



CHAPTER THIRTEEN  
ASSOCIATION BADGES

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## ASSOCIATION BADGES

### 13.1 Introduction

An RSA Returned or Service Member is instantly recognised by the distinctive silver badge worn on the right lapel of his or her coat.

Neither wealth, influence nor social standing can purchase the Badge which may be worn with honour only by those who are eligible for membership in accordance with the **First or Second Schedule of RNZRSA Rules.**

The RNZRSA Badge is the official Badge of the Association. It is registered, legally protected and manufactured only by the authority of the RNZRSA President's Forum. The Badge is issued to "Returned or Service" members only through local RSAs and always remains the property of the RNZRSA. Individual members who allow their Badges to pass out of their control forfeit their right to it, but a deceased member's relations may at the discretion of a local RSA retain but not wear the Badge.

This Section sets out information concerning the official Badge and other badges that have been approved for use by Returned, Service, and Associate members by the National Council or the RNZRSA President's Forum.

### 13.2 RNZRSA Badge

The Badge is registered and protected under Section 4 of the Military Decorations and Distinctive Badges Act 1918, the Returned Services Association Badge Order promulgated as Order in Council No. 65 11 October 1950, as amended. New Zealand Gazette page 1870, and is trademarked.

The definition of the Badge contained in the First Schedule of the Order in Council (as amended) states:

"A badge consisting of an oblong bar bearing the word "RETURNED AND SERVICES" and surmounted by a crown between the letters "N" and "Z" and surmounting a segment of a circle bearing the word "Association".

A drawing of the Badge is attached as Appendix 1.

#### 13.2.1 Wearing of the Badge

By resolution of the first Conference of the Royal New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association the badge is to be worn on the right lapel (29.7.1916).

#### 13.2.2 Conditions of Issue of Badge

The conditions that govern the Badge are laid down in **Rules 71 and 72 of RNZRSA Rules.** Some of the conditions have been mentioned in the Introduction to this Section. Other important points about the Badge are now set out for guidance of local RSAs.

The Badge being the property of the RNZRSA is supplied only on requisition from the Chief Executive but the issue of the Badge to a new member (or a replacement issue) is the responsibility of the local RSA.

Associations must obtain a receipt for all badges issued. A suggested wording for a receipt is:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RECEIPT FOR BADGE</b></p> <p>Received from the Royal New Zealand Returned And Services Association a Badge which I acknowledge as the property of the Association and as returnable on demand made by the Association in writing and sent by ordinary post to my address if and when I am no longer a member of the said local Association.</p> <p>Signed: _____</p>
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The signing of such receipt is essential if at any time the return of the Badge of any member should be demanded.

Every local RSA must ensure that its rules make provision for the Secretary or any elected member of the Executive Committee to have the authority to call upon the wearer of the Badge to produce evidence of his entitlement to wear it. Standard Rules issued by the RNZRSA President's Forum cover this point under **Rules 71 and 72 of RNZRSA Rules**.

### **18.2.3 Recovery of the Badge**

Mention has been made elsewhere in the **Manual (Chapter 6)** of the legal requirement to lay down the modes by which a person becomes a member of the RSA and ceases to be a member.

A person ceases to be a member through - non-payment of subscription or by resignation or expulsion. When any of these events occur, the local RSA is obliged to do all in its power to secure the return to RNZRSA of the Badge of any individual member.

The procedure an Executive Committee should follow is:

- Direct the Secretary of the local RSA to communicate in writing by formal letter with the person concerned requesting the return to that Officer of the Badge issued to him, within 10 days.
- If after the tenth day the Badge is not returned the Secretary should be directed to communicate again in writing, by formal letter with the person concerned intimating that legal action will be taken for its recovery unless the Badge issued to him is in the hands of that Officer within 10 days.
- In each of the letters the Secretary should mention that the RNZRSA Badge is registered and protected by statute and trademark and is the property of the RNZRSA (Inc.).

- If in the opinion of RNZRSA's legal advisor(s), the authority to prosecute should be exercised by RNZRSA as owner of the Badge, then full details of the case will be required by the Chief Executive including the person's full name, service number, the reasons for cessation of membership and the steps taken to recover the Badge. After consideration, authority will be supplied by special resolution of the RNZRSA President's Forum to which the Common Seal of the Association will be affixed.
- On recovery, the Badge should be returned forthwith to the Chief Executive.

#### **13.2.4 Reissue of Badges**

A Badge will be, subject to payment of a fee, reissued, if it is lost, stolen or destroyed. The fee charged for the reissued Badge is determined by the RNZRSA President's Forum from time to time.

The member concerned must apply in writing to the local RSA Secretary for reissue of the Badge setting out:

- When the Badge was last in possession and declaring its loss.
- That at no time was the Badge handed over to any person for safe custody or any purpose whatsoever.
- That if the Badge is recovered the member will return it to the local RSA Secretary forthwith.

The cost of the replacement Badge is to be borne by the member concerned, but this payment does not confer ownership of the Badge on that member.

### **13.3 Youth Members Badge**

A specially designed badge for Youth members has been authorised and like other RNZRSA Badges is protected under Trademark.

The definition of the Youth Members Badge is:

"A badge consisting of an eagle with wings outstretched affixed to the shank immediately below the stock of a foul anchor and below the crown of which are two crossed swords between the hilts of which is a curved bar containing the words "RSA Youth Member"."

A drawing of the approved Youth Member badge is attached as [Appendix 3](#).

The Youth Members badge should be worn on the right lapel.

The RNZRSA President's Forum has determined that the same conditions that apply to the ownership, issue, wearing and return of the Returned And Service Member badge shall apply to the Youth Member Badges.

### **13.4 Badges for Meritorious Service**

There are two categories of badges awarded to indicate that the wearer has been recognised for his meritorious service in the RSA movement, namely:

#### **13.4.1 National Awards**

- The first category relates to RNZRSA awards made by the National Council or RNZRSA President's Forum, which are affixed to the RNZRSA Badge.

#### **13.4.2 Local Awards**

- The second category relates to badges, which are awarded by local RSA's or RSA Clubs.

#### **13.4.3 District Long Service Awards**

- The RNZRSA President's Forum has The District 'Long Service Award'. The award is to take the form of a Certificate and a Bar to mark an appropriate number of years served at District Level.

#### **13.4.4 Categories of Recognition (National)**

The RNZRSA Badge (the Badge) forms the base for meritorious service awards at a National level as detailed below:

- Badge in Gold, which confers Life Membership of RNZRSA.
- Gold Medallion which confers Honorary Life membership of RNZRSA.
- The Badge with a Five pointed Gold Star and a gold bar affixed to the bottom curve of the badge.
- The Badge with a five pointed Gold Star, on its own.
- The Badge to which a silver letter "M" has been affixed.

The RNZRSA President's Forum has formulated guidelines to govern the issue of RNZRSA awards for meritorious service. They are included in the manual at [Chapter 5](#).

#### **13.4.5 Categories of Recognition (Local)**

Badges that may be issued by local RSA's or RSA Clubs to their members for meritorious service are Life Membership Badges and Branch Life Membership Badges

The Badges are obtained on request from National Headquarters together with corresponding certificates.

Local RSA's and RSA Clubs must formulate their own criteria for conferring life membership of their own Association and branch and should make provisions for such awards in their Rules. ([Refer Chapter 9, Rule 45 and Chapter 10, Rule 44](#)).

It should be noted that although a member of a local RSA or branch or RSA Club may be granted Life Membership or Branch Life Membership, capitation in respect of such member must still be paid to RNZRSA.

Capitation fees however, for all RSA members who are 90 years of age and over are to be waived, as per the resolution passed at National Council 2007.

#### **13.4.6 Categories of Recognition (District Long Service)**

The Award is to take the form of a Certificate and a Bar to mark the appropriate number of years that an individual has served at a District Level, which has been rendered in an honorary capacity.

The qualifying service should be outstanding in its nature extending above and beyond the duties and responsibilities which apply to every member toward the organisation as a whole.

Nominees are eligible for nomination at 20, 30 and 40 years' service within the District.

When a member has attained 50 years' service, a National Certificate of Appreciation will be awarded.

**APPENDIX 1**



**APPENDIX 2**

