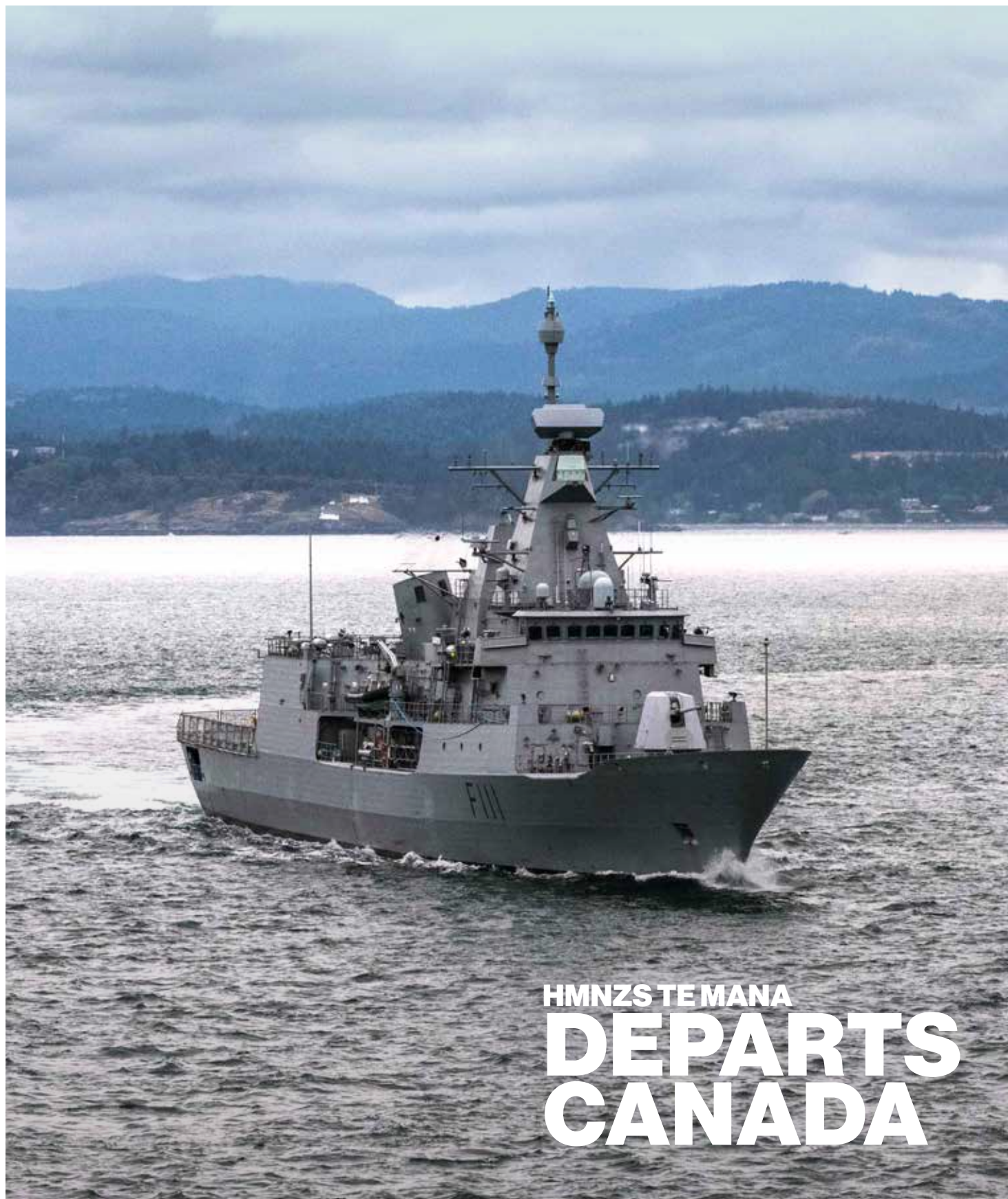


# NAVY T O D A Y

WON RECEIVES  
LEGION OF MERIT

NEW ZEALAND IN  
THE INDO PACIFIC

CELEBRATING SAMOAN  
LANGUAGE WEEK



HMNZS TE MANA  
**DEPARTS  
CANADA**

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*“I have a tattoo on my right arm dedicated to my grandparents so whenever I salute I know that they are with me wherever I am in the world.”*

– Able Chef Teagan Tautala-Hanita, celebrating Samoan Language Week



**Navy Today** is the official magazine of the Royal New Zealand Navy. Established to inform, inspire and entertain serving and former members of the RNZN, their families, friends and the wider Navy Community.

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Andrew Bonallack  
Email: navytoday@nzdf.mil.nz

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**Front Cover:**  
HMNZS Te Mana departs Canada.

**Photographer:**  
Sailor First Class Mike Goluboff  
Royal Canadian Navy



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NZDefenceForce





# From the Editor

Andrew Bonallack



In the middle of 1996 Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Jack Welch, in the first-ever Yours Aye of the inaugural *Navy Today* magazine, told his Navy there would be a lot more exposure in news media of what the Navy did and what it was for. *Navy Today* was very much a part of that. Don't be alarmed, he said, if there is a camera focusing on you or a PR person asking apparently stupid questions.

I'd like to think RADM Welch was being good-humoured, but there may have been an element of a professional sailor coming to grips with the modern idea of 'PR', and the realisation the public's respect for the Royal New Zealand Navy – which did all its best work out of sight – could not simply be taken for granted. In the Admiral's halcyon days of the sixties and seventies, it's likely no-one questioned the need for a Navy. Now, said editor Jo Bunce, you need reasons why we have a Navy – useful ammunition for those "pub arguments with the uninformed".

There is a certain intrinsic respect the Navy enjoys. Surveys undertaken by NZDF in the last few years have consistently shown the public holds the armed forces in very high regard. When those who were 'neutral' about the Defence Force were asked why, a portion of them said they didn't know enough about the services and what they did.

That was the gap facing RADM Welch back then, and it is the gap Defence Public Affairs continues to fill today.

Public knowledge and public confidence are integral to any large organisation that seeks to thrive. The Royal New Zealand Navy's basic existence is justified. All countries need to defend themselves and a Government understands that, but resources are tight and the Navy is an expensive arm of the Defence Forces. But if the public like you and like what you do, then politicians are inclined to like you, which in turn leads to support from the Government.

And despite RADM Welch 'introducing' public relations, it's always been there. It's the only reason that oppo is sitting next to you at the helm of a frigate, or working alongside you in the galley, or sorting out the leave in the ship's writers' office.

Those people didn't suddenly wake up one morning and decide to join the Navy. Those sailors are there because at some point, there was something they saw, something they heard, something they read, that inspired them to step forward and apply to join. That's public relations.

The role of 'Team Navy' (the editor, Public Affairs Manager Scott Sargentina and Public Affairs Officer Lieutenant Commander Brian Stokes) at Defence Public Affairs is to provide that 'something' to the public in sophisticated ways. I get excited every day by the amazing work the Navy does, and I want to provide a front-row view, with video and photography for social channels and print stories for this magazine to provide greater depth. We want localities throughout New Zealand to see 'their' hometown sailor, and feel proud. Because it's not just about what we do – it's who we are. When we showcase skilled Navy professionals, role models for New Zealand society, we hope people see representations of themselves – male, female, young, old, all ethnicities, all diversities. Because when you see yourself, you know it's possible.

The stories that make you buzz are the stories we need from you. We want people to know that the only reason certain nationally-important outputs are possible is because we have a Navy – a Navy staffed with outstanding New Zealanders making careers for themselves.

It's your job to disappear over the horizon. But it's our job in Defence Public Affairs – and my job in my sixth year as editor – to make sure you never disappear from sight.

# WON Receives Legion of Merit



Warrant Officer Diver Lance Graham, Warrant Officer of the Navy, has been awarded the Legion of Merit from the United States of America.

At the IndoPacific 22 Maritime conference in Sydney, US Commander of the Pacific Fleet Admiral Samuel Paparo presented the medal to WODR Graham. The award recognizes exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievement by any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly foreign nation. According to Wikipedia it is the seventh in the order of precedence of all US military awards. The award is issued in degrees; the official title for the WON's award is Legion of Merit (Degree of Legionnaire), indicating it is to a senior non-commissioned officer. The other degrees are Chief Commander, Commander and Officer.

According to NZDF's Heritage, Commemoration and Protocol Group, he is likely the first New Zealand non-commissioned officer to receive the award since World War II.

WODR Graham had been posted to the United States' Indo-Pacific Command, based in Hawaii, between December 2018 and January 2021. The broad aim of



USINDOPACOM is to enhance stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region by promoting security cooperation, encouraging peaceful development and deterring aggression.

He says he had no idea an award of this level was coming his way. "The presentation from the Admiral just blew me away," he says. He joins a select set of New Zealanders, including former Chief of Navy Rear Admiral Jack Steer and former Devonport RSA president Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Chris Mullane, who have received it.

His time in Hawaii was professionally "exceptional", he says. "It's exposure to strategic levels in a highly contested area of operation, with an admiral in charge of 370,000 personnel. There's a global economy that requires stability in that area for the flow of trade, and the US is passionate about

having a strong footing and supporting smaller countries."

He and other colleagues came up with a development strategy targeted at NCO's from 36 countries. They also worked on an initiative to help countries develop their peacekeeping strategies, including a peacekeeping training exercise for around 40 countries.

"And on a personal front, it was a fantastic experience for the family to be immersed in Hawaiian culture and US culture. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."





## Operation Protect decommissions

The New Zealand Defence Force's Joint Task Force to support New Zealand's Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities was officially decommissioned on 13 March by Rear Admiral Jim Gilmour, Commander Joint Forces, nearly two years after it was stood up.

New Zealand closed its borders on 19 March 2020. On 9 April the Prime Minister announced a network of Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities would be established across New Zealand. The New Zealand Defence Force was tasked to support the MIQFs under the name Operation Protect.

Operation Protect has been one of the single largest commitments of NZDF personnel made to a response in more than 50 years, with over 6,200 involved.

The Joint Task Force was formally decommissioned in a Navy style, with Commander Joint Task Force 650.7 and his subordinates, Commanders Task Unit North, Task Unit Central and Task Unit South, receiving decommissioning pennants along with a decommissioning citation. The ceremony reflected the Joint Task Force's location at Devonport Naval Base, and how the earliest members of its team were almost all Navy.

Chief Petty Officer Weapon Technician Greg Bishell was awarded a New Zealand Defence Force commendation for his work on Operation Protect as one of the first NZDF personnel deployed to a Managed Isolation Facility.

CPOWT Bishell worked in multiple facilities across the network in Auckland including Rydges, Holiday Inn, SO, Grand Millennium, and former MIF Haka Hotel. He became a subject matter expert in establishing and managing MIFs.



*Above: As Commanding Officer Task Unit North, LTCDR Barbara Fleissner receives her decommissioning pennant and Order to Decommission from RADM Jim Gilmour, Commander Joint Forces. She was an Acting Commander for the duration.*

*CPOWT Greg Bishell receives a New Zealand Defence Force commendation from WO1 Darrin Waitere for his service to Operation Protect.*

# HMNZS TE MANA DEPARTS CANADA



She arrived in Esquimalt, Canada, on 12 March 2019. On 30 May 2022, her Frigate Systems Upgrade complete, she had a special farewell from Lockheed Martin Canada, the Royal Canadian Navy and the Victoria Shipyards at Esquimalt.

As gun salutes from ship and shore rang out around the harbour, TE MANA slowly sailed out of Victoria on the first leg of her voyage home.

“We arrived as allies,” said Commanding Officer Mike Peebles, “but we depart as the very closest of friends.”

Her voyage will include port calls to San Francisco, San Diego and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Read more about her final days in Canada on pages 14–17 and 30–31.

*Photo: Royal Canadian Navy, Sailor First Class Mike Goluboff*







# INDO PACIFIC 2022

10 - 12 MAY 2022  
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXPOSITION  
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA  
[www.indopacificexpo.com.au](http://www.indopacificexpo.com.au)



At the Indo Pacific 22 expo in Sydney last month, Vice Admiral Mike Noonan, Chief of Navy Australia, hosted the Seapower Conference 2022, and invited naval leaders from around the Indo Pacific to give their views on the importance of collaborative and cooperative partnership in the region.



## CANADA

**Vice Admiral Craig Baines,  
Commander Royal Canadian  
Navy and Chief of the Naval Staff**

Canada might be an Atlantic and Arctic nation, but it is also a Pacific nation, says VADM Baines, and there has been a “major shift” in Canada’s connection and reliance on the Indo Pacific. “Our economic connections are deepening and we recognise that to be more integrated with and prosper from a fast-changing system, we must have a seat in the institutions responsible for regional governance and the maintenance of the rules-based international order.”

This shift includes Canada’s Prime Minister calling on his ministers to develop a comprehensive Indo Pacific strategy to further economic and defence partnerships in the region, with regular Navy deployments. They are not just symbolic; they represent a country who values and defends a rules-based order. “To be truly accepted as a member of the Indo Pacific, you have to make meaningful and sustained contributions, particularly in security.”

Canada already has major commitments in the Indo Pacific,

including 70 years as part of United Nations Command Korea – and is now the second largest contributor to that cause. But its most important contribution is the deployment of warships in the Asia-Pacific, including last year’s transit of the South China Sea with the HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH carrier strikegroup. “These types of deployments are vital given that security and stability has deteriorated in critical maritime zones.” Canada is undertaking the largest recapitalisation of its fleet since World War II, including the development of a new surface combatant. “Strategic competition will continue to rise, and a robust and globally deployable navy will be one of the key enablers to manage this challenge alongside our partners.”



## FRANCE

**Rear Admiral Jean-Mathieu Rey,  
Commander French Armed  
Forces Polynesia**

RADM Rey says France is ready to assume its role as a European country in the Indo Pacific, taking advantage of its long experience and ties in the region.

Within the Indo Pacific, France has about 7,000 military personnel, 15 ships and 40 aircraft – and two million French citizens. “We are all over the Indo Pacific from South America to the African coast, including nuclear submarines. Last year we had the biggest surge of activity for a long time in the Pacific.”

He says France fosters the expansion of mutual knowledge and information sharing, and promotes discussion with all players in the region, even competitors. “It is the best way to ensure peace, especially when it comes to rules and limits.”

As the only foreign member of the European Union in the Indo Pacific, France is guided by the release of the EU’s Indo Pacific strategy last year and its objective for maritime security, “in particular, ensure an enhancement of Navy deployment and coordinating maritime presence, from the Guinea Coast in Africa, to the Indian Ocean and extending into the Indo Pacific. We must collectively remain firm on freedom at sea, dealing with climate changes and reinforcing the respect of international laws”.





## INDIA

**Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta,  
Flag Officer Commanding-in-  
Chief, Eastern Naval Command**

India has two distinct advantages when it comes to the Indo Pacific, says VADM Dasgupta. The name itself focuses on India, and its maritime character lends a focus to the Indian Navy. "Many countries do not have a physical presence but are very interested because their economic destiny lies in this region."

India has a policy of "Look East, Act East" which aligns with the Indo Pacific, but it also has a policy of neighbourhood first, then look outwards, he says. "India has never started a war. We have never been expansionist or aggressive." But he agrees that there needs to be mechanisms in place to apply pressure on what the understanding is of international good order and the rules of the sea.

He feels the mechanisms in place fall short. "Recent conflicts have proved that assumptions we have taken for granted have been proved wrong."

India is not in the business of military alliances, but does want to build interoperability with friendly navies as an insurance against an uncertain future, he says. "We would like to build the capacity of our smaller neighbours so they can help themselves. We would like to maintain stability in the ocean spaces around us so economies can grow."

"To my mind, the enablers of cooperative engagement and building commonality of purpose are information exchange, building of mutual trust, sustenance through logistic support arrangements, interactions and exercises, and capability building and technology collaborations that support indigenous manufacturing."

In the Indo Pacific, India would certainly cooperate in benign roles, such as humanitarian aid. "Constabulary if need be, and militarily – we hope not."



## JAPAN

**Admiral Ryo Sakai,  
Chief of Staff, Japanese  
Maritime Self Defense Force**

Japan is significantly invested in the growing security environment of the Indo Pacific.

"We have Russian naval ships passing the waters in the northern part of Japan. Russians have fired missiles into the Sea of Japan. China is conducting a unilateral attempt to change the status quo in the South China Sea. North Korea is developing nuclear weapons and launching missiles. All these activities shake the foundations of the rules-based international order."

"Japan plays a major role, including surveillance of major straits and surrounding waters. Threats have diversified from terrorism to piracy and illegal fishing and our role has expanded to wider areas."

"Cooperation among allies and like-minded countries is indispensable. The entire international community must work together to discourage unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force and prevent conflict from occurring. It is sea power that plays a major part and I do believe that navy to navy cooperation will be more important than ever."

Japan is revising its strategic documents to adapt to the security environment and is enhancing operations with its closest ally, the United States. Japan conducts operations as far as the Gulf of Aden, and last year started Middle East and Indo Pacific deployments focusing on sea lanes and bilateral exercises with multiple countries "In the last three years, 114 ships and more than 10,000 personnel were involved."



*RADM David Proctor, Chief of Navy, delivers his address to the conference.*

## INDO PACIFIC 22

The Indo Pacific has:



**At least 38 countries**



**44% of the world's surface**

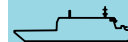
**65% of the world's population**



**62% of the global GDP**



**46% of the world's merchandise trade**



**7 out of 10 of the world's largest navies**



**75% of the world's fishing fleet (3.5m vessels)**



**9 of the world's 10 busiest ports**



**Between 250 and 300 submarines**



## NEW ZEALAND

**Rear Admiral David Proctor,  
Chief of Navy**

The rules-based system is fundamental to New Zealand's security, says RADM Proctor, at a time when intensifying strategic competition in the Indo Pacific, on top of existing regional tensions, is increasing the potential for confrontation.

"There is no doubt, we're seeing that now. Growing strategic competition will challenge the formal institution of the rules-based international system traditionally charged with peace and security issues."

And the pressure on the system will only increase with climate change impacts, says RADM Proctor. "In some cases, climate change will be sufficiently serious to impact the security and viability of countries."

The Royal New Zealand Navy is an important part of New Zealand's support for the security and stability of individual Pacific Island countries and the region as a whole. "We help build countries' resilience against and support responses to natural disasters and incidents of instability. We work with countries to develop shared approaches to regional security issues."

The RNZN is well suited to operating in the Pacific, he says. "We will be present – increasingly so – as our ships move up from their upgrade programme. We are a blue-water navy with a reputation for contributing to global security and prosperity." RADM Proctor says he expects to see greater interoperability with partners in the future. "Indo Pacific, North East Asia, South China Sea – our vessels will be there. Operations to ensure New Zealand and our partners' systems are defended against increasing cyber threats and a greater and more persistent support to Pacific partners, including expanded and combined training, will be features of our activity."



## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Commodore Philip Polewara,  
Deputy Chief PNG  
Defence Force**

The perspectives of Papua New Guinea are that of a small navy, but the ocean's contribution to the wealth of nations will likely become an economic force as the land economy declines, says CDRE Polewara.

"The blue economies will be a challenge and will call for greater cooperation between affected countries," he says. In this, sea power finds its place as the most acceptable form of military presence in the region.

"Maritime power in the broadest sense is military, political and economic power exerted through as ability to use the sea. It's the unifying factor. Control of the sea means survival for sea dependent states. And navies are unique in their employment – they work across the spectrum, from humanitarian and disaster relief to peacetime diplomacy and disaster response. Other services can do some of these, but not all of them."

He says peaceful means should be used to handle disputes. "Navies are expanding in the Indo Pacific. In many respects this reflects the growing maritime responsibilities rising from the law of the sea and humanitarian law." Economic welfare and the survival of small island states will demonstrate the importance of sea power in the Indo Pacific region, as security threats come to the fore. "It requires effective inter-agency cooperation. It requires a collective effort from all of us."



## SINGAPORE

**Rear Admiral Aaron Beng,  
Chief of Navy**

Singapore has an interesting juxtaposition, says RADM Beng. On the one hand, it is a very small country with few natural resources. On the other, it favourably sits astride key sea lanes, which benefits the country. But it is only able to benefit because of a period of regional stability and an adherence to the rules-based order.

"There's a broad-based desire in the region to cooperate for peace and stability, and this is often spear-headed by navies. There are arrangements against piracy, reducing kidnapping, preserving maritime security, conducting counter-terrorism and disaster relief. But past successes are no guarantee for the future." He says these days there is a "broader basket" of threats and the worry is that criminal activities become a pathway for higher-end threats, such as terrorist infiltration and financing. Even fishing disputes could spark state claims and territory disputes.

"There are two questions we need to consider. Do we cooperate more or less? There will be pressures that force countries to turn inwards. Countries may decide to go it alone." RADM Beng says it is only sensible to enhance regional cooperation, in the face of growing threats, including ones not yet encountered. "These will be beyond the capability of any navy or maritime force to address alone."

His second question was, who are our partners? RADM Beng suggested that navies, law enforcement and coast guards might still be inadequate to the threat, and recommended a broad-based framework of cooperation that included maritime agencies and the maritime industry. "For us, links with industry have borne fruit."





## UNITED KINGDOM

**Admiral Sir Ben Key,  
First Sea Lord**

Admiral Sir Ben Key came to the conference with a message of humility and intent.

"This is a part of the world where we have long experience. It's an area we got to know well. But in recent years we have not been so present as a navy, and today we lack the contemporary maritime knowledge of this vast and vital region. That is why as a sailor I was so delighted when the United Kingdom's Integrated Review last year highlighted the importance of the region and announced the UK's Indo Pacific tilt."

What does that mean for the Royal Navy? Flooding the region with White Ensigns? "In short, no. But we are determined to be present far more and to engage more closely with you, as partners. We have seen the shared success that cooperation brings, and I am determined that my service that I have the privilege to lead, will play our part with you our allies across the region."

The Indo Pacific is crucial to the United Kingdom, he says, and the first operational deployment of the carrier QUEEN ELIZABETH and her multi-national strike group into the Indo Pacific last year was quite deliberate.

"Our two new patrol vessels TAMAR and SPEY have started the beginning of a persistent presence in the region that will last for years to come - training and working with you, learning from you and supporting you where we can.

"Bottom line is, this is all part of our mission in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region - to build an understanding of the challenges that face this area, working with nations here, to safeguard natural resources, combat climate change and contribute to maritime security.

"In return, you are sharing the local knowledge we once enjoyed, and we hope you will continue to do so. We come with renewed vigour as a navy, and commitment to our friendships and partners as people. But we come with humility. We have much we can learn from you."



## UNITED STATES

**Admiral Sam Paparo,  
Commander United States  
Pacific Fleet**

The international rules-based order begins with the inherent dignity of the human being, says ADM Paparo. "The US is a Pacific nation. The security, freedom and well-being of 338 million American citizens depends on upholding the rules-based order. Seventy percent of the earth is covered by water, and 95 percent of international commerce travels over the water. The water sustains us. Inherently the solidity of the human being matches that of the ocean."

The scale of US Forces in the Pacific is well known, he says, from submarines to ships to aircraft and the satellites above them all. Upcoming this year is the Rim of the Pacific exercise, the largest maritime exercise in the world. "But it is our humanity and our partnerships that is essential. Those who would upend the international rules-based order abhor our partnerships, abhor our values such as sovereignty, freedom of navigation, the laws of the sea. These partnerships are the asymmetric advantage that we hold. The stakes we have seen have never been higher. At risk is the security, the freedom, the well-being of people."

***"Should we  
cooperate more  
or less?  
Undoubtedly, yes."***

*Above: The contingent from the Royal New Zealand Navy at Indo Pacific 22, with RADM David Proctor, centre.*

# New command for HMNZS MATATAUA

Commander Trevor Leslie has always had a passion for championing change for the Littoral Warfare Trades of Diving and Hydrography.

Ten years ago, when faced with an obstacle to innovation or progressive and positive change, he might have shrugged, let it go, and got on with business. But in the last few years, as the Deputy Director Littoral Warfare and Category Commander (Diving), he's let his passion, rank and experience work for the Littoral Warfare Force and HMNZS MATATAUA, which encompasses the Navy's dive and hydrographic teams.

Now, as the newly-appointed Commanding Officer of MATATAUA on May 24, he has moved from Capability Branch and working 'on the business' to 'working in the business', and his sphere of influence just took a step up.

In a ceremony at Devonport Naval Base CDR Leslie said "I have the ship" and received the symbol of command, a tewhatewha (ceremonial signal stick) from outgoing Commanding Officer Commander Wiremu Leef. It was the former symbol of command for hydrographic survey vessel HMNZS RESOLUTION.

In a colourful touch, a group of Ordinary Divers, in the middle of scheduled training in the fleet pool, joined the ranks in their wetsuits to tautoko (support) this occasion.

CDR Leslie, who joined the Navy in 1986, rose through the ranks to Chief Petty Officer as an accomplished clearance diver, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Operator and Diving Supervisor before commissioning from the ranks in 2001. His primary driver for commissioning was a desire to make positive change.

As the RNZN Exchange Officer in Malaysia, he commissioned the first RMN deep diving tender where his achievement of safely introducing 100M deep diving capability to the RMN was recognised by the receipt of the Honorary Order of Chivalry to the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces and Malaysian People by the King of Malaysia. He is the first NZDF Officer (and only to date) to receive this award.

As the Commanding Officer of the Mine Countermeasures Team in 2006, he introduced into service the first RNZN Remote Autonomous Underwater Vehicles. Five years later he led the introduction into service of the RNZN Dive team's amphibious capabilities and championed a vigorous equipment capability and external evaluation programme.







When he was posted as Commanding Officer of the Operational Diving Team, a highlight was his appointment as Commander Task Group in a first-of-its-kind role for New Zealand, to lead bomb disposal teams and ships from New Zealand, America, Australia, Canada, France and the Solomon Islands in an Explosive Remnants of War Disposal Operation in the South West Pacific. Several years earlier he had been in Southern Lebanon to help dispose of unexploded ordnance and remnants of war from the 2005 Hezbollah – Israeli war.

His career has seen him across the Pacific, in the Middle East, USA, Europe and Antarctica. He is a champion of positive and progressive culture and capability initiatives across the RNZN Diving trade and the wider Littoral Warfare Force. He was awarded the NZDF Peter Rule Diversity and Inclusion Award last year in recognition of his contribution to diversity and inclusion in the workplace and was recently awarded the Defence Meritorious Service Medal for his sustained demonstration of exceptional leadership, professionalism and service to the NZDF Littoral Warfare and Diving Communities over the last three decades.

There's nothing complicated about his passion. It comes from an enormous pride in serving in the Navy and his passion for positive change and organisational excellence is reflective of what he feels the New Zealand people and the NZDF represents.

"When I was a young leading diver, times and behaviours were very different. We made mistakes and often didn't have the maturity or systems to 'fail safe' but it allowed me to make my mistakes and learn from them, and for this I am grateful." He's also personally invested; two of his children have joined the Navy.

"So there's a selfish side, but I want the Navy to be the best it can be. I'm very proud of the Navy. I see these young divers, hydrographers, and sailors within MATATAUA and they are so good with so much potential. It's about allowing them to grow and be the best they can be and in order for that to happen I think we all have a responsibility to make our organisation much better. MATATAUA is not a ship – it's a little bit different than most of the Navy, and being around it and in it as long as I have, I understand it, so I'm looking forward to continuing the push for excellence."

# GOING OUT WITH A BANG

■ By LT Richard Horne  
Ship Information Officer

The final week of sea trials for HMNZS TE MANA's Frigate Systems Upgrade (FSU) project were a hugely important milestone for the warship.







Largely conducted in Canada's West Coast Firing Areas, the trials consisted of a range of gun function tests, calibrations, and accuracy tests. Throughout the week, TE MANA fired her 5-inch main gun, deployed the MASS (Multi Ammunition Softkill System, opposite) decoy system, shot the .50 Cal machine guns, and used the ceremonial saluting guns.

In order to accurately conduct the firing, an inflatable 'High Speed Towed Target' (HSTT) was launched

from TE MANA. Somewhat similar to a 'Killer Tomato' inflatable target, the HSTT is designed to be towed behind a remote-controlled 'barracuda' RHIB. In this instance, however, it was deployed as a stationary target for the firing exercise.

The trials were ultimately successful, and enabled TE MANA to prove that her main 5-inch armament and MASS system can integrate with her new Combat Management System. The week was also a highly valuable training opportunity for the entirety

of the operations and weapon engineering departments on board.

This concluded the at-sea FSU trials in Canada, and ticked one of the last major boxes for TE MANA's deployment.

*Clockwise: A shell can be seen departing the five-inch main gun.*

*The .50 calibre machinegun peppers the HSTT.*

*TE MANA's sailors prepare to deploy a High Speed Towed Target in preparation for a firing exercise.*



# COMING HOME

HMNZS TE MANA departed New Zealand on 18 February 2019 for her Frigate Systems Upgrade in Canada. And while postings to the ship have varied in length, for many it's been a while, even with family posted with them. Now, on the eve of her return to our waters, crew members reflect on their time.

**ASCS Olivia England  
(above centre front)**

One of my favourite highlights was seeing the snow fall on Christmas Day and having the opportunity to travel around Canada, including Toronto and Banff to name a couple. As a ship, we also got to visit Seattle and Vancouver – what a great time that was! It's been awesome to see how far along we've come as a ship and crew within the past year.

I'm looking forward to, first and foremost, is seeing my family and friends. I can't wait for a nice barista coffee and some seafood.





**CPOMED Chloe Andrews (left)**

The highlight of my time in Canada would be a white Christmas, waking up to snow and snowboarding on Christmas Day was amazing. There's the Calgary Stampede, hiring an RV and driving around the mainland.

By the time we get home it will have been 18 months away for some of us. I'm looking forward to seeing our friends and family on the wharf when we come back into Devonport.

**CPOMAA Nicole Mattsen**

The highlight for me has been the local scenery with stunning running trails, and being able to take part in the Vancouver half marathon.

I'm looking forward to spending time with friends and family, and enjoying a couple of New Zealand holidays.



**POMT(P) Joseph Black**

During my time in Canada I took my family to explore. On the trip we stayed on a camping site just outside of the Rocky Mountains with the most magnificent views. While sitting by a river side bank with my two boys a huge rush of emotions came over me. The feeling of how lucky I was to be in such a beautiful place with my family was a feeling I'll never forget.

The feeling of doing a homecoming ceremony is a feeling that is priceless in my eyes. I can't wait to see how my family will react seeing all the commotion with TE MANA coming home.



**AMED Harriet Holt (left)**

My highlight has definitely been exploring different places in Canada with friends from the ship. The lake swimming, wildlife watching, hiking and snowboarding adventures in such a beautiful country has been unreal. I've made golden memories with life-long friends.

I'm looking forward to going home and catching up with the people I love over a homemade cheeseboard and a cold bevvy.

*(Pictured with CPOMED Chloe Andrews and AMED Adam Armstrong).*

**CDR Mike Peebles,  
Commanding Officer (below centre)**

Being away for nearly two years, the list of highlights is long: driving an RV through the Rockies, having two 'white Christmases', snowboarding at Whistler, making amazing lifetime friends, sharing it all with my wife and children, and of course being able to sail the ship in Canadian waters.

I'm looking forward to sailing the upgraded TE MANA into Auckland for the first time, equally followed by being re-united with my family – and of course a feed of NZ fish 'n' chips!

**LTCDR Paddy Baker,  
Executive Officer (left)**

For me, the port visits to Seattle and Vancouver last December were a major highlight. In Seattle we parked at the local USCG base, got to tour around the USCGC HEALY, caught up with some USCG friends, and got to roam around Seattle. In Vancouver, we parked at a public pier in North Vancouver and got a lot of local interest. They felt like pre-COVID port visits.

I'm looking forward to seeing family and friends after 1.5 years away.

*(pictured with WOCSS Cory King, Command Warrant Officer).*





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## OUR PEOPLE

1. Studio photo for Pacific Island Language Weeks. Back from left, ACH Susana Sili, CPOMAA Lino Kurene, ASTD Tahlia Sio-Rogers, CPOSTD Maria Pahulu Junior. Front from left, ACH Teagan Tautala-Hanita, AWTR Mele 'Ake, OCH Zackarier Talataina, ACH Paul 'Ake, AWTR Alberta Moeono-Alaiasa.

2. The Maritime Operations Evaluation Team.

3. CDR Dave Barr, Commanding Officer of HMNZS AOTEAROA, gives ADM Ryo Sakai, Chief of Staff Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, a tour of the ship, with CDRE Melissa Ross, Deputy Chief of Navy.

4. AWTR Monica Motuga (left) and AWTR Alberta Moeono-Alaiasa, Writers on board HMNZS CANTERBURY.

5. Pink Shirt Day at Defence House. From left, CAPTs James Barnes, Simon Rooke, Dave McEwan and Shane Arndell.

6. CPOMAA Lisa Glennie on the gate at Devonport Naval Base.

7. Pamela Davies receives a Chief of Navy Commendation for her work as the Navy's Non-Public Funds supervisor, a role she has held or supported for 15 years.

8. COL Kate Hill presents LNP Leon Cooper with his Military Police qualification following his junior investigation course.

9. RADM David Proctor, Chief of Navy, hands outgoing HMNZS MATATAUA Commanding Officer CDR Wiremu Leef his pennant.

10. The trainees of BCT 22/01 work on their ceremonial drill.



# MAINSTAY SERIES: THE VINCE MCGLONE GALLEY

In the first of *Navy Today's* 'Mainstay' series, we look at the less-mentioned teams that personify the strength and depth of the Royal New Zealand Navy. This month: the cheffing teams at the Vince McGlone Galley at Devonport Naval Base.





It might be a 14-hour day, but there's a lot of noise coming from the Vince McGlone Galley's back-of-house section. Loud music, talk and laughter – you can tell the chefs and stewards are happy and pumping.

The Vince McGlone Galley is something like a homeport, says Petty Officer Chef Jordan Rippey. If you're not at sea, you're likely to be there.

It's also likely to be the first outing for a Navy chef who has finished both their Basic Common Training and Branch (Trade) training, and chefs will return to the Galley when they complete a ship posting. The Galley is the principal dining establishment for Devonport Naval Base and, with the Officer's Wardroom dining area, is run by Navy chefs. Civilian contractors ESS run the dining halls at the North Yard, mainly for recruits, the Officer Training School at Narrow Neck and the Tamaki Leadership Centre at Whangaparaoa Peninsula.

The Galley provides a lot of stability for the chef trade. It's a meeting place where chefs will pop in and say hi and spin a yarn or two about their adventures. There's plenty of experience there, with a Petty Officer

running a watch bill and doing the office work, 'killicks' (Leading Chefs) working with Able Chefs, Ordinary Chefs and people who have just completed their branch training. It's a great place to get some serious skills before posting to a ship.

COVID-19, and the demands of Operation Protect – NZDF's support to the Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQFs) – had a huge impact on the routine. No-one could collectively dine at the Galley during the intense periods of the COVID pandemic. "Navy chefs are very good," says POCH Rippey. "We went from producing some of the best meals in the Defence Force, to preparing takeaway meals. When we created an Isolation Facility at Narrow Neck, we'd take up 85 meals. At one point, we were providing up to 18 people to Operation Protect, because we were one of the larger units on base.

"We'd have people coming out of branch training, armed with their task book, and being pinched straightaway to help manage a MIQF." POCH Rippey organised the galley into three 'bubble watches', where teams worked independently of each other in a shift



Leading Steward

## Iritana Kirk

LSTD Kirk would normally work in the Officers' Wardroom, and says while the chef's watch routine was a big change, it has not been difficult to adjust to cooking. "I'm a mum, I'm always cooking, and I've been loving it down here. I like cooking, anything to do with food. It's really enjoyable learning new skills and new recipes."



Able Chef  
**Moana Hira**

ACH Hira posted back to the Galley in December, after finishing a leadership course and a posting in HMNZS WELLINGTON. "It is hard work, but with a one in three rotation, COVID has taught us that you can still deliver the same outputs but have more time with family and friends. Everyone enjoys this routine, it really works, and we could keep it going."

She thinks it's been a great idea to incorporate the stewards. "They are very hands-on, willing to learn and understand the kitchen and basic cooking techniques. We don't even think of them as stewards – they're more like chefs."

She likes the people and team vibe. "You can really tell when morale is high, and you can see that output on the slide." The numbers in the staff have fluctuated due to people getting COVID or MIQF duties.

***"But we've got good numbers, achieve everything we need to, and we can train new chefs and slow down a little bit."***







of one 14-hour day, then two days off. If someone got sick with COVID, it wouldn't affect the other teams. It's a task-focused routine that has been going for 18 months, with lots of rules about social distancing and hygiene.

"It's great for the galley to see all these people coming back," says POCH Rippey, referring to the decommissioning of the Operation Protect Task Force (page 5) last month. At the moment the team are continuing the 0525 to 1900 shift, but POCH Rippey likes the idea of getting back into more training. Last month the galley opened up to walk-in dining again.

'Plating up' experience, when the presentation of a plated meal is taught, is normally an Officers' Wardroom skill, but the wardroom has been closed during the pandemic.

So in the Galley, there's a plated dish every lunch. "As a rule, you have three meat dishes and one is plated. The chefs come up with a sauce, a garnish, a salad and a side. It's something we thought we could do here. It's not on a grand scale – you don't want to be plating up 400 meals. And in the afternoon, if there's time, they'll practise dishes, and killicks will assist with that."

It's not fun if you don't keep things creative, he says. "A high-performing team is happy when they are pumping out the best food they can. Essentially, I write the menu, get the food in, but the youngsters will say, I really want to try this technique." There are some traditional crowd-pleasers; Friday is normally a little more relaxed on the nutritional side, where people tend to expect burgers and chips, but you

can't simply put cheese on everything, he says. "Our chefs consider the portion sizes, the nutritional value. You could do boiled potatoes and pork chops and meet those values, but our chefs have to be creative. It means when they stand behind the slide, they can be proud of what they do. At sea, you've got to be careful you don't run out of food. But here, they can go the extra mile."

A new feature of the COVID era, particularly with the drain of personnel to MIQFs, is bringing in Stewards to work as chefs. At Devonport Naval Base, stewards would normally ply their trade in the Officers' Wardroom.

"We trained the stewards, who had no real hands-on experience, and they amalgamated beautifully as caterers. They do everything – prepping food, taking charge, getting the food cooked. They have stepped into every single role. It's not their trade, and not what they are trained to do, and it's a lot to ask of them. But they have done really really well."

When things are going well, you know it. "The music will be so loud, sometimes I have to tell them to turn it down when the service is on. Everyone is laughing, everyone is talking, it's an awesome atmosphere. You know it's at its best when it gets hard, when chefs attack it with a good attitude. Chefs are happiest when they are pumping it out."





*Photo: Rotorua Daily Post*



Commander  
**Keith Wisnesky**  
**RNZNVR**

## GETTING THE UNIFORM OUT THERE

Commander Keith Wisnesky, a beef farmer living 40 minutes out of Rotorua, picks up the phone. “Ski, can you talk to my grandkids about the Navy?”, says a voice. Three 12-year-olds turn up at his 80-acre farm and CDR Wisnesky meets them beside a large ship’s anchor and a flagpole, where they pose for a picture.

Rotorua might be some distance from the sea, but personnel come from all corners of New Zealand and Rotorua is no exception. And it’s that focus on youth that keeps CDR Wisnesky, the Regional Naval Officer for Rotorua, busy.

His 20-plus year career started in 1963 when basic training was still being done at ‘the Rock’ – HMNZS TAMAKI on Motuihi Island. He’s a veteran of the Indonesian Confrontation, serving in two deployments in HMNZS OTAGO (F111). He joined HMNZS CANTERBURY

(F421) when it went to monitor the French nuclear bomb tests in Mururoa in 1972, and in CANTERBURY again as part of Operation Armilla in the eighties, when New Zealand assisted British commitments in the Indian Ocean while the Royal Navy was fighting in the Falklands.

He discharged from Navy in 1984 and became the Regional Naval Officer four years later.

“I took over from an old gentleman who passed on,” says CDR Wisnesky. “Warrant Officer Reece Golding, we’re good mates, and he rang me and said, ‘do you want to become an honorary naval officer’, as they were called in those days. I asked, ‘what do they do?’ and he said, ‘talk to mums and dads’. I said, ‘do I get paid?’ He said, ‘nope’. I said, I wouldn’t mind doing that.”

***“It’s the comradeship. It’s being around mates who think the same way. And when you put a uniform on someone, it makes them tall. Uniform has a mana about it.”***

His view was his 21 years in the Navy had been good to him. “This was a way to pay back. It had been good for my family, provided so many opportunities. I was proud of being Navy, proud of what it stood for and proud of what it achieves. It’s been a fantastic journey.”

CDR Wisnesky’s last civilian job, from 2001 to 2020, was as the Regional Director for Work and Income. He had seen plenty of unemployed youngsters in the system.

“I would use my uniform and go along to youth groups. I’d talk about the Navy for five minutes, and I’d tell my story and the choices I’ve made – the good ones and the bad ones. I’ve enjoyed my life and I like to share how that went. There will be some who take notice and some who don’t, but if I can influence one person, that’s a bonus.”

He talks about self-discipline, respect, hard work, tolerance and fun, as well as outlining the Navy’s technical training. “I describe the highlights, and that’s mostly about fun stuff. I talk about how I was a 17-year-old in a warlike situation in Malaya, pointing a rifle at a junk and hoping no-one was going to shoot at me.” Something he and his mates loved to do was lying on the fo’s’cle at night and marvel at the satellites tracking across the sky – a relatively new concept in the sixties. “We climbed Mt Fuji at 4am in the morning and watched the sunrise. I had a three-year posting in Singapore and went on safari in Kenya.”

He points out he was a boy who couldn’t pass School Certificate. “You can be whoever you want to be, by making good choices. I talk about the values, the training I got, the highlights. The Navy provides these opportunities, and along the way you have a lot of fun and get paid to go overseas.”

He met with the mayor of Rotorua to request to be invited to citizenship ceremonies, after being inspired by the front cover of *Navy Today* August 2020. “The midshipmen were marching out and doing a haka. The young gentleman on the front cover, leading the haka, was of Asian descent. I thought to myself, any New Zealand citizen could be asked to volunteer for their country. They could come from anywhere. So at these ceremonies, I talk to people afterwards.”

CDR Wisnesky has given talks at his local library. He supports HMNZS NGAPONA in Tauranga for Waitangi Day and has been the Parade Commander and guest speaker at Rotorua Anzac Day and Armistice services. He has been a guest speaker at Whakatane High School and at a Kawarau dawn service. He’s out and about for Poppy Day and attends Careers Expos, Cadet unit parade nights and the occasional funeral. “That’s what the role is, to get the uniform out there. During Poppy Day, a woman asked if I could talk to her son, who wanted to join the Navy. A year later I got a text – he’d been accepted.”

#### **WHAT DOES HE THINK RESONATES MOST WITH YOUTH?**

“It’s the comradeship. It’s being around mates who think the same way. And when you put a uniform on someone, it makes them tall. Uniform has a mana about it. That’s why the uniform with cadets and with Limited Service Volunteers (LSV) is important. They’re looking for an interesting career, they’re looking for training, and they’re looking for adventure.”

He’s not sure how long he’ll stay in the role. “I love what I do. I talked to Commander Clive Holmes (Director Coordination RNOs) a year ago. I said, I’m getting old, I’m not sure I’m relevant sometimes, especially when talking to youth. He said, ‘sometimes youth listen to old fellas’.”





# Celebrating Samoan Language Week

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Ordinary Chef

**Zackarier  
Talataina**

I'm half-Samoan, half-Māori, and I grew up in Taita, Wellington. I joined on 22 February and I'm going through Basic Common Training right now. The reason I joined the Navy was to travel places I've never been to and most importantly to make my family & friends proud. I'm the first in my family to be in the Navy.

At the moment a typical day for me is parade and PT session and a lot more!

I grew up in Mount Albert, Auckland. My Dad is Samoan but was born in New Zealand, so was mostly raised around my dad and my nana which is my dad's mum who was born in Samoa. She speaks fluently and knows the way of the culture. I was raised, born and bred in my ethnic background.

Where I'm from, and thinking about how many famous people that are Samoan, makes me proud to be Samoan. It's about having the pride that every culture has. For Samoans it's about respect and much more.

My special saying is "Vii'a Le Atua", which means GOD IS GOOD.

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I joined the Navy in 2019 for a better future and to have a chance to travel and to gain life experiences outside of my hometown.

I am a Chef and the average day is very different, especially being on ship. We could be catering for ship's company or could be catering for special guests that come on board. I think that having an 'average' day as a chef could be very relaxed; however in this trade it's good to remain flexible as anything can come up last minute such as cocktail parties, morning and afternoon teas and also mess dinners.

At the start of the year I was 'crash posted' to HMNZS CANTERBURY to help with aid in Tonga. I had 12 hours' notice to pack my bags and meet them at 8am as they were sailing the next day. I had just come back from leave so this was a bit stressful. It was a crazy three weeks where we did what we could in Tonga due to COVID. It was not only New Zealand, we also saw that the Australians, the Royal Navy and the United States were there to help out a small nation. It was pretty cool.

I grew up a lot around my grandparents. Most of it was with my Nana in the kitchen, helping her on Sundays after she had come back from church to set up and help with lunch. Not only was I fed well by her, she taught me her recipes that she had been taught in Samoa before she came to New Zealand. My nana passed away while I was in BCT training and I know she is everywhere that I go in the Navy. Because of her drive and her words of wisdom, I am where I am because of her. I have a tattoo on my right arm dedicated to my grandparents so whenever I salute I know that they are with me wherever I am in the world.

I think that growing up I had lost my Samoan roots, especially coming from a household of two different cultures. However the message I would like to get across is that no matter who you are as a person, if you do not know that culture in the traditional ways I think that it shouldn't matter! Samoa mo Samoa. Our ancestors run through our blood and they will be proud of who we've become, no matter how much or little we know about our culture we are still islanders at the end of the day and I am proud to say that I am a Samoan-Māori, 100 per cent.

Able Chef  
**Teagan  
Tautala-Hanita**





# Attention to detail

Navy recruits undergoing the 15 to 17-week Basic Common Training course will participate in four levels of kit musters, where they demonstrate their ability to fold, arrange, roll and ultimately wear several different kinds of uniform kit to a very high standard.

BCT 22/01 Divisional Officer Lieutenant Sam Mayhew says once the recruits move from coveralls to wearing General Work Dress (GWDs) at about week 6, it's time to start testing their ability to present themselves in Navy uniforms and show pride in the variety of uniform kit issued.

The first is a Leading Hands' Kit Muster, involving all items of kit laid out, beautifully folded and spaced,

on their beds. Later, there's a Senior Rates' Kit Muster; the same thing, but with a different set of eyes.

LT Mayhew gets involved in the Divisional Officers' Kit Muster, which is a 'Change Parade' for the recruits. They present wearing six different kinds of uniforms within a set time frame, each marked on presentation and attention to detail.

As each change takes place, the recruits help each other, checking uniforms for dirt and 'train track' creases – a crease that has been ironed with another crease alongside. Recruits with lint rollers take turns to go over hard-to-see places on their classmates.





Attention to detail is what trips a recruit up, says LT Mayhew. "They'll get told what uniforms we want them to show for us. They have to practise meeting fleet standard times. On a ship, for Damage Control, you have to present yourself in a certain time. So it's getting them to practise that urgency and speed – the right kit for the right event."

Recruits can have a maximum of five points deducted. "They tend to get all the right kit on, but it's the little things. Lint, dirt, lanyards showing when they shouldn't be, train track creases. There is some lenience. When you put a uniform on, there will be creases. But you don't want a crease that's been ironed in. The lesson is, you can rely on your oppos to help you, but if you don't do a final check, it's on you."

The first Leading Hands' Kit Muster is on a set date. But after that, the recruits are given time slots by Recruit Training Squadron staff, and it is up to the individual to request the Senior Rates' and Divisional Officers' kit musters – or request a time to re-sit a kit muster they previously failed. "This gives them an opportunity to Lead Self and it teaches them that different levels of people are watching them, not just one instructor."

Not passing means losing privileges, particularly leave. "If they don't pass the Leading Hands' kit muster, they don't get leave. Once they pass that, they get the minimum amount of leave. Senior Rates' kit muster, more leave. If they pass the Divisional Officers' kit muster, that's the final amount of leave awarded."

There is one final phase, the Recruit Training Officer's (RTO) kit muster. The top two from the DOs' Kit Muster will undertake a kit muster on their beds, for the RTO's inspection. The top person wins an award.

You're not going to fail the course if you don't pass, says LT Mayhew. "It's not a control point. But it impacts their leave. It's their freedom."

# RUNNING IN THE VANCOUVER MARATHON

■ By POMT(P) J J Reibel

When the Vancouver Marathon celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a small and dedicated group of HMNZS TE MANA's ship's company was there.



Five members of ship's company ran the half-marathon, including our Commanding Officer, and two chose to take on the full 42.2km distance.

I had been hungry for an event for the entire deployment and the idea of the Vancouver Marathon was pitched to me at 12 weeks from race day. I know from experience that 12 weeks to train for a 42.2km race is a lot to ask of your body, and after having only recently recovered from COVID-19, I was already at a major setback. We also had a couple of weeks at sea, where training had to be supplemented by static cycling. It wasn't going to be easy and I had to start my training that day.

Cold is something you just to have to deal with in Canada. Your excuses to sleep in or skip the morning training session because it is under zero degrees are completely valid, but you need to lace up and go get after it if you want any hope of performing well in the actual race. For afternoon sessions, there are days where I would finish work after 1800, and would already be tired from a physically tough day on the tools in the engine spaces. You might need to do a

6x800m interval session that night, or a 90-minute steady pace run. It doesn't matter how you feel, you are still doing it.

With over 18,500 registered runners across the entire event and over 3,000 volunteers, the energy at the start line was intense, I knew I had to get up near the front and run as hard as I could for as long as I could. Find the fast guys and stick with them. When the gun went off, I quickly found myself up in the top 200 of the field. "Good, this is right where you want to be. Now grab the reins and hold on tight."

Just like that, I reached the halfway point after 1 hour and 27 minutes, a personal record. I knew a date with reality was coming, and at 25km the hills started and the legs got heavy. The sun was beating down on us, everyone was feeling it. There were expressions of pain and discomfort starting to show on the others around me and I knew I was looking that way too.

Those who have run a marathon before will tell you, the final six kilometres is where you really find out what you are made of. It's the point where the desire to stop is overwhelming. You are physically and nutritionally spent, pain is everywhere, the mind starts to slip and you need to keep it focused and locked in. "Not long to go now, keep punching these k's out."

There were a lot of guys passing me at this point, but I was passing a lot of other guys too. There were some very fit people that were breaking down on the side of the road, stopping to walk and swearing at themselves; a couple had fainted and were lying on the footpath. "That isn't going to be me. I'm not going to break down. I'm not going to swear. I'm not going to faint on the side of the road. Pick it up and let's go."

On the final straight, the street was lined with people, the place was lit up and fully going nuts. Everyone was yelling your name and telling you to go for it.

*Above: POMT(P) J J Reibel keeps the pace going.*





Just like that, it was all over. I completed the marathon in 3 hours and 10 minutes, placing 219<sup>th</sup> overall. Back in New Zealand, my mum saw me cross the line on the live stream. The rest of HMNZS TE MANA's running crew were waiting for me and I was stoked for them. Now we just had to wait in anticipation for our other runner, AMT(P) Toby Richards, to finish the marathon. He finished in just over four hours.

For those looking to complete a marathon in the future, it doesn't care about your feelings. It will strip you down and take from you without remorse. It will offer you an experience like nothing else - to be in both your strongest state and weakest state over the course of a few hours. It's what keeps me coming back year after year. We do not rise to the level of our goals; we only fall to the strength of our system. Time to quit dreaming and start doing. Now go get it.

*Above: A mass start of runners for the BMO Vancouver Marathon.*

*AMT(P) Toby Richards on the final straight to the finish.*









**FROM THE AIR:** Navy Photographer Petty Officer Chris Weissenborn caught this image of Devonport Naval Base from a USAF MC-130J Hercules during a joint USAF/RNZAF exercise. In this image are IPVs HMNZ Ships HAWEA and TAUPO, decommissioned IPVs PUKAKI and ROTOITI, TE KAHA in drydock, WELLINGTON, CANTERBURY, MANAWANUI and AOTEAROA. The jetty for HMNZS MATATAUA can be seen between the IPVs. Missing from the shot is HMNZ Ships OTAGO (out of view) and TE MANA (overseas).





## HAVE YOU VALIDATED YOUR CAPES LOANS REPORT YET?

**Reminder – All NZDF uniformed personnel have until 30 June 2022 to print, update and email through their CAPES Loans Report to get validated.**

After this date your record will be considered an accurate reflection of what you currently hold and are accountable for.

If you enlisted after 01 July 2021 you do not need to submit CAPES – if unsure refer your Chain of Command.

**For further information and help please refer to the CAPES announcements on the ILP.**

## REUNIONS

### Intake Reunion

RNZN 1/73 Intake Reunion to be held in Nelson, January 20–22, 2023.

Any interested personnel can email Gary Howard, [gchoward@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gchoward@xtra.co.nz).

### RNVR (NZ Division) Otago reunion

It is proposed to hold a reunion for the 95th Anniversary of the RNVR (NZ Division) Otago in June 2023. Registrations of Interest from ex and current serving members of HMNZS TOROA are requested to forward names and numbers of those wishing to attend to the Secretary, RNZNVR Association (Otago) at [jimdell295@gmail.com](mailto:jimdell295@gmail.com), no later than 31 August.



## VOLUNTARY EDUCATION STUDY ASSISTANCE

**Semester Two, 2022 applications are being accepted. You may submit your request for funding within 90 days of your study start date. Apply online at NZDC, Defence Learning Toolkit VESA Application (e-form).**

**Applicants should be aware of their responsibilities prior to making an application IAW DFO 3/2016.**

**Prior to starting the application process, applicants are to:**

- Confirm the level of study is right for them with NZDC DLearn
- Advise their 1-UP of their study intentions
- Provide supporting paperwork including study documentation from the official learning provider website (ready to attach to your e-form application)

Contact your local DLearn Adult Learning Tutor who can assist you with your application. If you have any further queries, please email our Tertiary Services & Support Advisor at [nzdclearnvesa@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:nzdclearnvesa@nzdf.mil.nz)

POLICY (terms and conditions) SADFO 3/2016 VESA Policy SADFO 3/2016 VESA Policy (terms and conditions).





# 15 ROUNDS

## WITH PETTY OFFICER CHRIS WEISSENBORN, NAVY PHOTOGRAPHER



01

**Date joined RNZN:**

UK RAF Nov 1988, NZDF May 2006, 34 years on the scoreboard now doing one of the most amazing jobs in the Defence Force.

02

**Best deployment:**

Afghanistan on one of the earlier CRIB missions, covering the Anzac Centenary Commemorations in Gallipoli was a close second.

03

**Best hack for photography at sea:**

Always carry a spare UV filter that protects your lens, it's hard to clean a lens when sea spray gets on it, so just change the filter, and clean it later.

04

**What's the military photo you've always wanted to set up:**

To get an aerial photo at sea with all our ships, all really close to each other along with a Seasprite helicopter in the foreground.

05

**What's been one of the toughest photo assignments you've done:**

Been on quite a few HADR tasks in Indonesia, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomons etc, seeing the aftermath of often tragic destructive events first hand does at times affect you, but good to know we are there to help.

06

**What's a country on your bucket list you'd like to take a camera to:**

Dive liveaboard vacation to the Galapagos Islands and get the chance to dive and photograph sharks.

07

**Favourite book:**

Facebook! Love how you get reminded of all them memories.

08

**Favourite movie:**

*The Wedding Singer*, especially the Billy Idol scene on the flight.

09

**Favourite album:**

*Prince Charming* by Adam and the Ants.

10

**Favourite song:**

*Girls on Film*, Duran Duran.

11

**Favourite holiday destination:**

Indonesia on liveaboard scuba diving holidays.

12

**Outside of work, what's a couple of things you enjoy doing:**

Sea kayaking around the Hauraki Gulf.

13

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

Because I was born during a single week back in 1970 I'm part of the British Cohort Study (BCS70) which follows the lives of around 17,000 people born in the United Kingdom, this study is to help current and future generations.

14

**A valuable life/Navy lesson for me is?**

To spend time with my wife Dianne at the end of the working day as soon as you get home by just talking and listening to each other, usually on a nice long walk.

15

**How would you describe the Navy in 10 words or less:**

Great team that work with each other for a common goal.



*USAF MC-130J Hercules and RNZAF C-130 Hercules fly over Devonport Naval Base during USAF/RNZAF exercises in May.*

*Photo: PO Chris Weissenborn*