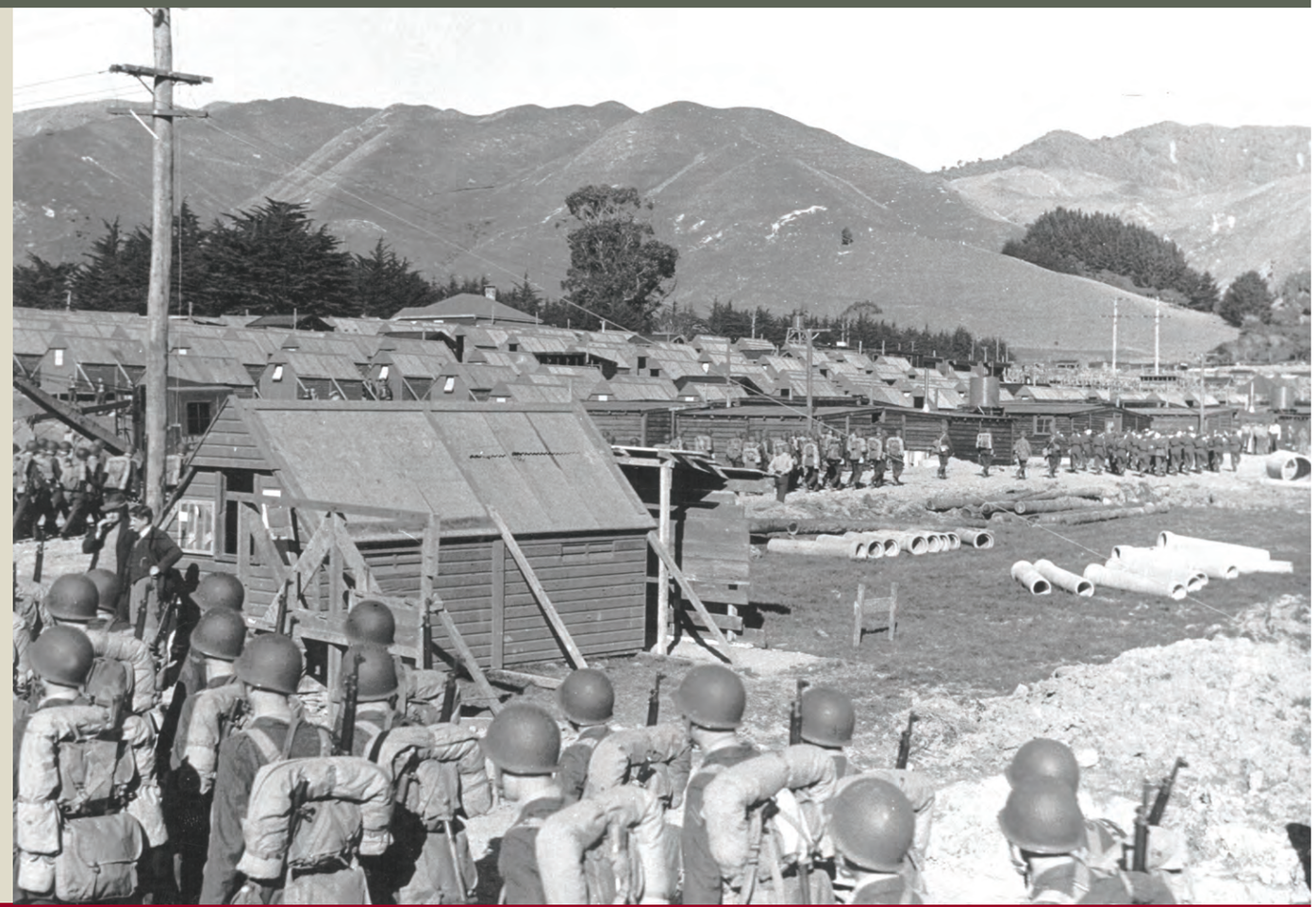
Kāpiti U.S. Marines Trust

The US Marines
in Kapiti, New Zealand
1942 - 1944

marinenz.com



Annual Report: January 1 – December 31, 2017

Kāpiti U.S.Marines Trust Annual Report:
January 1 – December 31, 2017.

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About the Trust

The “friendly invasion” of more than 100,000 United States servicemen to our country was big news in wartime New Zealand. What made it even more significant was that 15,000 of them lived on our land from 1942 to 1944. They were based in three camps - built in just six weeks by Kiwi construction workers led by Sir James Fletcher. Telling the story of Camp Russell in Queen Elizabeth Park, Camp Mackay on Whareroa Farm, and Camp Paekākāriki is a significant part of the work the Trust is currently engaged in. This is one of the biggest stories our district has to tell.

The Kāpiti U.S. Marines Trust was established in 2010 to recapture this story and keep it alive through events, hosting and various forms of story-telling for generations to come. Our job is to collect, conserve and exhibit US Marines history in Kāpiti and the wider Wellington region.

Patrons: Former US Ambassador William (Bill) and Gail McCormick.

Trustees: Chair, Jenny Rowan QSM, JP; Deputy Chair, Richard Benge; Executive/Secretary, Allison (Allie) Webber; Treasurer, Suzanne (Sue) Harris; historian Anthony Dreaver; historian John Porter; representative of the New Zealand American Association, Larry Keim; representative of Kapiti Joggers & Walkers, Roger Childs; Life Member Joan Ellis.

We are incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 (Certificate No. 2542549) and registered with the Charities Commission (No. CC46035).

Photography: The US Embassy

Report from the Chair

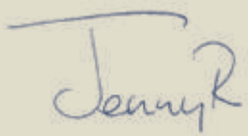
It is my pleasure to present this seventh Annual Report for the Kāpiti U.S. Marines Trust, for the year January 1 to December 31, 2017.

This is my last report as Chair of the Trust, and I'm very pleased to say it reflects another positive, busy year.

We are always grateful for the lives of veterans and the inspirational friendships they leave behind. This year we acknowledge with sadness the passing of three very special veterans: Frank Zalot Jnr, Theodore (Ted) Picard and Norman (Norm) T Hatch (see obituaries).

The highlight of this year was definitely the completion of our heritage hut project, which was three years in the making. This project was a positive experience from beginning to end. It was a real pleasure working with MenzShed Kapiti and we're also indebted to our funders, supporters and volunteers for making it possible.

Finally – a vote of thanks to the Trust. I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together. We're a little trust that's punched well above its weight; I am very blessed to have been part of this work and created something very special together.



Jenny Rowan QSO JP
Chair of the Kāpiti U.S. Marines Trust

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 2017

Obituaries

Frank Zalot at Memorial Day 2012

Norm Hatch with Steve La Hood

Ted Picard at Memorial Day 2012

Frank Zalot Jr, a heroic US signalman who survived a tragic wartime drowning accident off Paekākāriki beach in June 1943, died in Massachusetts on January 10, 2017, aged 92.

Mr Zalot visited New Zealand in 2012 with two of his US Navy mates, Ted Picard and Ray Plante, and their families to attend the 70th anniversary commemorations of the US Armed Forces' encampment in New Zealand during World War II.

Prior to his arrival Mr Zalot provided a first-hand account of the Paekākāriki beach tragedy to Te Ara, The Encyclopedia of New Zealand. His story – of the capsize of a landing craft during a routine training exercise – significantly enriched our understanding of the event. It also inspired the Trust to commemorate the 10 men who drowned, with a Sailors' Memorial in Queen Elizabeth Park. Their names are now routinely read out as part of our annual Memorial Day service.

Norman (Norm) T Hatch, a Marine Corps cinematographer whose dramatic footage of the Battle of Tarawa won an Academy Award, died on April 22, 2017 in Alexandria, Virginia. He was 96.

Mr Hatch had a long and prestigious career as a cinematographer with the US Marines and received a 1944 Navy Commendation for his work in Tarawa. He worked for more than 64 years in the US film and media industry, including, "Time-Life", "March of Time" in New York, Warner Bros., 20th Century Fox and Disney Studios and Technicolor Labs.

While in New Zealand Mr Hatch shot more than 10 reels of black-and-white film, and several hundred black-and white-photographs. The Trust is currently fundraising to acquire an archival set of this material.

Theodore (Ted) Picard, a 1st class Bosun's Mate in World War II, died in Hatfield (Maine) on November 9, 2017, aged 97.

On the day of the Paekākāriki drowning tragedy Mr Picard was coxswain (driver) of an LCVP (landing craft, vehicle, personnel) loaded with Marines in combat gear. Ray Plante, a 2nd class Radarman from Maine, was on the troopship from which the flotilla of landing craft disembarked, and Frank Zalot was in a beach party of 25 sailors, whose task was to manage the flotilla after landing its human cargo.

Photo Credit: US Embassy & Steve La Hood

Comings and Goings

We were very sorry to say goodbye to US Ambassador Mark Gilbert and his wife Nancy in January, having greatly appreciated their interest and support during their term in New Zealand. Later in the year we were pleased to welcome the new Ambassador, Scott Brown, and his wife Gail and very pleased to host them at the US Marines Memorial.

Mark and Nancy Gilbert, center.

Scott and Gail Brown

New Patrons

Early in the year the Trust was proud to announce that former Ambassador William (Bill) McCormick and his wife Gail had agreed to be our Patrons.

Mr McCormick is an American businessman and diplomat, who served as the United States ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa from October 2005 until January 2009. He and Gail have six children.

Mr and Mrs McCormick say they are very proud and honoured to be Patrons of the Trust. They believe that our work to preserve and promote the history of the US Marines and Navy in the Kāpiti district is unique and valuable, and say it shows how the spirit of friendship forged between US Armed Forces and the people of New Zealand in the 1940s endures to this day and is worth maintaining.

Bill & Gail McCormick - new patrons

Completion & Installation of US Marines Hut

We are very pleased to report that we have completed the restoration of our World War II US Marines hut and installed it in Queen Elizabeth Park.

Built from recycled and new materials, the hut had its genesis in a circa 1942 Raumati South home – made from two former US Marines huts, and donated to the Trust by Kāpiti residents Sarah Brown and Grant Cunliffe.

This was an incredibly positive project and we're sincerely grateful to everyone who contributed.

Thanks go to the talented, hardworking and tenacious MenzShed Kapiti team led by Dave Porter, heritage architect Chris Cochran, who added his magic touch, and, for their very generous funding and support, the US Embassy, Fletcher Construction, the Wellington Community Trust, the M2PP Charity & Sponsorship Committee, PlaceMakers Paraparaumu, Firth Industries, Humes, Kāpiti Coast District Council and many others. We also warmly acknowledge the Greater Wellington Regional Council parks team, who have been brilliant partners to us for the past six years.

Funding Activities in 2017

- Grants from the US Embassy, PlaceMakers Paraparaumu, the M2PP Charity & Sponsorship Committee, Fletcher Construction, Humes and Firth Industries enabled us to work with the great volunteers from MenzShed Kapiti to complete the restoration of the hut in early May.
- With assistance from M2PP and Higgins, the hut was loaded onto a transporter in Waikanae and taken to Queen Elizabeth Park to its final resting place alongside the US Marines Memorial. It was painted by MenzShed Kapiti volunteers and electricity was installed in time for the opening.
- Thanks to assistance from Kāpiti Coast District Council we were able to purchase the range of building materials needed to complement the heritage materials we were able to recycle and re-use for the reconstruction.
- With a grant from the Wellington Community Trust and professional help from Wellington design company Story Inc, we were able to install a diorama, including 26 purchased or donated heritage items. This can now be viewed through the hut windows. A QR code on the exterior of the building will enable visitors to use their smartphones to access photos and stories of individual items in the exhibition from our website.
- The hut was opened on Memorial Day, May 29, 2017 by the Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council, Chris Laidlaw.
- The Kāpiti U.S. Marines Trust has begun fundraising, research and development for Stage 3 of the project, to enable us to develop further story-telling facilities in and around the hut and the US Marines Memorial site.

In the Footsteps of the Marines – Run/Walk

The charity fun run/walk organised by Kapiti Joggers & Walkers is now an institution on the Kāpiti Coast. More than 175 competitors took part in the sixth event on the Sunday before Memorial Day.

The organisation was a great team effort, with more than 40 members of Kapiti Joggers & Walkers, and other volunteers, involved in course layout, marshalling, registration, catering, traffic control, liaison and spot prize distribution. Raumati Scouts also supported the event by manning the drink stations.

Although it is primarily a fun event, there are plenty of competitors keen to race it.

The fastest performers on the day were: Tom Bland, first male runner (50.59); Jill Burkholder, first female runner (60.18); Jim Hammonds, first male walker (1.40.29); Nadine Yorker, first female walker (1.40.35); Brian Follett, first male in the social grade (1.14.22); and Jo Galway, first female in the social grade (1.19.39).

The event was well supported by the US Embassy, with the 2017 field including several US Marines and other staff.

Once again, the Trust is very grateful to be one of the beneficiaries of the proceeds of the event.

US Embassy Charge D'Affaires Candy Green with Children from Paekakariki School

Memorial Day 2017

Our Memorial Day service, officiated by the Rev Lyall Perris in Queen Elizabeth Park on May 29, commemorated the 75th anniversary of the "friendly invasion" of US Armed Forces to New Zealand during World War II. It was notable for a great turn-out, a great day and the excitement of the hut opening that followed.

The service was attended by a New Zealand Defence Force Colour Guard, members of the US Embassy Marines Detachment, members of Squadron 49 Air Cadets, representatives of government agencies, local government

and community agencies, primary and secondary school students, and members of the public.

Guest speakers were the Chair of the Kāpiti U.S. Marines Trust, Jenny Rowan and the Chargé D'Affaires of the US Embassy, Candy Green.

Students from Paekākāriki School's kapa haka group performed the Haka Waiata of Honour and students from Paraparaumu, Kāpiti and Ōtaki Colleges read the names from the Sailors' Memorial. A special feature of the service was the attendance of 10 students from Kāpiti College who sang the national anthems. We were very grateful to have the services of Brasso Kāpiti to play during and after the service.

Hut Opening

Immediately after the Memorial Day service, guests relocated to the new hut site for its formal opening. The hut had been blessed earlier in the morning by Ngāti Toa Kaumātua Taku Parai.

Guest speakers were: Kāpiti U.S. Marines Trust Chair, Jenny Rowan; Greater Wellington Regional Council Chair, Chris Laidlaw; US Embassy Public Affairs Officer, Rob Tate; Fletcher Construction Project Director, John Palm; and MenzShed Kapiti Project Manager, Dave Porter.

Morning tea was served in the park. Our thanks to the Lion Foundation and the US Embassy for generously funding the event.

Members of the US Embassy Marines Detachment in the restored hut.

Jenny Rowan and members of the Trust at the Hut opening

Goals for 2018

- Ensure the ongoing viability of the Trust
- Maintain and develop the marinez.com website
- Manage and fundraise for Memorial Weekend 2018
- Raise funds to purchase the Norm Hatch World War II photo and film collection
- Research, write, design and install signage for Camp Paekākāriki
- Fundraise for signage projects on all three camp sites
- Develop new strategy to complete Stage 3 of the US Marines Hut project

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks go to the following donors, funders, and community and business supporters.

Donors & Funders

- US Embassy
- Lion Foundation
- Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)
- Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Wellington Community Trust
- Kāpiti Coast District Council
- Fletcher Construction
- Humes
- Firth Industries
- M2PP Charity & Sponsorship Committee

Community Support

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

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

Business Support

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

- Story Inc (Steve La Hood): interior design and diorama
- 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
- Anne Johnston: design assistance
- DAC: signage construction
- Kolorato (Tiziana Stoto): website assistance and support
- Foolproof (Sarah Brown): proofreading assistance
- Mark Coote: Photographer

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**	**1/1/17**			**23,626.08**						
Interest	16.21					AGM	483.48				
COGS	1,500.00					General Expenses	450.43				
Fundraising	171.30					Administration	348.02				
GST / Tax Refunds	5,790.21					Tax Paid	5,679.28				
					7,477.72						**6,961.21**
Lion Foundation Grant		2,500.00				Memorial Day Expenses		2,843.63			
US Embassy		3,000.00				MD Print & Advertising		2,690.00			
Donations / Fundraising		387.96				Website		950.00			
Kapiti Joggers & Walkers		300.00									
					5887.96						**6,483.63**
Pelorus Trust	1,000.00										
McCormick Family	1,000.00		19,200.00			Gereral			24,640.72		
US Embassy	7,000.00					MenzShed			6,391.08		
KCDC	5,000.00					Signage			4,587.66		
WN Community Trust	5,000.00				**19,200.00**						**35,619.46**
	26,477.72	**6,187.96**	**19,200.00**	**0.00**	**51,865.68**		**6961.21**	**64,83.63**	**35,619.46**	**0.00**	
BANK BALANCE as at31/12/17					**26,427.46**						

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