

- Our phone line is temporarily operating with reduced hours. You can call us between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday. [Contact us](#)

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- [Get support](#)  
The support you may be able to get depends on your circumstances.  
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Support while you're still serving.  
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Support once your regular service has finished.  
[Family and whānau](#)  
Here's how we can support you, and how you can support your family and whānau.  
[Non-military personnel](#)  
Non-military personnel can have Qualifying Operational Service in certain circumstances.
- [Remembrance](#)  
We're proud to honour the service of the veteran community.  
[Services Cemeteries and plaques and headstones](#)  
We help look after Services Cemeteries. We're also able to contribute towards plaques and headstones.  
[Commemorative funding](#)  
There are two types of financial contributions available from the Commemorative Fund.  
[Medals and service records](#)  
The NZ Defence Force's Personnel Archives and Medals team administer medals and hold most New Zealand military service records.  
[When someone dies](#)  
We may be able to provide support when someone who had Qualifying Service dies.  
[Your family's military history](#)  
Learning more about your family's military history is a great way to honour their service.  
[Certificate of Appreciation and Veterans' Pins](#)  
The Certificate of Appreciation and Veteran's Pin recognise operational service.
- [Eligibility](#)  
To be eligible to receive support from us, you—or certain family members—need to have Qualifying Service.  
[Check your eligibility](#)  
Check the support, services, or entitlements you may be able to get from us.  
[Qualifying Service](#)  
To get support from us you — or certain family members — need to have Qualifying Service.  
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You can still get support from us even if you live outside NZ.  
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You may be able to get support if you're the spouse, partner, child or dependant of someone with Qualifying Service.  
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Veterans' Affairs New Zealand was established to support New Zealand veterans.
- [For clients](#)  
We put veterans and our clients at the heart of everything we do.  
  
If you have a question at any stage please contact us—we're here to help.  
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We'll work with you to help you get the best support available.  
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Your treatment card helps you get no-cost treatment and medication for your approved conditions.  
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We want to make sure you have the best possible experience when you deal with us.  
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Information on payment rates and dates.  
[How we make decisions](#)  
We use a number of tools and processes to make decisions. This helps ensure each decision we make is fair and treats our clients consistently.  
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You can still get support from us even if you live outside NZ.

[Other benefits](#)

You may be able to access a range of discounts and benefits. Not only that, your family may get access too.

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To help you identify our clients, we issue treatment cards and letters.

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## You're invited to a re-dedication of the 34 veteran graves at Lake Alice Hospital

### You're invited to a re-dedication of the 34 veteran graves at Lake Alice Hospital

A ceremony will be held next month to bless a number of previously unmarked graves of First and Second World War veterans who died while in the care of the old Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital in the Rangitikei district.

The graves have been discovered by Marton RSA life member Barry Rankin, who started the task with no experience in tracking down any kind of records.

In 2016, a member of the public approached Barry to see if he could find the grave of her uncle, a returned serviceman who had died while a patient at Lake Alice.

This project was to take Barry much further than he had anticipated.

Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital was on the outskirts of Marton and operated from 1950 until 1999.

Some veterans who suffered from 'shell shock' had been admitted for treatment, sometimes without relatives knowing. A number of them died while at Lake Alice and they were usually buried in Mount View Cemetery.

Unfortunately, as Barry was to discover, many were buried in unmarked graves.

Barry found a record of the first serviceman's burial on the Rangitikei District Council's cemeteries website. The council provided a map of the cemetery's graves, but there was no headstone or plaque for this serviceman.

"Archives New Zealand service records confirmed he died in Marton and also his religion. With that bit of extra information I found the church record of his funeral details, which confirmed we had the right person," Barry said.

The family was deeply grateful to Barry for finding the plot. He has since organised a gravestone and service plaque.

Barry decided to investigate further. He discovered the names of all the patients who had died at Lake Alice and began working through that list looking for returned servicemen and their graves. He has since discovered the final resting place of 31 servicemen.

Marti Eller, Deputy Head of Veterans' Affairs, said Veterans' Affairs was very pleased to be able to support Barry and acknowledged the hard work and care he had put in to locate the last resting places of veterans in Mount View Cemetery.

"It's important for the families of those veterans and for us. This work honours their service to our country."

Veterans' Affairs had helped with determining service records of the deceased veterans and may potentially fund gravestones and plaques.

## **You are invited to a re-dedication ceremony**

The Marton RSA, in association with the Rangitikei District Council, is now planning to hold a re-dedication and unveiling of the graves at Mount View Cemetery.

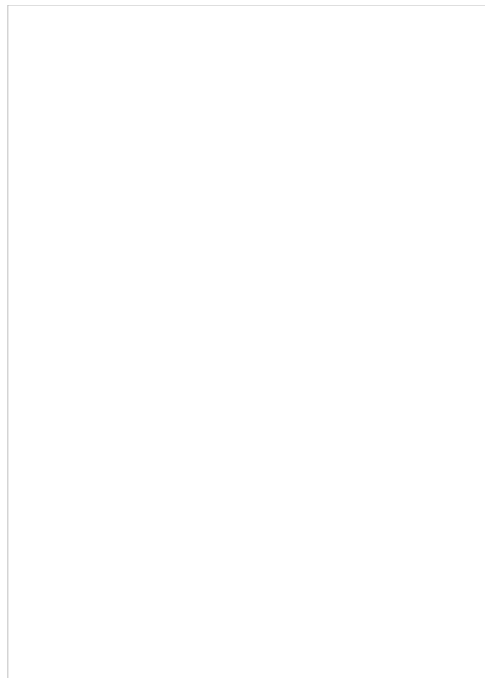
Mount State Cemetery  
Highway 1 (500m north of the Calico Line intersection)  
1pm on Saturday 4 February.

The Marton RSA would like to hear from anyone who may have had a relative or knows of a serviceman who was at Lake Alice Hospital, as they would like to invite those people to the commemoration and blessing.

Anyone interested in attending can contact Mr Alan Buckendahl: [alan@martonprint.co.nz](mailto:alan@martonprint.co.nz)

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You can read more stories and updates in the Summer 2022 edition of the Veterans' Affairs Magazine.



[Read the Summer 2022 Edition of the Veterans' Affairs Magazine \[PDF, 9.7 MB\]](#)

**Date**

19 December 2022

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