Wow! I don’t even know where to begin this.

First of all I should introduce myself. I’m LCPL Georgia Hoy and at the start of this year took over from SGT Kevin Hickman as the Marketing Cell IC. What an unusual start to the year it has been for us, much like the rest of the world. We started the year at full speed, as you will read throughout the magazine, and were going to be working most weekends up until planned leave in mid-April. Then, like most others, we came to a stop with the spread of COVID-19 reaching us here in New Zealand. We have used our ‘working from home’ time to put together and publish videos on our social media; look us up on Facebook if you haven’t seen them, or you can watch them on YouTube. Production was a complicated task. After trialling numerous software applications, including zoom and facebook messenger, we realised no app could avoid the tiny differences in everyone’s internet speed (and you can imagine the result that created...). So we ended up recording each part individually; the rhythm section would record their parts at home first, and these would get mixed together to create a backing track for the brass and vocalists to record along to. CPL Marc Ellis and PTE Cameron Burnett worked countless hours putting all of these audios and videos together. We also owe a ‘shout out’ to the amazing team of seven NZAB musicians who took on the challenge of nine guards in 30 days, which meant the rest of our bubbles could stay safe and Burnham was in good hands!!

Now a quick recap on personnel changes here at the NZ Army Band. As well as being the NZAB Recruiter SGT Hickman is now the unit’s Musical Training NCO. This was SSGT Phil Johnston’s role last year however Phil is on a year’s unpaid leave in 2020. PTE Cameron Robertson is on unpaid leave in Wellington to study at the School of Music, and LCPL Bryce Fairweather also took the first couple of months of 2020 off, but is now back with us. We were sad to say goodbye to LCPL Selu Fotu at the end of last year, as he has taken a job with Royal New Zealand Navy Band up in Auckland to be closer to his family. We do have three new members to introduce to you though; PTE Glyn MacDonald (trombone/keyboard), PTE Paul Black (Euphonium/trombone) and PTE Zac Powell (cornet).

We also welcome back to the band on a TF six month contract PTE Lisa Crawley who has the mammoth job of scanning and sorting our entire library! She still plays the tenor horn so, you might have seen her in some of our online activities. Who knows what the second half of the year will have in store for us now but, like always, we are excited for the challenge!

Georgia
... continued

PTE Paul Black, before his army haircut

SSGT Murray Johnston receiving his 20 years of Service certificate also presented by Land Component Commander, Brigadier Jim Bliss

PTE Zac Powell

PTE Glyn MacDonald
The end of year concert tour started off with a fun gig for the Dance Band. We flew to Auckland two days prior to the rest of the band, then drove to Papakura Military Camp to perform at an end of year function for 1NZ SAS Regt. The theme was ‘double denim’, and the band decided to really get into the spirit. I hope this won’t be the last time I get to see CPL Campbell McKeller sporting LCPL Georgia Hoy’s denim short shorts! A couple of days later, as a thank you to the NZAB, the whole unit were given the privilege of a private tour around the Papakura compound and training area.

Monday morning 25th November 2019, the Dance Band hopped into our van and drove to Whenuapai, where we were met by the rest of the band who had just arrived from Christchurch. We all settled into our individual barracks and then kicked into rehearsals for the following two days. On day three, after our return visit to Papakura, we enjoyed a fun afternoon in the sun playing lawn bowls in Devonport. The band fired up the barbie, cracked open a couple of refreshments and it was game time! Everyone’s competitive side certainly came out that afternoon.

The following afternoon, after a final morning of rehearsal at the Whenuapai Bandroom, we packed up the truck and made our way to Whakatane.

The Extravaganza begins! The end of year concert tour consisted of three evening performances: Whakatane, Hamilton and Napier. The first concert was a great success with a record audience for NZAB in Whakatane. After the show, the band were invited by the Eastern Bay Of Plenty Brass to enjoy some drinks and nibbles at their band room, which were greatly appreciated (thank you EBOP).

Next stop, Hamilton! Once arriving at the accommodation band members went their separate ways, getting in some PT and a trip to the supermarket to source kai for the night. The Hamilton concert was also a booming success, with compliments all round from audience members. Afterwards the Hamilton Citizens Brass invited the band to their bandroom for pizza, punch and some delightful finger foods, again greatly appreciated (thank you Hamilton).

The following day the band cleared the accommodation and loaded into the vans for the drive to Napier. On the way, they stopped off in Taupo to present some NZAB memorabilia to the owner of the Onwards Bar, a bar filled with military memorabilia from around the world. On arrival in Napier the band members were left to their own devices for the evening. The following evening the final concert was energetic and passionate, everyone leaving the show with a smile on their dial, including the band! The troops were once again shown hospitality by the local brass band, Deco Bay Brass, a fantastic way to end the tour (thank you Deco Bay).
Officer Cadet School (OCS) Graduation 2019

by PTE Etches

Another year, another Officer Cadet Graduation, well in my case, my very first. The band travelled to Waiouru on the 4th December to begin a week consisting of ceremonies and parades. This was an experience to remember for sure. On arrival we got straight into rehearsal for the parades, followed by a Christmas concert for the Waiouru community in the camp cinema. That evening we were invited to the Officer's Mess for a social gathering and refreshments.

The next day we had a couple of rehearsals to solidify the ceremonial proceedings, followed by an early dinner, before the pre-Retreat Ceremony concert performed on Firth Field. We then took part in the main event of the evening, the OCS Retreat Ceremony. I have never had to stand still for such long periods of time before. This was my debut on the cymbals, the moment I had been practicing for. All the many hours spent banging two large plates of metal together in a very technical fashion finally served its purpose. I thought my arms were going to fall off during the slow march, and was extremely relieved when we were able to step off for the final time and march off the parade ground. Other than that it was a great experience.

On the final day the band were up early for rehearsals. We completed the OCS Graduation Parade and then had a short amount of time to set up in the Officer's Mess for the Graduation Ball. The Dance Band played a set of absolute ‘bangers’, keeping the guests dancing all night long. The tour finally came to an end and we were all happy to return home to family and our own beds. A successful tour and a great end to the year.

National Youth Brass Band

by PTE Oldham

On the 18th of January 2020, a band of the top youth brass players from around the country gathered in Christchurch to begin the National Youth Brass course for 2020. For a variety of reasons I was the only applicant from the NZ Army Band this year.

The course began in Christchurch at the University Canterbury Halls (where all great things begin apparently) with rehearsals for our south island tour.

The 2020 band consisted of a new group of young players and a decent handful of players returning from previous years. After the first day of rehearsals, and a visit to the local (for the 18+), we all got along very well.

The first concert was performed at Christchurch’s Ngaio Marsh Theatre, where the band couldn’t wait to show off the work achieved in the previous three days of camp. The tour then continued with performances in Oamaru, Roxburgh and finishing in Invercargill. continued overleaf...
These concerts were a lot of fun, performing all kinds of charts ranging from brass band to big band. We also accompanied guest artist Byron ‘Buzz’ Newton who premiered his Euphonium looping station to perform his newly commissioned chart ‘Hard Return’. He also performed the classic tuba solo ‘Fnugg Blue’ by looping himself and some of the band members (apart from Alex on tuba, who was replaced by Zach on soprano with the addition of Buzz’s octave pedal).

On the final night an awards night was held. The Tenor Horns received best section and the NZ Army Band was thanked, specifically; PTE Leigh Martin for his work driving the truck full of band and percussion gear all week, and CPL Cameron Lee and PTE John Mason for tutoring the percussion and bass sections respectively. I was also humbled to receive the ‘Band Person of the Year’ award.

Overall this was a very enjoyable course. Meeting new people and forming new friendships is what brass banding is all about!

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**Waitangi Day**

*by PTE Burnett*

The New Zealand Army Band hit the ground running very early into 2020; our first engagement occurring just one week into the work year. A vast NZDF contingent, including a tri-service band, were tasked with congregating at Waitangi Treaty Grounds to commemorate the historic signing in 1840; and it was a memorable, emotional week.

Our first performance was on the morning of February 5, at the opening ceremony for Te Rau Aroha, a new museum located on the edge of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. Named after a mobile canteen truck that fed soldiers of the Māori Battalion during their deployments in North Africa and Italy during World War Two, the museum pays tribute to our Māori servicemen and servicewomen and honours their sacrifices in the name of Aotearoa. A tri-service Māori Cultural Group also performed, and New Zealand Army officers carried the 28th Māori Battalion banner as well as a replica King’s Colour.

The ceremony was attended by Robert “Bom” Gillies, one of two remaining members of the 28th Māori Battalion. He was escorted by Willie Apiata VC and accompanied our Chiefs of Service, Governor-General and Prime Minister, who were also in attendance. Taking care to serve the occasion unobtrusively, the band performed incidental music that sensitively accompanied the emotional testimonies shared that morning. We were particularly happy that we could appease Mr Gillies’ personal request to hear the “Māori Battalion” march.

continued overleaf...
That evening, the story of the 28th Māori Battalion was told through poetry, waiata and ceremonial drill in a bespoke, multi-faceted two-hour performance. The band started proceedings by marching the 100-person NZDF Royal Guard of Honour up the Nias Track; the same path that the Battalion marched on February 6, 1940, just a few months before being deployed overseas. Once in place and the band was onstage, the ceremony evolved through several settings as the story of the Battalion was narrated. The programme included visceral spoken word poetry; an array of beautiful waiata; a sunset ceremony featuring a firing party; finally finishing with the band and MCG performing the NZDF haka; then standing hand-in-hand, soaking in a pregnant pause before a final bow.

It was a highly emotional occasion that had many members of the band fighting back tears during our debrief; a sentiment shared by dozens of attendees who approached us afterwards. A live-streamed video of the concert remains on the NZDF Facebook page and is certainly worth a watch.

February 6, Waitangi Day, saw our final performance of the tour. With many events, performances and speeches occurring simultaneously, the band’s programme was short and largely for the purposes of entertaining onlookers. Commencing at 1130hrs, we performed a range of kiwi classics, waiata and classical pieces until, at 1155hrs, when we marched the Royal Guard of Honour onto the grounds. Shortly before midday, the Guard presented a Royal Salute and the Royal New Zealand Air Force provided a flyover. HNZMS Wellington then fired a 21-gun salute on the stroke of 1200hrs, and the troops were marched from the Treaty Grounds. This saw the conclusion to the band’s involvement in the 2020 Waitangi Day Commemorations.
**G54999 – LCPL Brian Eckersley**

by SGT Hickman

On Thursday, 27 February 2020, the unit passed another valuable member LCPL Brian Eckersley into the ranks of our “living heritage”. Fittingly Brian’s farewell coincided with his 65th Birthday!!

Eck, as he is widely known, has decided to hang up his trombone to spend more time with his family.

Brian first joined the band in 1986 before leaving in 1993 to explore other work opportunities. He was coerced into re-joining the unit in 2009, by the then Recruiting NCO, WO2 Graham Hickman (with the help of some others including Tyme Masters and Dwayne Bloomfield).

Eck was promoted to the rank of LCPL in July 2010 (a rank he had held during his first stint in the band). Being of rather extended vintage, Eck decided he was happy not undertaking an All Arms JNCO course, and comfortable remaining a career LCPL, doing his bit for the unit at that level, which he most certainly did.

During the many tributes to Brian at his farewell a common thread kept being voiced. Eck was a bloke to get things done, even if it ruffled a few feathers. He had a reputation for doing anything that was asked of him, and he would do anything for anyone. He was always the first to take ‘newbies’ under his wing and ensure they started off on the right foot (not literally of course, because we always step off on the left foot in the military!!).

Musically he was a true professional, always organised and well-rehearsed, and he maintained the required standard right until his final gig. Eck is also a wonderful vocalist, and his crooning style will be sorely missed. He has also left a legacy of organising fantastic social functions.

Luckily for the unit LCPL Brian Eckersley has transferred to the Standby Reserve, so he will not be completely lost to us. We all look forward to working with him again in the future.

All the best Eck, and enjoy your (semi) retirement!!

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**Nelson Wine and Food Festival**

by PTE Etches

This year the band finally got to play at the Nelson Wine and Food Festival. Although scheduled to perform last year the festival was cancelled after the Nelson fires, so the band ended up playing a relief concert instead. So it was great to finally perform at the festival this year.

We were supposed to travel in a bus as a unit, but that fell through the day prior, so we ended up taking a few vans instead. It wasn’t the most comfortable convoy, but we got to Nelson and were able to check in to our accommodation and relax for the rest of the evening.

The next morning we went to the A & P Showgrounds to set up and sound check before the gates opened for the day. We then had to reset the stage for the other bands performing before us. During this down time we all took the opportunity to walk around the festival, taste some of the food and, of course, look at the wine we could not drink as we were on the job. Cameron Roberts, Cam Lee, Georgia Hoy and myself bought the most amazing bacon egg breakfast rolls and frothed as we devoured our tasty morsels of sustenance. After a couple of hours of waiting the band were treated to a delicious lunch which consisted of tuna sandwiches, muffins and warm cups of tea made by some of the lovely ladies in the kitchen. We performed during the afternoon, which ended up running slightly over time as we were having so much fun. The rain started spitting as we began packing up the truck and just managed to escape the down pour as we finished loading! Back at the accommodation we all set off to do our own thing; I ended up having a nap and then going for a run when the rain eased off. That night a few of us ventured out for a curry and had a social evening before hitting the hay, ready for the long drive home in the morning.
Army Golf 2020

by SGT Hickman

On Sunday, 26 January 2020, Army Golfers from around the country started to arrive at Burnham Military Camp for the Annual Army Golf Championships hosted at the Templeton Golf Club. This year saw a record number of NZAB personnel playing in the Army Champs with five Bandsmen participating.

SSGT Phil Johnston and myself SGT Kevin Hickman managed to squeak into a very strong Southern Team. CPL Campbell McKellar was picked up by Northern as a draft player and CPL Cameron Lee and PTE Jordon Seaton were picked up as draft players for Central.

After a practise round at Templeton, and the Tournament Opening hosted by the Burnham Golf Club, we were down to serious business with the Army Stroke play Championships on Monday the 27th. The Army Stroke Play Champion is decided over 36 holes and there are three divisions. Despite some pretty consistent golf, none of the NZAB contingent managed to win any silverware this year, although CPL Cam Lee got very close in the junior section coming in second by one shot!! A great effort considering that he only took up golf a few months previously.

The teams Championship commenced on Tuesday the 28th. As usual the format consisted of foursomes in the morning and individual match play in the afternoon. All NZAB pers acquitted themselves brilliantly over the three days of competition, including PTE Jordon Seaton beating both a past and a present Army player, and both CPL McKellar (who gave the writer of this article a fearsome beating) and CPL Lee also picking up wins. As usual SSGT Phil Johnston excelled in the match play environment and won all three of his singles matches. After three intense days of competition it came down to a clash between Southern and Northern for the overall team title. The teams could not be separated drawing six all, but I’m happy to report that on a countback Southern were crowned champions for 2020. Our first win in six years!

The week was topped off with an AGM and presentation of prizes function. On behalf of our golfing contingent, I would like to thank NZAB Command for supporting our involvement in Army Golf (and of course other sports). It is hugely beneficial to the unit to be seen in the wider army, and the connections made during these tournaments are invaluable.

Ngā Mihi.

L-R PTE Seaton, CPL McKellar, SGT Hickman, SSGT Johnston and CPL Lee
South Island Tour

by LCPL Hoy

Between 7–15 March 2020 the NZ Army Band went on tour around the South Island, to Hokitika, Greymouth and Wanaka.

We started the tour at the Hokitika Wildfoods Festival on Saturday, 8 March, which is always a fun gig. The weather gods were out in full force and Hokitika put on a beautiful day. The jazz combo started off the day playing in the VIP tent. The whole band then played twice on the main stage; one set over lunchtime and the second set early evening, concluding the Festival for 2020. The large audiences were extremely enthusiastic, especially the evening crowd who had lasted the whole day at the festival.

The next day the Drum Major organised sessions with a local master carver and pretty much the whole band managed to carve a piece of greenstone into something that looked amazing, most being special gifts for loved ones at home!

Next came the school tour component of the trip. We performed at Greymouth High, John Paul II High and Westland High on Monday and Tuesday, with Defence Recruiter, PO Kat Mohi, travelling from Christchurch to talk to the students about Defence careers during the concerts. During their down time people spent the days exploring the area, going to the gorge or the beach, doing PT and personal practice, and carving more greenstone. A group of us even got some additional PT on Tuesday afternoon. Nick Scott took one of the vans to the beach to get away from everyone and do some practice, but ended up getting stuck. 12 soldiers to the rescue Nicko!! After our attempt at extraction failed a lovely local man arrived with his tractor, much to everyone's gratitude.

On Wednesday we did the long drive from Hokitika to Wanaka, which took up most of the day. Thanks to Kev's nice driving I didn’t even feel that car sick!

In Wanaka on Thursday we performed at Mt Aspiring College to another rocking audience, and this time local Defence Recruiter SGT Josey Orum spoke to the potential recruits in the audience.

On Friday and Saturday we performed to large appreciative audiences at the Wanaka A & P Show, playing two gigs a day. It is definitely not a bad place to work for a couple of days. Again we had beautiful weather which meant a perfect opportunity for lots of outdoor activities once work was finished for the day. Sunday was a travel day back to Burnham and Christchurch, concluding a great wee tour of our South Island.
Creative NZ Archive Project
by LCPL Hoy

Over the weekend of 22 and 23 February 2020 a special recording took place in Burnham. The project involved recording 18 brass arrangements created by brass legend Ken Smith for the Creative NZ Archives. Ken passed away in February 2018 at the age of 88, however enjoyed a long and illustrious career spanning many decades as a trumpet virtuoso, conductor, and educator. One of his many artistic highlights was as Musical Director of the 1985 National Band of New Zealand. The band performed a three week tour of Europe, concluding at the World Music Concourse in Kerkrade, where they gained first place.

Ken also had a particular flair for arranging classical works for brass band. Although a few of his works had been recorded during his time conducting various ensembles (including Woolston Brass from 1990 to 1996), there was no definitive recording of his efforts. Two founding members of his 1985 National Band of New Zealand, Kevin Dell and Errol Moore, sought to rectify this situation. After much effort, heartache and fundraising the project finally reached fruition. With support from Creative NZ, the Southern Trust, Trevor Kempton, the NZ Army Band and, most importantly, Ken Smith’s family, a group of musicians assembled in Burnham to record an album of Ken’s work.

The band was personally selected by Kevin and Errol, to be of National Band quality. Included in the group were two members of Ken’s 1985 National Band, Brent Hoy and Vaughan McDonald, along with 15 members of the NZ Army Band. Maestros Ken Young and Peter Adams shared the Musical Director duties while Major Hickman undertook Producer duties, and ‘friend of the NZAB’ Ian Tilley provided his fabulous Recording Engineer skills.

There were a number of challenges over the weekend, as much of the music was sourced from all over the country, with almost all the parts being handwritten. However, conductors Peter and Ken Young were very good at some fast, on the spot, note checks. PTE Nick Scott was also very helpful in this area. The days were very long and at times I was sceptical we were going to get all the tracks down. But we did! All 18 tracks! There is still more work to go with editing and producing this CD but I’m sure the end result will be a high class recording, a fitting tribute that Ken Smith himself would have been proud of.

Exams
by LCPL Hoy

In November last year we had seven pers sit tertiary exams that they had been working towards all year.

SGT Ross Yorkstone, PTE Kaitlyn Brindley and PTE Sam Powell passed their ATCL Performance Diploma. LCPL Georgia Hoy and PTE Tom Oldham passed their ATCL Performance Diploma with Distinction. PTE Nick Scott sat his LTCL Performance Diploma and passed with distinction. CPL Raynor Martin gained his DipABRSM in conducting. Congratulations all!

Unfortunately the official awards ceremony, which an Army Band ensemble had been asked to play at, was scheduled for May but obviously was unable to take place.
Anzac Day 2020
by SSGT Fiu

The NZ Army Band programme is scheduled 6 – 12 Months in advance, allowing for the planning and execution of each and every task. It is reliance on this type of meticulous planning and logistics that ensures the unit performs at its optimum, as and when required.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our schedule evolved rather quicker than usual over the past few months. The NZ Army 175th commemorations in Wellington, the NZ Tattoo in Palmerston North, the NZ Jazz Festival in Tauranga, and various parades in Burnham Camp were all cancelled or postponed.

Early during the pandemic, having anticipated the likelihood of restrictions on travel and gatherings, we explored the possibilities of pre-recording an Anzac Day commemoration concert in the Christchurch Town Hall, utilizing the world class auditorium. Unfortunately, due to the Level Three and Four lockdown restrictions this possibility didn’t eventuate. However, with ingenuity and a “can do” attitude from the members of the NZ Army Band, we were able to execute a programme of music that was worthy of tribute, and contribute to a most unique and very special Anzac Day Commemoration.

The concert, which aired Anzac Day morning, gave an opportunity to reflect for the many who were unable to attend their usual Anzac Day service. The programme was a combination of rehearsal recordings made from the bandroom whilst the nation was still at level two restrictions, previous material (including WO2 Dwayne Bloomfield’s Passchendaele), and recordings from individual isolation bubbles made once the nation had moved to Level Four lockdown. These bubble recordings required a great deal of innovation, commitment and trust from the Band, in the knowledge that the resultant recordings would be forever online. However the result was nothing less than outstanding.

The concert’s major work, Passchendaele, was a recording of the NZ Defence Force Band that performed at the Centenary of the Passchendaele conflict on 18th October 2017 at Polygon Wood Cemetery in Belgium, under the baton of Major Hickman. For those unfamiliar with Dwayne’s Passchendaele it’s a programmatic work reflecting on the sacrifice our New Zealand soldiers made, and the impact this had on their families at home. I was privileged to have been part of this very moving experience in Belgium in 2017, but to see the final result captured in the video presentation was special.

My heartfelt thanks must go to CPL Marc Ellis and PTE Cameron Burnett for their work behind the scenes to make this important project a reality, as well as the performance of the NZ Army Band members from their isolation bubbles who conducted themselves with both enthusiasm and reverence.

For those that missed it, and receive this newsletter electronically, you can still watch the NZAB Anzac Commemorative Concert at the following link:

https://www.facebook.com/TheNZArmyBand/videos/927465937691201/
NZAB Building Renovations

by MAJ Hickman

The last time Burnham Military Camp Building Z22, otherwise known as the Jim Carson Memorial Bandroom, had any significant money spent on its upkeep was a complete refurbishment in 1986. As a very young soldier I recall shifting out of the old rundown bandroom, and for many months basing ourselves out of the Camp Model Room (which is now the Camp Conference Centre). I also remember, once it was finally completed, thinking how great the newly refurbished bandroom was; modern, fresh and acoustically far superior to any bandroom I'd been in.

Fast-forward 33 years and the building had definitely seen better days; the wall coverings in the Auditorium (a mixture acoustic panelling and carpet tiles) had long since worn thin, the acoustic foam tiles in the Ensemble Room were literally falling apart, and the hip 1970’s orange/brown carpet and wallpaper in the hallway and section rooms was dated 30 years ago.

Over the past decade attempts to have this rectified were stymied by uncertainty regarding the future geographical footprint of the NZAB. At one point plans were drafted to relocate the NZAB to Wigram, and more recently we were to be included in a major new Defence Hub in the centre of Burnham Camp. However none of these options came to pass and in 2019, after years of discussion, the very real OSH concerns of a bandroom not fit-for-purpose finally tipped the balance, and work was done to bring the building up to modern acoustic specifications. False ceilings were installed in every room, with custom panelling that absorbs 90% of all sound into the ceiling space (meaning overall volume is far lower, and safer), acoustic wall panels were strategically placed in each rehearsal room, and the entire Auditorium above the wall carpet tiling was replaced with the same panelling. The overall acoustic effect was startling, allowing everyone to hear themselves and each other with more clarity, and with significantly less danger of the hearing damage we all used to suffer. Luckily most of this work was done during August while we were in Edinburgh, so there was minimal disruption to the bands daily routine.

With the decision to invest in the current location made, the next step was upgrading the rest of the building. So, just prior to Christmas, we shifted everything (and I mean everything…!) from Building Z22 and crammed it into Building Z23 (which usually continued overleaf...
houses the social room, store, arranging suite, locker rooms, and various offices). Over the leave break the bandroom’s exterior was repainted and the interior was completely refurbished: the floor and wall carpet was replaced (further enhancing acoustics), and every other surface was refreshed. As you’ll see from the ‘before and after’ photos the difference is extreme. In the Auditorium we’ve replaced the dirty grey wall carpet and red flooring with a sharp black and dark grey colour scheme, and the rehearsal rooms have finally lost their 1970’s orange/brown carpet and wallpaper.

As often happens the deadline to finish the bandroom refurb crept somewhat, so we didn’t get back into the bandroom until well into February – this made preparing for the Waitangi Day activities rather challenging. Regardless, it was well worth the wait.

The next building on the list was Z23 (social room, etc) so, once the bandroom was finally finished, everything that had been crammed into Z23 was then crammed into the bandroom, and Z23 was completely gutted. New carpet, the walls re-jibbed and everything repainted. Once again this took longer than expected, meaning plenty of challenges trying to prepare for tours with section rooms stacked to the ceiling, etc. However, now that it’s finally finished, we have a couple of mint buildings. We were just starting the slow process of finding everything and putting it all back into order when the COVID crisis caught up with us. So there’s still some work to be done (hence no ‘after’ photos of Building Z23 yet) but we’ve finally got a couple of buildings to be proud of.
... continued

Section Rooms: before

Section Rooms – creating the false ceiling

Section Rooms – new sound panels, same old decor

Section Room: after

Ensemble Room: before

Ensemble Room: after

Hallway: before

Hallway: during

Hallway: after
A Day in the Life...

11 Australians total in the New Zealand Army Band and Royal New Zealand Navy Band

PTE Glyn MacDonald “living the dream” in his new job

PO Clark – the first Royal New Zealand Navy Band Drum Major to lead the New Zealand Army Band

Team work makes the dream work

Making friends

NZAB does the NZDF Haka for John Paul ll School after they did their school haka for us

Tractor to the rescue

PTE Seaton looking for his 717

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