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## Medal recognises Sue's war effort

In her own words, Sue Baker Wilson lives in No Man's Land, halfway between Katikati and Waihi. While officially a Katikati resident, she has a foot in each camp, and was last week announced as a recipient of a Queen's Service Medal for services to historical research and war commemoration – much relating to Waihi and the Hauraki goldfields.

Notably, Sue has carried out extensive research on the New Zealand Engineers Tunnelling Company of World War I, which included a number of Hauraki miners. Before starting in 2007, she'd completed a phase of research on Katikati servicemen, in conjunction with establishing what's believed to be the country's first e-memorial to World War I enlistments. But she encountered a widespread belief that in neighbouring Waihi, "mining was an essential industry and therefore miners didn't serve".

That sparked her to "find out about the Waihi men. I knew nothing about the Tunnelling Company members then. When I asked who they were and what they did, no one seemed to know. They weren't recognised anywhere, and their story had been forgotten."

One explanation is that the Tunnellers fought a "secret war" in northern France, armed with only mining tools as they dug an extensive system of tunnels under enemy lines in preparation for the 1917 Battle of Arras. Even the distinction of being the New Zealand unit "first on and last off" the Western Front may have contributed to them being overlooked. By the time the surviving members returned to New Zealand in 1919, the country wanted to look forward and get on with life.

Sue has combed military archives, sought out descendants of members of the Tunnelling Company and of the New Zealand

Pioneer Battalion attached to it, and gathered some of those descendants together. She has established contacts in the city of Arras, and played a major role in arranging visits of Arras representatives to Waihi as well as New Zealand visits to Arras. She is now managing a Waihi Heritage Vision project to install a permanent memorial to the Tunnelling Company in the miners' reflective area at Gilmour Reserve.

Seven years ago, Sue never imagined that her research and work to have the Tunnelling Company recognised would grow into a fulltime occupation. However the adage "The more you learn, the less you know" has proved true. "I carry names around in my head, and they're not just words. They've become people with personalities."

A poignant side of that has seen Sue helping to raise awareness of soldiers' post-war suicides. Two of those men are now officially acknowledged – with more in the pipeline – alongside others of their comrades whose deaths were attributed to their war service.

It was her "digging" that led to Sapper Michael Tobin being recognised in 2012 as the first member of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force to die serving on the Western Front. Through this and other research, Sue has reconnected families with their stories, and often with each other. "Some descendants didn't realise that their grandfather had served with the Tunnellers, together with his brother. Some didn't know that the grandfather even had a brother. So I have introduced people to cousins they have never met."

In another case, Sue was able to show a man a photo of his father, who had died when the son was just 10.



She says her biggest reward is seeing healing and peace result from people coming to know their stories and understand their connections. "It's been a privilege to facilitate that. In a sense I've become a member of the Tunnellers' extended families – a number of their descendants are like uncles and aunties."

Mayor John Tregidga says Sue's huge amount of voluntary work has been instrumental in bringing to light wartime mining community history and creating awareness of the Tunnellers. "This is significant not only for Hauraki, but for New Zealand. Sue's passion and commitment have also benefited our community in areas such as identifying and preserving historically important headstones in the Waihi cemetery."

On a personal level, Sue's QSM honour deservedly recognises her achievements collecting the stories of the Tunnellers and giving them back to their descendants, says the Mayor.

He himself has gained a close-up insight into the lives of our Western Front miners. Thanks to Sue's coordination, he and his wife were able to privately visit the Arras underground tunnels in 2009 while on holiday in France.



## Take care of dog registration from home

Perhaps you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but you can now register your dog in a new way – online.

For this registration year, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, dog owners can head to the Council website to renew registrations, and make the appropriate payment by credit card or debit card.

At present, the online option is available only for renewing existing registrations – that is, for dogs specified on the registration notices we send out by mail. We will post the registration tags to owners when payment has been confirmed.

If you have any changes to make to the information on your notice, you'll need to contact us before proceeding with payment. If you have a new dog, or need to register a puppy for the first time, you will need to visit a Council office.

As the online system can be used 24/7, we hope it will provide a convenient choice for dog owners. However you can still register your dog by mail (with an option to pay by Internet banking), or in person at our Ngatea, Paeroa or Waihi offices. There we can accept payments by cash, Eftpos, credit card, debit card or cheque, and can issue tags on the spot.

Remember that all dogs aged three months or over must be registered. The due date is July 1, and prompt payment will ensure there are no penalty charges.

To register your dog online, use the link [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/services/dogs](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/services/dogs).

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### 2015/16 Dog Registration Fees - Hauraki District

Pursuant to Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 the Hauraki District Council by resolution of Council on 25 March 2015 fixed the Dog Control Fees for this registration year - 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

#### 2015/16 Fee Scale:

Fee Classification	Fee	Fee if paid after 31/07/15
General Dog (Entire)	\$82.00	\$123.00
General Dog (De-sexed) ** Vet certificate required	\$67.00	\$100.50
R.O.L. Dog (Entire)	\$52.00	Loss of Licence
R.O.L. Dog (De-sexed) ** Vet certificate required	\$37.00	Loss of Licence
Dogs in excess of (3) three	\$27.00	\$40.50
Dangerous Dog (Entire)	\$123.00	\$184.50
Dangerous Dog (De-sexed) ** Vet certificate required	\$100.50	\$150.75
Replacement tag	\$5.00	

#### Pound Fees:

First Time Impoundment	\$50.00
Second Time Impoundment	\$80.00
Third Time Impoundment	\$130.00
Sustenance fee per day	\$12.00
Microchipping fee	\$47.00
Consent to keep more than 2 dogs in an Urban area	\$52.00
R.O.L. (Responsible Owner Licence Scheme application fee)	\$32.00

\*\* Fees include GST / Vet certificate required for de-sexing rebate

### WOULD YOU LIKE A REDUCTION IN DOG REGISTRATION FEES?

Have you thought about obtaining a RESPONSIBLE OWNER LICENCE (R.O.L.)?

Council's Responsible Owner Licensing scheme rewards those dog owners who keep their dogs under control at all times, and have a good registration history, with a reduced fee (from \$82.00 to \$52.00, or \$37.00 if the dog is de-sexed).

The major criteria to obtain a Responsible Owner Licence are:

- Complete the prescribed application form and pay the non-refundable application fee of (\$32.00).
- Have a good record of registration payment history/no complaints, impounding, infringement notices, etc in the preceding 12 months.
- Dog Control staff of the Hauraki District Council will inspect your section for a securely fenced property (certain criteria apply).
- Pass a simple written examination on dog care and owner legal obligations.

An information pack and application form are available by telephoning 0800 734 834 (free call within the District) or 07 862 8609, or they can be downloaded from Council's website - [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz).

Copies can be collected from one of our service centres at:

- Paeroa - William Street
- Waihi - Rosemont Road
- Ngatea - Orchard West Road

**R.O.L. applications are accepted from 1 June 2015 to 15 July 2015.**

**Note: Failure to register by 31 July of any year disqualifies your R.O.L.**

LD Cavers

Chief Executive - Hauraki District Council

## Property promotion takes flight

Drones aren't commonly spotted over Ngatea, but if you see one, there's no need to speculate about military operations!

The Council is using a drone this month to capture aerial footage and still shots of the community surrounding the Northern Estate subdivision site, to help promote our new residential subdivision and its location.

Two flight days are planned when weather conditions are appropriate: one on a Saturday while people are out enjoying Ngatea's sports and recreational facilities, and one midweek when schools and workplaces are in full swing.

Mayor John Tregidga and Plains Ward Councillor Gill Leonard turned the first sod at Northern Estate in April. The formation and stabilising (preloading) of internal roads to provide for heavy vehicle access is now underway, ahead of earthworks on the actual sections which are scheduled to start in September.

We'll be partnering with local real estate agents and businesses to literally put prospective buyers in the picture. It's anticipated that the 22 north-facing properties will be attractive to young couples, families and first-home buyers, and to retirees – especially as an affordable alternative to home ownership in Auckland.