

Part of Our Community



Between June 1942 and October 1944, 15,000 U.S. Marines made Kapiti their home. They were located at Camp Russell (now Queen Elizabeth II Park), Camp Mackay (Whareroa Farm) and Camp Paekakariki (Paekakariki Village). Relics at these sites still exist today.

The Kapiti US Marines Trust (KUSMT) was established in 2009 by former Kapiti Mayor, Jenny Rowan to acknowledge the bond between the Kapiti people and the marines. It represents groups who wish to collect, conserve, exhibit and ensure the history of the US Marines in New Zealand during WWII is never lost.

This year the KUSMT is holding a Memorial Weekend on May 27-28, 2018, and extends a warm welcome to interested visitors.

The event kicks off at 9am from Whareroa Farm on Sunday 27 May with a scenic, hilly run or walk following the march route described by Leon Uris in "Battle Cry".



Other events open to visitors include a dedicated memorial site in Queen Elizabeth Park with a fully restored Marine hut. The hut was restored by the Kapiti Menzshed under instruction from the Trust. Paekakariki Station Museum is hosting an exhibition entitled "Friend in Need".

On Monday 28 May a memorial service dedicated to the nearly half a million U.S. service people who lost their lives in WWII will be conducted at Queen Elizabeth II Park, 10am sharp.

The Trust relies largely on donations and volunteers, and is always looking for both. If you would like more information on the Trust or the Memorial Weekend contact KUSMT administrator Allie Webber, phone 04 905 8594 or email alliewebber@outlook.com Visit the website www.marinenz.com

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