



CHAPTER ONE

FOREWORD BY NATIONAL PRESIDENT

## FOREWORD

On 28 April 1916 a conference was held to form the New Zealand Returned Soldier's Association. Captain Donald Simson, who had returned wounded from Gallipoli, was elected its first President and a Constitution was drafted and adopted at that meeting. At that first meeting many familiar topics were discussed for the first time; membership by affiliation, returning soldiers and their care, the adoption of an official badge and its wearing on the right breast, the safeguarding of the word "ANZAC" and, importantly the adoption of our first rules. Subsequently, on the 12 May 1916 at the first meeting of the Provisional Executive Committee the Secretary "was authorised to purchase a typewriter, a duplicator and such other office fittings as were necessary."

It was from such humble beginnings that today's Royal New Zealand Returned And Services' Association has grown. Over that one hundred year history, from its primary commitment to the wellbeing of ex-service people, the RNZRSA has developed a well-founded and rich heritage based on knowledge, experience, understanding and tradition.

Since those first rules were adopted in 1916 the RNZRSA has developed this well-structured and comprehensive manual to provide the education, the guidance and the legal basis against which we can do our business effectively. Through those 100 years our "rules" have been living and developing precepts, well tested by time, changed and modified to meet changing times and changing structures but, always, in a deliberate and constructive way. The core strength of the RNZRSA is the 182 local Associations out there in the community. You work in the community and know it well; you are the public demonstration of our commitment to "People Helping People". The Manual includes your rules, the result of your deliberations. They have been considered by you and voted on by your local delegates in a democratic process which has stood the test of time. The Manual is designed to provide you at the local RSAs with the information you need to operate effectively.

The Manual provides the guidance any large organisation must have to operate effectively and legally in the modern environment. Yes, it has grown dynamically to fit today's needs but always remember that its origins lie in our long heritage, in the rules adopted at that first meeting in April 1916. We owe it to them to use it wisely and effectively and to maintain it as modern, comprehensive and credible volume of rules and procedures appropriate to our nationally iconic organisation.



BJ Clark QSM JP  
National President  
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