

# A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF ARMY



The 25th of March 2020 marks 175 years since the Legislative Council of New Zealand passed the Militia Ordinance 1845 into law. This bill provided that, for the first time, 'able-bodied males between 18 and 65 years of age were to hold themselves ready for service and for a period of 28 days' training annually'. It is in the passing of this Bill that we trace the origins of New Zealand's Army.

So, this year is significant. Not only are we commemorating our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but 2020 provides us the opportunity to both look back on our journey and proudly celebrate the Army of today.

As our nation has changed and grown since the complex and divisive times of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, so has our Army – evolving from a militia force to a professional modern Army with the culture of Ngāti Tūmataunga at its core. Ours is a culture that blends the best of our military heritage with a strong Māori warrior ethos and it is one that is uniquely 'New Zealand'. It is a culture that was to be an integral part of the many campaigns that our Army has fought throughout its history – including the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces during WWI and WWII, the Korean War, counter insurgency in South East Asia, and the many deployments post-Vietnam that we have undertaken – and it is a culture that those of us who serve today identify with, and embrace with great pride.

Today's Army would be unrecognisable to those who first answered the call to arms from the Crown in 1845. Our history clearly shows us, even in the most challenging of times, to be an Army that has always been guided by its mission and, when required, confronted its adversary with fierce determination and purpose. Equally, we have worked hard to remain relevant and, throughout our

history, have kept pace in a rapidly changing world – a successful, albeit comparatively small, effective fighting force always with an eye on the future. We work hard today to be a modern, agile and highly-adaptive land combat force, made up of dedicated and professional men and women from across New Zealand. We are well trained, well equipped and our soldiers continue to serve with great distinction here in New Zealand, throughout the South Pacific, and, when required, globally. We are an Army that remains responsive to the needs of our nation, across the spectrum of military operations, and we are an Army that reflects our country's diverse regions, backgrounds, cultures and religions.

In this, our 175<sup>th</sup> year, it is appropriate that we pause and reflect with pride on our journey as an Army, on how far we have come. A journey that had its beginnings as a citizen militia, to an Army that is valued by our partner agencies, Pacific neighbours and international partners and allies – an Army that is committed to remain a positive force for New Zealand who, after 175 years, continues to proudly serve the Government and people of New Zealand.

To borrow the 28<sup>th</sup> Māori Battalion catch cry 'Ake ake kia kaha e' – *Forever Strong*.

**John Boswell**  
Major General



## Soldiers help Northland communities deal with water shortage

**Soldiers from 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Service Support Battalion have been helping drought-stricken Northland communities deal with a severe water shortage.**

Mechanics, suppliers and drivers from the New Zealand Army's 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Service Support Battalion, arrived in the Far North earlier this month.

Based in Kaitiāia they helped supply areas that had been assessed by Civil Defence as being in the greatest need of water.

Second Lieutenant Josh Gaul-Crown said the team worked alongside other agencies to ensure the needs of the region were met.

"Water is an important resource and we are happy to help the communities," he said. "We were there to put our training to good use."

Three MHOVs, each with tanks capable of carrying 5,000 litres of water, plus a hired vehicle capable of carrying 7,000 litres, were used to deliver water to communities outside town supply.

Emergency water supplies were topped up by the truck deliveries at locations in the Far North, including marae and community facilities.

The Army's involvement was part of a multi-agency response to the Northland drought, headed by the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

