Kāpiti U.S. Marines Trust

The US Marines
in Kapiti, New Zealand
1942 - 1944
marinenz.com

Annual Report : January 1 – December 31, 2016

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About the Trust

The story of the “friendly invasion” of over 45,000 U.S. servicemen to New Zealand between 1942-44 was big news in war-time New Zealand. That 15,000 of them lived in three camps built in six weeks - in Queen Elizabeth Park, Whareroa Farm and Paekākārik is one of the most significant stories Kāpiti district has to tell.

The Kāpiti US.Marines Trust was established early in 2010 to re-capture this story and keep it alive for generations to come. Our job is to collect, conserve, and exhibit US.Marines history in Kāpiti and the wider region.

Patrons: Ambassador William (Bill) and Gail McCormick

Trustees: Chair, Jenny Rowan QSM, J.P; Deputy Chair, Richard Benge; Executive/Secretary (Allison (Allie) Webber; Treasurer, Suzanne Harris; Historian, Anthony Dreaver; Historian, John Porter; Larry Keim, Representative of the NZ American Association; Kāpiti Joggers & Walks representative, Roger Childs; Life Member, Joan Ellis.

We are incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act [Certificate NO: 2542549] and registered with the Charities Commission [No; CC46035].

Report from the Chair

Painting by Peter Navarro

Introduction

It is my pleasure to present this sixth Annual Report for the Kāpiti U.S. Marines Trust for the year January 1 to December 31, 2016.

I am pleased and proud to report on another year of progress and achievement, thanks to great donors and funders, community support and our fantastic volunteer Trustees .

We are always grateful for the lives of veterans and the inspirational friendships they leave behind. Connecting to their stories is 'at the heart' of what we do, and makes our work meaningful.

This year we acknowledge with sadness the passing of three veterans who visited in 2014. CJ Daigle from Cincinnati, Ohio, James Morrow from Sommerville, South Carolina and Dean Woodward from Pittsburg, Texas were part of a group of six who called themselves The Band of Brothers. Their compatriot AJ Bowden died in 2015.

The men were aged 88-93 when they visited Wellington and Kāpiti on their way to repatriate the bodies of their compatriots who had lost their lives in the Battle of Tarawa during World War II. They had all trained in New Zealand as part of the 2nd Marine Division and had been stationed in camps in Kāpiti and Porirua.

The deaths of veterans we've had the privilege to meet in later life are made all the more poignant by current statistics, which show that more than 400 US World War II veterans die daily. Of the 16 million members of the US Armed Forces who served in World War II, only 62,000 were estimated to be still alive in 2016.

Goals for the Year

- ★ Ensure the ongoing viability of the Trust
- ★ Complete heritage signage projects
- ★ Raise funds for the restoration of a World War II Marines hut, to be installed in Queen Elizabeth Park
- ★ Develop the marinenz.com website
- ★ Plan and organise Memorial Weekend 2016

These were all successfully achieved or progressed significantly during the year.

When Whareroa Farm was Camp Mackay

Map of Marines Trail

Follow this trail to find out about Camp Mackay and its 5000 residents.

Walking time approximately 50 minutes.

1. At Home on Camp Mackay
2. Where Marines camped and trained
3. Pillars for sewer pipes
4. Time out after training
5. Water for every need
6. A Shop in the Woolshed
7. In the Footsteps of The Marines

Whareroa Farm was one of three training camps for American troops in Kapiti from 16 June 1942 to 1 November 1943.

On 16 June 1942, men of the 1st Marine Division march from Paekakariki railway station to Camp Mackay

The position was ideal: close to bush (for jungle training), to a beach (for landing practice) and beside the railway and main road to Wellington. The camp was named after the first European occupiers of the land.

The 5th Marines regiment of the 1st Marine Division stayed in Camp Mackay until they sailed for Guadalcanal on 22 July. The 6th Marines (2nd Marine Division) camped here from 4 November to 26 December 1942 until they too sailed for Guadalcanal. When the entire 2nd Marine Division returned to New Zealand, the 2nd Marines regiment occupied Camp Mackay until 1 November 1943, when their fleet sailed to the Battle of Tarawa.

Top: Painting by Peter Navarro, US Marine Corps.
Above: George Silk photo, War Effort Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, N.Z.

marinenz.com

The US Marines in Kapiti, New Zealand 1942 - 1944

Camp Mackay introductory sign

Highlights & Achievements

Opening the Camp Mackay Trail

The opening of the Camp Mackay Trail by the former US Ambassador Mark Gilbert on May 30 was a real achievement for the Trust.

The 50-minute trail was opened in the kiosk on Whareroa Farm, after our Memorial Day service. The event was attended by a large number of those who came to the service as well as many others.

The Trail is designed for a variety of visitors, from heritage seekers to walkers, cyclists and picnickers. Using existing farm tracks, it starts with an introductory storyboard and a replica of the original Camp Mackay map in the Whareroa Farm kiosk. Visitors can then navigate seven sites, each bringing the story of the old Marines' camp to life.

Each site features a storyboard with maps, photographs and text explaining different features of the camp, including the old water system and reservoir, the sewage system, the site of the old recreation hall, and the old Mackay's Woolshed, which was used as a post exchange and store for the camp.

The 1942-style typography for the signs was developed from a hand-drawn Marines' camp sign currently displayed in the Paekākāriki Station Museum. It was adapted by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) staff to create the signage at the US Marines Memorial.

Historical information, photos, text and maps were provided by the Trust, graphic design was developed by Anne Johnston Design, and printing and production were undertaken by DAC in Tītahi Bay.

The project was funded by a grant from the Transpower CommunityCare Fund.

US Ambassador Mark Gilbert opening the new Trail

KUSMT Historian Anthony Dreaver and Mark Gilbert unveil the new signage.

Five Trustees with Mark & Nancy Gilbert

Photo Credit: US Embassy

US Marines Heritage Zone

This year we continued work on the development of the US Marines Heritage Zone – alongside the current Marine Memorial site in Queen Elizabeth Park.

The site has excellent connections to the Yankee Trail, the Paekākāriki-to-Raumati cycleway and other key attractions in Queen Elizabeth Park. It will provide us with a base for the newly restored US Marines hut and other signage and infrastructure related to the 1942-44 encampment of US Armed Forces during World War II.

New Marines Heritage Site

New Trails Bring More Visitors to the Marine Memorial

The opening of the Te Ara o Whareroa trail between Paekākāriki and Raumati South on January 23 was a real bonus for all those interested in visiting the Memorial and other World War II Marines' heritage sites.

Since 2012 GWRC has made a considerable investment in tracks in and around the Memorial and through to Camp Paekākāriki (the Yankee Trail).

Queen Elizabeth Park is the most visited of all the greater Wellington regional parks. We are incredibly grateful for the position we hold in the park and for the ongoing positive and constructive relationships we have with the GWRC team, in particular Manager of Parks Amanda Cox, Principal Ranger Wayne Boness and Park Ranger Brendan Buliff.

The new $825,000, six-kilometre trail (known as the cycle trail) was built under the management of GWRC and funded by the NZ Transport Agency. It provides an excellent link to the 2.4km Yankee Trail between the Memorial (formerly Camp Russell) and the former Camp Paekākāriki. It also has a number of excellent signposted link-tracks to the Memorial site.

The Yankee Trail was opened in late 2011 as part of the Salute 70 (70th anniversary of the US Armed Forces in New Zealand) celebrations. It traverses native bush, wetland, small lakes and open farmland and has great views to the eastern hills.

Te Ara o Whareroa Trail

Te Ara o Whareroa Trail sign

Marines Trail (Camp Mackay)

Photo credit: Mark Coote

The Hut Restoration Project

A generous grant from the US Embassy enabled us to embark on the structured demolition of the Tiromoana Road cottage donated to the Trust by Sarah Brown and Grant Cunliffe in 2014.

The cottage was built in 1950 by W Tester of 52 Waterloo Road, Lower Hutt. He bought two former US Marines huts and joined them together as a small 'weekend dwelling' that barely changed in 65 years.

Thanks to the dedication, hard work and competence of volunteers from MenzShed Kāpiti, oversight from heritage architect Chris Cochran, and research and management from Kāpiti U.S. Marines Trust historian Anthony Dreaver, the cottage was systematically deconstructed over an eight-week period, with usable timber being saved to recycle into a new four-man hut.

The recycled timber was taken back to the MenzShed depot in Waikanae, where it was safely stored – ready for reconstruction in 2017.

We are also grateful to Allan Orange, former Project Director of the Mackays to Peka (M2PP) Alliance, for his efforts in securing us funding contributions from Fletcher Construction, Humes, Firth, Placemakers and the M2PP Charity & Sponsorship Committee.

MenzShed volunteers at Tiromoana House demolition

Photo credit: MenzShed and Anthony Dreaver

Memorial Weekend Events

Memorial Weekend 2016 (May 28-30) offered a heritage weekend with a difference for those who wanted to relive the days between 1942 and 1944, when US Marines outnumbered locals in Paekākāriki by at least 15-1.

A successful Mulled Wine Concert featuring the Rodger Fox Ensemble brought out the crowds for a Sunday afternoon concert in the Memorial Hall in Paekākāriki.

The In the Footsteps of the Marines charity walk and run through the former Camps Mackay and Russell saw a record field of 222 compete in another incredibly well organised event.

Congratulations to Roger and Pam Childs and their team from Kāpiti Joggers and Walkers for their dedication and professionalism. Heavy rain over the weekend meant the group had to change 2.5km of the 13.4km course before the event, and they were still able to run a safe and well attended event.

The club donated over $3,000, raised from the event, to local groups and charities. The Trust was the lucky recipient of a $500 grant from these monies and is very grateful.

US Ambassador and his wife Nancy take a spin with David Mears in his 1934 Chrysler.

Memorial Day 2016

Our Memorial Day service on June 30 was attended by: Ambassador Mark Gilbert, Nancy Gilbert and representatives of the US Embassy; Major Mike O'Connor and representatives from the New Zealand Defence Force; Chris Turver and members of the Paraparaumu RSA; members of Squadron 49 Air Cadets; councillors and staff from GWRC; Mayor Ross Church, councillors and community board members from the Kāpiti Coast District Council; representatives of local community groups; and members of the public.

As usual we were pleased to welcome members of the Marines Detachment from the US Embassy. We were also grateful for the services of: acclaimed New Zealand baritone Zane Te Wiremu Jarvis, who sang the national anthems; Cheryl Hollinger from the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, who played the trumpet: and the Paekākāriki School Kapa Haka Group, who presented a magnificent woven mat at the Sailors' Memorial.

A strong feature of the service was the increased turnout of young people, including senior students from Kāpiti, Paraparaumu and Ōtaki Colleges and preschoolers from the Chelsea House early childhood centre.

Thanks to the Lion Foundation and the US Embassy for generous grants that enabled us to run a successful and professional service.

Teachers and children from Chelsea House with US Marines

Jenny Rowan at Memorial Day

Memorial Day Service

Students from Kāpiti Colleges

Photo credit: US Embassy

Donors & Funders

- US Embassy
- Transpower CommunityCare Fund
- Lion Foundation
- Paekākāriki Community Board
- Fletcher Construction
- Humes
- Firth
- Placemakers
- M2PP Charity & Sponsorship Committee

Community Support

We are grateful to the following groups for their ongoing support and enthusiasm:

- MenzShed Kāpiti
- Kāpiti Joggers & Walkers
- Paekākāriki School
- Tramways Museum
- No. 49 ACT Squadron
- Whareroa Guardians

Business Support

These businesses provided exceptional service, reduced rates and a beyond-the-call-of duty interest in our work:

- Flightdec: (Sheridan Bruce, Fraser Carson and Yvonne Ward): website design and support, layout and design of collateral, mentoring and campaign management
- The Print Room: printing assistance
- Westpac Bank Paraparaumu: fundraising help and top-class volunteering
- Anne Johnston: design assistance on the Camp Mackay Trail project
- Tiziana Stoto: website assistance and support

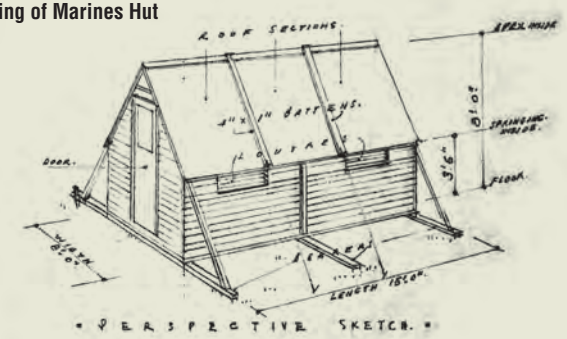
Special Volunteers

- Zane Te Wiremu Jarvis: acclaimed New Zealand baritone who gave his time and wonderful voice to sing at the Memorial Day service
- Cheryl Hollinger: New Zealand Symphony Orchestra trumpeter

Goals for 2017

- Goals for 2017
- Complete Stage 2 of building the US Marines Hut and install it in Queen Elizabeth Park by Memorial Day 2017
- Raise funds for the interior fit-out (Stage 3) of the hut restoration
- Research, write, design and install signage for Camp Paekākāriki
- Raise funds to purchase the Norm Hatch World War II photo and film collection
- Manage and raise funds for Memorial Weekend 2017
- Maintain the development of the marinez.com website
- Ensure the ongoing viability of the Trust

Drawing of Marines Hut



Finally

My sincere thanks to all our stakeholders and funders for their help and support. Also, a huge vote of thanks to our talented, hardworking Trustees and volunteers who all do a magnificent job.

Jenny Rowan JP QSO. Chair of the Kāpiti US Marines Trust, June 2017

Kāpiti US Marines Trust Financial Report

INCOME	GENERAL	MEMORIAL DAY	HUT PROJECT	SIGNAGE PROJECT	TOTAL	EXPENSES	GENERAL	MEMORIAL DAY	HUT PROJECT	SIGNAGE PROJECT	TOTAL
Bank Balance as at 01.01.2016					**28111.97**						
Interest	69.20					AGM	657.75				
COGS	3450.00					Accounts	184.00				
Fundraising	218.00					Administration	1906.25				
GST Refunds	1954.37					GST Paid	1198.86				
					5691.57						**3946.86**
Lion Foundation Grant		2000.00				Memorial Day Expenses		2647.10			
US Embassy		3000.00				MD Print & Advertising		729.50			
Donations / Fundraising		20.00				Website		1686.00			
					5020.00						**5062.60**
Hut Income			9000.00			KCDC			223.00		
						MenzShed			200.00		
						Pete's Print/Stationery			69.90		
					9000.00						**492.90**
Signage Income				500.00		DAC				10904.12	
						Johnston				3323.50	
						USA Photos				967.48	
					500.00						**15195.10**
	5691.57	**5020.00**	**9000.00**	**500.00**	**20211.57**		**3946.86**	**5062.60**	**492.90**	**15195.10**	**24697.46**
BANK BALANCE	**as at 31.12.2016**						**23626.08**				

KAPITI U.S.MARINES TRUST
136 THE PARADE
PAEKAKARIKI
KAPITI COAST 5034
NEW ZEALAND

alliewebber@paradise.net.nz
00 64 4 905 8594
marinenz.com