

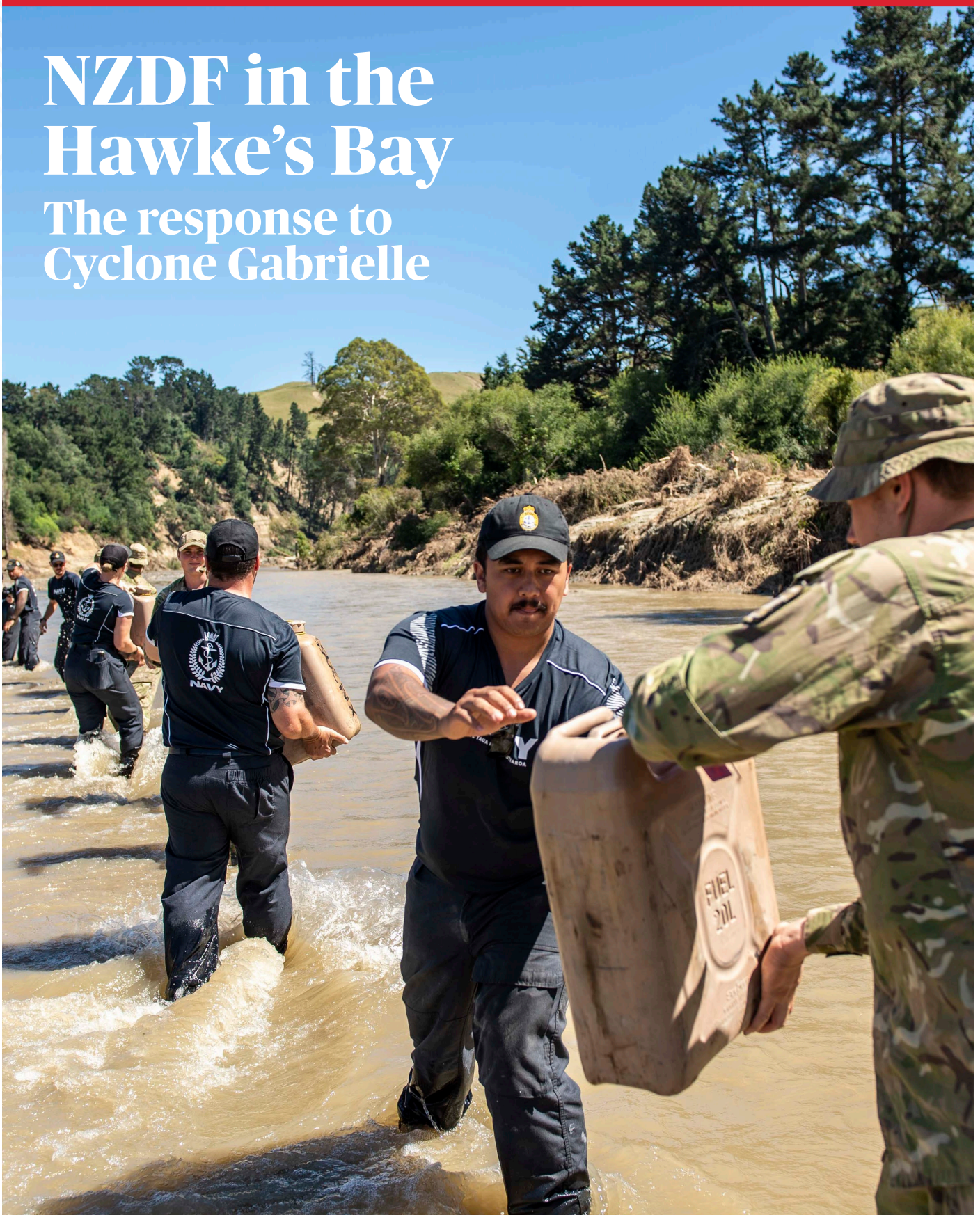
Veterans Affairs

AUTUMN 2023

TE TIRA AHU IKA A WHIRO

NZDF in the Hawke's Bay

The response to
Cyclone Gabrielle



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Cover: HMNZS Te Mana sailors help NZ Army personnel deliver jerry cans of fuel to the cut-off community of Dartmoor in Hawke's Bay.


Photographer: SGT Vanessa Parker


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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 autumn edition of *Veterans' Affairs Magazine*.

Since my last message the summer holiday season has been and gone but the summer weather has left parts of Aotearoa with scars that will take some time to heal. My staff and I are committed to ensuring that the welfare of our veterans and their families who have been impacted by the Auckland floods and Cyclone Gabrielle, remains a priority as we enter the recovery phase of both these natural disasters. There is a lot of information available from a number of sources in terms of what is available to those affected, but to make it easier to navigate this we have set up an information hub on our Veterans' Affairs website. We will be updating this regularly with how we are supporting our veterans and where to go for any additional support. We will link to this information hub from our Veterans' Affairs Facebook page and our email newsletter so that you and your families have that information at your fingertips. It will also include updates from our service providers noting that many of their staff have been impacted and we are working with our providers to determine the level of capacity they currently have to deliver services. I thank you all for your patience as we work through the recovery package for our veterans.

I would like this opportunity to update you on a couple of recent projects underway within Veterans' Affairs. We are currently piloting an electronic version of the Annual Medical Assessment (AMA). The pilot involves 12 Vietnam veterans and it will identify

ways of improving the AMA process for veterans, their GPs and Veterans' Affairs staff. I will update you again on the pilot as it nears completion.

Later in March Veterans' Affairs will bring together a number of agencies and organisations and key leaders within the sector to update them on the actions and discussions being taken in support of Te Arataki – The Veteran, Family and Whānau Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy Framework. The Te Arataki Symposium will continue to build on and share our understanding of the mental health and wellbeing issues, risks and protective factors for our New Zealand veterans, and it is timely that we bring agencies together to continue discussions about raising awareness amongst organisations and key leaders in Aotearoa who can help those who have served our country, their families and whānau. I will report more on this in the next edition of *Veterans' Affairs Magazine*.

Until next time, stay safe and take care of each other.



Bernadine Mackenzie
Head of Veterans' Affairs

Upcoming events for your diary

You will have an opportunity to catch-up with Veterans' Affairs:

- Through our online Forum – 22 June.
- In North Auckland – October (date to be confirmed).

The Veterans' Affairs Magazine

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Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals marks centenary with the Princess Royal

Her Royal Highness (HRH) The Princess Royal, Princess Anne as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals (RNZSigs), attended a reception to mark the centenary of the Corps.

RNZSigs Regimental Colonel, Colonel Kate Lee, said it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to share this occasion with the Princess Royal.

"It is a privilege to have our Colonel-in-Chief in New Zealand to commemorate and connect with past and present members of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals and acknowledge the importance of signallers within operations for a century.

"Signallers pride themselves on their ability to adapt, improvise and innovate, especially as their role increasingly requires their people to keep pace with technology. That is



something the New Zealand Army is doing and will do for the next 100 years," Colonel Lee said.

Military signals became a component of the New Zealand Army in the early 1900s. In 1911 Post and Telegraph Corps was formed and then in 1913 it was absorbed into the NZ Army Engineer Signal Service along with the NZ Signal Corps formerly known as the Cycle and Signalling Corps. In 1921, the Post and Telegraph Corps became the New Zealand Corps of Signals.

There were nine signal units that operated during the Second World

War and in July 1947 King George VI gave the Royal prefix to the unit and it became the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals.

Above: Act of Remembrance in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, and MAJGEN John Boswell, Chief of Army at Pukeahu 15 February 2023. The veterans are Willie Apiata, VC, Ange Coyle, NZ Army veteran of Afghanistan, Manager Youth Department of Corrections, Ray Marshall, a veteran of Malaya and Malaysia operations, Des Vinten, a veteran of the Korean war and former member of Royal NZ Corps of Signals, Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Gerard Wood, former RNZNC and veteran of Desert Storm and Bosnia, Major (Rtd) Peter Stitt, Vietnam veteran, Paul Baggott, Vice President of the Merchant Navy Association.

New Zealand Defence Force Responds to Cyclone Gabrielle



A month on since Cyclone Gabrielle devastated areas in the North Island, and the New Zealand Defence Force continues to have around 100 personnel involved in response and recovery efforts on the East Coast.

At the height of our response to Cyclone Gabrielle, the NZDF had nearly 1000 personnel, along with several ships, aircraft, and numerous military vehicles involved. The support provided by personnel covered a huge range of roles from liaison officers in emergency coordination centres and the National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA), through to evacuations, checking and establishing routes to cut-off communities, delivering critical supplies including water, fuel, food and medical supplies, welfare checks on people, clearing flood damage, and helping individuals with tasks on their properties including restoring drinking water supplies.

Since the NZDF began their response to Cyclone Gabrielle:

- Crews on rotary and fixed-wing aircraft have conducted more than 190 hours of flight time, while more than 350,000kms have been driven as part of the NZDF response.
- The NZDF has delivered more than 100,000 litres of fuel and around 9,500 litres of water.
- More than 739 tonnes of other supplies have been delivered by the NZDF.
- Approximately 66,000 meals have been provided to the NZDF and other Government agencies.





The Lake Alice Soldiers

The Mount View Cemetery rededication and unveiling



On a beautiful Rangitikei day, Marton RSA President Alan Buckendahl opened the rededication and unveiling ceremony of the plaques of the 33 soldiers who died while in the care of the Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital in the Rangitikei district but buried in unmarked graves.

The other speakers at the ceremony were Barry Rankin, Marti Eller (Deputy Head of Veterans' Affairs), and the Padre from 5th/7th Battalion. The 5th/7th Battalion, led by WO1 Matt Bedford, fired several volleys and their bugler sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The flyover of Beechcraft T-6 Texan II was conducted by Officers of 14 Squadron RNZAF Base Ohakea.

After the ceremony attendees walked to the sites of the graves, where a service person from the 5th/7th Battalion would unveil the plaque (remove the New Zealand flag) and then read out that veteran's service record.



Right: Barry Rankin



Annual rate adjustments – Grandparented rates from 1 April 2023

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	13.27	105	278.70	105	306.57
10	26.54	110	291.97	110	321.17
15	39.82	115	305.24	115	335.76
20	53.09	120	318.51	120	350.36
25	66.36	125	331.79	125	364.97
30	79.63	130	345.06	130	379.57
35	92.90	135	358.33	135	394.16
40	106.18	140	371.60	140	408.76
45	119.45	145	384.87	145	423.36
50	132.72	150	398.15	150	437.97
55	145.99	155	411.42	155	452.56
60	159.26	160	424.69	160	467.16
65	172.54				
70	185.81				
75	199.08				
80	212.35				
85	225.62				
90	238.90				
95	252.17				
100	265.44				



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Veteran's Pension and Lump Sums

Weekly Rates

	Gross weekly rate (\$)
Single living alone rate	578.67
Single sharing accommodation rate	532.43
Relationship rate	439.79
Relationship (partner not receiving superannuation or pension)	834.08
Relationship (partner not receiving superannuation or pension) legacy rate	879.58

Lump Sums

	Lump sum (\$)
Lump Sum Payment on death of veteran	7,085.77
If veteran was, before 1 April 1990, receiving a war veteran's allowance under the War Pension's Act 1954	17,866.20
Lump Sum Payment on death of spouse or partner of veteran	5,403.11

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](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/contact-us/veterans-contacts.html)

Scheme One entitlement rates from 1 April 2023

Disablement Pension

Impairment rating (%)	Weekly rate (\$)
5-7	13.28
8-12	26.56
13-17	39.83
18-22	53.08
23-25	66.36
26-30	79.63
31-32	92.91
33-37	106.17
38-41	119.46
42-47	132.73
48-49	145.99
50	159.25
51	172.54
52-54	185.80
55-57	199.08
58-61	212.36
62-66	225.63
67	238.91
68-74	252.16
75	265.44
76	278.72
77	291.98
78	305.24
79	318.53
80	331.80
81	358.34
82	384.89
83	411.42
84	437.97
85-100	467.18

Other weekly rates

	Weekly rate (\$)
Surviving Spouse or Partner Pension	195.82
Dependant's Pension	195.82
Children's Pension	209.67
Weekly Income Compensation	1,170.25

Annual Rates

	Annual rate (\$)
Children's Bursary (Orphans and Children of Veteran's Pension)	
Full-time Year 9-13	1,108.17
Full-time Tertiary	1,314.97
Part-time Tertiary	554.02
Children's Bursary (Other Children)	
Full-time Year 9-13	554.04
Full-time Tertiary	657.45
Part-time Tertiary	277.00

Allowance

	Weekly rate (\$)
Decorations Allowance	38.10

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 2023

Weekly rates

	Weekly rate (\$)
Travelling Allowance	30.60
Battery Allowance	
Monaural	1.29
Binaural	2.62
Clothing Allowance	
Loss of two limbs or parts	28.19
Loss of leg or part	27.21
Loss of arm or part	19.71
Use of mechanical appliance (maximum)	19.71
Soiling of clothing	19.71

Other Payments

	Lump sum (\$)
Retirement Lump Sum	
Asset Threshold for Couple (excl. house and a vehicle)	372,449.31
Asset Threshold for Single or Couple (incl. house and a vehicle)	620,748.84
Motor Vehicle Grant	
Total Lower Body Impairment	22,733.21
Severe Lower Body Impairment	10,230.61
Motor Vehicle Fitting Controls Grant	3,670.45
Funeral Expenses	
Transportation of body within same locality	795.26
Transportation of body to a different locality	1,590.53

Operating over the horizon



The Air Force's maritime squadron, No.6 Squadron, has been operating over the horizon for the past 80 years.

The No.6 Squadron is a bridge between the Air Force and Royal New Zealand Navy. It undertakes anti-surface warfare, underwater warfare, maritime patrols and surveillance, search and rescue, and other utility operations (winching and load lifting).

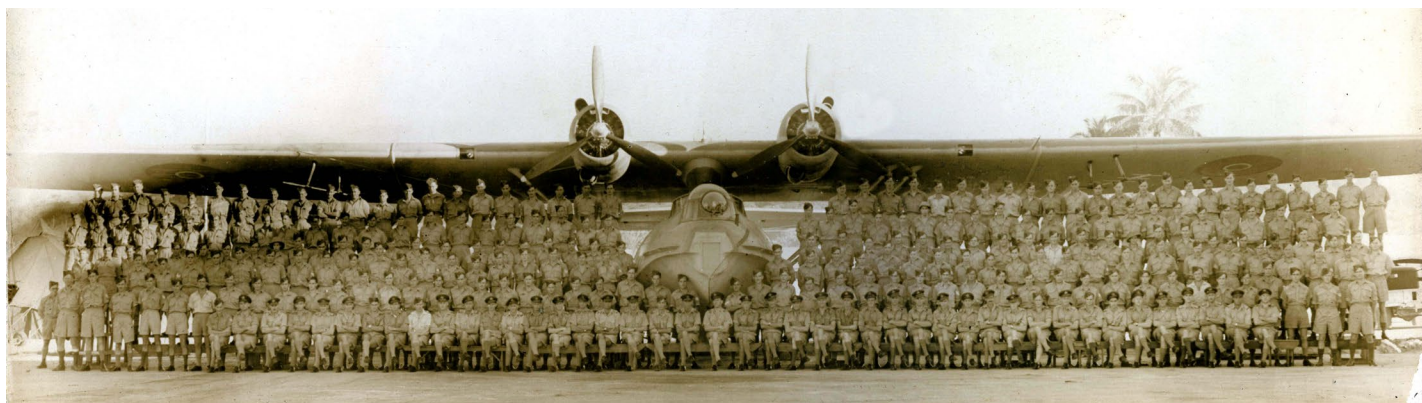
It was created in World War II as an Army co-operation unit. Then they flew Vickers Vildebeest and Hawker Hind aircraft, before they took delivery of the well-known Catalina.

Based in the Pacific, their tasks included servicing remote radar stations, the Coastwatchers, and a Mission Station on Malaita, but their primary role was maritime reconnaissance patrols and air-sea rescues. In total they rescued

79 servicemen (68 US and 2 New Zealand airmen, and 9 people from two US ships) in 25 missions.

Two squadron members who later achieved prominence were Edmund Hillary and Eric Heath, who became an artist, illustrator and editorial cartoonist.

The squadron was disbanded in August 1957, but re-formed in 2005. It is manned by Royal New Zealand Navy observers, pilots and helicopter loadmasters and is now based at Whenuapai flying Seasprite helicopters. Those choppers can embark on HMNZ Ships Te Kaha, Te Mana, Aotearoa, Canterbury, Wellington and Otago and can be equipped with anti-ship missiles and torpedoes.





"I think that the hybrid nature of No. 6 Squadron makes us very unique," Lieutenant Commander (LTCDR) David Roderick said.

"Our personnel really enjoy the smaller squadron – how we are a bit tighter knit than some of the larger fixed wing squadrons. That connection makes a difference when we all go away together for months on a ship."

The primary mission of the aircraft is anti-surface warfare, which is the key difference from the other Air Force rotary squadron, he said.

"We've got anti-submarine warfare as well. So we have the ability to visually look for submarines, but also then drop weapons on them if that's required."

"Aside from the ability to launch weapons, another point of difference for the squadron is the ability to operate in a maritime environment and deploying on Navy ships for significant periods of time – you're looking at six to nine-month trips."

The aircraft will also be used by the ship as an 'air spotter' when it deploys its own gun on targets beyond the horizon line, LTCDR Roderick said.

Alongside that capability is the search and rescue, medical evacuations, and

humanitarian aid and disaster relief work performed by the crew.

In 2022, the squadron was called to help after a volcanic eruption and tsunami hit Tonga. They flew reconnaissance missions around the islands and reported back to command and Joint Forces Headquarters the extent of the damage.

Another major event the team was involved in was the 2019 Whakaari/ White Island eruption.

"One of our aircraft was on HMNZS Wellington and flying reconnaissance flights to the crater. The island was still in the phase where anything could happen. They flew into the crater a number of times to assess the suitability for landing," LTCDR Roderick said.

The operation was difficult, with personnel still dealing with the emotion of the task, he said.

"But it's something they can all be very proud of and it was great that the work was in conjunction with the Navy."

"Our personnel really enjoy the smaller squadron – how we are a bit tighter knit than some of the larger fixed wing squadrons. That connection makes a difference when we all go away together for months on a ship."

LTCDR David Roderick

Above: Halavo Bay, Solomon Islands viewed from the wing of PBX-5 Catalina (circa 1945) (CC BY-NC 2.0)

Korean Armistice 1953

70TH ANNIVERSARY

Te Uranga O Te Ra Tuwhakairiora 'Toti' Tuhaka, QSM Ngāti Porou

Jack Donnelly BEM interviews Korean War veteran Te Uranga O Te Ra Tuwhakairiora 'Toti' Tuhaka at the Gisborne RSA.

One might wonder how someone christened at the Porourangi Marae in 1935 by Sir Apirana Ngata, with the names Te Uranga O Te Ra (arrival of the sun) Tuwhakairiora (a Ngāti Porou ancestor), could end up with the nickname of Toti or Totitōi, meaning to 'limp along'. The story is that as a young boy, Toti was given the job of caring for his grandfather Turei, who walked with a permanent limp after a fall from his horse. Every day they could be seen limping together, and so the name Toti stuck to this day.

One day during his first year at Ruatoria High School the Navy recruiters arrived. "Who are they?" Toti said to a mate. "What are they talking about?" The boys had never ever seen a Navy warship. His mate said, "let's join that Navy".

Nine of the students went through to Gisborne on the back of a cream truck, squeezed among the cream cans. The recruiting office was part of the Gisborne RSA in those days. Toti and his mates sat the entrance exam but only Toti passed, and a few weeks later he received a letter saying he had been accepted to join the RNZN. His bus trip to Auckland was a real "eye opener", he says.

As a 15-year-old boy seaman, nine months on Motuihe Island, known as

'the Rock', was a harsh reality, but Toti enjoyed the tough discipline and comradery that the training brought to his life. He then drafted to cruiser HMNZS BELLONA for sea training and to categorise the boys into specialist qualifications. Toti had no preference; he was selected to be a gunnery rating.

During the Korean War (1950-1953) Toti was drafted to Loch-class frigate HMNZS HAWEA for a 12-month deployment.

Toti was a gunner loading the ship's main armament, its four-inch gun. "I never worried too much about my safety whenever we went into action, my sole aim was to keep the gun firing." He never knew whether they hit their targets, or the identity of their targets they fired on.

Their main mission was to patrol the Han River, offer Naval Gun Fire Support (NGFS) and to engage opportune shore targets when the occasion arose. He remembers the ship going up the Han River to shore-spot for the American battle ship USS MISSOURI.

They came under heavy fire from a shore battery, with shells falling all around them, sometimes only a few yards away. HAWEA withdrew at full speed, zig-zagging from the area. Toti and his gun crew were helpless



to do anything as their gun could not train beyond the safety arcs. "It was a horrific feeling that I felt, as we were so vulnerable for that period of time." How their ship never got hit was a miracle, Toti says. "God must have been on our side that day."

Back home on leave, Toti was cutting scrub on the hills when a local policeman found him. "Hey, Toti, you've been recalled back to the Naval Base immediately." He was drafted to another Loch-class frigate, HMNZS KANIERE, to go back to Korea.

He remembers the freezing cold sub-zero weather conditions. Whenever they went onto the upper deck they had to keep the snow from forming on certain parts of their weapons. "As a



more experienced gunner I was also required to take charge of the 40/60 Bofor close-range gun and teach the crew gun drill."

KANIERE was on patrol and engaged against shore targets when the cease fire was declared. The ship continued on in a peacekeeping role until she returned home in March 1954.

You never get used to war, says Toti. "It's something that remains with you forever. I am just so proud that I served and so grateful that I lived."

When he left the Navy in 1958, he worked for the Gisborne Harbour Board as a diver (he had also been a ship's diver in the Navy), then worked

for the railway as an electrician specialising in tunnel lighting. A former shipmate, Brian "Brushes" Nolan asked Toti to join him in a diving job on Dutch dredge Formosa Prince which had come to Gisborne to dredge parts of the harbour. He took that on, but declined to go to Singapore with the dredge – his wife Teaaupare (Bena) was pregnant.

He has taught at both Gisborne Girls' and Boys' High Schools, Lytton High School, Waikirikiri School, Campion College and Wellington Girls' College.

He's helped trade school apprentices gain employment and as a member of Gisborne RSA has assisted

ex-servicemen with their war pensions and allowances. He received the Queen's Service Medal in the New Year Honours 2016.

Today, Toti enjoys going to the RSA with his daughter and carer Simone, where he has a beer, a meal, and a talk about his adventures. At home he is surrounded by his mokos who take loving care of their "pop", a Navy veteran whose life has been a long and wonderful voyage.

Above, L-R: Toti receives his Queen's Service Medal from Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae in 2016; HMNZS Hawea patrols the Han River, Korea.
Below: HMNZS Hawea.



Vietnam veteran recognised

Christchurch Airforce Museum, January 2023

Retired Col. Ross Milne on behalf of Canterbury veterans, presented retired WO1 William (Bill) Walker QSM with a bugle to thank him for answering the call to assist veterans over the last 40-plus years.



Thank you to Veteran's Independence Service Providers

The last few months have been challenging for the providers of the Veterans' Affairs Independence Services. However, Veterans' Affairs has heard accounts of staff from these providers going over and above their contracted service to help our veterans in the cyclone affected areas.

Paramount Services achieves Toitū Envirocare net carbonzero certification

Veterans' Affairs service provider, Paramount Services, has achieved Toitū Envirocare net carbonzero certification.

Paramount Services began their carbon reduction journey in 2019 when they established their carbon inventory. Since then their programme has reduced their emissions by 37%.

Their plan includes saving water (through their Brush no Flush toilet and bathroom cleaner), diverting hundreds of tonnes of waste from the landfill by collecting recycling and food waste for composting from clients, replacing 40% of their petrol-powered vehicles with electric vehicles, reducing energy their use, and eliminating contaminants in their cleaning products.

Auckland case management clinics

Case management clinics are an opportunity to meet with a case manager face-to-face.

These clinics are designed for:

- Current clients – veterans and their whānau
- Eligible veterans who aren't yet getting support from us.

Appointments are available between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

Upcoming clinics

APR	MAY	JUN
18	30	27
Tuesday, 18 April	Tuesday, 30 May	Tuesday, 27 June



Ranfurly Veterans' Centre,
539 Mount Albert Road,
Three Kings, Auckland 1042

To book an appointment contact us:



0800 483 8372



veterans@nzdf.mil.nz

**CHECK YOUR
ELIGIBILITY**

www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/check



Taskforce Kiwi is a not-for-profit veteran-led organisation whose veteran volunteers join disaster relief and recovery operations, and in 2023 they've already been helping in Auckland and the Hawke's Bay.

Taskforce Kiwi was providing flood relief assistance in Auckland, but with Cyclone Gabrielle just over the horizon they switched to cyclone preparedness and began managing the sandbagging and distributing communications equipment to Civil Defence Operations Centres stations across Auckland.

Over the following six weeks, 20 volunteers per week (16 have from Taskforce Kiwi, and 4 from Disaster Relief Australia Taskforce Kiwi's

trans-Tasman partner) contributed 2,196 hours to the Auckland and the Hawke's Bay recovery operations.

The skilled veterans help out in missing person searches, route reconnaissance, aid delivery, debris clearance, plant operations, needs and welfare assessment, and impact and damage assessments. Their work enable air assistance into Wairoa, a town who had lost their road access.

Earlier in March Taskforce Kiwi was joined by *Team Rubicon*. Similar to Taskforce Kiwi, they're a Canadian and US veteran-led disaster relief organisation. Their involvement means that Taskforce Kiwi will be leading an international veteran-led effort on the ground in Hawke's Bay.

➔ Visit the Taskforce Kiwi website for more information about their next (6-day) rotation
www.taskforcekiwi.org



Ngā Ara Whakatupuranga / New Frontiers

A pōwhiri held at Te Puni Kōkiri's head office welcomed two new service people into the Ngā Ara Whakatupuranga / New Frontiers programme.

This is the third intake for the programme, one that has successfully helped Māori ex-service people into new positions in Government departments and agencies. Graduates from the programme are now working at HealthNZ, the Department of Internal Affairs and at Te Puni Kōkiri.

The aims of the Ngā Ara Whakatupuranga are to provide a pathway of Māori service people into government positions, and to increase Māori leadership within those agencies.

Dave Samuels, Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Puni Kōkiri | Secretary for Māori Development at Te Puni Kōkiri and veteran, believes that the public service needs more Māori in leadership positions to assist in the design and delivery of services to Māori citizens.

“Agencies benefit from the transferable leadership and management skills they have. The Defence Force has a wealth of Māori leaders and each year, a number leave to pursue a second career in the civilian world

with some having little knowledge of the employment opportunities and leadership roles available within the public service.”

Joining the Ngā Ara Whakatupuranga this year are Rob Mclean and Carmen Eriksson. Rob was in the Army as a Training Officer 3/6 Bn RNZIR, based in Tauranga. He will now be working in TPK's Regional Partnerships and Operations puni. Carmen was in the Army as a Senior Soldier Career Manager at the Directorate of Army Career Management. She will be working in TPK's finance section.

Dave Samuels believes that the Defence Force has always been an incubator for Māori Leadership.

“From the 28th Māori Battalion through to modern times. Former military officers have led the Ministry of Māori Affairs/Ministry of Māori Development such as previous Chief Executives Tā Wira Gardiner and Leith Comer (QSO) serving in the New Zealand Army as well as myself.”

Above: Chief of Defence Air Marshal Kevin Short, Robert Mclean, Carmen Eriksson, Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Puni Kōkiri | Secretary for Māori Development, Dave Samuels.