



REGULAR FORCE CADET ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 272 1219, Papakura

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NEWSLETTER

September 2008

Hi there to you all.....

This will probably be my last newsletter to you...I have retired as Secretary as has our Executive committee and handed over the reigns to a new committee. We believe that this is a move that was required to establish the continuation of the Association. 'New' is always good, and we believed that it was time for some fresh heads and ideas to ensure that this Association continues it's great rapport with it's members. I have always had a lot of enjoyment out of being Secretary and have met a lot of fantastic people, and will continue to be part of the Association as an Honorary member of Miles Company...an honour bestowed on me at the 50th reunion in Wellington.

At the last Annual General Meeting in July this year, I was stunned to be awarded a Life Membership by the meeting... something I had never ever contemplated, and was hugely humbled to be given such an honour. So as you can see, I will still be an integral part of the Association, and will look forward to the continuation of what was started 13 years ago.

60th Reunion Report.

Our Reunion is now in the final stages of organizing and shaping up to be a very enjoyable weekend. The venue will be the Palmerston North Convention Centre (sited southern end of the Square), and what a fabulous venue it is. I cannot stress enough the helpfulness of the Centre's Staff and indeed the whole of the Palmerstonians we have dealt with.

The only detail to finalize (as we go to print) is with the Army where we hope they can put on a Static Display on the green in the Square on the Saturday.

There are just over 450 registrations representing 41 of the 45 Classes with Weir 69 achieving the highest number with 22.

As mentioned above we now have just over 450 registrations but unfortunately we are limited to this amount because of constraints at the Convention Centre. However there maybe some cancellations, so if you are now thinking of coming you will need to contact Trish soonest and you will be put on the waiting list on the basis of first in first served. You would be contacted immediately if you were successful so that you can make your arrangements.

It is intended that a mail out with your receipt, the intended programme, Palmerston North Map etc. will be sent within the next week or so.

It is intended to open Registrations at 12 midday onwards on Friday the 24th until late where you receive name tags, reunion gift pack, as well as happenings around Palmerston North.

The Reunion is being focused to be a fun weekend with plenty of time to socialize and chat with old comrades.

We, the organizing committee know that those attending will have a fabulous weekend, and at a fabulous venue. We look forward to meeting you all there to have just that, a fabulous weekend.

On behalf of all the Committee, take care getting there.
Don Rolle

Keeping in touch.....

Mike Wicksteed - Barrowclough Class 1965

I left the army in 1987 and after a spell working as a public servant in Parliament, first for Frank O'Flynn and then for David Lange, headed for the UK late in 1989. Married (for the first time) in 2001 – Liz and I live in Thames Ditton close to the river opposite Hampton Court Palace. I have worked in government communications since arriving here – currently head up the judicial communications office, which I set up in 2005, responsible for comms support to all judges, magistrates and tribunals in England and Wales (c.40,000+ all up). Keeps me busy. See: www.judiciary.gov.uk
<mailto:mike.wicksteed@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk>

Mike Matheson - Thornton Class 1975

Served 20 years then owned a Motel in Kerikeri for 2 years before re-enlisting under contract in October 1996. Left in December of 2004 and moved to Opotiki where we owned and operated a Café before a kind soul walked in off the street and made us an offer we couldn't turn down. I am currently the Assistant Packhouse Manager at one of the largest Kiwifruit packhouses in the Eastern Bay where I have been for the past four years.

Mike.Matheson@opac.co.nz

Warwick Alexander Thomas - Thornton Class 1975

Hi to all ex Cadets out there and a special Hi and thank you to the organising committee for our 60th reunion. To all the Thornton Class cadets, what has happened to you guys? You are very quiet out there...I never remembered you as quiet guys. I have had the pleasure of keeping in contact with a few of the guys I knew at RF Cadet School and some that I didn't know were ex cadets until many years later. Looking forward to hearing from you all.

millywarwick@xtra.co.nz

Andrew McLachlan - Rennie Class 1983

Graduated 1983 to RNZ Signals, Hopuhopu Camp. 2 years Singas 86 – 88 and left Army in 89 to travel overseas. Back in NZ since 94. Have settled in New Plymouth, married with 2 kids and working in Hawera for Fonterra. Good memories from 1983, playing 1st XV rugby, our Fiji trip, those 2 minute change parades and braving the worst that Waiouru could throw at us on Graduation Day. Recognise some names on the website – would be good to see a few more, particularly from 2 Pl. Reunion coming up in 08 be good to catch up with Rennie class mates.

bbkmac@xtra.co.nz

Frank Taipari - Weir Class 1958

Am attending 60th Reunion in Palmerston North Labour weekend.

taiparf@actrix.gen.nz

Joseph Shepherd (Steni Joe) - Elliot VC Class - 1980

I joined in 1980 as a chef. Still have good memories of Cadets. Between Cadets and the Army, it was a great grounding for what life was to throw at us. I got out in 1989, from one green machine to another – am now a cooking instructor with the NZ Prison Service. I am still married to my first wife, Sandra, with four younguns. Oldest is nearly 21 and that other service (which a few of us enjoyed time with at Fort Cautley) Navy, and the youngest has just started Secondary School. Have done so many things since I have been out but have only had the one job. Hooked into the super still. Fantastic to see some of the names who we worked with. Had good Cadet times and have lost contact since. The Army is certainly an experience you love during your life.

shepherdz@xtra.co.nz

Philip Power (Joe) - Ngarimu VC Class 1970

Three great years in the Club. Met some of the best people you would like to meet. Still cooking after all those years. 13 years Chef / Tutor in tertiary education, mixed with some good restaurant work. Now have my own function catering business in Wanganui, Essence Catering. Continue to enjoy life. Married to Heather with three great grown up kids.

Joe.power@essence-catering.co.nz

Rodney Orr - Kippenberger Class 1959

Left the Army in Jan70 and went into management. After selling a manufacturing company I part owned in Auckland in 85 my first marriage broke up. I started to travel abroad in 89. With accounting / management skills, I contracted my time to many entities in NZ, OZ, Canada, UK and Israel. (years on my own and I med and married Jane and I had a travelling companion! Moved to Maryborough (3 hours north of Brisbane) to settle. Obese but healthy, the climate in Maryborough is kind. Between us we have six children and 12 grandchildren. I have Veteran Status (ex Vietnam) and retired onto a service pension early 07. Active on the board of the local RSL and our church. All in all, life is VERY pleasant. Return email to orrkid@gmail.com if you get the urge.

Anthony Neels (Chuck) - Page Class 1977

I graduated to Sigs after two years in Cadets. Served in most of the sigs units for the next 18 years finishing off in Hobsonville. Married with three daughters (now adults) and live out west. Currently working at Whenuapai doing something similar to what I did before I got out. Would like to hear from anyone passing through.

Chux.neels@xtra.co.nz

Jason Koroheke - Thorpe Class 1986

Hi all...thought that I would write in as other have as well. I got out in 95 and am now currently up in Auckland plying my trade as an engineer. I did a chef's apprenticeship in the Army but was not keen when I got out. Best year was Cadets year for me as well. Married with three kids and still playing League for the Mighty Jaguars in Auckland. Living life to the fullest. Be cool....

korohekej@transfieldservices.com

Mac Kingi - Ardagh Class 1968

Started in A Coy where I did my Basic, then moved to Be Coy and started a carpentry and joinery apprenticeship. Did my basic with the 'Pa Boys' then moved to B Coy after March Graduation, and after made section commander for all the Engineer Boys. B Coy won the annual rugby challenge that year. A Coy had the forwards and we had the backs. Waiouru was the first time that a lot of us got to experience snow. Also had a trip up Ruapehy for skiing where we learnt to stop the quick way (fall over). Played Softball and Rugby and went to St Stephens and Whakatane High for softball. Unfortunately we came second to Whakatane that game. Tipene drew with our boys in the rugby that year and all the 1st 15 got two eggs for tea that night. Had a great time there and hope to catch up at the 2008 reunion. No reira kia ora koutou katoa.

mkingi@hotmail.com

Graham Johnston - Page Class 1977

Been living in Australia since my discharge in June 1987. My work experiences have been varied and extremely interesting, mining, power generation and oil and gas industries. Live in Queensland, Western Australia, and now currently in the NT. A lot of overseas travel, Fiji, America twice, PNG, Singapore, Thailand, Germany, India mainly with work. Currently an Operations Superintendent at an LNG facility – American company ConocoPhillips. Re-married with seven children (combined) and two grandchildren.

giolynn@bigpond.net.au

Ross Jelley - Gentry Class 1962

I am currently employed at Auckland City Hospital as food supervisor and have been for 15 years. Am married with 6 children – all left home and working or raising their own children. Have 10 grandchildren in New Zealand, England and Spain. Have basically kept to the catering bus since leaving the Army.

rcjelley@hotmail.com

Peter Harris - Bennett Class 1963

Once my Army career was over I got married, had four children and continued working in my trade as an electrician. Eventually joined the TAB and filled a number of roles in this organisation over 25 years. Now work for Bayleys Real Estate in Christchurch as a Hotel Broker which really enjoy.

peterharris@xtra.co.nz

Wayne Hutchinson - Andrew VC Class 1966

One of the last three year cadets and the Cadet RSM of 1968. Graduated to the Infantry, served in Vietnam, and served in a host of appointments and postings before coming a WO1 RSM. I retired in 1986 and bought

a Flower growing business in Christchurch which I sold after nine years. I then moved to Invercargill as the Economic Development Officer with the Southland District Council, and after five years to Venture Southland as the Rural Economic Development Officer. My next job was CEO of a Honey company and after three years back to Economic Development with Enterprise Northland. I am married to Anne who is with the Police force. I am still a keen Rugby supporter – go the Crusaders!

Wayne.hutchinson145@gmail.com

Raymond Horton (Rabbit) - Williams Class 1991

I couldn't think of a better way to start the journey of life than as a Regular Force Cadet and the forces in general. It has really grounded me for life and everything life throws at you. Good mates / good times! I will always remember the 6 years I spent as a soldier in the New Zealand Army and will always look back at it as the biggest growth period in my life as a person. I wish all the people I have worked with during my service the best in life and remember, in life, without the shit there is no sugar. Soldier on.

Raymond.Horton@riotinto.com

Mike Eddy - Taylor Class 1987

Often think about our time in Cadets. It was one hell of a year! Looking forward to the reunion later in the year and hope to catch up with old Taylor Class clubbies. Left the Army 10 years ago and now doing Online Marketing for a telecommunication company in Wellington. Standard wife and two kids, one boy and one boy. You can contact me on mike.eddy@hstx.com

Ian Crocker - Dittmer Class 1972

Posted to Burnham from "the club" then around the country and to Singapore. Discharged in 92 after 20 years. I settled in home town of Christchurch, married with two children (one of each). Both have since left home. Still in the trade (catering) working for a contract caterer at Christchurch Boys College. I see some ex clubbies on an irregular basis. Feel free to drop a line.

CROCKS@xtra.co.nz

David Cheetham - Taylor Class 1989

Not much to report from my end. After Cadet School I entered QA Sad and only lasted six months (some may say I saw the light early on) but I enjoyed the experience and it certainly provided some great memories. I'm currently an accountant working in my home town in Napier, so if you are in the area and would like to catch up over a cold one or two, send me a quick email. Cheers.

dave@pjaccounting.co.nz

Thomas Brown (Brownie) - Parkinson Class 1964

Graduated December 65, posted RNZIR 67, 2 years overseas, returned to Fort Dorset for four years then to Linton for 2 years, posted to Trentham. I left in 1979 and joined the police as catering manager at the Police College where I stayed for 18 years and then resigned. I drove a taxi in Wellington for 8 years and am currently the manager of the Porirua RSA. You can contact me at manager@poriruarsa.co.nz

Johannes de Breuk (Pete) - Burrows Class 1974

I am a West Coaster. I enjoyed RF Cadets, especially the second year being trained to kill people by the Vietnam boys. Top dudes. I did 21 years in the Army, saw the world and didn't kill anyone. Back here on the Coast and run my own Electrical Contracting company. Life is good.

Coast.el@ihug.co.nz

Kevin Christiansen - Burrows Class 1974

Joined 74, grad 75 - what was it? Grad a senior always a senior - yeah what ever! Still married after 30 odd years with 2 daughters. Left in 96 and went into public service where I remain today. To the Association, thank you for keeping us informed.

kevnkim@xtra.co.nz

Vaughan Malins - Burrows Class 1990

Hi fellas. After joining cadets in 1990, then went to EME as a mechanic. Left the army in late 96 and moved to Perth. Still in touch with Elmo and a few other boys from various years – Lizard, Quickie, Gut. Cheers.....Mal

joandvaughan@virginbroadband.com.au

Ross McColl - Stewart Class 1961

Hi all.....Although my time at Cadet School could never be described as a success, I would hasten to add that the life lessons learnt, have never left me. I often wonder about Tiny Walsh and does he know how much he influenced my adult life, as did the many friendships made at sunny Waiouru. These days finds me 40 years married to the lovely Rose, two married children and three grandchildren. All of us are living in Brisbane Australia. Retired now, and about to suffer some limb losses as a result of diabetes. But them's the breaks. Get in touch thru rml@spiderweb.com.au

Christopher Helm - Hudson GC Class 1978

Hi guys. About time I updated. Living in Dunedin still, separated but still see my two great kids, 17 and 13. Currently working as an operations manager for Roadmarkers, Otago. Had a great time in Waiouru and those on the beer heist can testify to that. Still in contact with a few old boys and will get them to join the site. Sorry I can't make the 60th but would love to stay in touch and maybe organise a South Island reunion some time. I am glad the drama of a year or so ago has gone as I fondly remember RFCS and all the good and bad times that happened. Look forward to hearing from and you can contact me either by email or mobile. 027 227 0464 addington55@hotmail.com

It was great after three years to come back to the site and I will try to stay in touch more often. Yes we were a favoured few.

Alan (Rod) Talbot - Weir Class 1969

Been in Africa (Botswana) for 25 years doing missions work and now back home for a season. Currently based in Hamilton. Looking forward to getting to know the old home country again. Even winter is fun!! Email address is: rtalbot@clear.net.nz

Craig Hayward - Elliot VC class 1980

What can I say, I look back and still remember so very good and some tough times in Clubbies. Can't have been too bad as I stayed in the machine for over 20 years. Left now and moved to Te Awamutu and serving in the Prison Service. See old friends now and again. joyandcraig@slingshot.co.nz

Phil Hardwick - Webb Class 1984

Well, nearly 20 years down the line and I'm finally getting around to doing this , after grad joined RNZEME with some rather notorious characters, they know who they are , after failing trade cert , I realised being a mechanic sucked and transferred to the education corps where i got to do sweet FA for 2 years. Got out in '90 with no plans, went to uni , that sucked , got a few jobs around Auckland, they sucked , moved to London in '99 and have been here ever since, I have been managing pubs around London and as of this week (Sept '08) am buying my own pub with another expat kiwi. If youre ever in London , drop me a line, there's always a free beer for an ex clubbie. Except for Jock, as I'm sure he still owes me a beer"

Cheers lads, all the best for the upcoming reunion

londonphil67@aol.com

Christian (Rumple) Berkhan - Rennie Class 1983

chris1berkahn@free.net.nz

Ronald Death - Puttick Class 1957

Retired truck driver, living in New Lynn Auckland

carolandron@kol.co.nz

Graeme Todd - Crump Class 1967

Driving at present for Valley Flyer(formerly Cityline)at Upper Hutt.Been here for twenty odd years now since I left the Army in 1987.

gtodd@xtra.co.nz

Wayne Searle - Weir Class 1969

Back living in Christchurch after many years away. Enjoying my golf.

wayneas@slingshot.co.nz

Grant Holley - Ardagh Class 1968

Joined in 68 and graduated into RNZIR in Dec 69 but stayed on to instruct on basic Jan-Mar 70. Returned a further two times to RFCS from 75-77 as a Pl Sgt then 83-85 as SSM. Left in 93 but was lured back in 96

and served a further 7 years finally leaving as a Major in 2002. Have been in Tauranga with my partner Fi ever since (except for a four month stint back in uniform in 2005 as the NZ Army SNO/Ops Offr with RAMSI in the Solomons) managing the Tauranga Game Fishing Club which I thoroughly enjoy.

Bevan Godfrey - Morris Class 1981

Where to start, joined clubbies in 1981 and graduated into RNZCT as a chef. Posted to Papakura twice, Singapore, Waiouru twice, Wellington and Burnham twice over my 26 years in the system. Spent 17 years in the catering industry and then took a commission to gain some extra life skills. Left the system as Commandant BRSC (Bhm) in Jan 2007 when the calling into the motor-sport industry got too much. I now work for the Canterbury Car Club as Race Manager looking after all the logistics and planning for each race season and daily circuit hires. Married to my darling for 21 years now, one daughter in the air force and the other with her own personal training business. If you're in Chch look me up at Powerbuilt Tools Raceway, the jug is always on for ex-cadets...especially those from Morris Class. ghq@clear.net.nz

Donovan Clarke - Taylor Clas 1987

Kia ora to all you clubbies, left army in 1993 after doing a chef apprentice then joined NZ police for 14 years, now Ops manager for a PHO (disability sector) in South Auckland, still keep hand in trade, own the Great Western Steakhouse, New Lynn, Auks. Had an awesome time in cadets, tough but good. Contact me on fivekinas@ihug.co.nz.

Mark Laws - Morrison Class 1976

I signed up as an Electronic Technician (Telegoon) and after basic training spent 9 months at the School of Signals and the occasional trip to EME Schools. The learning curve was massive, we were introduced to so many great technologies - all what a young man could ever dream of! Had some great room-mates, many class-mates, and have a few clubby-mates for life: we and our families still keep in touch. drmaaka@yahoo.co.nz

Kevin Stewart - Rennie Class 1983

RFCS, seems like a lifetime ago. Graduated to RNZE 1983, stint at Trade Training Wing, then the move to Linton (SME), posted to 1 Fd Sqn, and got out in 1992. A few years with the Prison Service, then joined the Police, and currently living in Napier, stationed in Hastings as a Section Sergeant. Still married to Nicki (ex RNZCT) and we have two kids. kevnic@orcon.net.nz

Mark Allingham - Taylor Class 1987

allingham@aapt.net.au

Christopher Helm - Hudson GC Class 1978

Hi guys about time I updated. Living in Dunedin still. Separated and still see my 2 great kids 17 & 13. Currently working as an operations manager for Roadmarkers Otago. Had a great time in Waiouru and those on the beer heist can testify to that. Still in contact with a few old boys and will get them to join the site. Sorry cant make the 60th but would love to stay in touch and maybe organise a South Island reunion some time. I am glad the drama of a year or so ago has gone as I fondly remember RFCS and all the good and bad times that happened. Look forward to hearing from you and you can contact me either by email or mobile. addington55@hotmail.com

Maxwell Rolston (Rolly) - Ngarimu VC Class 1970

Graduated from cadets in May 71 just in time to join the major beer strike. Learnt to drink on Leopard cans. Left Army in 1989 and am now the Secretary/Manager of the Rotorua RSA. Been here a long time. I have 3 children, 1 grandchild.

Ross McColl - Stewart Class 1961

Hi All, Although my time at Cadet School, could never be described as a success, I would hasten to add that the life lessons learnt, have never left me. I often wonder about Tiny Walsh and does he know how much he influenced my adult life, as did the many friendships made at sunny Waiouru. These Days finds me 40 years married to the lovely Rose, Two married children and 3 grand children. All of us living in Brisbane Australia. Retired now, and about to suffer some limb losses as a result of diabetes, but them's the breaks. Get in touch thru email, rml@spiderweb.com.au.

Campbell Yates - Taylor Class 1987

1987 was the one year I will remember forever, it was tough and memorable!! Completed 13 years in RNZE as a carpenter, then moved on to smaller things. Pretended to be a security officer at Christchurch airport for 5 years. Im now working for Wormald as a Passive fire technician in Townsville Australia. Married to Vicki and we have 2 little worms, 6 and 4. Look forward to catching up with the past!!

May the force be with you. cak2950@yahoo.com.au

Peter Leishman - McKinnon Class 1979

Cadet in 79. Graduated to RNZEME. Trained as a panelbeater. Posted around the various wksp. 6 months at Scott Base in 1988/89. One of the best things I ever did. Also took LWOP in 87 and went to England etc. Left the Army in 1999 after nearly 21 years. No idea how i lasted that long. Last posting was to Whangaparaoa Camp as Manager Caretaker. Was the best posting I had until the Army stuffed it up and gave the place over to the Navy. How unusual. Married to Judy [22 years] 2 kids Nik 17 and Dana 14. Currently we own Silverdale Mowers, reasonably large mower, chainsaw, ride on repair shop. Main Brand is Stihl and things are ticking over okay. So if your in the area please call in for a chat. We are across the the road from the Wade Hotel {Buck Shelfords}. Still keep in contact with a few old Army mates. Always good to catch up.

silverdalemowers@clear.net.nz

Rerekeipuke Haimona - Burrows Class 1990

Still alive..hehehe..Still here..lol laurence@vinceerumotors.co.nz

NOTICE

Ken McKee-Wright is writing a biography on Malaya / Borneo veteran Major Bill Meldrum, and seeks contact with persons who knew Bill and have information or stories suitable for inclusion.

You can contact Ken on mckeewright@xtra.co.nz or 6H/105 Albert Street, Auckland 1010

A man was leaving a cafe with his morning coffee, when he noticed a most unusual funeral procession approaching the nearby cemetery. A long black hearse was followed by, a second long black hearse about 50 feet behind the first. Behind the second hearse was a solitary man walking a pit-bull on a leash. Behind him was a queue of 200 men walking in single file.

The man couldn't stand the curiosity. He respectfully approached the man walking the dog.

'I am so sorry for your loss, and I know now is a bad time to disturb you, but I've never seen a funeral like this with so many of you walking in single file. Whose funeral is it?'

The man replied, 'Well, the first hearse is for my wife.'

'What happened to her?'

The man replied, 'My dog attacked and killed her.'

He inquired further, 'Well, who is in the second hearse?'

The man answered, 'my mother-in-law. She was trying to help my wife when the dog turned on her.'

A poignant and thoughtful moment of silence passes between the two men.

'Can I borrow the dog?'

'Join the queue.'

Another pearler from Brian Meyer.....

Newsletter 52

Back to Rome

After four months with no pay, three written complaints and a few broken promises, I resigned from OCHA in early May 2008 and gave a month's notice so they could find a replacement. As if I could be replaced! Humph! In the final days before leaving Kathmandu, we were putting the finishing touches to a planned trip around Scandinavia in a campervan and I had delayed paying for it until the last minute in the hope of

finding a cheaper option. Meantime, with an eye on the bank balance, I sent an email to a few of the lads on the Great Campus of the University of Life suggesting that their problems were over because I would be available for short term projects in a month or two - or earlier if the place and price was right. The next day, literally a couple of hours before I was due to commit to a campervan booking (No refunds) I got an email from the World Food Program asking if I was available for three months based in Rome and to start almost immediately. I broke the news to Ann who cried herself to sleep she but was OK the next day. Stuff Scandinavia.

We reluctantly left Nepal four days later and met in London having travelled on different airlines and routes because the firm was paying for my fare and we could not get Ann onto the same flight. We had a few days there de-lagging which included a brief visit to our beloved Dutch Barge "Kismet" being carefully minded and rented by the boat builder who had done most of the renovations, and then to Dublin to see Daughter Megan with Hubby John and Grandson Finn all of whom were in great form. Finn was the only one who had aged much having passed had his third birthday since we last saw him.

We arrived in Rome 9 June and booked into a B&B. Next day, I reported to the HQ WFP on the western outskirts of Rome and Ann went flat hunting, focussing on old inner Rome and avoiding the bland belt of boring buildings that surround the city. Almost immediately, she found one that was available in a couple of weeks, so she went back to London to collect our small car and her suitcases, and returned via Germany and Milan having seen three of her four sprogs along the way.

My project at WFP is with the Avian and Human Influenza Unit which is WFP's contribution to the extensive planning and preparations being done by the UN, World Bank, many Governments and others in the event of an influenza pandemic originating from bird flu.¹ I had been involved in some aspects of flu contingency planning in Nepal so it all fitted into place quite nicely for an adaptable sort of chap. I already knew the buzz words and could nod at the right times during briefings, and what better environment that in Rome in the middle of the European summer.

I left Rome in 2003 having overdosed after three and a half years in and out of it working for WFP last time. It was *too* Italian and I needed a break. Italian food is something you go out for, not have to eat three times a day. I was also a linguistic moron (an attribute I have retained) so I was both cocooned and starved of culinary variety other than crummy Indian food and occasional embarrassed visits to that Scottish restaurant, McDonalds. However, Inshallah and a couple of dozen countries later we are back in the city of pizzas, pastas, piazzas, popes, people, possibilities, palazzi, plonk and a panoply of public paraphernalia. Ann and I met here in 2003 so it has a special significance, too.

I soon recalled most of the geography and readjusted to the foibles of the cheap public transport and before long we were wandering among the most photographed ruins in the world. Them Romans sure knew how to stack and scratch rocks, even if successive rulers and popes used the majestic Roman buildings as little more than quarries as a source of marble and granite for their own monuments. Many that did survive now have a cross or crucifix on top as proof that the popes were better than the Caesars, so there.

You could be forgiven for thinking that the tourist shops in Egypt around two thousand years ago specialised in obelisks - the tall, 50-tonne, four-sided shafts of stone, tapering to a pyramid top, and now capped with the obligatory cross to show that the popes were better than the Pharaohs too. There are several around town, placed here by one Emperor or another as gloating war booty.

Sightseeing has been enhanced each week with a visit to a favourite pub to watch the Tri Nations rugby with a small group of enthusiasts. The NZ games start at 0930, which is a bit early for the first pint even for me so by the final whistle we are suffering from cappuccino-induced heart palpitations.

Ann spent about 25 years in and around Milan and speaks fluent Italian so moving around the city is a dream. She chats away, asks directions, and finds out about movies, jazz festivals, bus times and menu options while I adopt the stance of a grinning village idiot whose vocabulary is limited to mumbling "*Si, Grazie*" every three minutes or so.

Our Apartment is in Trastevere, which is named for its position 'over the Tiber'. (How Tevere mutated into Tiber as it is called in English is a mystery.) It is separated from the heart of central Rome by the river, and is

¹ "Bird Flu" comes in various forms, the worst of which is called Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), also called H5N1. It kills millions of birds and has killed a few humans - very few, about 150 in the last eight years. So it has gone from Bird to Human. The next and scary stage is for it to mutate and go from human to human, thus producing a new and deadly strain. That has not happened yet, but when it does (*when* say the scientists, not *it*) with modern travel and high density urbanisation, it will probably spread quickly and may rival the 1918 "Spanish Flu" that killed about 40 million people. (Today's trivia: The Spanish Flu started in the USA, but it was first reported in Spain because they did not have wartime censorship of newspapers! If it had been called American Flu the Yanks would have changed the name by now. Son-in-law John reckons it would now be called Freedom Flu!

an area that has retained its narrow lanes and working-class population when the rest of Rome began its nineteenth-century expansion. The apartment has three levels, with a small lounge, tiny kitchen and bathroom on one floor, bedroom with a mattress on the floor on the next level with couple of steps leading to rooftop garden and patio. The bedroom is in the attic with standing room in the centre of the apex so we move around rather like Quasimodo's cousins but the location compensates for any minor irritations inside. (Ann says it is not a mattress on the floor. It is a futon, attractively illuminated with subdued lighting, snuggled under 350-year old beams, tastefully positioned to catch the gentle zephyrs of the Roman summer) The rooftop garden has been the venue for some very pleasant dinners with friends.

The streets are cobble stoned and there are few footpaths but the few motor vehicles off the main roads share the space with pedestrians comfortably and casually. We are surrounded by restaurants all of which spill out onto the alleys at this time of year. The nearest is in our Alley, three metres opposite the front door. There are lots of bars, small grocery shops, newsstands and ice-cream shops. Tourist throng through the area doing the Ohh-Ahh bit and taking the strangest of photos of parts of the quaint buildings (*Quaint* here is a description that comes several hundred years after being New. The sequence is something like new – recent – dated – repairable – eyesore – dilapidated – refurbished - artless – interesting - quaint).

Street entertainers keep the crowds amused in the Piazza de Santa Maria De Trastevere about 150 metres from us and the church clock makes sure you always know the time by chiming the hour and quarters every 15 minutes day and bloody night. There is a posse of derelict drunks that distract from the holiday atmosphere and the visual pollution of the graffiti vandals becomes tiresome but the mood is always vibrant and fun.

It has not rained here for nearly three months and daytime temperatures reach 37C on occasion. Nights are hot and humid which gives an even greater incentive to stay up very late as the locals do. Dinner for most people starts about 7.30 pm and for some as late as 9.00, and most of the people are foreigners. Rome in August is relatively empty as businesses close and Italians flock to pollute the beaches.

I leave for work about 0745, walk five minutes to a tram stop, take a ten-minute tram ride to the train station and a 15 minutes ride to the WFP office on the western outskirts of Rome. The workforce is very international and colourful and the conversations are stimulating and varied. I work with a Brit, an Aussie, a Yank, three Italians, a German, a Persian and a Swede.

In August Kate Holden, an Australian writer who had stayed with me in 2002 in Rome, arrived to take up a six month grant from the Australian Arts Council that includes an apartment in another part of Trastevere. She and Ann have been almost inseparable ever since, sharing a love of books, ancient Rome and girlie gossip. On one of their exploration trips, Ann fell backwards and broke her wrist in three places. After X-Rays and blood tests, the hospital authorities said she would have to remain in hospital until they could operate on her wrist and install a frame to hold it in place for a month or so. It is a strange system and an expensive one. She had a temporary support and a sling and would have been an Out Patient anywhere else in the world, but not in Rome. We suspect it is because the hospital charges 800 Euros per person per day so they claim that from the Government. Being a EU citizen, Ann was not charged anything. After six days she had the operation under local anaesthetic and now has a strange frame that sticks into the bone into the top of her hand and mid-forearm and is held in place by a spike like a 20 cm chopstick that sits parallel to her arm and swathed in bandages. She claims it prevents her from cooking and ironing but I suspect it is an excuse to malingering.

The only compensation was the hospital itself. It is an old Leper hospital (so it pays to ask for clean sheets) located on the only island on the Tevere River called Isola Tibertina². The bridge connecting it to the left bank was built in 67BC and must be one of the oldest continuously used bridges in the world. The hospital boasts sun decks and patios away from the traffic noise and views of stunning sunsets silhouetting St Peter's basilica in the Vatican about two kilometres away – to the west obviously. She had a two-person room and an en suite shared with a moaning bitch who was a good case for euthanasia. On the ground floor there is a courtyard with a pond and fountain offering succour to about 15 terrapins that laze away the days climbing on top of each other to catch some rays, rather like Australians at a beach.

Ann arrived home in time for a visit by Megan, John and Finn, which overlapped with a visit from Liz, Ann's eldest daughter. We had some great family outings for a weekend doing touristy things and catching up.

My contract expires in a few days, but it looks like it will be extended for a month, and a nice man called a couple of days from WFP Bangkok asking if I was available to go there. Stuff Rome

² Trivia: That's where the word "isolated" comes from according to local linguists

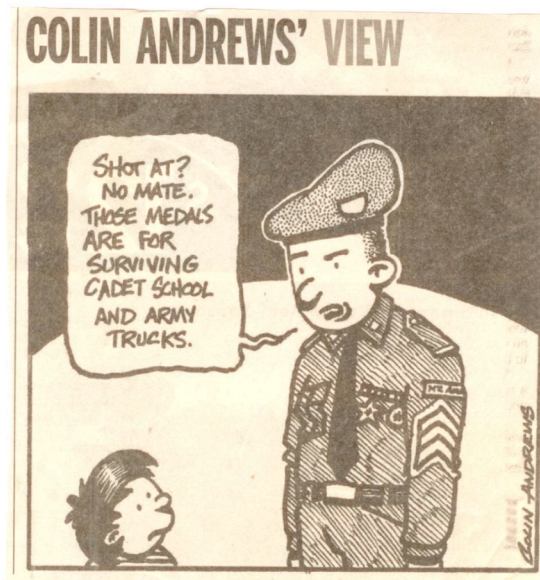
Another fantastic missive from Bret Bestic – Weir Class 1958 Thanks again Bret

NOTICE

I am a member of McKinnon Class 1979 . I am still serving and posted to the UK. I have just had a look at the RFCS website and saw that Barry Crook (also McKinnon Class) has passed away. Barry was one of the Groomsmen at my wedding. We lost touch after the Army.

Could someone please provide background on when and where he died.

Thanks - Roger Kidd



PAT “SHOCKER’ SHAW – WARRIOR

“During basic 1958 we were doing bayonet practice. After our pathetic efforts at attacking the dummies, Pat yelled “Yoidle”. (Interpretation, you are, each and every one of you, idle). He made some effeminate noises “you sound like a bunch of school girls’ etc. Pat grabbed my rifle with pig sticker attached, glared toward the enemy, and charged off with blood-curdling ‘yaahs’.

He set to like a Viking berserker, stabbing and clubbing, finally rounding off by contemptuously spitting on his fallen foe. Pat no doubt repeated his show for each class of trainees but it was an impressive performance.

The last time I recall seeing Pat, he was heading out the main gate at the Papakura Camp on one of his one man forced marches, carrying a large pack reportedly weighted with bricks.”

Speed Bergerson - Weir Class 1958

Was wondering if you could advertise our Yahoo group to your members somehow?

The site is Ex-RNZEMenet@yahoogroups.com and is open to all ex RNZEME pers. This allows these people to chat amongst old comrades as well as post photos, stories, etc, as well as keep up with the ever-growing number of old comrades who are passing away. We hope to create a pretty good history of the corps along with some amusing anecdotes.

Cheers Bill Burnett RF Cadet 1969

Email from Dawn Nolan, long suffering wife of Patrick – Gentry Class 1962 dated 4th August 2008

Another drama with Patrick - the resident Tower doctor rang at 3.30am London time recently to tell me Patrick was on his way to hospital by ambulance, vomiting copious quantities of blood! It was even worse than it sounds apparently and he was very lucky the doctor's phone number was on auto dial! Straight into intensive care, and some very fine treatment means he is once again back in the Tower, this time with three ulcers. Most people would be content with just one but not our boy. Relax and avoid stress was the prescription so our sons insist I don't go over to look after him. He is booked to RTNZ on 21st October,

retiring 16 years after his appointment. It will be a massive adjustment for us both, and I am rather concerned about the cat's reaction to an intruder in his 3/4 of the bed.

A married couple in their early 60s was celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant. Suddenly, a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on their table. She said, 'For being such an exemplary married couple and for being loving to each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish.' The wife answered, 'Oh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband.' The fairy waved her magic wand and - poof! - two tickets for the Queen Mary II appeared in her hands. The husband thought for a moment: 'Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me.'

The wife, and the fairy, was deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish. So the fairy waved her magic wand and poof!...the husband became 92 years old.

The moral of this story: Men who are ungrateful bastards should remember fairies are female.....

ALL ABOUT INVESTMENT PROPERTY.COM

I have been instrumental in selling over 500 investment properties both in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast to Australian and New Zealand residents over the past 10 years. The criteria that I implement is that the properties must be in a high capital growth area, have all the necessary infrastructures in place, (such as employment, transport and education), be priced at the current market value, have high quality fixtures and fitting and have a good rate of return. These properties can be purchased on as little as \$1000 deposit. I can provide confidential financial information through a reputable broker who deals with NZ clients on a daily basis. Please give me the opportunity to provide you with a property here in Australia tailored to your particular requirements.

Jim Donaldson 001161755592424 or carjimdonalson1@bigpond.com.au

PATRON

As you know last year we lost our beloved Patron Jack Kearney, and it has taken us some time to find a suitable replacement. A great deal of discussion has ensued with suggestions from many quarters. We have finally found a very able person to lead our Association forward in Lieutenant General Don McIver. His appointment was confirmed at the recent Annual General Meeting in Papakura, and we thank Don sincerely for accepting our offer to become our next Patron. He has kindly furnished us with his profile for your interest.

Welcome to the RF Cadet Association Don.....we trust that your association with us will be a long and enjoyable one.

CURRICULUM VITAE

LIEUTENANT GENERAL (RETIRED) DONALD STUART MCIVER, CMG, OBE

Born: Auckland New Zealand, 22 January 1936
Married – 6 adult children

Military Career:

- 1952 **Joined NZ Army – R F Cadets, Williams Class**
Jan 52 – Dec 53
- 1954-57 **Royal Military College, Duntroon, Australia – Commissioned Lieutenant in the**
Infantry Dec 57
- 1958-59 **Active Service as a Platoon Commander in Malaya during the Communist**
Terrorist Emergency
- 1963-65 **Active Service as Company Second in Command and as Adjutant, 1RNZIR in**
Malaysia and Borneo during Indonesian Confrontation
- 1971 **Active Service in Vietnam as Second in Command -**
4 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion
- 1973-75 **Exchange Officer in Army Office, Canberra, Australia - working in Equipment**
Procurement and Management (in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel):
- 1979-81 **Commander 1st Task Force Region, Papakura (in the rank of Colonel)**
- 1981-83 **Deputy Commander NZ Force, SE Asia, Singapore:**
- 1984 **Attended Royal College of Defence Studies, London:**
- 1985-86 **Assistant Chief of Defence Staff, Operations, Defence Headquarters (in the**
rank of Brigadier):
- 1987-89 **Chief of General Staff, NZ Army (in the rank of Major General)**
- 1989-91 **Commander, Multinational Force and Observers, Sinai Peninsular, Egypt (in**
the rank of Lieutenant General):
- an independent international peacekeeping force, provided by eleven nations,
monitoring the Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel.
- April 1991 **Retired from military service**

Post Military Career

- 1991-99 **Director of Security, NZ Security Intelligence Service;**
- Jul 00-Jul02 **United Nations - Officer for Outside Information,**
United Nations Monitoring, Observation and Inspection Commission
(UNMOVIC); - worked under and reported directly to Dr Hans Blix in UNMOVIC
collecting information on Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction

Present commitments

Executive Trustee and Chairman, Executive Management Committee, Army Memorial Museum, Waiouru
Board Member, Asthma and Respiratory Foundation of NZ
Chairman, NZ Defence Battle Honours Committee
Patron, RF Cadets Association
Patron, Vietnam Veterans Tribute 08 Ceremonies
Past President, Eastern Hutt Rotary Club

Awarded Officer of the British Empire (OBE) in 1981 and Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and St George (CMG) in 1994.

Married to Margaret for 46 years and has six children and 17 grandchildren. Lives in Lower Hutt.

As you can see, we believe that Don is a very worthy Patron.

Last one for today....I couldn't resist this one.

A group of primary school infants, accompanied by two female teachers, went on a field trip to Cheltenham races to see and learn about thoroughbred horses.

When it was time to take the children to the toilet, it was decided that the girls would go with one teacher and the boys would go with the other.

The teacher assigned to the boys was waiting outside the men's toilet when one of the boys came out and told her that none of them could reach the urinal.

Having no choice, she went inside, helped the boys with their pants, and began hoisting the boys up, one by one, holding their willies to direct the flow away from their clothes.

As she lifted one, she couldn't help but notice that he was unusually well endowed. Trying not to show that she was staring, the teacher said, 'You must be in year four.'



'No, madam,' he replied. 'I'm riding Silver Arrow in the 2.15.'

REVIEW OF THE WAR PENSION ACT 1954

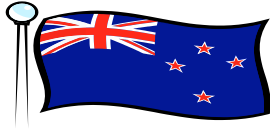
As many of you are aware a great deal of work has been going on at RNZRSA in conjunction with the RSA Affiliates (one of them is RF Cadet Association) over the last couple of years. It has now reached a point where a discussion paper has been published on the RNZRSA site and can be downloaded or read, for your interest. Submissions to the Law Commission have now been called for, and RNZRSA have said "the more the better" in our case for better entitlement for Veterans.

If you wish to send a submission, check the RNZRSA site for how to do it, and ensure that –

- (a) submissions must stick to the issue.
- (b) You must stick to the facts
- (c) It is preferred that your submission is typed, rather than hand written.

Submissions must be at the Law Commission no later than 28th November 2008.

NB This is the paper of the future for all veterans and service people, so it is important that you have your say.



LAST POST

John Raymond BASHAM Lt. RNZA Regt No. 34455 Allen Class 1950

John passed away at Tauranga Hospital on 8th July 2008.

**Ronald John Henderson WO1 Regt No. 400100 RNZAOC 1RNZIR Malaysia and HQ V Force SVN
Staff of RF Cadet School**

Ron (Chrome Dome) passed away on 27th June 2008

Ronald's service in the NZ Army covered the period 1962 - 1986. He saw active service in South Vietnam and served in Trentham, Waiouru, Burnham and Def HQ before retiring in 1986 after 24 yrs loyal service. Some of us will remember him from his time at Cadet Schools.

Rodney (Jay) Howard RNZEME Gentry Class 1962 SVN with Regt LAD

Jay passed away on 1st July 2008

Anthony Reginald (Mac) Baker Staff

Ex 1RNZIR 1957-59 Malaya, 1963-65 Malaysia, HQ V Force SVN

Mac passed away at Nurse Maude Hospice in Christchurch on 7th September 2008, aged 76.

Mac was a drummer in the Pipes and Drums of the 1 NZ Regiment Band 1957-59

Colonel (Retired) Eric Jackways RNZAEC OC RF Cadet School 1964, CI Education Wing 1960-63

His funeral with military honours was held at St Mary's church, 170 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington, at 1 pm Friday 12 September.

Henry Apatari Whakatope Mead Company RNZE 1 FD Sqn

Henry passed away on 30th October 2007 at Wairoa Hospital in Hawkes Bay. We received the following from his son Christopher who served in RNZE for 20 years 1974-1994

“My father was in the RF Cadets and graduated in Mead Company. I know he was located for his initial training in Lower Hutt and then finally finishing his military career with the RNZE in Papakura Military Camp, the unit was then known as Northern Military Districts, now 1 Fd Sqn. He was involved with the big Wharf Strike in the 50's where he was part of the Military who worked on the wharves during the strike. He played rugby for the Northern Military District team with some of his colleagues who I met – Oma Nepia, Mr. Gemmell, Mr. McAndrew and Mr. Kukutai. I actually observed photographs of this rugby team during my posting to 1 Fd Sqn whilst researching the Unit archives.

Dad was buried next to my Mother, Mary who was also born and died in the Wairoa Hospital.”

*They shall grow, not old as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.*