



Hi Folks

### **New National President for RNZRSA**

The RNZRSA has a new National President after elections held at the Swanson RSA during the 106th National Council.

Sir Wayne (Buck) Shelford, KNZM, MBE was elected and presented with the Kākahu Maumahara, the traditional cloak worn by RNZRSA National Presidents.

Two new National Vice Presidents were also elected: Jack Steer, ONZM and Janet Castell, MNZM.

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Rear Admiral Jack Raymond Steer, ONZM is a retired Royal New Zealand Navy officer, who served as Chief of Navy from 2012 to 2015. Born in Christchurch, Steer joined the Navy in 1973. He served as Chief of Staff at Joint Forces Headquarters from January 2003 to April 2004, when he was promoted to commodore and appointed as Maritime Component Commander. He was appointed Deputy Chief of Navy In January 2006 before

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taking up the position of Commander Joint Forces New Zealand in May 2006, with promotion to rear admiral. In February 2008, he was appointed Vice Chief of Defence Force until 2012 when he was appointed Chief of Navy. Steer was appointed Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) in the 1996 Birthday Honours.



Lieutenant Colonel Janet Castell MNZM (retired) is an iconic figure in the New Zealand Army. Janet joined the Army as a young woman in the mid-1970's and took a place on the first commissioning course which accepted females as Officer Cadets to train alongside males in pursuit of a Commission in the Regular Force of the New Zealand Army. Janet held a fascinating range of appointments and on her eventual retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel was deservedly made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM).

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### **NORTHLAND NAVY LUNCH**

Northland Navy lunch will be held at the Bay of Islands Yacht Club on **SATURDAY** the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

Same **great venue**, same **great menu**, same **great price** \$25 per head.

Bank Acc. No **12-3015-0895218-52** Name: **Margaret Mitchell** (please use your name as reference.)

Please advise your eagerness to attend no later than the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. Several have already booked accommodation at Copthorne at Waitangi which is walking distance to the yacht club.

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If you know of anyone who may like a great meal and very good company, please forward this on.

This day is due to much pressure from many, and with the assurance from Lindy and Stephen that together we as a team can make it happen.  
Margaret, Lindy and Stephen.

Accommodation is available for two couples and two singles. Please advise by return email if you require accommodation.

### **NEW ROYAL CYPHER**

King Charles III 's new cypher has been revealed, following the official royal mourning period coming to an end. The cypher, which will gradually appear on government buildings, state documents and post-boxes, features the King's initial "C" intertwined with the letter "R" for Rex — the Latin word for King. In modern heraldry, a royal cypher is a monogram or monogram-like device of a country's reigning sovereign, typically consisting of the initials of the monarch's name and title, sometimes interwoven and often surmounted by a crown. Such a cypher as used by an emperor or empress is called an imperial cypher. In the system used by various Commonwealth realms, the title is abbreviated as 'R' for 'rex' or 'regina' (Latin for "king" and "queen"). Previously, 'I' stood for 'imperator' or 'imperatrix' (Latin for "emperor" and "empress") of the Indian Empire.

The use of a royal cypher in the Commonwealth realms originated in the United Kingdom, where the public use of the royal initials dates at least from the early Tudor period, and was simply the initial of the sovereign with, after Henry VIII's reign, the addition of the letter 'R' for 'Rex' or 'Regina'. The letter 'I' for 'Imperatrix' was added to Queen Victoria's monogram after she became Empress of India in 1877.

The initials – which had no set pattern or form of lettering laid down – were

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usually shown in company with the royal arms or crown as on the king's manors and palaces – such as those of Henry VIII on the gatehouse of St James's Palace. The purpose seems to have been simply to identify an individual sovereign, particularly on certain landmarks that he or she has commissioned, as the royal coat of arms in contrast was often used by successive monarchs and is therefore not distinct. The initials are furthermore used on government papers, duty stamps and similar objects, and are surmounted in England by a stylised version of the Tudor Crown or St Edward's Crown; in Scotland the Crown of Scotland is used instead.

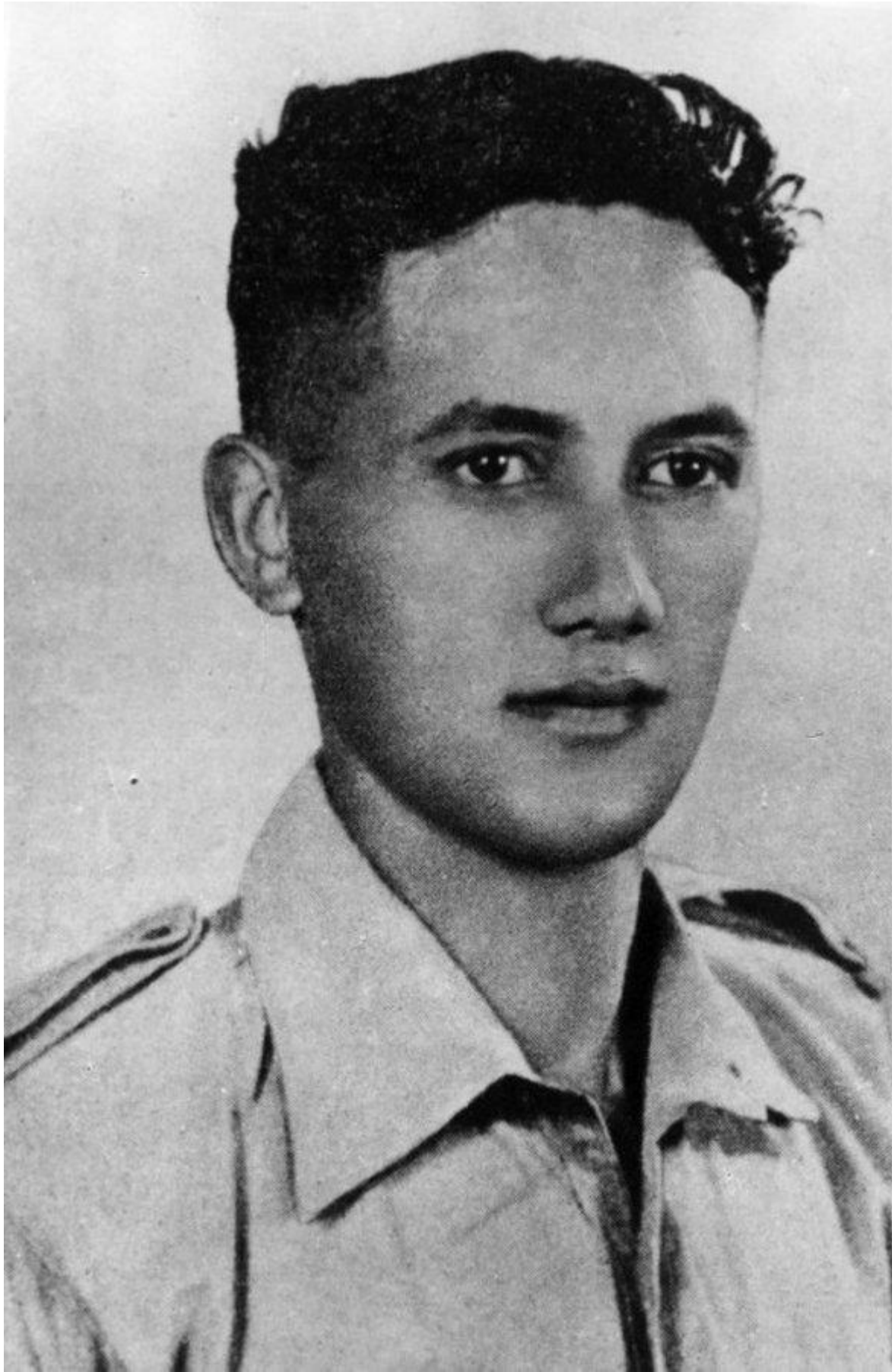
It is likely that over a period of time, the St Edward's Crown used by the New Zealand Defence Force on buttons and badges, will be replaced by the Tudor Crown.



## **NEW ZEALAND RECIPIENTS OF THE VICTORIA CROSS**

**Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa Ngarimu VC (7 April 1918 – 27 March 1943)**

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A Māori of Ngāti Porou and Te Whānau-ā-Apanui descent, Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa Ngārimu was born on 7 April 1918 in Whareponga in the East Coast region. He was one of ten children of Hāmuera Meketū Ngārimu, and his wife Maraea. The prominent tribal leader Materoa Reedy was his aunt. He was initially educated at Whareponga Native School but when the family moved to Pōhatukura, near Ruatoria, he attended Hiruhārama Native School. From 1933 to 1934, he went to Te Aute College at Poukawa in Hawkes Bay, becoming well regarded at rugby. After completing his fourth form year, he worked as a shepherd on his father's sheep farm.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, Ngārimu joined the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 11 February 1940,<sup>[3]</sup> volunteering for the 28th (Māori) Battalion. The battalion, which embarked in May 1940 as part of the second echelon of the 2nd New Zealand Division was destined for the Middle East to join the first echelon, but instead was diverted to England in May 1940 where it formed part of the island's defence against a possible German invasion. The battalion eventually arrived in Egypt in March 1941.

Ngārimu served through the battles of Greece and Crete after which he participated with the battalion during the North African Campaign.

Commissioned in April 1942, he served for a time as an intelligence officer before being given command of his own platoon.

By March 1943, the campaign in Africa had moved to Tunisia. The 2nd Division, of which the Māori battalion was part, was tasked with the capture of the Tebaga Gap, which disrupted otherwise mountainous terrain. Several hills overlooked the gap, which itself was forced relatively easy, although several hills remained in German hands. One such hill was Point 209, held by the 2nd Battalion, 433 Panzer Grenadier Regiment of the 164th Light Division.

Ngārimu's company was allocated the objective of the capture of Point 209. On the afternoon of 26 March, he led his men up the slope and captured what was believed to be the top of Point 209, although it transpired to be a false summit and a feature lower on the slopes of Point 209. Fierce fighting transpired as the Germans attempted to drive Ngārimu's forces off the hill. Twice wounded, he

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and his men defended their position from several counter-attacks during the night. His position reinforced the following morning, he was killed during the next counter-attack.

The false summit remained in the hands of Ngarimu's company, and the Germans still on Point 209 itself surrendered the same day once artillery support had been brought to bear on Point 209. Ngarimu is buried in Sfax War Cemetery, Tunisia.

The citation for Ngarimu's VC was published in the *London Gazette* and read: "The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to Second-Lieutenant Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa Ngarimu."

"During the action at the Tebaga Gap on 26 March 1943, 2nd Lieutenant Ngarimu commanded a platoon in an attack upon the vital hill feature, Point 209. He was given the task of attacking and capturing an under-feature forward of Point 209 itself and held in considerable strength by the enemy. He led his men with great determination straight up the face of the hill, undeterred by the intense mortar and machine-gun fire, which caused considerable casualties. Displaying courage and leadership of the highest order, he was himself first on the hill crest, personally annihilating at least two enemy machine-gun posts. In the face of such a determined attack the remainder of the enemy fled, but further advance was impossible as the reverse slope was swept by machine-gun fire from Point 209 itself.

Under cover of a most intense mortar barrage the enemy counter-attacked, and 2nd Lieutenant Ngarimu ordered his men to stand to and engage the enemy man for man. This they did with such good effect that the attackers were virtually mown down, 2nd Lieutenant Ngarimu personally killing several. He was twice wounded, once by rifle fire in the shoulder and later by shrapnel in the leg, and though urged by both his company and battalion commanders to go out, he refused to do so, saying that he would stay a little while with his men. He stayed until he met his death the following morning.

Darkness found this officer and his depleted platoon lying on the rock face of the forward slope of the hill feature, with the enemy in a similar position on the reverse slope about twenty yards distant. Throughout the night the enemy

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repeatedly launched fierce attacks in an attempt to dislodge 2nd Lieutenant Ngarimu and his men, but each counter-attack was beaten off by 2nd Lieutenant Ngarimu's inspired leadership. During one of these counter-attacks the enemy, using hand grenades, succeeded in piercing a certain part of the line. Without hesitation this officer rushed to the threatened area, and those of the enemy he did not kill he drove back with stones and with his tommy-gun. During another determined counter-attack by the enemy, part of his line broke. Yelling orders and encouragement, he rallied his men and led them in a fierce onslaught back into their old positions. All through the night, between attacks, he and his men were heavily harassed by machine-gun and mortar fire, but 2nd Lieutenant Ngarimu watched his line very carefully, cheering his men on and inspiring them by his personal conduct. Morning found him still in possession of the hill feature but only he and two unwounded other ranks remained. Reinforcements were sent up to him. In the morning the enemy again counter-attacked and it was during this attack that 2nd Lieutenant Ngarimu was killed. He was killed on his feet defiantly facing the enemy with his tommy-gun at his hip. As he fell, he came to rest almost on top of those of the enemy who had fallen, the number of whom survived testified to his outstanding courage and fortitude.”

— *London Gazette, No. 36040, 1 June 1943*

The medal was presented to his parents by the Governor General of New Zealand, Sir Cyril Newall, at a hui at Ruatoria on 6 October 1943 attended by government leaders, diplomatic representatives and local people. The first of only two Victoria Crosses awarded to Māori, it was displayed in Gisborne in the Tairāwhiti Museum's Price of Citizenship Gallery. He is commemorated by a scholarship promoting education of Māori, and also in the World War II Hall of Memories at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. There is also a plaque honouring him in Queen's Garden in Dunedin.

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## LONGCAST

21 October 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Glen Eden RSA

11 November 22 – Navy Club

12 November 22 – Northland Lunch

18 November 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Grey Lynn RSA

9 December 22 – Navy Club

16 December 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Birkenhead RSA

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