Kapiti U.S. Marines Trust
Annual Report
2012/13

The US Marines
in Kapiti, New Zealand
1942 - 1944

marinenz.com

Report from the Chair

I am delighted to present this third Annual Report for the Kapiti U.S. Marines Trust. We look back with pride on our achievements in organising and hosting the Salute 70 celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of U.S. Armed Forces in New Zealand from 1942-1944.

This has been a momentous year for both the community and the Trust – one we could not have contemplated without overwhelming support from our sponsors, supporters and stakeholders.

Goals for the Year

Our objectives for the 2012/1013 year were:

- To run Salute 70 as a successful and memorable event that would interest Kiwis and U.S. Citizens, encouraging them to visit our region, share their stories and enjoy Marines heritage in both Kapiti and the wider region.
- To engage with a wide variety of national, regional and local stakeholders to support Salute 70, and help us develop U.S. Marines infrastructure in the District.
- To support other events in the District – particularly in Porirua and Wellington - as part of the wider 70th Anniversary Celebrations.
- To work with the U.S. Embassy to promote and support the visit of the US Marine Forces Pacific Band from Hawaii.
- To enhance and develop our website marinenz.com.
- To work with the Greater Wellington Regional Council to develop signage around the Marines Memorial site and the Yankee Trail.
- To ensure the on-going financial viability of the Trust.

Trustees of Kapiti US Marines Trust 2012

Mayor Jenny Rowan (Chair)
Richard Benge (Deputy Chair)
Allie Webber (Secretary)
Anthony Dreaver, Hon Fran Wilde, Bev Edlin, Joan Ellis, John Porter, Roma Potiki.

Salute 70 Highlights and Achievements

- Salute 70 was hailed as a major success by leaders, veterans and members of the public.
- Over $250,000 was invested in the events and supporting infrastructure (signage and walkways).
- More than 400 volunteers from a variety of organisations gave hundreds of hours of unpaid labour to help.
- Our website: www.marinenz.com was well reviewed and acted as a hub for people wanting information about 70th anniversary events.
- $19,000 from US Embassy Wellington underpinned our capacity to deliver Salute 70.
- The Greater Wellington Regional Council made a significant financial commitment to the new 2.4km Yankee Trail linking camps Paekakariki and the Marine's Memorial. Over a third of the trail is now landscaped, planted and completed.
- The New Zealand Historic Places Trust and the Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) enabled us to install a new Sailor's Memorial and new interpretive panels at the Marines' Memorial.
- Sponsorship from the KCDC enabled local film makers Linda Nichol and Shona Jaunas to video key high-lights from Memorial Day and the Story Telling Session in Paekakariki. These resources are now on our website.
- A special full-page Salute 70 supplement in the Dominion Post on 25.5.12, honouring veterans and acknowledging a number of our major partners.
- The New Zealand Transport Agency invested $25,000 in new State Highway 1 signs (north and south) to promote the Marines Memorial. These have attracted many more visitors to the site over the past year.
- The Trust was the regional winner of the Wellington Airport Community Awards in October 2012 – in recognition of its work with Salute 70.
- The installation of a panel about the history of Camp Mackay in the entrance building at Whareroa Farm.

Relationships and Alliances

A major outcome from the Salute 70 celebrations was the development of relationships with local regional and national stakeholders. This resulted in a much higher profile for our work.

A Practical Coalition

While all groups contributed to the overall success of the event, the practical coalition involved in Salute 70 included: the Kapiti US Marines Trust, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, the Paekakariki Community Trust, Mulled Wine Concerts, and Kapiti Walkers and Joggers.

Memorial Day Event

Our key event was Memorial Day, attended by approximately 500 people including: the Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae, senior military personnel, the Central Band of the Royal NZ Airforce, seven U.S.Marines and Navy veterans and their families, members of the NZRSA and the Maori Battalion, iwi representatives, local and regional politicians, youth and community groups, and members of the public.

Hosting Veterans

The Trust also took a lead role in hosting visiting veterans and their families, many of whom stayed in Kapiti. The key group from the U.S. were: Frank Zalot, Ted Picard and Ray Plante (all former sailors on the USS.Legion, Claude Bohn (a former

Marine who came from Wisconsin). Also attending were: Harry Oliver and Jim Sweeney, former World War II Marines living in New Zealand, as well as a number of younger former Marines. In June we also welcomed Richard Tracey, formerly of 1st Marine Division.

Bus Tours

On Friday June 1, we organised a bus tour around the Kapiti Camps, with commentary and lunch to follow. This was attended by about 30 people.

Porirua City Council also organised a similar tour around their campsites – as part of the regional festivities.

Story-telling

Story-telling sessions were held in Paekakariki and Porirua. These were both well attended by locals with associations with the Marines during World War II. Both sessions were documented on video and the Paekakariki stories have now been up-loaded to www.marinenz .com

The US Marine Forces Pacific Band

There was great interest in the US Marine Forces Pacific Band visit to New Zealand and the Trust assisted in promoting concerts at Southwards Theatre in Kapiti, Te Rauparaha Stadium in Porirua and Old St Paul's in Wellington. We are also grateful to volunteers who did a wonderful job as ushers, fund-raising collectors and organisers for the Kapiti concert.

Stakeholder Relationships

We are indebted to the following groups:

The U.S. Embassy

We appreciate of the on-going encouragement, practical and financial support we have received from the U.S. Embassy in Wellington.

The US Embassy made a substantial grant of $19,000 toward the running of Salute 70 activities and also provided hospitality to Trustees and our other stakeholders at their 70th Anniversary events in Wellington.

We are grateful to Ambassador David Heubner, Deputy Chief of Mission Marie Damore, Public Affairs Officer, David Edgington, and Cultural Affairs Specialist, Caroline Toplis, for their encouragement and professional help.

New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF)

NZDF added greatly to the ceremonial quality of our Memorial Day service.

We are grateful to the Deputy Director of Protocol Ms Sandra Mckie, Captain Leanne Smith, Sergeant Major Todd Groombridge, Squadron Leader Owen Clarke and the Central Band of the Royal New Zealand Air Force and all NZDF staff who gave performances, performed duties and attended planning sessions with the Trust and GWRC.

NZDF also provided three large tents used for hospitality and displays for the Memorial Day event, sending staff from Linton Army Camp to erect and dismantle them. Communications staff provided names and contacts for our database, so we could invite key personnel to the event.

Minister of Veteran Affairs - Hon Nathan Guy

Hon Nathan Guy and his staff in Kapiti and Wellington were very generous in offering support with the event. The Minister organised valuable relationships for the Trust, enabling us to get essential help from key agencies.

The Minister also hosted a Parliamentary Morning Tea, for veterans, their families, VIPs and other special guests. This was greatly appreciated by our overseas visitors and provided acknowledgement and a special occasion for them.

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT)

Thanks to a $2000 grant from the Regional Committee of NZHPT we were able to re-write and completely up-grade the interpretive signs on the hut facades at the Memorial.

The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC)

GWRC provided staff, resources and on-going project management for the Memorial Day Event, as well as organising a major “Arbor Day” planting in and around the Yankee Trail. Seven ceremonial totara trees, 70 kahikatea and a significant number of flaxes and native shrubs were planted on the day.

The Council has now completed a third of the 2.4km Yankee Trail and the track, which has been built to a very high standard will be suitable for walkers, cyclers and accessible for wheelchairs. The completed section which runs through well-developed wetland, and includes several attractive lakes, a bridge, and

some remnant forest areas, has been fenced and extensively planted.

GWRC and the Trust worked together to complete the new interpretive design at the Marines' Memorial, and made a major contribution to the design for the new Sailors' Memorial, funded by the Kapiti Coast District Council and designed by GWRC landscape designer Barry Straight, and manufactured by Riverbank Engineering in Otaki.

The Council also re-fenced, landscaped and re-surfaced the Memorial site, allowing for a bigger and better ceremonial space, better car parking and access to the Yankee Trail. GWRC and the Trust worked together so the hut facades were re-painted and interpretive panels on the facades were upgraded and redesigned. The Trust provided research and historic overview of this work.

Kapiti Coast District Council

The Council invested about $15,000 in Salute 70 and its various component parts. This included:

- Assistance with the Memorial Day morning tea,
- Provision of staff and a truck to bring staging, chairs and memorabilia to the site,
- A contractor to clean the outside of the Rail/Air Shed
- Funding for the production of two videos, one documenting the Memorial Day Event; the other recording key speakers at our Storytelling Session in St Peter's Hall in Paekakariki
- $5000+ for the new Sailors' Memorial, and
- Funding for the Kapiti contribution to the Salute 70 supplement in the Dominion Post on 25.5.12.

Porirua City Council

Porirua City Council has 8 marines' camp sites in their district and their engagement in and enthusiasm around Salute 70 was greatly appreciated:

The Council provided four significant contributions:

- A bus tour around its camp sites
- A story-sharing day at Pataka Museum/Gallery
- Promotion and community engagement for a Marines' Band Concert at Te Rauparaha Stadium.
- Support of the Dominion Post

The Porirua City Council provided a paid contractor to coordinate and manage events, all of which were well planned and attended.

The Council also renewed, up-graded, and up-dated some of their Camp signage.

An added bonus was that they tracked down Harry Oliver, a former World War II Marine living in Christchurch, and paid for him to attend their story-telling session as well as the Paekakariki event the following day.

Mulled Wine Concerts (MWC)

MWC ran the opening concert for Salute 70 on Sunday May 27. This was well attended by visiting American veterans and their families who were moved by the local reception they received. Tickets for the concert featuring boogie woogie queen Jan Preston were in such demand that concert organiser Mary Gow offered an earlier concert on Saturday 26. Both concerts sold out.

The Kapiti Jogger & Walkers Harriers Club

The Club ran a very successful run/walk over a 16.5km route in the Mangakotukutuku Valley (formerly used by the Marines for route marches) on Sunday June 10.

The event, officially started by one of the visiting veterans Claude Bohn, was very well organised and attended by 150 runners and walkers all of whom completed the course. The organisers were delighted with the outcome and profits were divided between the Aquatic Centre Trust, the Kapiti Emergency Services, EMS and our Trust. The club is keen to stage the event again.

The Paekakariki Community Trust

The Community Trust provided great moral support for the event, promoted it in the Village and ran a very successful Market Day and 1940's Swing Dance in Paekakariki on Saturday, June 2 and a community church service at St Peters Church on Sunday, June 3.

Other community support

- **Paekakariki School** for the contribution their kapa haka group made on Memorial Day
- **The Tramways Museum**, who allowed us to use their premises and provided trams and volunteers for Memorial Day
- **Flying Officer Barry Timms and the No. 49 ACT Squadron** who provided volunteer support and a ceremonial presence on Memorial Day
- **Volunteer Kapiti,** who provided volunteers to help with the event.
- **Wellington Free Ambulance** who provided an ambulance and free support for the event
- **The Kapiti Observer** who sponsored our programme advertising.
- **Filmmakers, Linda Niccol and Shona Jaunas and Cameramen Mason Branch and Dean Cronin** for their excellent work documenting Memorial Day and the Community Story-telling sessions.

Business Support

All of these businesses provided exceptional service, reduced rates and beyond-the-call-of duty interest in the project.

- FRESCO: (Sheridan Bruce, Fraser Carson and Yvonne Ward): web-site design and support, layout and design of collateral, mentoring and campaign management
- The Print Room, Mesh, Popi: Printing assistance.
- Riverbank Engineering: manufacture and installation of the Sailors' Memorial
- Office Angels: services of Sarah Buller in the week leading up to Memorial Day
- 3D Creative, Mixed Media Design: design advice and concepts for camp signage
- Oneworldonline.co.nz: Merchandise
- Trilogy Travel: Assistance with buses and couriers during the festivities, and volunteer support for the project
- Kapiti Cakes & Bakery: Memorial Day morning tea.
- Mediaworks: Media sponsorship
- Finns Paekakariki: hospitality for veterans and visitors
- Kapiti Hire
- Paraparaumu Golf Club

Special Volunteers

- Tiziana Stoto who's made a substantial contribution to the Trust as our Website Manager.
- Zane Te Wiremu Jarvis – baritone, who performed at the Memorial service
- Wayne Buckingham and Bronwen Eden made a major contribution selling Salute 70 merchandise
- Jennifer Dreaver – time and support as an administrative volunteer
- Jools Joslin - time and support as an administrator and project manager
- Joan Ellis, Mary Gow and Tony Fuell, Lynne Ciochetto, Ted and Leslie Varcoe, Ray and Ross Monk, Don Polly - help and support in hosting veterans

Post Salute 70

THE TRUST HAS BEEN RE-GROUPING AND RE-FOCUSING FOR THE YEAR AHEAD.

Our key goals for the forth-coming year are:

A Review of our governance and management structures

Ensuring the on-going viability of the Trust

Progressing work on heritage signage across Camps Mackay, Russell and Paekakariki

Planning for Memorial Day 2013

Kapiti Island from Maungakotukutuku Hill.
Photographer Peter Beddek
www.peterbeddek.com

FINALLY

Sincere thanks to all our Trustees, stakeholders and funders for their help support and commitment. As usual the talent, hard work and generosity of our volunteers is a precious gift.

Jenny Rowan JP QSO
Chair of the Kapiti US Marines Trust
Mayor Kapiti District
March 2013

Kapiti US Marines Trust Financial Report

Bank Balance as at 31/3/12			$13,880.58				
INCOME				**EXPENSES**			
Grant for Panels	NZHPT		2000.00	Assets		1330.18	Info Boards
Interest			17.71	Venue Hire		159.30	
GST Refund			2653.64	Printing & Stationery		615.68	
Donations General	W.A. Awards		1000.00	Website		115.00	
				General		149.18	N.Z.Flags
				Bank Fees		2.50	
Loan 1	A.W.	2400.00		SS Advertising	2550.34		
SS Grant	Lion Foundation	3000.00		SS Printing & Stationery	7938.91		
SS Donations		190.00		SS Hospitality	2198.36		
Sale of Merchandise		7651.89		SS Admin	1652.11		
		13241.89		SS Services Rendered	687.60		Admin Support
				SS Merchandise	10411.83		
				SS Concert	1036.60		
				SS Media design	3588.00		
			13241.89		30063.75	30063.75	
KCDC Grant MM Day 2013			287.50				
TOTAL			33081.32	TOTAL		32435.59	
Bank Balance as at 31/3/13			$645.73				

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