**DRAFT PNCC MILITARY HERITAGE/HISTORY AND COMMEMORATION PROGRAMME 2025-30**

This programme follows on from the approved and successful previous activity listings. It includes the military history presentations known as the “Evening Public Lecture Presentations” (EPLP) and the “Monthly Midday Military History Presentations” (MMMHP) series. There are also “Major City Events” as shown below and other related military historical anniversaries, activities, and events. This programme is based around discussions with the PNCC Mayor and CEO, PNCL Heritage team, PNCC Events team, PNDHAG members and the PNRSA Executive Committee. The programme is very dynamic, but the main presentation venue is the **Mezzanine Floor** (entrance via alleyway between George Street and The Square). Separate invitations will follow and confirm dates, timings, and venues, together with any associated RSVP and/or health and safety requirements.

**2025 Programme:**

**6 Feb** – (Thu) Waitangi Day

**13 Feb** – (Thu - MMMHP) 110th Anniversary of WW1 and the Conscription Appeals Process by Dr. David Littlewood, Massey University

**24 Feb** – War Animal (Purple Poppy) Day

25 Feb – (Tue – EPLP) 80th Anniversary of the Creation of the UN by Prof. Beth Greener, Head of School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University

**Mar-Apr**– PNCC Heritage Month in Palmerston North

**1-10 March** – PNCC Local History Week

**2 Mar (Sun)** – Explore Esplanade Day (with NZDF display?)

**13 Mar** – (Thu - MMMHP) 110th Anniversary of the Defeat of the Allied Fleet in the Dardanelles by CDR (Rtd) Richard Jackson, RNZN

**10 Apr** – (Thu - MMMHP) 70th Anniversary of the RNZAF No 14 Squadron Vampires Deployed to Malaya by WGCDR Peter Hurly, DSD, OStJ, RNZAF

22 Apr – (Tue – EPLP) 110th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings by Dr Ian McGibbon, ONZM, former Chief Historian, Ministry of Culture and Heritage

**25 Apr** – (Fri) ANZAC Day (Dawn and Civic) Parades and Services in Te Marae o Hine|The Square and elsewhere in Ashhurst, Bunnythorpe, Linton Camp and the Māori Battalion Hall

**8 May** – (Thu - MMMHP) 60th Anniversary of No 3 Squadron Transition to Helicopters by WGCDR (Rtd) Ron Thacker, MNZM, RNZAF, Former CO, 3 Sqn RNZAF (2003-06)

**12 Jun** – (Thu - MMMHP) 20th Anniversary of the Deployment of NZDF UNMOs to South Sudan by COL Mel Childs, Dep Sec, Governance, People and Exec Services, NZ Min Def

**24 Jun** – (Tue – EPLP) 110th Anniversary- Men and Their Horses: The Sinai-Palestine Campaign, 1915-19, during the First World War by LTCOL Dr Peter Wood, ONZM, RNZIR

**10 Jul** – (Thu - MMMHP) 160th Anniversary- A “New Paradigm”: The Self-Reliant Policy in the NZ Land Wars by LTCOL Dr Richard Taylor, RNZAEC, Director, NZ Land Wars Study Centre

**14 Aug** – (Thu - MMMHP) 25th Anniversary of NZDF Women into Combat Roles by LTCOL Dr Amy Brosnan, RNZSigs, Director, NZDF Women Peace and Security

**18 Aug** – (Mon) – Vietnam Veterans Day

**26 Aug** – (Tue – EPLP) 80th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by RADM (Rtd) David Ledson, RNZN, former Chief of the RNZN

**11 Sep** – (Thu - MMMHP) 140th Anniversary of the Russian Scare 1885 in NZ by LTCOL Dr Peter Wood, ONZM, RNZIR

**23 Sep** – (Tue – EPLP and Book Launch) GEN Lucian Truscott, the Greatest US Field Commander in the Second World War? by LTCOL (Rtd) Dr Glyn Harper, QSM

**9 Oct** – (Thu - MMMHP) 70th Anniversary of the Formation of the NZSAS and Malayan Emergency by BRIG Chris Parsons, MNZM, DSD, former Deputy Chief of the NZ Army

**28 Oct** – (Tue) – Rā Maumahara|National Day of Commemoration for the New Zealand Wars (190th anniversary of the signing of He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Niu Tīreni | The Declaration of Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand)

**28 Oct** – (Tue – EPLP) NZ Land Wars Month- 180th Anniversary of the Formation of the NZ Army and the Flagstaff War by LTCOL Dr Peter Wood, ONZM, RNZIR

**11 Nov** – (Tue) Remembrance (Armistice and Poppy) Day Parade and Service in Te Marae o Hine|The Square

**11 Nov** – (Tue – EPLP) Remembrance Day- 80th Anniversary of the Italian Campaign, the Forgotten Front in the Second World War by LTCOL (Rtd) Dr Glyn Harper, QSM

**27 Nov** – (Thu - MMMHP) 10th Anniversary of NZDF Commitment to Iraq by LTCOL Dr Peter Wood, ONZM, RNZIR

**Other notable anniversaries in 2025:**

110th anniversary Anzac soldiers’ riot in Cairo (2 April 1915)

110th anniversary loss of 10 members of New Zealand Army nursing service in sinking of *Marquette* (23 October 1915)

105th anniversary New Zealand Expeditionary Force deploys to Fiji to aid colonial British government put down strikes among Indian labourers- NZ unions protest

80th anniversary Air Vice-Marshall Leonard Isitt accepts Japanese surrender on behalf of NZ (2 September 1945)

75th anniversary of NZ deployment to Korean War (*Pukaki* and *Tutira* depart 3 July 1950)

60th anniversary of Operation Ice Cube- first RNZAF flight to Antarctica (27 October 1965)

60th anniversary New Zealand combat units deployed to Vietnam War (May 1965)

55th anniversary anti-Vietnam War protestors greet US Vice President Spiro Agnew in Auckland (15 January 1970)

40th anniversary New Zealand government refuses permission for nuclear-capable USS *Buchanan* to enter New Zealand waters (4 February 1985)

40th anniversary of attack on the *Rainbow Warrior* (10 July 1985)

35th anniversary of NZDF deployment to Gulf War (HMNZS Endeavour- September 1990; RNZAF 40 Squadron-23 December 1990)

More anniversaries can be added in due course and as further information comes to hand.

**2025 Notes** – During **Local History Week and Heritage Month** (in March-April), other military heritage activities (including displays and visits) are likely to be included.

Otherwise for **2026-2030**, a similar format/pattern as in previous years for both EPLP and MMMHP programmes, two major commemorative events (ANZAC Day and Remembrance (Armistice) Day), plus potential for other NZDF activities/events, provided by Linton Camp (1 (NZ) Bde) and RNZAF Base Ohakea, as Charter partners of the PNCC.

MMMHP sessions are normally held at midday on the second Thu in each month, Feb through Nov 25. EPLP sessions are normally held on Tue evenings in Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, a book launch in Sep (on the Ground Floor), Oct and Nov 25. All presentations will be held in the **PN City Library** **Mezzanine Floor (entrance off alleyway between George Street and The Square – unless advised otherwise)**. Other military history presentations by visiting historians and book launches/releases are also programmed throughout each year and will be advised separately. Event invite posters will confirm all timings and venues for these activities.