

Chapter 35

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NEW ZEALAND ORDERS DECORATIONS and MEDALS

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NEW ZEALAND ORDERS DECORATIONS and MEDALS



New Zealand introduced a distinctive set of honours in 1975 but retained the British Orders until May 1996. The Order of New Zealand was a non-titular Order and the New Zealand Order of Merit initially granted knighthood. On 10 April 2000, Prime Minister Helen Clark announced that the titles of Sir and Dame in the New Zealand honours system would be discontinued. **This lasted just short of 9 years when Prime Minister John Key announced on 08 March 2009 that the knighthoods would be reinstated. Those that received appointments that would have been a knighthood in the past nine years (85 in total) were given the opportunity to accept the title of Knight or Dame.** ¹



New Zealand honours are announced on the Queen's Birthday (celebrated in N.Z. on the first Sunday in June) and the New Year Honours list. Prior to 1990 they were announced on New Zealand Day (February 6th).

Effective April 2001, New Zealanders awarded United Nations medals and other medals (such as INTERFET) were allowed to wear the medals on their uniform (see the note on Major Dave Buck, CD later in the New Zealand section).



¹ Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of New Zealand, wearing the New Zealand Orders that she is the Sovereign Head of: The Order of New Zealand, The Order of Merit (star), and the Queen's Service Order.

New Zealand Governor-General The Right Honourable Lieutenant-General Sir Jerry Mateparae, GNZM, QSO, KStJ (left). Former Chief of Defence Staff. It shows his Queen's Service Order around his neck as the Principal Companion, his chain of the Order of Merit with the GNZM star above the Knight of the Order of St. John on his breast and his breast medals begin with the QSO. Interestingly, the Governor General is not a member of the Order of New Zealand. The Right Honourable Sir Sianid Satyanan (right), Governor General of New Zealand, wears the Chain of the Order of Merit, the Queen's Service Order neck badge as the Principal Companion of the QSO plus the Order of Merit on his right breast and the New Zealand 1990 Commemorative Medal.

THE ORDER OF NEW ZEALAND (ONZ)

Established on 6 February 1987, the ONZ is the highest level in the New Zealand honours system, and is an exclusive, non-titular Order limited to 20 ordinary members at any one time. The badge of the Order consists of an oval medallion in 9ct gold and coloured enamels, bearing in the centre the design of the shield of the New Zealand Coat of Arms within a Kowhahai rafter patter. This neck badge is worn from a red ochre (kokowai) ribbon with narrow white stripes, 3-mm from each edge. The Order is issued unnamed, but is engraved with a serial number over the hallmark. The insignia is returnable and must be insured by the recipient.²



MEMBERS

Current	Total appointed	Effective 22 February 2017
18	56	Ordinary Members
8	16	Additional Members
1	2	Honorary Members



Seniority of various NZ honours

ONZ: The Order of New Zealand
The country's highest honour, restricted to 20 living persons at any time, plus additional members and honorary members.

GNZM: Knight or Dame Grand Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit*
Breast star plus badge
Awarded for a pre-eminent contribution in any field over a sustained period. Services have usually brought international recognition.

KNZM or DNZM: Knight or Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit**
Breast star plus badge
For pre-eminent contribution in any field achieving at a national or international level, recognised by peers and demonstrating sustained commitment.

CNZM: Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit
For a prominent national or international role, leading role in regional affairs or distinguished contribution to an area of activity.

QSO: Queen's Service Order
Recognises valuable voluntary service to the community or faithful service to the Crown or public sector. Usually awarded for service at a national level.

ONZM: Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit
For a distinguished regional or national role in any field.

MNZM: Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit
For achievement or service to the community, usually in a national role.

QSM: Queen's Service Medal
Same as QSO but usually awarded for service at a local or regional level.

* Formerly Principal Companion (PCNZM) from 1999-2009.
** Formerly Distinguished Companion (DCNZM) from 1999-2009.
ONZ and GNZM appointments are only made periodically, when required.
Source: www.honours.govt.nz, NZPA

ODT graphic

² Dame Patricia Lee "Patsy" Reddy, GNZM, QSO, DStJ – Governor General of New Zealand 2016

THE NEW ZEALAND ORDER OF MERIT

Established in 1996, the Order has 5 levels (Current):

Knights/Dames Grand Companions	(GNZM)	Knighthood
Knights and Dames Companions	(KNZM/DNZM)	Knighthood
Companions	(CNZM)	No Knighthood
Officers	(ONZM)	No Knighthood
Members	(MNZM)	No Knighthood

Between 10 April 2000 and 08 March 2009, the two top tiers were re-titled and knighthoods were not given to these levels.

Principal Companions	(PCNZM) replaced GNZM
Distinguished Companions	(DCNZM) replaced KNZM



The government changed this back to the original titles on 08 March 2009 and those who had been appointed PCNZM or DCNZM could change to GNZM and KNZM/DNZM and received knighthoods. The majority did accept the name change and a knighthood but a few Principal and Distinguished Companions continue in New Zealand.

TERMS

For those persons who in any field of endeavour, have rendered meritorious service to the Crown and nation or who have become distinguished by their eminence, talents, contributions or other merits."

DESCRIPTION

The badge is in the form of a cross in white enamel set in silver-gilt (gold) with, in the centre, a medallion comprising the New Zealand Coat of Arms in coloured enamel, within a circle of green enamel bearing the motto of the Order and surmounted by a Royal Crown. The top two levels also have a gold breast star, of eight points, each arm bearing in relief a representation of a fern frond, superimposed in the centre of which is a smaller representation of the badge of the Order. The top two levels wear their badge from a sash over the right shoulder and resting on the left hip. The Companions wear the badge around the neck; Officers wear the silver-gilt enamelled badge from the left breast; and Members wear the silver and green enamel badge from the left breast.

RIBBON

The ribbon is plain red ochre (kokowai).

Awarded to Canadians: 3

Ms. Ruth Busch, MNZM	Canada Gazette 31 August 2019)	Family Layer
Ms. Janet Lynn Lane, MNZM	27 February 2021	Education
Dr. Alison Patricia Barrett, MNZM	CG 07 July 2022)	Obstetrician

THE QUEEN'S SERVICE ORDER (QSO)

Terms



Created to recognize voluntary service to the community and service through elected and appointed office. The Order was created in March 1975 and consists of a single 4th level Order (Companions QSO) associated with a medal (Queen's Service Medal - QSM). Both the QSO and QSM were subdivided:

To recognise community service and to recognise public service. On 21 May

2007, this distinction between community service and public service was removed.

Description

The QSO is a stylized manuka flower (large five petal flower) with superimposed on it the effigy of crowned Queen Elizabeth in the centre, a crown in the upper petal and **originally** an annulus with FOR PUBLIC SERVICE or FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE.

After 21 May 2007, the annulus currently reads:

FOR SERVICE and MŌ NGA MAHI NUJI.

The effigy of the Queen was also changed on 21 May 2007 and is now the same as that used on other New Zealand Medals.

Ribbon



The ribbon is the wavy ribbon (crimson edges with black, white, crimson, white, black, white crimson waves) seen on Prince Philip and Prince Charles ribbon bars as the first medal. Both the Order and the Medal are worn on the chest.

Issued

QSO for Public Service 20 per year

QSO for Community Service 10 per year

After 2007 - For Service 50 per year (usually only about 30 awarded) ³

³ Prince Philip (in RCN uniform) and Prince Charles (in Canadian Army and Royal New Zealand Air Force uniforms) wearing the QSO as their first medal.

THE QUEEN'S SERVICE MEDAL (QSM)

Terms

Created to recognize voluntary service to the community and service through elected and appointed office.

Description

The Medal is circular, of sterling silver, and 36-mm in diameter.

Obverse

The obverse bears the same effigy of The Queen as the Badge of the Order surrounded by the Royal styles and titles "ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA F.D.". The original effigy was changed in 2007 to conform to other the New Zealand medals.



Reverse

The New Zealand Coat of Arms surrounded by the inscription "THE QUEEN'S SERVICE MEDAL" and with FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE or FOR PUBLIC SERVICE at the bottom. The sub-division was removed in 2007.

Naming

The initials and name of the recipient are engraved on the rim of the Medal.

The Badge and Medal were made by the Royal Mint, United Kingdom.

Issued

QSM 60 for Community Service per year
60 for Public Service per year

After 2007 - For Service No limit on the number awarded

Issued to Canadians

1 - Mr. Timothy A. Chisholm as per Canada Gazette of 07 July 1990.

GALLANTRY DECORATIONS and MEDALS and other NEW ZEALAND MEDALS

Order of precedence

The Victoria Cross for New Zealand	VC ⁴
The New Zealand Gallantry Star	NZGS
The New Zealand Cross	NZC
The New Zealand Bravery Star	NZBS
The New Zealand Gallantry Decoration	NZGD
The New Zealand Bravery Decoration	NZBD
The New Zealand Gallantry Medal	NZGM
The New Zealand Bravery Medal	NZBM
The New Zealand Meritorious Service Medal	
The New Zealand Armed Forces Award	
The New Zealand Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal	



⁴ Corporal Bill ("Willy") Apiata VC, New Zealand Special Air Service received his Victoria Cross for service in Afghanistan.

THE NEW ZEALAND GALLANTRY AWARDS

Awarded to honour the New Zealand Defence Force personnel and certain other persons who perform acts of gallantry **while on operational service**. Bars are awarded (an uncoiled fern frond are worn on the ribbon in undress to signify a bar) and each may be awarded posthumously. The name of the recipient is engraved on each award.

THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR NEW ZEALAND (VC)

Similar to the British VC and worn from the left breast from a crimson ribbon. For most conspicuous gallantry, or some daring or preeminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy of belligerents.

Two Awarded - one for Iraq and one for Afghanistan

THE NEW ZEALAND GALLANTRY STAR (NZGS)

For acts of outstanding gallantry in situations of danger. A silver eight-pointed star of equal points with in the centre, a Royal Crown within a wreath of New Zealand fern fronds, both gilt, and on the reverse the inscription FOR GALLANTRY M TE TOANGA. Worn from the left breast from a 32-mm ribbon, crimson with white, purple, and white stripes in the centre.



THE NEW ZEALAND GALLANTRY DECORATION (NZGD)

For acts of exceptional gallantry in situations of danger. A silver cross of equal points with, in the centre, a Royal Crown within a wreath of New Zealand fern fronds, both gilt, and on the reverse the inscription FOR GALLANTRY M TE TOANGA. Worn from the left breast from a 32-mm ribbon made up of seven narrow vertical stripes of crimson, white, crimson, purple, crimson, white, and crimson.

THE NEW ZEALAND GALLANTRY MEDAL (NZGM)

For acts of gallantry. A bronze, circular medal bearing on the obverse the Effigy of the Sovereign within the Royal Styles and Titles for New Zealand, and on the reverse the inscription FOR GALLANTRY M TE TOANGA within a wreath of New Zealand Fern ensigned by a Royal Crown. Worn from the left breast from a 32-mm ribbon made up of nine stripes of crimson, white, crimson, purple, crimson, purple, crimson, white and crimson.

THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY AWARDS

To honour persons who perform acts of bravery in saving or attempting to save the life of another person. Bars are awarded (on the NZC a small silver representation of the cross and on the others an uncoiled fern frond are worn on the ribbon in undress to signify award of a bar) and each may be awarded posthumously. The name of the recipient is engraved on each award.



THE NEW ZEALAND CROSS (NZC)

Awarded for acts of great bravery in situations of extreme danger (equivalent to the George Cross and Canadian Cross of Valour).

A silver cross paty or formy (with straight edges) with a six-pointed gold star on each arm, and on a central disc within a wreath of gold New Zealand fern fronds the words 'NEW ZEALAND', and on the reverse the inscription 'FOR BRAVERY - M TE M IA'; the cross surmounted by a gold Royal Crown and attached by the letter 'V' to a straight silver suspender bar bearing gold fern fronds. The 38-mm wide ribbon is bright blue.

THE ORIGINAL NEW ZEALAND CROSS



Instituted 10 March 1869 by then Governor G.F. Bowen despite initial objections from Britain, the original Cross was awarded (until 1910) to members of the militia, volunteer and armed police for acts of bravery or devotion to duty on active service.

The ribbon was crimson.

THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY DECORATION (NZBD)

Awarded for acts of exception bravery in situations of danger.

A cross paty or formy (with straight edges) with, in the centre a Royal Crown within a wreath of New Zealand fern fronds, both gilt, and on the reverse the inscription 'FOR BRAVERY - M TE M IA'.

The 32-mm wide ribbon is bright blue with three narrow vertical stripes of red ochre (kokowhai).



THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY STAR (NZBS)

Awarded for acts of outstanding bravery in situations of danger.

A silver eight-pointed star of four long points and four short points with, in the centre, a Royal Crown within a wreath of New Zealand fern fronds, both gilt, and on the reverse the inscription 'FOR BRAVERY - M TE M IA'.

The 32-mm wide ribbon is bright blue with two narrow vertical stripes of red ochre (kokowhai).



THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY MEDAL (NZBM)

Awarded for acts of bravery.

A circular bronze medal bearing on the obverse the Effigy of the Sovereign within the royal Styles and Tiles for New Zealand and on the reverse the inscription 'FOR BRAVERY - M TE M IA' within a wreath of New Zealand fern fronds ensigned by a Royal Crown.

The 32-mm wide ribbon is bright blue with four narrow vertical stripes of red ochre (kokowhai).



NEW ZEALAND MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD NEW ZEALAND LONG SERVICE & EFFICIENCY AWARDS

THE NEW ZEALAND MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Terms



Those eligible shall be non-commissioned officers of the substantive rank of Petty Officer or Sergeant of the New Zealand Armed Forces who have performed good, faithful, and meritorious service, who exhibit an irreproachable record for the whole of the qualifying period (21 years full-time service / 18 years for a serviceman invalided due to military service), and who have been awarded a Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct, and who are recommended by their Commanding Officer.

Description

A circular, silver medal, bearing on the obverse the Uncrowned Effigy of the Sovereign.

Reverse

The inscription 'FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE' within a wreath of laurel surmounted by a Royal Crown and above which is the inscription 'NEW ZEALAND'.

Ribbon

The medal is worn on the left breast suspended from a ribbon, 32-mm in width, of crimson having in the centre a narrow stripe of green.

THE NEW ZEALAND ARMED FORCES AWARD ⁵

A circular, silver medal bearing on the obverse the Uncrowned Effigy of the Sovereign, and on the reverse two swords in saltire, points upwards, superimposed in the centre of which is a representation of an eagle, with wings outstretched, with above a Naval Crown, and below two fern fronds, with stems crossed at the base, the whole surmounted by the inscription 'NEW ZEALAND ARMED FORCES AWARD'. Those eligible shall be officers of the New Zealand Armed Forces whose character and conduct have been irreproachable, and who are recommended by their Commanding Officer. The qualifying period is 15 years full-time service of which 8 years must be as a commissioned officer. A Clasp is awarded for each 15 years of service. The medal is worn from the left breast and is 32-mm wide, dark blue, crimson and light blue parallel stripes with a central stripe of black. The Governor-General is automatically awarded this medal



just as the Canadian Governor General is awarded the CD.

⁵ An interesting group showing what a small world it really is (and not only in Disneyland). Major Dave Buck served in the Canadian Forces as an Ordnance Officer and served on the Cambodian Mines Countermeasures operation. When Ben Roth became the commanding officer of 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance, of which I was then the Honorary Colonel, I noticed Ben wore the UN SSM and it was for Cambodia. I asked if he knew Dave – Dave had replaced him. They only met once but here they were, worlds apart but with a military connection. Dave was working in Ottawa at a dreaded desk job and the New Zealand military Attaché was talking to him and told him New Zealand needed ordnance officers and off he went – and spent long enough to receive the New Zealand Armed Forces Award (2nd medal). He has since this photo received the New Zealand Service Medal.

THE NEW ZEALAND ARMY LONG SERVICE and GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL



A circular, silver medal, bearing on the obverse the Crowned Effigy of the Sovereign, and on the reverse the inscription 'FOR LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT' and shall be attached to an ornamental title bar bearing the words 'NEW ZEALAND' in raised letters. Those eligible for the medal shall be soldiers of the Regular Force of the New Zealand Army, whose character and conduct have been irreproachable and who are recommended by their commanding officer. The qualifying period is 15 years full-time service; a Clasp is awarded for each additional 15 year period. The medal is worn from the left breast suspended from a ribbon, 32-mm in width, of crimson edged white. Officers may receive this medal as long as they have 12 years in the ranks. Services in a Commonwealth Army may be counted as long as that service has not been recognized with a long service award.

THE EFFICIENCY DECORATION (ED) and EFFICIENCY MEDAL



These are still awarded to Reserve Officers (ED), Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the New Zealand Auxiliary Forces (navy, army and air force). They are identical to the ones described under Canadian Medals except the **ED** has a **bar NEW ZEALAND** at the top and the **EM** has **NEW ZEALAND** on the scroll mounting bar. Twelve years of service is required for the award.

NEW ZEALAND SERVICE MEDAL

In 2009, the New Zealand government undertook a public consultation on the need for this medal.

The intent of the proposed NZDF Medal would be to recognize the unique requirements of military service. These requirements include:

- commitment to service of the Crown (represented by an oath / affirmation of allegiance),
- liability for operational service subject to military discipline and lifestyle,
- and imposed constraints on employment conditions and personal freedoms.



TERMS

Regular Force (Navy, Army and Air Force) personnel:

Three years of service in the New Zealand military after 3 September 1945, or completion of initial engagement which began after 3 September 1945. The three years can be accumulated and do not need to be continuous.

Note: Service after 3 September 1945 while enlisted in an Expeditionary Force (2NZE, J Force or K Force) will be counted as Regular Force service for the purposes of the New Zealand Defence Service Medal. Time served in New Zealand before and after deployment overseas may be counted towards the required qualifying time for the medal (as long as the time served in New Zealand was after 3 September 1945).

Territorial Forces (Navy, Army and Air Force) personnel:

Three years 'efficient' service in the New Zealand Military, or completion of initial engagement, after 3 September 1945. The three years can be accumulated and do not need to be continuous.

Notes

1. E.g. a person who was efficient in Training Years 1 and 2, not efficient in Training Years 3 and 4, and efficient in Training Year 5 would qualify for the medal in Training Year 5. You will need to have been deemed 'efficient' by your unit(s) for a minimum of three separate Training Years to qualify for the medal.

2. Territorial Forces is the legal name (as defined in the Defence Act 1990 and earlier legislation) encompassing the Navy, Army and Air Force part-time service components. The Defence Act 1990 states that "Territorial Forces means the Royal New Zealand Naval Reserve, the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve, the Territorial Force of the New Zealand Army, and the Territorial Air Force collectively."

Compulsory Military Training (CMT) (Navy, Army and Air Force)
Completion of their obligations under the Military Training Act 1949 and Amendments.

For National Service (Navy, Army and Air Force) personnel:
Completion of obligations under the National Military Service Act 1961 and Amendments.

Members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force who completed 12 months service or their obligations for service in Japan would also qualify. Similarly the 12 months or more of military service in New Zealand or overseas by Second World War personnel still serving on or after 3 September 1946 would qualify these personnel for the award of the New Zealand Defence Service Medal.

Service in categories a. to d. above can be accumulated, if required, to reach a total of three years qualifying service for award of the medal.

In **special cases** certain shorter periods of service will also qualify for the award when there are deserving circumstances. For example, when a service person:

- 1) Dies while in service;
- 2) Is medically discharged due to a total and permanent disability, before completing three years of service;
- 3) Is medically discharged for any other reason after completion of 12 months service.
- 4) Was discharged through no fault of their own when their service was no longer required as a member of the Armed Forces.

THE NEW ZEALAND 1990 COMMEMORATION MEDAL



Instituted by The Queen by Royal Warrant dated on 9 February 1990. The medal was awarded only during 1990 to 3,632 selected persons in recognition of the contribution they had made to some aspect of New Zealand life, especially the various 1990 celebrations. The medal was struck in bronze-gilt metal.

DESCRIPTION

A circular gilt medal, the Obverse bears the contemporary crowned image of the Queen with the words around the circumference: QUEEN OF NEW ZEALAND ELIZABETH II. The reverse bears the official 1990 symbol, a kotuku, white heron, designed by Fred Graham and Roy Good. The medal was accompanied by a certificate bearing the signatures of The Queen, Governor-General and Prime Minister.



HRH The Duke of Cornwall (Prince Charles) and HRH the Princess Royal (right) wear the Queen's Service Order and the New Zealand 1990 Commemorative Medals. HRH the Duke of York and HRH the Earl of Wessex, both wearing their Colonel Commandant uniforms of the Canadian Forces, wear the New Zealand 1990 Commemorative Medal.