployed to Kaitia to assist with the Northland fires in support of Fire and Emergency New Zealand.



A C-130H aircraft transported relief supplies to Tonga including: food, water storage containers,

family hygiene kits, chainsaw kits and other essential supplies.



HMNZS Wellington arrived in Tonga with the

Hydrographic and Clearance Diving group which conducted surveys and physical checks of ports, wharves and maritime approaches to allow delivery of essential relief supplies, water and equipment.



HMNZS Aotearoa transported

seven shipping containers of equipment and relief supplies and bulk water to Tonga. She refuelled Wellington and Canterbury along with ships from US, UK and Tongan navies and produced 450,000 litres of fresh water for the Tongan community. HMNZS Canterbury is now operating in place of HMNZS Aotearoa.



Around 100 personnel are working with the Australian Defence Force and Pacific militaries. This includes RNZAF personnel embedded with the Royal Australian Air Force in Adelaide for training on the P-8A Poseidon aircraft.