



# ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION (NZ)

OCTOBER 2008

LOCAL PATRON: HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ANAND SATYANAND, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF N.Z.

## Presidents Comments.

I recently received welcome news from Phillip Ayling who had been in contact with Lt. Cdr. Chalky Carr, Royal New Zealand Navy, Devonport. He is an ex Royal Marine Officer and has contact with a number of ex Royals now serving with the N.Z. Defense Force. As a result, we hope to see some fresh younger faces at the **Corp Birthday Celebration, 1100 hours, Sunday 2 November 2008 at Birkenhead RSA, North Shore City.** The cost will be \$20.00 per person.

Please forward the payment to the Treasurer or pay online no later than 7 days prior. Dennis Wilkinson, our ex Secretary will be here from Queensland and because he did such a good job last year, he's been elected to conduct the raffle again. Many thanks to those members who have so willingly provided prizes for the raffle. Phillip Ayling has been burning the midnight oil preparing the Order of Service and decorated place mats that make for interest and colour on the tables, but alas Phillip and his partner will be absent, attending 2 weddings overseas. David Glen, who is at present with Marilyn in Queensland advises he'll be back in time to attend the Luncheon.

I have included a very interesting Obituary prepared by Peter Collins for the late Bastian Van Hof, 1 of our members. He had served with the Royal Netherlands Marine Corp and was a very cheerful, regular member. He and Catharina will be missed from our meetings.

Many will remember Lou Nathan a member until he retired and moved to Warkworth with his wife Nina. Nina, being cared for by Lou, sadly passed away on September 17<sup>th</sup> after been unwell for some time. I recently visited Lou in Ward 3 at North Shore Hospital, where he is progressing well and asked to be remembered to those in the association that know him.

Edwin Barton, our ex Secretary, had been preparing his garden and when lifting some compost gave himself an unwelcome hernia which will require a spell in hospital in the near future. To enable him to watch what's going on in hospital, he's getting eye 2 lots of surgery done first this month. We hope he'll be ok to attend the Luncheon.

Colleen, our Secretary is having an uncomfortable time also at present and will be in hospital this month but has still found time to get our newsletter printed and sent. She also hopes to be to attend the Corp Birthday. Colleen has done very well attempting to contact most of our members by email or phone to bring our roll up to date and some of you will receive an information update with this newsletter.

Jules Jacob, aged 88, resident of Te Kuiti and 1 of our ex Royal Netherlands Marine Corp has had a spell in hospital but is now out and feeling a lot better. He has donated to us, the full 14 magazine copies of the Falklands War by sending it through Ticker Ayling. Many of our members who served in the Falklands, and others, will be interested in the well produced publications.



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I've been advised that the NZ WWII Cruisers Association had their last re-union on October 4th, and it's another case of age proving to be the problem. Colleen Ellis, attended the Luncheon along with 168 others and comments it was fantastic to be there. A number of our members, as Royal Marines, served on the various cruisers; Eddie Edwardson, Peter Gosling and Charlie Lashmar to name a few.

Jock Munro has put to rest our concern over the British Press reports that HMS "Victory" would be sold to become a commercial enterprise. He forwarded an article in which Defense Minister and Second Sea Lord have stated that there is no intention to decommission HMS "Victory. (see below)

Well that's all from me, I look forward to seeing many of you at the **Corp Birthday Bash** where Brendan Johnson (The Money Man) will be our guest speaker.

### **HMS Victory Update...**

The future of the HMS Victory Shipmates around the world, were horrified to see recent reports in the press that the Royal Navy might sell HMS "Victory".

The Navy has strongly denied this. Defense Minister Baroness Ann Taylor said: "HMS Victory will remain part of the Royal Navy. Nothing will change in that respect. The objective for this study is sustainability of HMS Victory as a museum ship and commissioned Royal Navy warship. Continued access depends on extensive works being carried out over the coming years. An examination of the full range of options will seek to ensure that HMS Victory is preserved in a sound condition in her home port of Portsmouth for generations to come."

Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Alan Massey added: " We are extremely proud of HMS VICTORY, a truly iconic part of our maritime heritage. This unique warship is at the heart of the Royal Navy and there has never been any suggestion of giving her away or decommissioning the ship. This current media speculation concerns a study which seeks to guarantee the long term future of HMS VICTORY as she undergoes essential maintenance work."

This national treasure is far too precious to lose !

Our thanks to this Extract from the "Bosun's Chronicle," October 2008. This link takes you to a blog site about this and anyone can sign up for the Bosun's Chronicle.

[www.blogs.mod.uk/defence\\_news/2008/week37/index.html](http://www.blogs.mod.uk/defence_news/2008/week37/index.html) The next link shows a news article( 13 Sept 2008) from Anna Tribe, the great great great granddaughter of Nelson

[www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/Nelson-would-turn-in-his.4488435.jp](http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/Nelson-would-turn-in-his.4488435.jp)

### **Tom Griffin Royal Marine Band**

Tom Griffin a 21 year old musician with the Royal Marine Band Service has been on a 5 month exchange with the Royal New Zealand Navy. A couple of our Association members, Brendan Johnson and Noel Harker met up with him when attending the Governor General's Reception at Government House in Auckland this year. He has now returned to his posting with RM Band at Commando Training Centre, Lymptone, Devon. Tom got a write up in the Magazine, NAVY TODAY an RNZN publication, when on 21<sup>st</sup> July he carried out a Bungy Sky Jump from Auckland's Sky Tower while the Navy Band played melodies before and after his leap from the tower. Tom and the band achieved their objective, raising funds for Starship Children's Hospital in Auckland and he was very fortunate there was a lull in the rain storm while he made his jump.

### **Extract from Navy News August 2008 ....**

A NEW hospital being built in Birmingham will have a dedicated military ward. The new ward will start taking patients when the hospital, at Edgbaston, opens in 2010. The ward will be designated trauma and orthopedics ward where up to 30 military patients will be cared for in single rooms or four-bedded bays. As the 545 million pound hospital will also house the largest single-floor critical care unit in the world, with 100 beds, Forces patients will benefit from proximity to Europe's leading trauma care provider. The new ward will be a successor to the current military-managed ward at Selly Oak Hospital. Chief of Defense Staff Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup said: "Service personnel who are injured on operations deserve the very best medical care we can provide. I am confident that the treatment delivered at Selly Oak is already world-class and we will continue to improve on that in this new ward. Importantly, the further development of a military atmosphere within the NHS hospital will ensure that our people are cared for in an environment that is conducive to their recovery and wellbeing. All of this amongst the most modern facilities of their kind in Europe, and all under the continuing care of the joint NHS and military staff of the Birmingham Hospitals." As was the case with the old military hospitals, civilian patients will also be admitted to the ward when capacity allows, although the design of the new facility means that, with the exception of major civilian emergencies, military patients can be cared for in single rooms or small wards rooms that are not shared with civvies. The intention is to provide more nursing staff – a combined team of military and civilian nurses – than would normally be found on an NHS ward, both to support the military ethos and in recognition of the fact that military casualties may have complex needs and may remain in for longer periods. The current military-managed ward at Selly Oak has been developed over the past couple of years by the MOD and the Birmingham Hospital Trust, and military nursing numbers increased from 12 to 39.

### **Opinion – NAVY NEWS ....**

The Royal Marines of 40 Commando had a heart-warming welcome when they returned from Afghanistan and marched through Taunton, where thousands of people turned out to cheer. Of course, links with the local community and Norton Manor Camp are very close, so they might have expected a heroes' return in their home town. What they didn't expect was an almost equally warm reception in London. But the Royals of Bravo Company were surprised by the response in the capital.

As Major Dan Cheesman said: "It was overwhelming. Not long ago we wouldn't have worn our uniforms in public. Now we just can't shake enough hands." Bravo Company spent a day touring the attractions, including the Houses of Parliament and the Imperial War Museum, following by free rides on the London Eye, and a visit to a brewery. Perhaps what they didn't expect was to become an attraction themselves – but then it's not every day you get a company of Royals in full desert camouflage on the streets of London. It shows, as Meet Your Navy showed, that the oft-lamented gap between the public and the Armed Forces becomes much narrower when they're able to meet. Follow the links for the story...

[www.navynews.co.uk/articles/2002/0201/0002012301.asp](http://www.navynews.co.uk/articles/2002/0201/0002012301.asp) [www.navynews.co.uk/view-story.aspx?articleID=156](http://www.navynews.co.uk/view-story.aspx?articleID=156)

The views expressed in Navy News do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Defense.

This is another link about the homecoming.....

[www.royalmarines.mod.uk/server/show/nav.6628](http://www.royalmarines.mod.uk/server/show/nav.6628)

\*\* Thank you **Puja Singh- Owner of Cardale's Stationery City, 6 Campbell Road, Royal Oak, Auckland** for their generous sponsorship of all the Royal Marines Association photocopying. **Ph 625-0001 Fax: 625-0009 Email: [ryk@cardales.co.nz](mailto:ryk@cardales.co.nz)**  
We ask our members to support them where possible.