



On Feb 24 2018, New Zealand opened its official war animal memorial at the National Army Museum, Waikouru. It is a spectacular location surround by the Army training grounds and several National parks.

It was a fitting tribute during the centenary of WWI to honour the deeds and sacrifices of New Zealand's war animals. Over 10,000 horses left NZ in WWI only five ever returned. Today the Army and Air Force employ Military Working Dogs (MWD).

The ceremony was attended by around 200 people including the Chief of Army, Representatives from the NZ SPCA, Veterans Affairs and RSA. Animals present at the ceremony were horses, MWDs, pigeons, mules and donkeys.



A tribute was also given by AWAMO to the head of New Zealand's Veterinary Association to honour the Veterinary Corps. This will be placed at Massey University the home of NZ veterinary college.



Amongst the official guests was ex-RAVC W/O Mick Martin who was presented a special trophy by AWAMO President Nigel Allsopp recognizing Mick as the “Father” of NZ MWDs.



Deputy Mayor of Toowoomba City, Artist Susan Bahary and President of AWAMO Nigel Allsopp next to memorial. Behind mounted a NZ and Australian WWI riders,



with Centurion Tank behind them. The animal memorial is out the front of this beautiful museum.



As part of AWAMO charity we always sponsor a local animal cause in the area that we establish a memorial. In NZ AWAMO has donated a \$1000 worth of purple poppy merchandise that will be donated to the Kaimanawa heritage Horse Society to aid the local wild horses around Waiouru. A fitting charity due to the location of the memorial and the wild horses running wild within the Army training area nearby. For more details see: <https://kaimanawaheritagehorses.org/>

