

## Biography – Mark Compain

Tena Koutou, Ni sa Bula Vinaka and Hello, my name is Mark Compain, and I would like you to consider voting for me in the role of National Vice-President.

Many of you will already know of the passion I have for the RSA and its mission to remember and support those who are serving or have served in our Armed Forces, and their whanau / families, in my tenure as the National Manager Support Services (2015-2019). You will also be aware of the accomplishments we achieved together. We have grown our capability to provide a broader range of support to multiple different generations and attracted new members from more recently serving generations.

I would now like the opportunity to bring my understanding of what is important to us as an RSA Family, my energy and my connections across the domestic and international Veteran community to our future endeavors, with a particular focus on Remembrance and Strategic Advocacy.

I want the RSA to thrive for another 100 years. However, our work to secure a sustainable future is not finished. To do that we need to be successful day to day, but we also need to consider change in a way that is mana enhancing for all. We are faced with a raft of generational and societal changes that requires agility, collaboration and responsiveness, with a joined-up sense of identity and purpose. To address this, we require an honest conversation about the role we play, our capacity, sustainability and how we wish to be perceived by stakeholders, to ensure we remain in step with the original vision and purpose for which the RSA was first established in 1916

Despite 104 years since the 1918 Armistice, we are still training our men and women to serve in our Armed Forces and putting them in harm's way on behalf of our nation - our job is not yet finished - and in an increasingly de-stabilised world order, is it not likely to be any time soon.

An example of my continued work as a volunteer: in conjunction with Acupuncture NZ, we have developed New Zealand's first 'Veteran Ready' certification process, which educates service providers on the military's unique culture and Veteran needs. This project anticipated the same requirement recently described in the Veterans and Whanau Mental Health & Wellbeing Policy Framework. This project was presented to the inaugural Australasian Allied Health Summit on 25 August 22, and we are following through by establishing a 'Community of Practice' to create new understanding and deliver more effective and efficient solutions and advocacy, that will reduce pressure on the public health system and improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes. NZDF has subsequently expressed interest in jointly developing this further. This is just one example of how our RSA is providing strategic, articulate and informed leadership to the Veteran community.

In terms of skills, knowledge and experience I bring to this role, I have held senior leadership and advisory roles in the NZ Army, Government and charity sectors. I am the Chair of the RNZRSA Remembrance Committee, an RSA District Support Advisor and hold advisory roles for two other Veteran organisations – The Australasian Services Care Network and Kotuku Foundation - Assistance Animals Aotearoa. I am currently employed as a Lead Advisor Leadership Development for a government agency.

I served in the Regular NZ Army for 21 Years, and continue to serve in the Territorial Force, holding the rank of Warrant Officer Class Two. I served on five operational deployments. I am also a qualified Scout Leader and mentor in the Big Buddy Programme.

Kia ora / Thank you