



OTAGO MOUNTED RIFLES

Historical Trust

Patron

Mr Julian Smith, O.B.E., Honorary Colonel, 4th Otago-Southland Battalion.

To all friends of the Regiment

Almost 150 years after the formation of the Otago Mounted Rifles, it is now time to record and celebrate the history and heritage of the Regiment. Shortly, a team of historians and military experts will commence the compilation of a unit history, which will tell the story of the Otago Mounted Rifles from its inception in 1864 through to final disbandment in the 1950s, and the enduring historical legacy of the Regiment today within Otago and Southland.

Extensive research will be undertaken in archives, museums and private collections during 2009, after which the contributors will complete the text and appendices. The editors, Dr Don Mackay and Dr Aaron Fox, intend that the book will be launched in April 2010, ninety-five years after the Otago Mounted Rifles Regiment first went into action at Gallipoli.

The project can only be completed with the support of the families of Otago Mounted Rifles veterans. Public repositories hold a limited amount of letters and diaries, so it is essential that the public be canvassed in order to locate any additional historical material which can be utilised to complete the historical record. Letters, diaries, photographs and other ephemera can either be copied or, if donated, held by an appropriate archive or museum for the benefit of future generations of military scholars.

In order to accomplish these goals, an historical trust has been established to oversee the funding of the costs of research and writing, and expenses incurred in connection with the mobile Otago Mounted Rifles display which will tour museums and other locations throughout Otago and Southland in 2009 to help publicise the project.

The first official function of the historical trust is the official launch of the project which is scheduled for 7.00 pm, Tuesday 4 November 2008 at *The Wine Cellars Bar...* the very date and venue where the Otago Hussars first convened in 1864. Brief presentations will be made on the origins and design of the book, an outline of the OMR Historical Trust and the plans for the mobile Otago Mounted Rifles display. The Patron of the OMR Historical Trust, Julian Smith, will conclude the formal proceedings, which will be followed by complimentary refreshments and finger food. Photographs of the event will be taken for inclusion in a feature article for the Saturday 8 November edition of the *Otago Daily Times*.

Please treat this newsletter as a formal invitation to the 4 November function.

RSVP by 31 October to Don Mackay, (03)2025777, or donmackay@woosh.co.nz

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