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New Zealand Veterans Welcome CPL WILLIE APIATA VC

NZ Veterans in AU Welcome Cpl Willie Apiata VC



Dear Veterans, on Sunday 20 March 2011, the NZ Veterans in NSW welcomed Cpl Willie Apiata VC to Sydney with a formal Powhiri at the Sydney Maori Anglican Church of Te Wairua Tapu.

It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that was made possible through the kind generosity of the AU organisation (Operation Pilgrimage Group) that had arranged for him to be in Sydney for the weekend.

However, what made it even more special was that Willie was accompanied by two Australian VC recipients; Keith Payne VC DSC OAM and Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG and George Cross recipient Michael Pratt. The George Cross is the civil equivalent of the VC. (picture l-r: Cpl Willie Apiata VC, Superintendent George Clarke, Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG, Keith Payne VC DSC OAM).



It was a very memorable and moving welcome (Powhiri) for Willie with speeches from a number of dignitaries followed by lunch and thanks to our guests for the photo opportunities.

The weekend started with a Cocktail Party at the World Square Hotel on the Friday night where they were staying, then a cruise, BBQ and visit to Spectacle Island

on Saturday where the first VC recipient to live in NSW James Gorman was appointed Foreman of Magazines and lived on Spectacle Island back in 1881. James Gorman received his VC in 1854 while serving with the British navy in the Crimean war. He moved to Sydney in 1863 and joined the Australian navy. He thus became the first recipient of the VC to live in NSW. He was appointed Foreman of Magazines on Spectacle Island the oldest Navy base in Australia. Gorman moved to Spectacle Island in 1881 to live in a cottage with his second wife and 15 year old daughter from his first marriage. He died of scarlet fever one year later at the age of 47 and was buried in the Balmain cemetery.

On Sunday they attended a service at Christ Church in The Rocks followed by the Powhiri at Te Wairua Tapu and ended with a final dinner on the floating restaurant in Darling Harbour.

Thanks to those Veterans that could attend at late notice. You made it a special and memorable event that continues to strengthen the camaraderie we have and will always have.





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NZ Veterans in AU is now on Facebook.

After unsuccessfully attempting to generate NZ Veteran discussion using an online forum from within the NZVIA website (www.nzvia.com.au) it was decided that Facebook may be better forum as it is used by many other Veteran organisations including the RNZRSA not to mention that Facebook is immensely popular. Therefore, whilst most information including pictures will be on the website, please use NZVIA Facebook as a possible form of discussing issues regarding NZ Veterans [NZVIA Facebook](#)

NZ Veterans Support Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Concert

Dear Veterans, please be advised that on Saturday 16 April 2011 there will be a community sponsored Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Concert held at Parramatta Park starting at 2pm and finishing at 9pm. A request has been received from the organising committee for NZ Veterans to participate in the festival whereby we will march into the festival carrying Candles that represent those that have died and placing them at the stage for the duration of the event. At the end of the night the Candles will then be extinguished and everyone will activate their glow sticks whilst listening to a Prayer followed by the sounding of the Last Post played by our own Veteran Peter Carrington. This is a community event sponsored by the Councils of Parramatta, Holroyd, and Campbelltown, and the Casula Powerhouse Museum, Australia Museum and supported by the NZ Consulate. I know a lot of us have donated in some way or another as I read the many emails on the Vet Net. However, it would be great if we could collectively show our support as a formed group in what is expected to be a big event. Veterans, come early to secure a prime spot, bring your friends and family, picnic blankets and dinner and enjoy an afternoon, evening and night of entertainment with special guest singer Renee Geyer and much more. There will also be food stalls available. Refer to www.christchurchconcertappealparramattapark.com.

Reminder: ANZAC Day March in Sydney



Dear Veterans, Just a reminder that the Sydney ANZAC Day March is on Monday 15 April 2011. For us we march at 9am so everyone usually gathers and forms up from 8:30am at the

corner of Martin Place and Pitt Streets. We march with two flags and the NZ Returned Services Banner. Incidentally the

Returned Services Banner has been at the front of the NZ Veterans in the Sydney ANZAC Day March since the boys came back from WWII.



Reminder: ANZAC Day Church Service in Sydney

The ANZAC Church Service is held at the Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship Church of Te Wairua Tapu, 587 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, on Sunday 1 May 2011 (always the first Sunday after ANZAC Day) and starts at 10:30am. At this time three dignitaries have accepted the invitation to the Church service: the Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney clr Marcelle Hoff; NZ Consul General Martin Welsh; Air Commodore John Samulski, NSW RSL State Councillor Barry Glover and Indigenous Veterans Representative sub-Mariner David Williams. Clr Hoff is well known in Redfern and as a result there will be a large aboriginal attendance as well as the 100+ Veterans that attended last year.



Go to the www.nzvia.com.au for more information and news of NZ Veterans.

Go to www.tewairuatapu.com.au for more information and news from the Church.

Greg Makutu 0404 005 341 or nzvia@nzvia.com.au



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ANZAC Day Services in the Central Coast

Dear Veterans, a request has been received from Vietnam Veteran Clarence Ormsby JP seeking NZ Veterans to represent us at two ANZAC Day services in the Central Coast as follows:

Kia Ora,

I have been invited to conduct an ANZAC service in the bush out west at Hartwood country music festival.

Grahame Crossing from the Central Coast is seeking a New Zealand veteran or persons who can represent New Zealand at two ANZAC Services...one at Palmdale Memorial Park @ 9am and the other at Greenway Memorial Gardens @ 11am.

We do have Private Ashley James Down, the only member of the 28th Maori Battalion at rest at Palmdale Memorial Park, Ourimbah.

You may contact Grahame Crossing @ (02) 4355 4070 mobile: 0400 926 169 or email: grae_c@bigpond.com

The Maori Battalion supporters at Te Wairua Tapu may wish to do the ANZAC speech and sing Po Ata Rau in closing.

I hope someone can support Grahame.

Kia kaha,
Clarence Ormsby JP NSW

Reunion Notices

1 Battalion RNZIR Reunion Singapore 22-29 April 2011



Dear Veterans, just a reminder for those Veterans that served in 1RNZIR in Singapore. There are also very nice Polo Shirts available for purchase in memory of the Reunion. My discussions with many Veterans in NSW have indicated strong support for this Reunion but sadly you will be missed at the ANZAC Day March in many parts of AU. However, for NZ Veterans in NSW you are welcome to attend the ANZAC Day Church Service on Sunday 1 May 2011.

V3 1 Battalion RNZIR Reunion 3-6 June 2011

Following the very successful V3 Company reunion held in Te Araroa last year it has been decided to hold a further reunion in Greymouth over Queen's Birthday Weekend 2011.

All members of the V3 family are most welcome to attend. Full details can be found on the reunion website

<http://www.premierstrategics.com/victor3/victor3.html>

RNZN Reunion in Gold Coast 2011

RNZN Veterans please be advised that the next reunion will be held in the Gold Coast in 2011. The reunions are blessed with a large attendance of Navy veterans and I am sure the 2011 reunion will also be the same.

For more information please go to www.nzvia.com.au

RF Cadet 50th Anniversary Reunion 2013 (Bennett Class)

Reminder for any RF Cadet Bennett Class veterans to please contact Roy Jones or Ben Hadfield as follows:



Ben Hadfield benzza@iprimus.com.au,
Roy Jones royvjones@dreamtilt.com.au.

Ex-Malaya Veterans



Please be advised that the NZ Malaya Veterans Association Inc has a new website
<http://www.malayavets.co.nz/>

Ex-Vietnam Services Association Inc

Reminder for all NZ Vietnam Veterans to keep in touch with your fellow comrades and keep up to date with the latest information through your association.



The website address as follows:

www.evsa.org.nz

NZVIA NSW Veteran Membership 2010



NSW Veterans are reminded that the 2011 RSL and NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) membership renewal is due.



As stated in my email, the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) would welcome your contribution to the operations of the association regardless of whether you retain your voting and speaking rights



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with your parent Sub-Branch and remain as an associate member of the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) (picture above new Members Peter and Jan Dicken receiving their membership badge from Lindsay Taylor 2009). So for \$5 please send in your application form for Associate Membership. For current full service members please send \$29 (of which \$24 goes to the NSW RSL). For new members wanting associate or full service membership let me know and I will send you an application form. Application forms are also on the NZVIA NSW page of the www.nzvia.com.au website. Just scroll down to the end of the Membership column or email nsw@nzvia.com.au

Now that the NewZletter goes to Veterans in other States, I have been asked how they can become involved in the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW).

Please note the following:

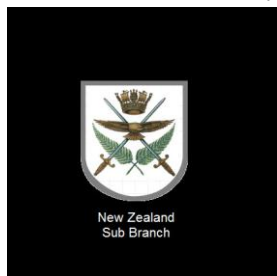
1. Interstate veterans can join the NSW Branch of the RSL via the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW) as Service members, if you are not currently Service Members interstate;
2. If you are currently Service Members interstate you can:
 - a. transfer to the NZ Sub-Branch (NSW); or
 - b. become "Associate" members of the NZ Sub-Branch for \$5 BUT you can only speak, vote & hold office at one RSL sub-Branch in Australia.

Whilst we would gladly accept your membership I would request you contact me so we can discuss your expectations against what is achievable.

Just a reminder, the NZ Sub-Branch is the legal entity for the NZ Veterans in Australia NSW so membership must remain with the NZ Sub-Branch in regards to its association with the NSW RSL.

NZVIA VIC Veteran Membership 2010

VIC Veterans are reminded that the 2011 RSL and NZ Sub-Branch (Vic) membership renewal is due. As stated in my email,



the NZ Sub-Branch (Vic) would welcome your contribution to the operations of the association



regardless of whether you retain your voting and speaking rights with your parent Sub-Branch and remain as a

member of the NZ Sub-Branch (Vic). So for \$35 please send in your application form. Forms are available from the NZVIA

Victoria page of the www.nzvia.com.au website. Just scroll down to the end of the Membership column.

Just a reminder, the NZ Sub-Branch is the legal entity for the NZ Veterans in Australia VIC so membership must remain with the NZ Sub-Branch in regards to its association with the VIC RSL.

Acknowledgements / Personal Notices

Happy Birthday to: **Paul Payens, Corey Hughes, Wayne Taylor, Graham Armstrong, Pat Woolley, Ben Akari, Dennis McCrorie, Dave Peters, Brian Forsman and Trent Direen.**

The Last Post

Last Post Reminders in NZ

Dear Veterans, there are notices sent for our Veterans that pass away in NZ. I do not repeat them in this NewZletter but if you want to keep in touch with notices regarding Veterans in NZ please let me know and I will send you the link(s). I think most Veterans here get the notices anyway.

Last Post Reminder

Veterans, I can honestly say (albeit with great sadness) that after attending many funerals in NSW, the families have been overwhelmingly grateful, appreciative and welcomed our ability to coordinate the military aspects of the funeral for our fallen comrade. It is incredibly moving to see the pride in the families not only when they hear and sometimes first learn of our fallen comrade's military service, but also when they see the Casket covered with the NZ Flag, respective service hat (Army, Airforce or Navy) and Korowai. Furthermore, all the families I have coordinated funeral details with have also been very comfortable with photos being taken knowing the reason for such photos e.g. veteran only distribution. You would have seen such photos in previous NewZletters.

Therefore, please let us know as veterans pass away in Australia so I can advise all the veterans in Australia. For NSW veterans, we try to attend wherever possible funerals of our comrades so please keep us informed.



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Lest we forget

Other News



A test for Navy's newest Ship



MC 20110221_WGN_M19193_004 - WELLINGTON off the Antarctic Coastline
Tuesday, 1 March 2011

From calm weather to intense storm conditions, HMNZS WELLINGTON, the Navy's newest Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) and her Ship's Company experienced all that Antarctica had to throw at them during a three week deployment into the lower Southern Ocean (higher latitudes) and the western Ross

Sea. The ship successfully completed a full set of sea trials in these areas. Now, for the first time in forty years, the Royal New Zealand Navy has the ability to operate two of its ships in Antarctic waters.

The Offshore Patrol Vessel, HMNZS WELLINGTON, is returning from the Southern Ocean and will be arriving in Dunedin at 1000 on Thursday, 3 March 2011

"The trials have helped determine the ship's capabilities and limitations, and have allowed us to become familiar with the dynamics of the Ross Sea area" said Commanding Officer of HMNZS WELLINGTON, Lieutenant Commander Simon Griffiths.

"The trials also prove that the ship can conduct small boat operations, can land and operate personnel along the Antarctic coastline and can conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations throughout the Ross Dependency."

This new capability can now be developed further to allow the RNZN to work alongside other government agencies to conduct various surveillance and support operations in Antarctic waters. During the sea trials HMNZS WELLINGTON was involved in a search and rescue for the yacht Berserk.

"We were hit by the most intense storm I have ever experienced at sea," said LtCdr Griffiths.

"The ship could not initially respond to the distress call of the Berserk due to the heavy weather conditions but once we were able to, we headed to the last reported position of the distress signal."

"The WELLINGTON crew are well trained in conducting such operations, even in adverse conditions like those experienced during this search."

The ship searched the area until a further deterioration of the weather prevented the ship from carrying on. There was no sign of the yacht or its crew members.

A media conference will be held on board HMNZS WELLINGTON at 1030 on Thursday, 3 March 2011, at the Oil Wharf in Dunedin, to discuss their experiences in the Southern Ocean and Ross Sea.

To attend the media conference, please contact Lieutenant Sarah Campbell on 021 244 0638.



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SHIP INFORMATION

The Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), OTAGO and WELLINGTON, deliver substantial new capability to the Royal New Zealand Navy. The ships can go further offshore, stay at sea longer, and conduct more challenging operations than the Inshore Patrol Vessels, and will enable the RNZN to conduct patrol and surveillance operations around New Zealand, the southern ocean and into the Pacific.

The OPVs are capable of many roles including maritime patrol, surveillance and response. They have the ability to conduct helicopter operations using a Seasprite SH2G helicopter, boarding operations using the ships Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats, or Military Support Operations with embarked forces.

The OPVs have strengthened hulls which enable them to enter southern waters where ice may be encountered. They are not designed as ice-breakers or to enter Antarctic ice-packs, but have the range and capability to undertake patrols in the southern ocean where ice may be encountered.

ENDS

The Offshore Patrol Vessels are able to operate throughout New Zealand's 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone, the southern ocean and the Pacific. They carry out a range of roles including patrolling, surveillance, search and rescue, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, support to peacekeeping operations and sea training for the Navy.

- [New Zealand Defence Force prepares for Pacific mission](#)
- [Send an Anzac message to Kiwi Forces](#)
- [A change at the top for Maritime Component Command](#)
- [Singapore Armed Forces assistance appreciated](#)
- [Burnham graduates stand strong](#)
- [Adrenalin-packed prizes for Anzac art competition](#)
- [Court Martial for Naval Rating](#)
- [CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE - NZ DEFENCE FORCE - UPDATE 14](#)
- [CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE - NZ DEFENCE FORCE - UPDATE 13](#)
- [A test for Navy's newest Ship](#)
- [CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE - NZ DEFENCE FORCE - UPDATE 12](#)

www.navy.mil.nz



PM welcomes Jerry Mateparae as next Governor-General



Former Chief of Defence Lieutenant General Jeremiah (Jerry) Mateparae, ONZM.

08 March 2011

Prime Minister John Key today welcomed the announcement that the Queen has approved the appointment of Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae to succeed Sir Anand Satyanand as Governor-General of New Zealand.

"Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae is a highly regarded leader with a distinguished 38-year military career. He joined the New Zealand Army in 1972, and rose through the ranks, serving and commanding in a wide variety of roles," says Mr Key.

"This culminated in his appointment as Chief of Defence Force in 2006. He is currently the director of the Government Communications Security Bureau.

"Jerry will be New Zealand's 20th Governor-General. I believe he will bring great mana and a wide range of qualities to this role, including judgement, energy and an enthusiasm for encouraging excellence in others.

"As Governor-General, he will have the opportunity to work with a wide range of New Zealanders and develop an active programme in the community.

"Jerry has served New Zealand with dedication and honour throughout his career, and I am delighted that he has agreed to continue that service in a new, broader role," says Mr Key.

"Sir Anand Satyanand's term concludes on 23 August 2011. I would like to thank Sir Anand for his dedication and service in his role as Governor-General."

There will be a State farewell for Sir Anand on 17 August. Jerry Mateparae will be sworn in on 31 August, beginning his five-year term.



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Media contact for PM: Kevin Taylor 027 600 5619
Media contact for Jerry Mateparae: Rebekah Clement 021 243 7958

Notes: A media conference involving the Prime Minister and Lt Gen Mateparae will be held at Noon today in the Beehive Theatre.

Pictures of Jerry Mateparae and wife Janine can be obtained from Rebekah Clement on 021 243 7958.

[New Zealand troops return from Solomon Islands deployment](#)
[PM welcomes Jerry Mateparae as next Governor-General](#)
[Court Martial for NZ Army soldier](#)

www.army.mil.nz

by the ongoing implementation of the Defence White Paper.

"He is highly experienced in international relations and through the staff roles he has held in personnel and policy formation, he has gained an excellent grasp of the management requirements to make the necessary changes," the Minister said.

Air Vice Marshal Stockwell, who is currently serving as Commander Joint Forces New Zealand at Trentham, will begin his three-year term on 1 May.

"I congratulate him on his appointment. He will make a valuable contribution at a crucial period for the Air Force, especially in the next two years as important new capability comes into service," Dr Mapp said.

[Air Force tribute for anniversary church service](#)
[New Chief of Air Force announced](#)



New Chief of Air Force announced

Air Vice Marshal Peter Stockwell.
[OH 09-0290-005]

21 March 2011

Minister of Defence Dr Wayne Mapp today announced Air Vice Marshal Peter Stockwell has been appointed Chief of Air Force, replacing Air Vice Marshal Graham Lintott.



"Air Vice Marshal Stockwell has proved himself a highly capable officer during his 38 years of Air Force service," Defence Minister Wayne Mapp said, announcing the appointment today.

"He has successful command experience at every level and extensive operational experience. In 1995, he was awarded the Air Force Cross for his outstanding leadership as commanding officer of 40 Squadron at a high-tempo period for the squadron.

"He is a proven strategic thinker and has the leadership skills and experience to carry out the changes in the Air Force required