

NAVY

T O D A Y

ON STAGE AT
EDEN PARK

ANZAC DAY

EVOLUTION OF
THE UNIFORM

AOTEAROA'S HOME PORT VISIT



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“Me raupā aku ringa, kia ao aku wawata. My hands need to be calloused if my dreams are to come true.”

~ Trainee Georgia Brouwer, BCT 21/01



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NZDefenceForce

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Front cover:
HMNZS AOTEAROA arrives at her ceremonial home port, New Plymouth.

Photographer:
PO Chris Weissenborn

Back cover:
LT Megan Mashali drums alongside Six60 lead singer Matiu Walters at Eden Park.

Photographer:
CPL Dillon Anderson



New Zealand Government

Yours Aye

Chief of the Navy



“Graduations are a fantastic celebration of our people, just as Anzac Day is a fitting commemoration of those sailors who set such a high bar for us all to aspire to.”

It is May and the days are notably shorter; indeed, it is less than six weeks from the winter solstice and our shortest day. This time of the year also sees Government signaling its investment priorities. Budget 2021 will undoubtedly see a deliberate response to the impacts of the pandemic; the impacts have been significant both internationally and here at home in Aotearoa. How the investment priorities affect the Navy will be discussed in future editions of this magazine. However, day to day, I still expect ships will go to sea, and sailors will continue to contribute to the defence of New Zealand, both at home and abroad.

We will continue to introduce and unlock the modern capabilities resident in our new and upgraded ships. Some of these ships, along with one of our hardest working ships, have already started preparing to deploy offshore. In only a few months, three ships and well over three hundred sailors will be representing New Zealand in South East Asia. Working alongside friends and partners, they will be demonstrating our commitment to the maintenance of international law, maritime security, and the availability of the global maritime commons to all nations for trade and prosperity.

At about the same time those ships will be in oceans and seas to the west, I expect at least one ship will be working with partners in the Pacific to our east. Considering all this maritime activity, along with the over 100 sailors in Canada with HMNZS TE MANA undergoing her upgrade, in the near future I see over 500 sailors, approximately 25 percent of us, serving overseas.

It is clear we will be very busy in our mission ‘to advance New Zealand’s interests from the sea’. And it is also clear sailors will be honing their skills as warriors of the sea... doing what we all joined the Navy to do, serving the nation and going to sea in ships.

Acknowledging the traditional role of Navy sailors as defenders of the oceans, I am also so very proud of our many comrades who are keeping us all safe as they work at the border. The MIQF and MIF staff, NZDF personnel and others, are undoubtedly saving lives and delivering essential time for vaccinating the population. This work is critical, especially in the darker winter months, when our most vulnerable citizens are most at risk. I thank all who have served at our border.

While I am excited as I look ahead a few months to the work we will be doing at sea, I am probably most excited about the newest sailors in Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa who will graduate from initial training early next month. Graduations are a fantastic celebration of our people, just as Anzac Day is a fitting commemoration of those sailors who set such a high bar for us all to aspire to. It is about the people, ‘he tangata’, so please enjoy reading the articles in this magazine that, amongst other things, cover reflections from our newest comrades, Anzac Day and managing a MIQF.

Yours Aye,

He heramana ahau.

Rear Admiral David Proctor
Chief of Navy



NGĀMOTU WELCOMES AOTEAROA

It's the perfect combination – Mt Taranaki in the background and HMNZS AOTEAROA in front, and clearly the people of New Plymouth thought so too. Turn the pages to read about AOTEAROA's welcome to her ceremonial home port over six fabulous days. Reportage by Scott Sargentina, Public Affairs Manager (Navy).





Hello Ngāmotu. We're home!

The welcome that HMNZS AOTEAROA received on her first visit to her home port of New Plymouth in mid-April was certainly warmer and brighter than the conditions.

But the rain and low cloud couldn't obscure the delight on the faces of AOTEAROA's crew as they waved to locals who had gathered on the Lee Breakwater and Ngāmotu beach to see their ship come in.

According to Commanding Officer Captain Simon Rooke, "it's been a long time coming and we're thrilled and proud to be here".

After the commissioning of a new Navy vessel, receiving the Charter from the Mayor of its home port is the most important ceremonial occasion for the ship and her crew. For AOTEAROA, which commissioned in July last year, a number of dates had been pencilled in to visit New Plymouth to receive her Charter. A range of factors including the ship's communications and weapon militarisation programme plus her sea trials in New Zealand and Replenishment at Sea exercises in Australia, meant it was only now that the decks had cleared and allowed her to sail south. The opportunity to combine the home port visit with Anzac commemorations played a significant role in choosing a date in April.

Following her arrival in Port Taranaki on Wednesday 21 April, the crew immediately got down to the important task of training for the Charter ceremony on the Friday. Making sure the Royal New Zealand Navy Band, Guard, Casket Party, Colour Party and Platoons all knew what their roles were became the responsibility of the ship's Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Nikki Fox and Chief Bosun's Mate, Chief Petty Officer Seaman Combat Specialist Taff Morris. After three hours of drilling, command calls and achieving near perfect synchronicity, Nikki and Taff declared the task a success.

"You are now our whānau."

In front of over 500 locals and dignitaries at an event that combined Māoritanga customs with naval tradition, His Worship the Mayor, Neil Holdom, presented AOTEAROA's Charter to CAPT Rooke. In his speech, the Mayor talked about the privilege that had been granted to the City previously by being the home port of HMNZS TARANAKI and HMNZS ENDEAVOUR, and now with AOTEAROA. He finished his address by speaking directly to the Ship's Company.



"The mauri stone taken from the waters of the Waiwhakaiho River that sits at the heart of your vessel, takes the spiritual connection of Taranaki out to the world. We are honoured that you have chosen us to be your home port and the commitment from us is to ensure that the men and women of AOTEAROA realise that this is your home. You are our whānau. We value you and we respect the work you do. On behalf of Ngāmotu – welcome home."

Accepting the Charter, CAPT Rooke said it was something they would cherish and while it was incredibly important as a document, the most important part were the human connections that would be built between the ship and the people of New Plymouth and the wider Taranaki region.



DRUMS BEATING, BAND PLAYING AND COLOURS FLYING

Led by the Royal New Zealand Navy Band, the Ship's Company then conducted the ceremonial Charter Parade along Ariki, Egmont, Devon and Liardet Streets to the warm applause of locals who had attended the event and lined the streets. The Parade arrived back at the Puke Ariki Landing where a Civic Reception was held with a barbecue, entertainment and opportunities for those gathered to mix and mingle with the crew of AOTEAROA.



WELCOME ABOARD

The last formal activity on AOTEAROA'S home port visit was the event seemingly the whole city wanted to be part of – the Ship's Open Day. Sea surges had been anticipated on the scheduled Open Day so it was postponed to Anzac Monday. Before the gates had even opened at 11am, hundreds of New Plymouth residents and out-of-town-ers had gathered to be amongst the first on board to see their new ship. It's not until you get up close to AOTEAROA that you realise just how big she is, and those who toured were amazed at the capability of the vessel. By the time the gates had closed, over 3,000 wide-eyed and open-mouthed tourists had been treated to a good look-through.





LEST WE FORGET

For Anzac Day, the ship sent contingents of sailors to attend Dawn Services in New Plymouth, Waitara, Inglewood and Hāwera. They were humbled by the numbers who turned out to remember those who had fought and fallen, and enjoyed immensely their time in the RSAs after the Services, meeting past and present NZDF personnel and swapping stories. Contingents also attended the 10am Civic Services in New Plymouth, Urenui and Okato.



HAERE RĀ NEW PLYMOUTH

The motto of AOTEAROA is Kokiritia (Onward) and so it was that the ship sailed to prepare for future operational taskings. The memory of their time in Ngāmotu New Plymouth will live long in the memories of the crew who got to enjoy what few sailors do – the first ceremonial home port visit. They now look forward to their return.



New Plymouth Veteran enjoys visit

World War 2 veteran Trevor Watson, 93, says the Army and Air Force never held much appeal for him. When he joined up, it was always going to be Navy.



The former HMNZS ACHILLES sailor and Taranaki local was given a special visit to HMNZS AOTEAROA during the ship's ceremonial port visit to New Plymouth last month. The ship flew signal flags spelling "Trevor", a nod to his signalman trade.

"I joined the Royal New Zealand Navy on 30 August 1944, aged 16 and 3/4," he says. "In those days you could join at 15 years and three months as a seaman boy."

He trained at HMNZS TAMAKI on Motuihe Island and was posted to ACHILLES, but by the time he

sailed out in her in September 1945, the war was over. ACHILLES made her way to Tokyo Bay, Japan, arriving there on 6 October to relieve cruiser HMNZS GAMBIA.

When asked about missing combat, it's not an issue. "I never gave it much thought," he says. "For about three or four months we visited Yokohama, Sasebo, Kagoshima, Nagoya and Nagasaki." Seeing the devastation wrought on Nagasaki by the second atomic bomb remains a powerful memory for him.

Mr Watson was among just over 200 sailors who marched out of HMNZS PHILOMEL on 1 April 1947, declaring a strike over pay and the perception that new pay scales would not be backdated over the year they felt was owed to them. This action was legally a mutiny and the sailors were given a choice: return to duty and accept the consequences, or accept a discharge from service. 187 sailors were discharged, Mr Watson among them.

Above: Trevor Watson with POCWS Rhys Davis and ACWS Morgan Tume, holding an oil painting of HMNZS ACHILLES.



He told *Navy Today* it “was the worst decision of his life” to get involved in the mutiny, which tipped him out of the Navy. “I consider the 1 April ‘strike’ was very poorly handled by the government of the day. We had been promised a wage rise from 1 April 1946 and by 1 April 1947 this still had not happened.” History records that on the night of 1 April 1947, Prime Minister Peter Fraser announced the new pay would be backdated, but whether this was a concession or had been left out of his original announcement is not known.

Mr Watson, married to Ann, lived in Tauranga for six years then moved to New Plymouth to be closer to family. “I was a milkman for 25 years and I consider it was the physical work involved that helped me get to 93. The last 10 years of my working life we had eight overseas trips – Japan (back after 40 years), Hong Kong, Singapore, Europe, Australia and the Islands.”

In thinking on his time in the Navy, his best experiences were the life-long friends made, and being in Hong Kong in February 1946 for the Chinese New Year. “It was the first New Year celebration since the Japanese invasion.”

Above: Trevor Watson and his sister Margaret.

Right: Signal flags fly from HMNZS AOTEAROA, spelling “Trevor” in honour of his visit.





Anzac Day

Opposite Page, clockwise from left: Dawn service at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington.

Trainees from the Junior Officer Common Training and Basic Common Training 21/01 courses march through Devonport for Anzac Day.

Deputy Chief of Navy CDRE Melissa Ross attends an Anzac Service in her hometown of Kawerau.

ALSS Brooke Pullar supports a veteran during Hawera's dawn service.

CPOLSS Kim Gourlay marches in front of veterans and supporters past the Hawera RSA.

Poppies placed on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

UK Defence Advisers and UK-based RNZN personnel at the Westminster Abbey Anzac Day service in London.

Taranaki local proud to showcase ship

■ **By Scott Sargentina**
Public Affairs Manager (Navy)

You can take the sailor out of Taranaki - But you can't take Taranaki out of the sailor!

When HMNZS AOTEAROA sailed into New Plymouth last month on her first ceremonial home port visit, no-one amongst the ship's company was more excited than Ordinary Logistics Supply Specialist Steven Wereta.

OLSS Wereta is the only sailor on AOTEAROA born and bred in Taranaki and couldn't contain his joy when the ship rounded the Lee Breakwater and reversed into her berth at Port Taranaki.

"I'm pretty amped," he said to local media who were on the ship for its port entry. "This has been a dream of mine ever since being posted to HMNZS AOTEAROA last year – being able to sail with the ship into her home port and my home province."

OLSS Wereta (Ngāti Ruanui) is a very proud Hāwera boy who joined the Navy three years ago straight out of Hāwera High. "I love Hāwera but I needed to go out and see what else the world had to offer and I thought joining the Navy would allow me to do that."

There's a story his family still laugh about that possibly signalled his future career ambitions at an early age. It's recalled that on his first day at primary school he stood up in front of the class and announced "I am the Commander".

The more you talk to him, the more impressed you are with his passion for the Navy, his ship and his shipmates.

On AOTEROA's visit to New Plymouth he was keen to show his shipmates just how awesome Taranaki is. But he was particularly proud to represent the Navy at Hāwera's Anzac Day Dawn Service which was attended by a good percentage of the town of over 10,000.

In the Hawera RSA afterwards, his parents Darryl and Megan and sister Linaya, spoke of their pride in their son and brother who left town as a boy and returned a sailor.

A Logistics Supply Specialist, Steven works mainly on the distribution side ensuring the ship has everything it needs to sustain the core crew of 64 while on deployment.





NAVY CELEBRATES MARAE'S 21ST BIRTHDAY



Te Tāua Moana Marae has welcomed our sailors for 21 years.

With last year's 20th commemorations disrupted by COVID lockdowns, Te Tāua Moana Marae saved the moment for its 21st birthday, culminating in a four-day celebration from 15 to 18 April.

The birthday was a chance to reconnect with those who helped with the marae's journey to date, reflect on those who have passed, celebrate how far the Navy has come and recognise the importance of continuing the journey for the next generation of sailors. The first pōwhiri, on 15 April, was to welcome Kiingi Tūheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII (the Māori King) and his party to the marae. Following speeches and protocol, Whenua McGarvey, the first marae manager, and Deputy Chief of Navy Commodore Melissa Ross cut the birthday cake.





The celebration included a pōwhiri for the people on Saturday, followed by 'pa wars', the Joe Hilton Touch Tournament. A Kapa Haka festival followed, featuring performers from across the Defence Force, and an evening function at Ngataranga Sports Complex. The weekend concluded with a church service at the marae on Sunday.

Marae manager Chief Petty Officer Seaman Combat Specialist Ngahiwi Walker says a particularly moving event was the Kawe Mate, when whānau whānui (extended family) members of sailors come to the marae with photographs of their recently departed loved ones. "That was huge," he says. Other stand-outs for him were having the Chief of Navy and Deputy Chief of Navy staying for the duration of the anniversary, and "just the sheer amount of people that came to the marae to partake in the ceremony".

"The anniversary went through at a nice pace," he says. "The Māori King really enjoyed the pōwhiri on Thursday and the official function at the Navy Museum."



Twenty-one years ago, on 15 April 2000, the Māori Queen Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikāhu (the mother of the current King), opened the marae. In the mid-nineties two buildings (the wharenui – Te Whetu Moana and the wharekai – Hinemoana) were placed on the site at Ngataranga Bay, but behind that moment were decades of gatherings, celebrations, funerals and Iwi Hēramana Hui, all highlighting the dream for a future Navy marae. The need was raised in a Fleet hui in 1984, with the project manager for the new Basic Common Training facilities, Lieutenant Commander Karl Hutton, presenting a concept plan for a marae at Ngataranga.

Today, the marae is honoured as Ngā hau e whā, welcoming all sailors from "the four winds".

Te ohonga ake i te moemoea, ko te puāwaitanga o ngā whakaaro.

Dreams become reality when we take action.

- Navy kaumatua Kairo McLean,
15 April 2000.



Covid in Canada

A small COVID outbreak among the Royal New Zealand Navy personnel in Canada in April temporarily suspended work on HMNZS TE MANA's Frigate Systems Upgrade.

The outbreak occurred in one of the RNZN's accommodation buildings, 12km from Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, which houses Navy personnel and their families. By April 15 there were 13 active cases of COVID-19, among six Navy personnel and six family members. It meant 46 people in total went into isolation.

Commander Mike Peebles, Commanding Officer of HMNZS TE MANA, says all cases were showing mild symptoms and by 23 April most had recovered, with only one remaining active case and five persons, including family members, remaining in isolation.

"Work on the FSU project was suspended for a period but the delay while we controlled the situation is able to be contained within the current schedule for the project."

He acknowledged the "significant" support of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Armed Forces who have embraced the New Zealand personnel as their own. "They, and local health authorities, ensured that those of our people affected had everything they needed to make a full recovery."

By May all personnel had recovered. Vaccinations of RNZN personnel and families took place in May, with second doses due in June.

Victoria, Canada, reported just over 1,000 daily cases of COVID-19 on 22 April. On Vancouver Island, there were 307 active cases as of 22 April.

In total, over a year to April, the NZDF have had approximately 50 positive COVID-19 cases returned for uniformed personnel who have been overseas.





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10



13

Our People

1. CPOHLM Zach Taylor, No. 6 Squadron, is promoted to Sub Lieutenant.

2. The Minister of Defence, Peeni Henare, visits Te Taau Moana Marae.

3. The State Memorial Service for HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul. Georgia Roy, Chelsea Summers, and CPOWTR Monique Jellick light candles.

4. CPOWT Dwayne Williams meets Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern during the Poppy Day Appeal in Devonport.

5. New Zealand Defence Force musicians give a shout out during rehearsals for their performance at the Six60 concert at Eden Park.

6. CAPT Simon Rooke, CO of HMNZS AOTEAROA, holds a model of New Zealand schooner Huia. AOTEAROA delivered the donated model from Australia to the Huia Settlers Museum in Auckland.

7. RADM David Proctor, Chief of Navy, with Vietnam veteran Chris Mullane, takes part in the Poppy Day appeal in Devonport.

8. Basic Common Trainees OCWS Cameron Wright (left) and OMT Brodie Williamson work on a research task at the Navy Museum.

9. Deputy Chief of Navy, CDRE Melissa Ross, with WOCH Wayne Mitchell, collects for Poppy Day at Devonport Ferry Terminal.

10. OMUS Natalie Williams (foreground) plays with the Navy Band during the Poppy Day appeal in Devonport. This was her last engagement before starting work at a Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facility.

11. Out and about in Devonport for Poppy Day. From left, CDR Phil Wheadon, CO HMNZS PHILOMEL, with TS LEANDER CDTUT (Cadet Under Training) Gabrielle Warner, OCDT Jade Phang-Hamlin, LEANDER XO ENS Tymon Porter and Vietnam veteran Chris Mullane.

12. SLT Shannen McErlain collects for Poppy Day in Wellington.

13. BCT 21/01, including OET Alesha Martin (front), stand ready to parade for Devonport's Anzac Day service.



SHARING WITH SIX60

The Royal New Zealand Navy were part of a history-making moment as Kiwi music icons Six60 became the first band to headline a concert at Eden Park last month.

The sold-out event on 24 April, attracting 50,000 concert-goers, included an Anzac tribute on stage with musicians from the New Zealand Defence Force.

The Defence input was all the more remarkable because, with the Navy, Army and Air Force bands committed across New Zealand for Anzac commitments, musicians were sourced from the Navy and Air Force Reserves, as well as drummers from the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Warrant Officer Communications Warfare Specialist Darren Crosby, Command Warrant Officer at Devonport Naval Base, says the band wanted to show their appreciation to the New Zealand Defence Force for their work at the borders against COVID-19.

"At some point they had gone through a Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facility, where the majority of staff was Navy. Later, they reached



out to us, saying they wanted to show their gratitude on behalf of the public by playing a concert at Devonport Naval Base. They're really humble, down-to-earth people, and blended in well with our people who put on a great reception for them during the base concert."

That happened in December, but there was more to come. A month before the Eden Park concert, the band got in touch with WOCWS Crosby again. "'We've got a gig coming up,' they said. 'Have you got people with drum and horn skill sets, to share the stage with us?'"



WOCWS Crosby found around 25 musicians from the Navy and Air Force Reserves, plus Regular Navy personnel who were also training as drummers.

The team worked hard, rehearsing and pre-recording portions of their music, and attended a dress rehearsal to iron out the 'look'. They were initially going to be placed on a catwalk, but in the end everyone agreed the main stage worked best.

"It was amazing on the night, in front of 50,000 people, and streamed to thousands more" says WOCWS Crosby. "The team delivered. They looked fantastic on stage, they were having a lot of fun at the same time and I'm really proud of them all. It was great to see the transition of the military image that everyone expects of the uniform to someone that is able to really enjoy the moment, lose themselves in the moment and having a lot of fun speaks volumes to those considering the NZDF as a career option.

"It's also about the opportunity to place the NZDF into different areas of society that we wouldn't ordinarily feature locally and globally.

"A big 'shout out' must also go to Six60 and their production crews for the invitation and for the wonderful hospitality throughout the planning, rehearsing and the concert itself. On behalf of the NZDF we wish them every success on their upcoming Australian tour."

Lieutenant Megan Mashali, a musician who commissioned from the ranks, coordinated the drummers. "It was a really cool experience, a very energetic atmosphere. We started with a military drum beat, which fitted really nicely with their song *Fade Away*. We stayed quite regimental for that, then with their next song, *White Lines*, we relaxed, and got dancing on the stage."

Able Seaman Combat Specialist Mikayla Moore, drummer, said she was speechless when she was first told what the project was. "I was jumping around. I had no words." It was 'crazy' on the night, she says. "You could really feel the energy, the atmosphere. You just can't explain these moments. We had a little karakia before we went on, just to settle our nerves. But once we got up there, we were so in the zone. Everything worked out perfectly."



TIME FOR A SEA CHANGE

There's more than a bit of bounce and spray involved when the Experiential Leadership Squadron take Basic Common Trainees out to sea.

As part of the 16-week Basic Common Training course, the trainees spend four days at sea in one of the Navy's Chico 40, 12-metre yachts, Manga II, Mako II or Paea II. With six recruits and two crew to a yacht, it's an experience of team-building, endurance and building interpersonal relationships while living and working in a confined space.

The squadron's coxswain, Sergeant Richard Hughes, says the four days are part of the recruits' 'Lead Self' leadership journey. "They're on board for four days, living together, sailing together and cooking their own meals. That's a pretty difficult thing in itself, cooking for eight people in a galley about the size of a portaloo."

Many of the BCTs have never experienced a yacht before, and the photos show a reasonable amount of wind and chop as the recruits practice their core mariner skills. "Yeah, in those pictures it was about 30 knots. We were going past Rotoroa Island, down the end of Waiheke Island. We popped out into the roughers for a bit, and then brought them back in when they were looking a bit green. It's



about taking them out of their comfort zone and reinforcing those mariner skills in an experiential learning environment. It's their first experience of a naval vessel."

They are a bit nervous at first, he says. "When we turn the engine off and get a lean on, there's a few white knuckles, fingers digging in. They get scared we're going to tip over in the wind, but that soon disappears. It's all controlled, and we have systems to keep our people safe. Day one, they know nothing. By day four, they're sailing the yacht back to Devonport. That's a big thing, for a bunch of 18 to 19 year olds, to handle a forty-foot ocean-going yacht."



The crew run group and self-reflection sessions on the final day with the recruits. "We want to reflect on their Lead Self behaviours after they have spent time in a challenging and unfamiliar environment. They talk afterwards about how they felt about it, to develop a bit of self-awareness of their behaviours."

The yachts, Manga II, Mako II and Paea II, are great pieces of kit, he says. "They're 30 years old and looked after extremely well. It's all manual systems – no flash stuff – and that keeps people busy. The yachts have sailed as far as Australia and Fiji as well as numerous circumnavigations of New Zealand."

It's not just about experience and team-building for recruits. The staff provide Experiential Leadership Development Activities (ELDAs) across all levels of leadership development.

Anyone in the New Zealand Defence Force can apply to qualify for their mates' or skippers' qualifications through the Squadron. "We're always looking for mates and skippers," says SGT Hughes. "We've just qualified Ordinary Diver Dylan MacDonald as our first Ordinary Rate skipper. He's only 20, and he's in command of a 40-foot ocean-going yacht. That is a significant achievement and he assumes a great amount of

responsibility. We're just about to qualify our first ever female Ordinary Rate as a skipper as well."

Sailing enthusiasts within the New Zealand Defence Force are able to crew with the staff to compete in high-pressure sailing environments using the Chicos. In February, a team of nine staff from the Squadron represented the Navy at New Zealand's largest annual regatta, the Bay of Islands sailing week. The passage to and from regattas is used for taskbook and qualification assessments, a welcome change from the normal operating area of the Hauraki Gulf, says SGT Hughes.

"The Sail Training Craft provide an opportunity to conduct experiential leadership training in a uniquely maritime environment. They are an excellent platform to support and strengthen the leadership journey of today's military leaders. Over the years they have proven to be an easily deployable, agile and flexible maritime platform and continue to serve the New Zealand Defence Force with pride."

Tomorrow is a new day

BCT 21/01 Trainee Georgia Brouwer, Achilles Division, reflects on seven weeks of training in a speech to her parents and her classmates' families during the family Church Service last month.

My dad, an ex-pusser, told me before I joined to find those things that resonate with me, even if they don't make sense. He said that eventually, they will.

*Ka to te rā,
he rangi ano apopo.*

This whakataukī, or Māori proverb, is a reflection of the last seven weeks for me. The sun has set, tomorrow is a new day. A reminder for me that A: I will get some sleep at some point but really we stay up for another two hours after that (yes I am talking about Shakedown) and B: The hardship, the struggle, the pain will in fact see its end even if we have to run the bullring four times in order to do so.

Being a kid who was brought up on the marae, coming here isn't much different to that. The instructors are like the aunties and uncles of the pa who growl you for playing around in the wharehau or the mattress room, then give you all 10 kilograms of the onions to peel and cut for a "learning opportunity". I knew I was tasked that job for a reason.

My class instructor Leader Smith – and in the beginning of training Leader Ruri – will know that my reflective journal consists of a weekly whakataukī explaining in a small sentence how the week went for me. That, dad, was what resonated for me. From day one it has been clear to us that we need our oppos in order to complete this training. Ensuring our communal messdecks are squared away, our rig is correctly ironed, boots properly polished, on top of all of the other things we are currently undergoing through training.

*Tū Ngātahi Ka Tu,
Tu Wehewehe Ka Hinga.*

United we stand, divided we fall. Whakataukī of week 2. Working as a team in this environment, experiencing all of the highs and the lows is crucial, something we are learning on the job.

There are times where we don't work as a team. More often than not, we are faced with a remedial to add some "learning opportunities" into our training. Change parade: having to run out on to the small parade ground with your PT shoe on your left foot, magnum boot on your right, the adequate socks to match those shoes as well. Wet weather trousers, polar fleece on top and your seaman's cap placed nice and tidily on your head. That, whānau and friends, is what we call character-building.

I was told that my time here is going to blur into one and that e hoa ma is true. I promise you, mum, that the last seven weeks have been the fastest of my life. As I said at the pōwhiri, a time we all have been waiting for.

*Me raupā aku ringa,
kia ao aku wawata.*

My hands need to be calloused if my dreams are to come true. Whakataukī of week 3.



It's easy for us to tell you all here today that the last seven weeks have been amazing, but the last seven weeks have been a challenge. A place so foreign to what we came from, only for it to over time become second nature for all 75 of us.

Wakey wakey at 0515, scrum at 0600, cleaning rounds at 0700, just like that the day has begun and we've already been up for two hours. Only 13 more hours until lights out. I don't think I'll ever be able to sleep in again, dad, you'll be happy about that one.

Hei whakakapinga, to keep this short and sweet like me. As we progress more through training, I realise that embracing the discomfort and turning it into normality will be the thing that resonates as I'm sure we're all starting to learn, there is a method to the madness. A madness that is carefully articulated, planned and set up for us all to be here right now.

He kai kei aku ringa.

The food in my hands is plentiful, eat it. BCT 21/01, I finish with whakataukī of week five. Something for us all to resonate with in times of need to remind us of that cup that is half full, to celebrate all of the highs and the lows, to cheer for one another and to most importantly, never look down in parade because there are unfortunately no mince and cheese pies there for us to eat.

BCT 21/01, he kai kei aku ringa. E KAI!

Pointed in the right direction

Casey Namana describes himself as having no direction as an unemployed teenager. He walked through the Devonport Naval Base gates in September 2012 and doesn't plan on leaving.

That big step forward has led him up the ranks in Navy engineering, including his recent promotion to Acting Petty Officer Marine Technician (Propulsion) while serving on board frigate HMNZS TE MANA.

Born and raised in Whangārei, he attended Whangārei Boys' High School and at six feet five inches tall found a love for basketball. It was a passion that was competing with his motivation to find an apprenticeship when his school years were over. "I didn't look into it very hard after finishing school," he says. "I wanted to be an electrician like my best mate's old man but I just wanted to play basketball."

His cousin and mother suggested the Navy, and he went on a course called Fitting the Bill at People Potential in Kensington, Whangārei. "It was designed to get people ready to do Defence Force and police testing. They helped me get my NCEA Level 3 and complete my testing for the Defence Force."

Before his testing, he did a Limited Service Volunteer course in Hobsonville, Auckland, to see if a Defence Force environment was for him. The six-week course, run by the New Zealand Defence Force, is for unemployed 18 to 24 year olds who are not in study or training. It teaches teamwork, job skills and life skills, with a high emphasis on fitness and activities.

"A big shout out to my Platoon Sergeant, Petty Officer Youth Development Specialist Te-Huki McDonald. He's still there at the Youth Development Unit today, helping people like me who had no direction,

choose a life path. He told me what the Navy was like. It sounded better than stacking shelves."

A/POMT(P) Namana chose Marine Technician as his trade. "It sounded similar being in the trades like the majority of my family. I like being a 'stoker' because the engineering side of the job is really enjoyable. I get a lot of satisfaction when something breaks and you get in there and fix it."

He's served on and off sister frigate HMNZS TE KAHA since 2014, and considers 2015 one of the high points of his career. "Our ship was part of Combined Task Force 150, involved in counter-narcotics operations in the Indian Ocean. Being part of the boarding parties was amazing. The whole trip was everything you would want from an operational deployment around the world."

He helped bring TE KAHA to Esquimalt, Canada, in 2018 for her Frigate Systems Upgrade. It's now TE MANA's turn, which means he's been in Esquimalt on and off for 21 months. "This is my fourth stint in Canada and it is definitely different to the other pre-COVID times I was here. It's a big adjustment from New Zealand and the only thing making it bearable is the crew and your mates."

His advice to others, if they are interested in a Defence Force career, is to message the Defence Careers website and see what is out there. "Even if you're not interested and want a life change that's out of your comfort zone, stay a few years and decide if you want to continue. There's plenty of opportunities in the Navy if you apply yourself. It's not just a job – it's a lifestyle."





THE WORKING UNIFORM

From its introduction in the 1850s, the naval uniform for ratings has in many ways remained the same, and if you compare a rating from the 19th century to our sailors today, they are very similar. The impact of the First and Second World Wars meant the uniforms of the Royal Navy were closely followed in the Commonwealth.

But, as the Navy has become more technical, the major change has been the introduction of the “working rig”. Today, while the formal rig still distinguishes between officers, senior rates and junior rates, our sailors and officers now share a single uniform as a working rig.

ACTION WORKING DRESS (post war to 1997)

Action Working Dress (AWD) for both sailors and officers consisted of light blue short-sleeved or long-sleeved shirt and dark blue trousers or shorts, with knee-high black socks and black shoes.

In what would seem fraught by today's health and safety standards, open-toed plastic sandals were the popular choice of footwear for shipboard life. The fondness for the once-ubiquitous sandals – known as “Kaydees” or “plackies” has meant they are something of a collector's item today.

Warrant Officer Medic Mike Wiig remembers them well. “Kaydees was the manufacturer, so that was what they were called. We used to live in them, 90 per cent of the time. Even in the Southern Ocean, freezing cold, you'd be out there in your sandals. You could use pop rivets to repair them, and you used a soldering iron to burn your name on them. It meant you could get your feet out of your socks, and let them breathe. As a medic, I rarely treated crush injuries to the feet.”

Ships began to introduce ball caps around the same time as AWDs, which then evolved into the release of a Whole of Navy cap. “Like a cap tally, the ball cap was an identifier. You were proud to show your unit, and you usually had your nickname on the back, which assisted in seeing who was in front of you.” There was also a release of a “hideous” light blue safari hat, he says, the precursor to today's sun hat.



Clockwise from left: American country music singer Charley Pride visits HMNZS OTAGO in Hawaii, 14 February 1980. Action Working Dress and ‘Kaydees’ sandals are in evidence, and note the lack of rank slide for Ordinary and Able Rates.

*Photo: Navy Museum
Ref. GN 80 00278 01.*

An appreciation of the colour of AWDs in this uncaptioned image from 1990.

The famous sandals called Kaydees, worn up to the late nineties.

GENERAL PURPOSE SEAGOING COVERALLS (1997 to 2007)

The Royal Australian Navy were first to introduce grey combat coveralls with the advent of the first Gulf War (1990–91). They were coveted by Royal New Zealand Navy sailors and there are apocryphal stories of RAN coveralls being “acquired” if the opportunity arose.

In 1997, the RNZN introduced their 100 percent grey cotton coveralls, largely based on the Australian look. The material was called kermel, offering a fire-retardant protection that would in theory remain even after the rigours of washing. They were first trialled in HMNZS CANTERBURY and HMNZS TE KAHA before being issued fleetwide, and as late as 1998 both GPSCs and AWDs can be seen in issues of *Navy Today*. At 320gsm (grams per square metre) they were heavy and hot, but sailors liked them.

“We got coveralls when we commissioned HMNZS TE KAHA, and golly, they were good,” says WOMED Wiig. “We thought, these are awesome. It had the right pockets, everything was in the right place. They were great for tools, for pocket torches.”



They were fabulous during seagoing damage control exercises, he says. “You just grabbed them and could get dressed in seconds, even on the run. With a two-piece, you had to find a belt.”

Boarding parties had a dark blue two-piece rig, similar to today’s General Work Dress, and stokers continued to wear blue overalls. Heavy combat boots were now the norm. Sailors weren’t allowed to wear GPSC out on public streets, but could wear them ashore on base and into the galleys, as long as they were clean and tidy.

GPSCs were treated with a fire-resistant chemical, although WOMED Wiig wonders how long that lasted. “We washed them so many thousands of times to make them comfortable. If you lost your pair, you were devastated. You’d have to start all over again.”

As a medic, he particularly like the reinforced epaulettes. “You were always looking at how you would move injured people. The epaulettes were really handy, they gave you something to grab.”

One downside was going to the heads, particularly for women. “For men it was easy, as there was a double zip, and you could zip from the bottom. But sometimes you’d have to strip off completely and if the floor was wet, the coveralls got soaked at the bottom.”

During the trial in TE KAHA it was identified there was a need for females to be issued a crop top to wear for those occasions when their male counterparts would normally strip to the waist.

Above: LTCDR Maxine Lawes (CAPT today), beside CHAP Lyn Lawton, relaxes with her shipmates on board HMNZS TE KAHA in the Solomon Islands during a sports event on the flight deck in 2001.

Left: An Ordinary Rate in General Purpose Seagoing Coveralls works the flag deck on board one of the Anzac frigates in 2004.





GENERAL WORK DRESS (2007 to present day)

Under Chief of Navy Rear Admiral David Ledson, Navy Order 2007/32 was promulgated on 11 June, announcing the intention to replace the GPSC and Boarding Party Uniform with a new two-piece universal uniform – the General Work Dress. At 190gsm thread, the inherent flame-resistant polyamide fabric was lighter than the GPSCs.

Enhancing the Navy's professional corporate image was a theme with the design of the new working rig. RADM Ledson had spent a lot of time at Joint Forces New Zealand, a tri-service environment, and was comfortable with the idea of service people wearing Disrupted Pattern Uniforms. "Then as Chief of Navy I read a survey that the NZDF had conducted. It showed the public viewed the Navy as a very low-tech organisation, when

it was very clear the reverse was true." He thought about the publicity photographs of Navy personnel in coveralls. "The recruiting bus had photos of sailors on its outside. It struck me that the public should view the Navy as a mechanics-based organisation was unsurprising. So Un-Disrupted Pattern Uniforms were the obvious way to go." The dark blue for the uniform and gold for insignia ensured consistency with principle Navy colours. "The NZ flag and kiwi badge made the point that everyone who served in the Navy in uniform deployed – it wasn't a case of waiting to be dispatched for a specific operation."

The wearing policy was that they could be worn in "every reasonably practical way", he says. "Throughout my career I found people in the Navy who thought their principal purpose was to walk around, especially in HMNZS PHILOMEL, looking for sailors not wearing uniform in accordance with the regulations."

One specific requirement is that during Action and Emergency Stations, the sleeves are fully extended and the shirt is tucked into the trousers.

This time, New Zealand was ahead of Australia with this new style of rig. Australia adopted their patterned working rig in 2008.

Above: Junior Officers enjoy a game of ukkers in the wardroom in HMNZS CANTERBURY (October 2020).

Able Rate Rank symbol

While virtually all of our Navy rank symbols have origins in the Royal Navy, there is one that appears to be unique to New Zealand.



Above: Able Rate rank slide



The Able Rate rank symbol is a figure-of-eight knot. In Australia it's a reef knot, while in the United Kingdom the equivalent rank is a blank rank slide with the words "Royal Navy". By the time a sailor becomes a Leading Hand, a "killick", the anchor symbol is consistent across RN, RAN and RNZN, and the consistency continues through the ranks.

In 1996 the need for an Able Rating rank slide was raised during retention reviews. As can be seen in the photographs of sailors in Action Working Dress, Ordinary Rates and Able Rates simply didn't have a rank slide. Chief of Naval Staff approved the development and introduction of a rank insignia for Able Rates and the fleet were invited to submit designs. *Navy Today* records that "many varied and interesting" designs were received for consideration, with the successful design being the figure-of-eight knot.

The slides were generally issued from 1998 but Chief Petty Officer Combat System Specialist Aaron Pau (pictured left in AWDs), in a post on Navy Facebook, recalls getting the slides in November 1997 after returning from HMNZS CANTERBURY's deployment in Bougainville. He thinks they were the first Able Rates to be issued them. "We were all handed them in the little brown envelopes, the same ones used to get paid cash when we were at sea. I remember opening the pay packet to find these rank slides inside, and was gutted that no cash was inside..."

The reasoning for the figure-of-eight as the chosen design is not explained. Some have speculated on Facebook that this particular knot was used to stop a rope running through a block, the idea being that Able Rates are the ones on the end of the rope where the work gets done.

Defence Force at the heart of historic Women's Super Rugby match

■ By Simone Millar

Senior Communications
Adviser (North)



It's been a long time coming, but the first Women's Super Rugby match was finally held in Auckland this May, and two New Zealand Defence Force women had their hearts in the game.

It was with great pride that 21-year-old Sub Lieutenant Kate Williams stepped out on to the pitch at Eden Park to represent the Blues, in the number 7 jersey.

"When our team ran out at the stadium the bar was set, I don't think I've ever been on a field with a crowd that has made that much noise before – it was unreal," says the openside flanker.

"The match is such a big opportunity because it's putting women's rugby in the spotlight – it's cool for all the young girls to see it as well. It's been a long-time coming, this match," she says.

The event was an historic, competitive contest and was the first time Women's Blues and Chiefs Super Rugby sides were formed.

Manager of the new Blues team, Dean Watkins, hopes the game will go professional for women, giving them more time to train and grow as players.

"It was such a fantastic experience and showcase for women's rugby at this level. And what an entertaining match with plenty of attacking flair and scoring opportunities," says Mr Watkins.

Royal New Zealand Air Force Corporal Hayley Hutana took the field as fullback, and agrees, saying people should know more about women's rugby.

"It's a surreal feeling being a part of both the lead up and the game itself. It's the first of its kind so it was pretty special to be directly involved. Being among a team of amazing athletes. It was pretty exciting and hopefully in the near future we will see a competition of the like," says CPL Hutana.

Both SLT Williams and CPL Hutana play in the Defence Ferns Women's Rugby team, which supports and promotes women's rugby across all Services in the Defence Force, and say they couldn't have got this far without the team.

"When I first joined the Defence Force it was a big dream of lots of the women to form a rugby team. But it wasn't until 2018, with the hard work of our manager, Joe, we started to get our first games and first camps," says SLT Williams.

Squadron Leader Joe Tasker pushed hard for women's rugby to be recognised and says the team is more than just about rugby.

"Rugby is the vehicle for promoting wāhine toa (strong women) leaders, focusing on being a professional unit and trying to remove barriers to support women to go higher on to higher honours. The team aims to create value for the NZDF and individuals alike," says SQNLDR Tasker.

He says the undefeated Defence Ferns team always includes community engagement in its programmes – like assisting to feed un-homed in Auckland, giving back to the community, engaging with the Pacific and promoting women leaders.

Women from all levels of the Defence Force have really welcomed having the team.

"The ladies absolutely love the team environment and strive to be the best team they can be. They really are a role model team with the NZDF," he says.

The Chiefs ended up taking the game this time around, but they all hope players from the Defence Force will be part of a new tournament, featuring the Super Rugby Blues in the future.

"It definitely was a really physical match, but we expected that. I hope rotating that we put on a spectacle for those who watched live and through social media across the world," says CPL Hutana.

"People do love to watch women's rugby and come to the games. The more matches there are, the more young girls get to see their future selves. It shows them a pathway," says SLT Williams.

Until the team hears if there will be another Women's Super Rugby game, the Defence Ferns will be playing pre-season games against two prestigious Farah Palmer Cup teams, so watch this space.

DEFENCE FERNS UPCOMING GAMES:

Royal New Zealand Air Force
Base Auckland

29 June 2021

Defence Ferns vs North Harbour

4 July 2021

Defence Ferns vs Auckland

MANAGING A MIQF

Lieutenant Shaun McAuley is a Navy Reservist and a lawyer who shares working hours with the Auckland City Council and as Head of School for Maritime Trade Training. He talks to *Navy Today* about his role as manager of a Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facility.

Q: Which MIQ facility did you manage?

A: I was asked to manage the SO/Hotel near Britomart.

I had a team of four NZDF personnel – everyone from aircraft mechanics, marine technicians to hydrographers who were checking people in, departing them, engaging with members of the public and doing a very good job of it. Nothing can really train you for that, you just get stuck in and do it.

Q: What were your days like?

A: The days could be up to 15 to 20 hours long and some days were definitely more intense than others. Generally there were arrivals and departures from 6am onwards but this could happen 24 hours a day. When flights come through at 1.30am, you're processing it until 3am then back at your station by 7am.

There were all sorts of people in isolation, and for some it was their second or third time in MIQ because they were sports or business people who travelled for work. Most people took it in their stride while a few others were having the worst time of their life.

It involved a lot of soft skills, empathy and engagement with people and helping to identify what the problems were and how they could be solved within the limitations we had.

Q: How did you manage your work while doing this?

A: When I was approached about the posting, I spoke with my General Manager Craig McIlroy and manager Andrew Chin, both were very supportive. I think it does show how the council supports its people for extracurricular activities.

I was really grateful as it was such a rewarding experience and one of the most satisfying things I've done in my career.



I took some military and annual leave. During my times off I was able to work from home and kept on top of my council work as much as I could.

The leadership style I take at the council and in the Royal New Zealand Navy is to 'lead leaders'.

This approach is not to tell people how to do their job, it's about saying to them, "you're a leader in your role and empowered to do your job." This enabled my council team to keep functioning while I was away.

Q: What kind of training did you receive beforehand?

A: We received pre-deployment training before posting into the role. Various specialists took us through the various aspects of the mission including looking at it from a legal and psychiatric perspective. People share their own experiences, so you get an idea of what to expect.

It's not the type of thing you can get too much training for, but the idea is that with your military skills and training, you can go into any environment.

Q: What were some challenges you encountered?

A: We had a man who was having mental health issues and wasn't coping too well. He had difficulty sleeping and was struggling with claustrophobia.

He yelled at me and the team quite a lot, but I spent time with him and managed to help him turn things around. When he left, he gave us all some chocolates and wine as a thank you gift, so that was nice.

Another time we had 54 guests arrive at once. We had to put a bit of a team together and figure out how we were going to manage that. Maintaining social distancing, there were hundreds of bags flying in all directions and some of the returnees didn't speak English. It was a challenge but afterwards we got really good feedback from the team that it worked really well, so I was happy with that.

Q: What was one of your most difficult days?

A: We had a family who had been overseas for two years, and a member tested positive the day before they were to leave isolation. Their family here had a BBQ planned and birthday to celebrate their return, and it was very hard on them.

We had to put the hotel in lockdown, cancel everyone's exercise, send people back to their rooms, print out a notice to guests so they were informed and start a deep cleaning of the hotel.

Everyone was on edge and it took a lot of coaching and phone calls before the family was ready to leave and we could transfer them to the quarantine facility.

We had to remove the luggage from the room and I had to give two sailors a pep talk and get them all kitted up in full PPE and send them into the room. I was impressed with their courage and commitment to the role.

When we transferred the family, everyone, including the family, was wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE) – gowns, face masks, face shields, and gloves.

I really felt for the family because when they saw us like this when they came out of the elevator – it looked like something out of a movie.

Q: What skill helped you the most during this time?

A: When I was a lawyer, I was primarily involved with dispute resolution. I managed hundreds of court cases through alternative dispute resolution so I've got a lot of skills in that and was able to use that in the hotel.

Q: Does life seem rather dull now in comparison?

A: Yes, it can sometimes, especially when you're coming from that level of intensity back to your everyday life.

I have talked with other people before who have been on United Nations missions to places like Afghanistan and Sudan and they say they get a buzz from it and I kind of understand that.



Above: Hon CAPT Brian Corban receives a Chief of Navy commendation from RADM David Proctor in 2019.

Farewell to Honorary Captain

It was a sad but moving funeral held on Friday 7 May for Honorary Captain Sir Brian Corban CNZM, QSO.

While many in the Navy will not have known Hon CAPT Corban, he was a driving force behind our Navy Museum over a period of nearly three decades.

Hon CAPT Corban became a Museum Trustee in December 1991, and became the Chair of the Trust in May 2011. During his time as a Trustee, he saw the Museum develop from the limitations of its Spring Street location to a Museum that now has over 100,000 visitors annually.

During his time as Chair, the Museum Trust grappled with significant challenges including governance issues and resource constraints. While at times it must have been tempting to walk away from the frustrations brought about by trying to manage the particular challenges, he remained steadfast in his, and the Trust's, efforts to overcome these, which he did successfully. The Royal New Zealand Navy, and the Navy Museum in particular, have been very fortunate to

benefit from his stewardship and service. Hon CAPT Corban has been a true kaitiaki of the Navy Story through his commitment to the ongoing development of the Navy Museum and the preservation of our physical and oral taonga and heritage.

For his service to the Navy Museum, Hon CAPT Corban received a Chief on Navy Commendation on his retirement in 2019.

Hon CAPT Corban was not only a strong supporter of Navy but gave his time to many other passions and activities that benefited the community and New Zealand. We will not only miss his professionalism and expertise but his great friendship and inspiring leadership.

Our thoughts are with his whānau, moe mai rā e te rangitira.

RESERVIST OF THE YEAR

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Reservist of the Year 2021

The Reservist of the Year Award recognises a member of the NZDF who most exemplifies the Defence Force values of Courage, Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity in their service as a Reservist.

Obtain a nomination form from your chain of command and fill it out for endorsement.

Submissions must be received before 18 June 2021.

Endorsed nominations are to be submitted to HQ DRYS at reserves@nzdf.mil.nz

15 ROUNDS

WITH CAPTAIN SIMON ROOKE



01

Name & rank

Simon Rooke,
Captain RNZN

02

Job title and description

Commanding Officer,
HMNZS AOTEAROA

03

Date joined

14 January 1991

04

First ship posted to

HMNZS
CANTERBURY
(the Leander frigate)



05

Best deployment

Arabian Gulf on
CANTERBURY in 1996

06

Hometown

Kawerau, Bay of Plenty

07

High School

The then Kawerau
College (now Tarawera
College) for 3rd and half
of 4th Form, Rotorua
Boys High School for
rest of 4th and 5th, 6th and
7th Forms.

08

Favourite book

Any of the Oregon series
by Clive Cussler

09

Favourite movie

Highlander

10

Favourite album

On Every Street
by Dire Straits



11

Favourite holiday destination

Taupō or Rarotonga
(Taupō it is for now!)

12

Outside of work, what's the one thing you enjoy doing?

Spending time on our
boat with my family.

13

What's something about you that not many people know?

I don't eat chocolate.

14

A person that taught you a valuable life/Navy lesson was... and the lesson was?

Mariner lesson from
the senior pilot for
port of New Plymouth
while I was Navigator of
ENDEAVOUR in 1998.
"Take your time berthing
if you're in a hurry to get
ashore."

15

How would you describe the Navy in 10 words or less

The only place I've ever
wanted to work.

