

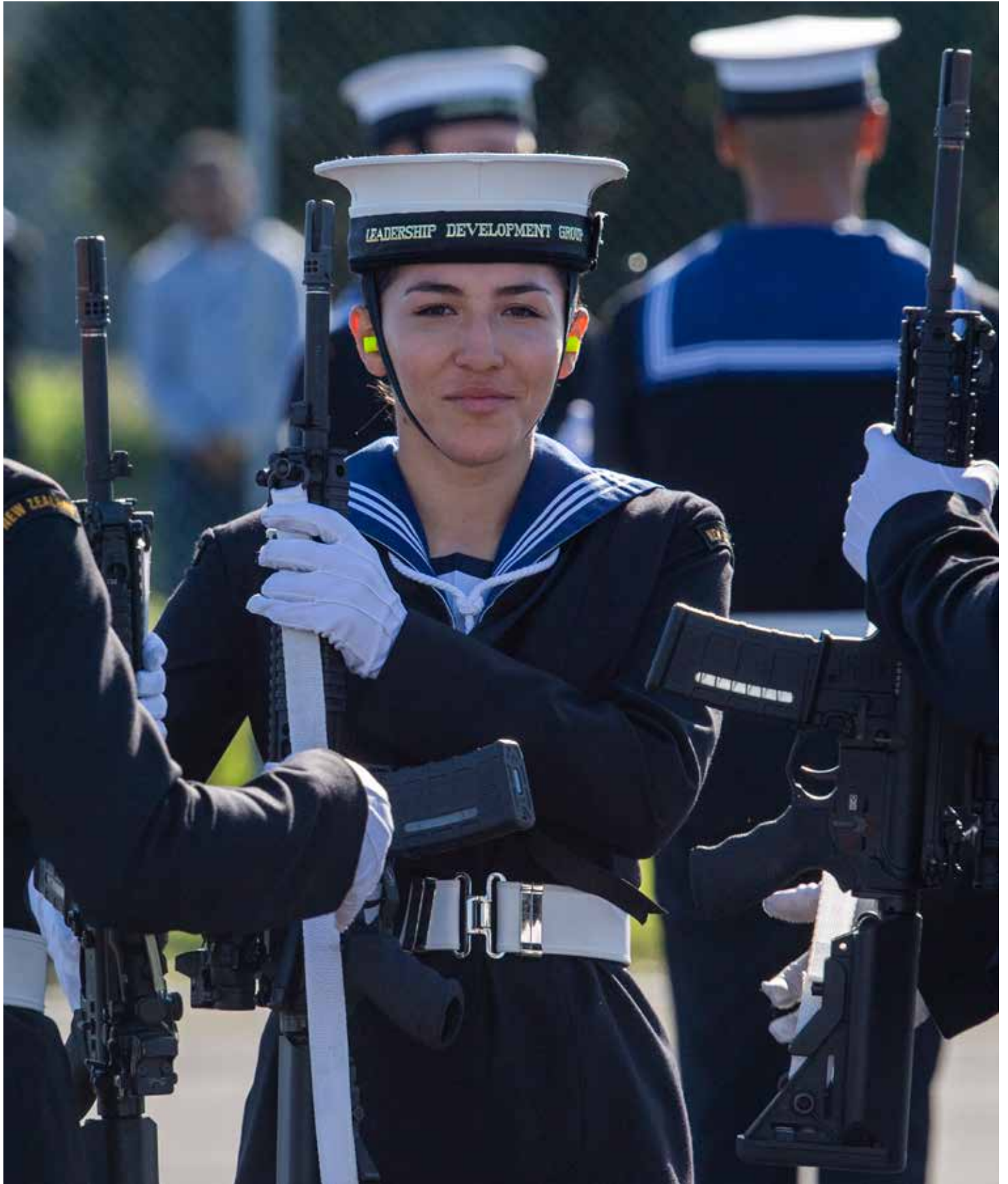
# NAVY

T O D A Y

HMNZS TAUPO  
ON PATROL

FUTURE  
NAVAL BASE

DONATION OF  
A NAVAL SWORD



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*“Training and working with our partners is incredibly valuable, especially because we all, as Pacific nations, have a part in protecting our maritime resources.”*

- Commander Phil Rowe, Maritime Training Team in Samoa



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#### Front Cover:

OMED Nelly Aruquipa-Southerwood stands with the RNZN's newest sailors and officers during the JOCT/BCT 23/01 Graduation at Devonport Naval Base.

#### Photographer:

CPL Naomi James



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# From the Editor



*Navy Today* Editor  
**Andrew Bonallack**

In preparing both the June and July editions, it has struck me how units and trades in the Royal New Zealand Navy have become rather innovative in keeping their professions fresh, relevant and exciting.

Relevant and exciting is a given when ships leave port. Sailors join the Navy to go to sea and when you're out there, you're doing exactly what you were trained to do. You're earning your money (and an extra \$75 per day in at-sea allowances) and there's all the time-honoured perks of deployment, such as runs ashore in foreign countries.

One of the best things about deployments is you're doing all this with your mates, your 'oppos'. Certainly, from the earliest stages of Basic Common Training and Junior Officer Common Training, trainees are taught that comradeship is vital and teamwork is everything, especially since you're going to be working in one of the toughest environments on the planet. You don't work alone. When you are in a ship, you are in effect in the ultimate team situation.

Team situations are plentiful within Navy, not just in ships, but I wonder if they really compare to sea time. I don't go to sea anything like as much as a sailor but when I do, I get an idea of why it's so good to be out there. But today we have three ships in care and custody and we've had a long period without our Naval Combat Force.

In terms of Force Generation, the Navy is in a good place right now, but what do we do when you're not getting those deployments as a Ship's Company?

What I'm seeing is a trend towards concentrating subject matter experts into deployable packages that move without being based on a Navy ship. I'm seeing a trend towards 'centres of gravity' where Suitably Qualified Personnel (SQP), scattered throughout the fleet, can be drawn into a bespoke team when needed and dispatched where needed.

People are going to tell me this isn't new. We've had groups of chefs and stewards travelling to the United Kingdom to cover staffing shortfalls in HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH. Members of particular trades head away to exercises overseas to enhance their skillset and become more interoperable with other Services. NZDF personnel across three Services come together all the time in groups for conferences and courses in other countries.

But these latest deployments aren't about exercises, conferences or classrooms. This is about developing a specifically-named, continuous capability, under which a group of experts can be gathered in short order to deploy again and again.

One example last year was the fly-away Steward teams, partnering with Pacific Island nations to provide event management for significant diplomatic events.

In June's *Navy Today* edition, we saw the Deployable Boarding Team capability being developed out of HMNZS MATATAUA. The capability is a 'centre of gravity' for personnel who have been trained to carry out boarding operations.

A name change from Supply Officer to Maritime Logistics Officer (November 2021) and Stores Accountant to Logistics Supply Specialist (July 2018) may have helped promote a wider culture of logistics and the build-up of Logistic Detachments, where a support team travels to a location to get things sorted before a ship calls in. We'll cover the LOGDET sent to Samoa in August's edition.

Perhaps another example of how a name change can reflect an evolution of culture is the Maritime Training Group. Formerly the Maritime Operational Excellence Team, we'll see in this edition how they've developed fly-in, fly-out Maritime Training Teams, with a concentration of experts travelling to Samoa to work with the Samoan Maritime Police.

These fly-away teams speak a great deal to the pride of the trades and the desire to achieve not only excellence and a good reputation for the Royal New Zealand Navy, but the military effect as well. It will be interesting to see what other bespoke creations – perhaps tri-Service – are developed as time goes on.







# OPERATION CALYPSO

HMNZS TAUPO, shown here arriving in Apia, Samoa, has travelled further than ever before in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Photo: PO Chris Weissenborn



# ON PATROL IN SAMOA

It's the furthest north in latitude and the furthest travelled for an Inshore Patrol Vessel since the commissioning of the Lake-class vessels in 2009.

Under the command of Lieutenant Samara Mankelow, HMNZS TAUPU sailed to Apia, Samoa, and carried out Operation Calypso, a 967-nautical mile maritime security and fisheries patrol of Samoa's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) last month.







The New Zealand Defence Force, working alongside other nations and government agencies, regularly provides aircraft, ships and trained personnel to support efforts to detect and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Operation Calypso is one of several maritime resource protection operations that the New Zealand Defence Force carries out each year via air and sea, supporting the Forum Fisheries Agency, Pacific Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group, the Ministry for Primary Industries and at the direct request of Pacific nation Governments.

During a week of patrols, three fishing vessels were hailed, two of which were boarded. None were reported to authorities for breaches of fishing regulations, however there were minor infringements sighted on each vessel against various safety and equipment laws.

Several successful boat drills and aerial surveillance drone serials were also conducted.

Ship Information Officer Sub Lieutenant Jessica Bewick said it was the first time a drone of this type had been utilised and deployed from a Royal New Zealand Navy ship.

"We had two members of the Ship's Company who completed a New Zealand Defence Force drone pilot course. The drone provided advanced surveillance and recording capability during boarding operations, and also when trying to locate vessels of interest."

LT Mankelow said she and the crew were pleased with the results of the operation.

"Illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing is a major issue that threatens sustainable fisheries and the livelihood of Pacific people, so we're very pleased that the vessels we made contact with and boarded were all operating within the regulations. Working with our neighbours to patrol their EEZs is an important way of helping them to protect their resources, and it's gratifying to contribute to the ongoing fight against IUU fishing."

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Rear Admiral Gilmour says TAUPO is an ideal vessel to support the Samoan Maritime Police, with arrival of their new Guardian-class patrol vessel NAFANUA III next year.

Six members of TAUPO's crew remained on shore during the week, to make room for three Samoan maritime police, two Samoan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries officers and one Fisheries New Zealand Fisheries Officer. They joined forces with Navy Chaplain Lloyd Salmon and Lieutenant Sam Wilson, who had travelled to Apia earlier to assist in logistics support for HMNZS TAUPO.

The unit carried out community engagement, including a sports day with the Samoan Police, clearing WWI and WWII graves of New Zealand Defence Force personnel, and volunteer work at Samoa's Animal Protection Society.

TAUPO returned to New Zealand at the end of June.



Maintaining a presence in the Pacific isn't just about ships. *Navy Today* talks to Commander Phil Rowe, the Maritime Training Group's Fleet Seamanship and Executive Officer, about "fly-in, fly-out" teams delivering training to the Pacific Islands.

It's a new name and a new initiative. The Maritime Training Group (MTG), who traditionally "work up" Royal New Zealand Navy ships and crews, have proven the concept of a select, flyaway team of subject matter experts delivering maritime training in a Pacific country.

Last month five MTG members were sent as a newly-titled Maritime Training Team (MTT) to work with 32 Samoan Maritime Police officers and the Samoan Fire Service in Apia.

CDR Rowe, Warrant Officer Seaman Combat Specialist Gan Elphick-Moon, Warrant Officer Medic Michael Wiig, Leading Medic Courtney Davies and Able Electronic Warfare Specialist Dee Bentin delivered a week-long course encompassing medical training, search and rescue planning and execution, seamanship and boarding and searching vessels. CDR Rowe, WOSCS

Elphick-Moon and WOMED Wiig returned to Samoa for a second week to conduct on-the-water training ahead of the arrival in Samoa of HMNZS TAUPU.

CDR Rowe says it is a new concept and an ideal way to develop and maintain New Zealand's maritime presence in the South West Pacific.

"Maritime effect can be achieved with more than just platforms. There was discussion this year about creating a Navy training team – a deployable training component of MTG – to work with our Pacific partners, when and where it's needed.

It's important the countries to whom training is delivered invite in the team and Samoa were the first to do so. The country had been without a significant patrol craft since the loss of their Guardian-class patrol vessel NAFANUA II in August 2021. This month Samoa was gifted a 17m police patrol boat named TILAFAGA from Japan and will receive a new Guardian-class vessel – NAFANUA III – from Australia in January.

With new and upcoming assets being delivered to Samoa, MTG felt it was a good time to offer help in building up the skills of the Samoan Maritime Police, just as they do with New Zealand's Navy crews.

"We're not just doing this and then leaving the country. We're looking at going back in November to support them with training around TILAFAGA. Then we'll potentially return in late February or early March to work with them with NAFANUA III."





Photos: PO Chris Weissenborn.



***“Training and working with our partners is incredibly valuable, especially because we all, as Pacific nations, have a part in protecting our maritime resources and security.”***

The two weeks of training went very well. “In the first week we concentrated on classroom training and provided a full range of medical training. They had just done some Red Cross courses but WOMED Wiig and LMED Davies provided a maritime context, including medical scenarios out on the water. WOSCS Elphick-Moon provided boarding training. We utilised fishing boats for search training, where we planted items to be found. I delivered a search and rescue package, teaching how to respond and plan for a Search and Rescue situation.”

The team also engaged with the Samoan Fire Service, at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. “The fire service have two RHIBs and they do Search and Rescue assistance around the harbour and coastal regions. Ten personnel were given boat handling training, and will hopefully participate in some search and rescue training with the maritime police in November.”

A big plus was taking AEWS Benton as the team’s cultural assistant, as well as an expert sailor. “He provided support for the team, in understanding the culture and speaking the language. He thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and the chance to reconnect with his family for Independence Day. He was able to also support Chief of Navy and his Flag Lieutenant for their visit to Samoa.”

At the end of the training package Rear Admiral David Proctor, Chief of Navy, met with the Samoan Police Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners and awarded Certificates of Participation to the Samoan Maritime Police on the wharf beside the newly-arrived HMNZS TAUPO. CDR Rowe then gifted a boarding ladder, Person overboard dummy and CPR mannequins as well as first aid kits.

Everyone one is pleased to see the Royal New Zealand Navy back in Samoa, says CDR Rowe. “The Commissioner and deputies were extremely pleased with what had been achieved, and were looking forward to more iterations of this initiative.”

Next on the list for the MTT is Fiji in late November, with possible deployments to other nations in the South West Pacific.

“Word is getting out that we are available,” he says. “Obviously our priority is at home, but we will use these small teams where we can. Perhaps five or six persons for medical, boat handling, damage control, and next time we might take a technical rate. Certainly for NAFANUA III, we’d bring a slightly bigger team.”

MTT is a valuable and creative way to generate enduring maritime effect in the South West Pacific at a time of increased volatility and competition across the globe. Training and working with our partners is incredibly valuable, especially because we all, as Pacific nations, have a part in protecting our maritime resources and security.”











# Government confirms Devonport Naval Base stays where it is

Over the years, governments have asked questions about the optimum location of the Home of the Royal New Zealand Navy. Reports have been produced, locations have been considered and thorough cost/benefit analyses conducted.

Recently, the Government approved the key recommendation of the latest report into the location of the Future Naval Base – **the Navy will be staying in Devonport.**

## What sort of Base is required?

Now that the decision has been made, the New Zealand Defence Force, along with the Government, can proceed with confidence and certainty in making investment decisions on transforming the Devonport location into a modern, adaptable and fit-for-purpose Navy Base.

## A Base that:

- Enhances its unique location environment
- Remains a great neighbour to the residents of Devonport
- Is well connected and easy to get around
- Provides well designed, reasonably-priced accommodation for personnel
- Has core functional areas located in the right places
- Addresses car parking concerns in and around the Base
- Retains elements of Navy's 180-year history on the site, yet provides a modern and progressive operational naval base
- Is mindful of the risks around sea water inundation
- Could utilise a site in Whangārei as a supplementary maritime facility

## Some of the key considerations:

### Historic sites

Identifying the structures that must stay eg. Dry dock, tunnel, Quarterdeck, Chapel etc and replacing some facilities such as the Wardroom and former Naval Hospital.

### Calliope Road

Provision of accommodation for officer, Senior and Junior Rates while addressing car parking issues.

### South East Yard

Intensification of accommodation facilities and office accommodation and development of a long-term car parking solution.

### North Yard – bordered by Jim Titchener Parade

Sea water inundation may require a 'Defend or Depart' consideration on parts of the area – this could involve infrastructure such as Te Taua Moana Marae, Sea Safety Training Squadron and Damage Control School, Recruit Training Squadron and Fleet Gym.

### Narrow Neck facility

Consideration as a location of the Officer Training School and Recruit Training Squadron and Royal New Zealand Navy housing option.



# COROMANDEL TERRAIN PROVIDES INVALUABLE TRAINING FOR MARITIME HELICOPTER CREW

Whitianga locals had a bit of a different view last month, as a Seasprite SH-2G(I) helicopter took to the skies over the Coromandel region.

■ **By Simone Millar**

Senior Communications Adviser (North)

The helicopter, along with the aircrew and maintenance team from No. 6 Squadron RNZAF, were based out of Whitianga Airfield and undertook mountain flying training in the area.

It was the first time Sub Lieutenant Tom Usher was able to experience mountain flying as an Airborne Tactical Officer, or Observer.

“It was really exciting to go into the mountains and try something different. We look after the tactical side of things, being a maritime warfare capable helicopter, so we’re usually based off the back of a ship. My primary role is the management of weapons and sensors in a tactical environment. Mountain flying is a smaller part of our role, but we need to train in different environments so we can respond when called upon. It’s really invaluable,” says the 30-year-old Aucklander.

Commanding Officer No. 6 Squadron, Commander Alex Trotter, says the Coromandel provides very challenging terrain to fly around, especially with associated weather such as strong winds and low cloud.



“The Coromandel is an excellent representation of the type of South Pacific environment that we are expected to operate in, with very similar terrain to places like the Solomon Islands, the Kermadecs and Sub-Antarctic island chains. It’s a mixture of very sharp relief with high ridges and pinnacles, leading into deep, forested valleys. This is very challenging terrain to fly around, so training our crews here sets them up for success when we ask them to conduct land-based operations,” says CDR Trotter.





SLT Usher was able to practise manoeuvres for the first time during the week-long training, including approaching pinnacles, ridgeline crossings, up-valley and down-valley approaches.

"We normally operate over water at about 400ft. This week we were getting up to 3,000ft, but the real difference is the terrain, how to approach the terrain and the environmental conditions to consider, especially hitting one side to uplift and downwash the other side," says SLT Usher.

"The approach to a pinnacle is to simulate a winch manoeuvre, but it's different from what we normally do as the pilot would usually have good references. It's harder to judge how fast you're approaching it out here," he says.

SLT Usher was 'on the beat' as a Constable with the New Zealand Police in Invercargill, until joining the Navy in 2019 as a Bridge Watchkeeper. Most of his family were in the Royal Navy, but he'll be the first to switch to naval aviation, something he's always been interested in.

"I really enjoy the mental stimulation you get from the job. No two days are the same and there's always problem-solving, there's always more than one way to skin things. It's about using the information to come to the best solution. I find it really rewarding and sets it aside from other jobs. It's good fun," he says.

The training was part of his Operational Conversion Course, which resulted in him being able to operate unsupervised.

"I'll finish my conversion course at sea on HMNZS TE MANA at Exercise Bersama Lima in Malaysia later this year, where we'll be utilising anti-submarine warfare capability. As the observer, using tactical systems to search and destroy submarines is our bread and butter. So it's really exciting to be finishing the course on this note," he says.



# AN EXCHANGE OF SKILLS WITH UK

A Seaman Combat Specialist is sharing his skills and leadership at the United Kingdom's Board and Search Training School for the Royal Navy.

Leading Seaman Combat Specialist Alex Croucher is on Longlook Exchange, a longstanding annual short term exchange programme between New Zealand and the United Kingdom. It is designed to give ratings and junior officers from all three services the opportunity to work and travel in each country.

Since late March, LSCS Croucher has been based at Royal Navy training establishment HMS RALEIGH in Cornwall. He will conclude the exchange in August.

Although a student at RALEIGH's Board and Search Training School, LSCS Croucher was able to draw on his boarding experience from deployments to the Western Pacific and Southern Ocean aboard HMNZS OTAGO and a recent boarding-focused work-up in HMNZS TAUPU.

During the boarding course he had the role of second in charge, coordinating fellow students in different roles in security and search teams. It allowed him to make use of 'Lead Leaders' skills he gained during his recent Petty Officer Development course.

Following the course, LSCS Croucher will continue on as an assistant instructor/observer.

As well as the chance to see how the Royal Navy operate – and bring home some new skills, he says he jumped at the opportunity to come to the country where his family hails from.

"The United Kingdom is the birthplace of my father and grandparents and in some sense, the birthplace of our Navy. I am fascinated with the history and culture of the UK and wider Europe, so was honoured to be selected to come here."

He says the Royal Navy have very thorough sweep and search techniques. While in the role of 2I/C, staff expected him to ensure the teams ran smoothly.

Their in-depth Standard Operating Procedures and boarding documentation is impressive, he says.

"They have detailed step-by-step processes which means everything is done correctly. The Royal Navy also has extensive and ongoing experience with anti-piracy and drug boardings. It's evident in their instructions."

He notes that the Royal Navy is primarily a combat force. "Their support and logistical ships are part of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and local border protection is a separate government organisation.

"So these sailors will end up on frigates, cruisers, destroyers, aircraft carriers, with occasional exceptions. They therefore have a combat-focused mindset and are more likely to use this kind of training."

Also, the UK has Royal Marines, who are experts at securing non-compliant vessels. "In the RNZN it can be difficult to keep personnel trained in close-quarter combat and weapons techniques, given that being part of a boarding team is an occasional and secondary role."



Having said that, HMNZS MATATAUA's Deployable Boarding Team concept (see *Navy Today* June 2023) is a step towards specialisation.

Outside of training, LSCS Croucher was able to attend an Anzac Day service in Weymouth, Dorset. "This town had thousands pass through from Gallipoli and other WWI theatres, and treated many wounded." 86 Anzac soldiers died of their injuries and are buried at Weymouth and Melcombe Regis cemeteries. "I was grateful that even on the opposite side of the world, we remember them."

He says he's loved his time with the Royal Navy. "I've been making strong bonds and friendships and it's hard knowing you'll likely never see them again. But it's been great to explore the UK, learn new skills and as a bonus, skip winter back home!"









*AEWS Dee Bentin with two members of the Samoan Maritime Police, following a first aid drill.*



*Preparing for a Seasprite mission are (from left), Navy photographer PO Chris Weissenborn, CPOHLM Rick Gurnell and Videographer Les Dawson.*



*Guy Haywood is promoted to Commander, with his children George and Alice changing his rank slides.*

# OUR P



*Top graduating Junior Officer is Midshipman Finbar O'Flaherty, receiving the Minister of Defence's sword from Defence Minister Andrew Little.*



*Best all-round BCT 23/01 sailor is Ordinary Electronic Warfare Specialist Molimoli Tamale, receiving the Spencer Tewsley Cup from Defence Minister Andrew Little.*



*CDR Kerry Tutty at Exercise Tempest Express in Wellington.*



***Rhys Pevreal  
is promoted to  
Commander, with his  
children Ethan and  
Mackenzie handling  
the rank slide change.***



***ALSS Amra Simek  
gives a thumbs-up  
during a sports match  
between Navy and the  
Samoan Police.***



***WODR Lance Graham,  
Warrant Officer of the  
Navy, receives his 1<sup>st</sup>  
and 2<sup>nd</sup> clasp to his  
Royal New Zealand  
Navy Long Service and  
Good Conduct Medal.***

# PEOPLE



***ASCS Michael  
Akuhata-Rauna  
cleans WWI and  
WWII gravestones in  
Apia, Samoa.***



***Chief of Navy RADM David Proctor  
with Samoan Commissioner of  
Police and Prisons, Auapaau  
Logoitino Filipo.***



***LT Samara Mankelow,  
CO HMNZS TAUPU, with  
the Defence Attaché  
Tonga/Samoa, LTCOL  
Aimee Davis.***



# WELCOME ON BOARD, GRADUATES OF 23/01



*Photos: CPL Naomi James.*







# Officer and sailor graduation day

On 10 June the Basic Common Training intake 23/01 (49 sailors) and Junior Officer Common Training intake 23/01 (27 officers) combined for their formal graduation ceremony at Devonport Naval Base.

The best all-round BCT sailor was Ordinary Electronic Warfare Specialist Molimoli Tamale, receiving the Spencer Tewsley Cup, while the top graduating Junior Officer was Midshipman Finbar O'Flaherty, who received the Minister of Defence's sword. The latter award is not presented if the standard isn't high enough.

The official party included Minister of Defence Andrew Little, who had attended an army graduation earlier in the week, and both Chief of Navy Rear Admiral David Proctor and Deputy Chief of Navy Commodore Andrew Brown.



# DIVING OFFICER READY TO GO TO SEA

■ By Simone Millar  
Senior Communications Adviser (North)



Midshipman

## Kalani Doole

Coromandel man, Kalani Doole, is taking his passion for diving to the next level by starting his journey to become one of the next generation of Royal New Zealand Navy divers.

The 19-year-old is one of 27 officers who have graduated Junior Officer Common Training (JOCT) at Devonport Naval Base in Auckland.

MID Doole grew up in Coromandel Town and started diving when he was 16 years old, which has taken him on deep dives to locations including ship wrecks and the Poor Knights.

"I joined the Navy due to my passion for diving. The Navy gives me so much opportunity to progress my passion and it gives me a chance to travel the world. I think the Navy really gives me the chance to become the best version of myself," says Midshipman Doole.

The JOCT course is the first training officers undertake in the RNZN. The 21-week course takes men and women from a civilian life, to learning core military, mariner and leadership skills.

"We have some outstanding junior officers in the Navy. JOCT trains and tests their fitness, resilience, discipline and leadership skills, along with teaching sea survival and defence studies," says RNZN Fleet Personnel and Training Course Officer, Lieutenant Hannah Parry.

MID Doole was head student at Coromandel Area School and says it gave him a taste of what it meant to become a leader.

"My experience with leadership at school was really valuable. We also did a lot of navigation on water at school which I really enjoyed. And now, the Navy is the perfect place for me to develop these skills," says MID Doole.

The Midshipman will be embarking on his Initial Sea Time training soon, before becoming a Warfare Mine Clearance Diving Officer.

The entire JOCT intake had the rare opportunity to embark in HMNZS CANTERBURY for Exercise Mahi Tahī, an amphibious exercise based out of Fiji earlier this year. The deployment incorporated elements of command and leadership courses normally conducted at Tamaki Leadership Centre, Whangaparāoa.

"It really gave me an experience of what life is like on a ship. It reinforced that I've made the right decision to join the Navy and I can't wait to get back to sea," he says.



# Wider World Appeal for Southlander



Ordinary Electronic  
Technician

## Hamish Catto

Southland local, Hamish Catto, swapped a career in political science for exploring the seas with the Royal New Zealand Navy.

The 21-year-old graduated from Central Southland College and was accepted to study science at university, but decided the Navy was the life for him and last month was one of 49 sailors to graduate from RNZN Basic Common Training at Devonport Naval Base in Auckland.

"When I was in Year 12, I became interested in the wider world. I grew up on a sheep and beef farm and I wanted to get a job that was hands-on and gave me some diversity in what I was doing," says OET Catto.

"The Navy will help me develop any interest I have and I'm really interested in international relations. The Navy can give me so much opportunity, especially working with Pacific Island countries and our partners. Working in the field of international relations can help a lot of people and I think the Navy is best poised to do that," he says.

Basic Common Training is a 16-week course where new Navy personnel develop their foundation in military life and learn skills such as weapon handling, first aid, drill and what life is like on a ship.

"People get to grips with Navy culture and learning how to work as a team. On a ship, no-one works alone. As a team, recruits get used to working quickly to complete tasks.

This is all part of developing an ability to perform tasks in the most inhospitable environments, under the direction of a leader and in a team with people they can rely on," says RNZN Fleet Personnel and Training Recruit Training Officer, Lieutenant Commander Sarah Campbell.

After basic training, personnel move on to become an expert in their chosen field. They undertake specialised training on courses, as well as on the job and through sponsored tertiary study.

"Our people have to handle some of the most advanced technologies in the world. They are provided with the training, education, tools and equipment necessary to become fully effective in their field," says LTCDR Campbell.

OET Catto will start his training as an electronics technician in the coming weeks.

"I like the idea of learning about the different systems on a ship and problem solving. I think it's really exciting when you get to diagnose and fix problems on a ship," says OET Catto.

"There are so many opportunities I can explore. I'd love to go on one of the Southern Ocean trips. Serving on one of the Inshore Patrol Vessels would be a cool opportunity and way of seeing the country," he says.



*The Devonport Human Resource Advisers, pictured in HMNZS CANTERBURY with Commanding Officer CDR Bronwyn Heslop. From left, Amber Hansen (Senior HR Advisor), Adrienne Poulter (HR Manager Auckland) and Morgan Gill (HR Advisor).*

## HR TEAM READY TO ADVISE

The Human Resources Service Delivery (HRSD) team in Devonport wants personnel to know what services are available and how they can add value to the decision-making process for commanders and managers.

HR Advisors (HRAs) can highlight the people issues and possibilities and are involved if there's a problem, such as a performance or conduct issue, they will work with commanders and managers to manage the situation. Adrienne Poulter, HR Manager Auckland, stresses that early intervention is of the utmost importance.

"When people think of HR, they think of attracting, recruiting and retaining good people, and ensuring business goals are met. But we're also here to ensure a business stays on the right side of legislation, Defence Force orders and employment law, which exists to protect people at work – onsite and remotely."

"Our core function as an advisory team is to provide HR advice to NZDF commanders and managers. We are Advisors, we don't have authority to make decisions for you. However we will work with you to understand your business/outputs, challenges and people issues, and tailor advice and support to meet your needs."

HRAs play a key role in meeting the NZDF's primary mission, supporting Defence activities at all levels, often bringing specialist expertise and performing a wide range of functions to enhance overall defence capabilities.

The HR Toolkit contains a wealth of HR information and personnel are always encouraged to check this first, as generally it will contain the information and guidance needed.

"So, if you have an HR query or issue you need help with, send us an email, pop in and see us, give us a call, leave a message. It's advisable to approach us in the first instance. Often you might have a starting point or idea about the type of help and engagement you might need. This first port of call will help direct you to the resources you might need or the process you need to engage in."

"If in doubt, shout out."





# HMNZS TAMAKI FORT CAUTLEY REUNION



*Over the weekend of 12-14 May, around 400 sailors who had joined the Navy between 1963 and 1993 reunited at Devonport Naval Base to celebrate the anniversary of their basic training school.*

HMNZS TAMAKI, previously located on Motuihe Island near Auckland, was relocated to Fort Cautley Military Camp in Narrow Neck, Devonport in 1963. Basic Common Training remained there until 1993, when it shifted to the North Yard of Devonport Naval Base.

Reunion committee member Jack Donnelly BEM said the reunion had been four years in the organising, and feedback from veterans was that it was the largest and best ever.

With such large numbers, two sessions had to be run for the powhiri and Meet and Greet, with the Tamaki Fort Cautley Officers' Mess (supported by the RNZN Band) and Devonport RSA supporting the latter.

"For all our veterans the tours were a trip down memory lane and for most to see the huge changes and how our Navy has evolved since they served was unbelievable. This was a talking point throughout the remainder of the reunion and no doubt when they returned home."

The Birkenhead RSA hosted the Reunion Dinner, with the RNZN Band again providing the music.

Another highlight was the St Christopher's Chapel Church service, parade and wreath-laying ceremonies. "To witness a platoon of over 100 veterans marching all in step like they never left the Navy even after 30 years or more was a Gunnery Instructor's dream. Every step they took was a step taken with pride and in remembrance."

Two wreaths were laid; one for the sinking of HMS PURIRI, the only naval loss in New Zealand waters during World War II. The other was on behalf of the Tamaki-Fort Cautley reunion committee to acknowledge and remember those who served and had "Crossed the Bar".

The reunion wound down with the reunion lunch and for the remaining die-hards, a barbecue and drinks into the evening at the Ngataranga Sports Complex.

*Above: The HMNZS TAMAKI Fort Cautley reunion committee.*

# 95 YEARS

## IN OTAGO

*Over King's Birthday Weekend at HMNZS TOROA, the Royal New Zealand Naval Reserve Otago Division held a reunion to celebrate the Division's 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

The reunion, with 84 attending, included a meet-and-greet on Friday. Saturday began with a wreath-laying ceremony at Queen's Gardens in Dunedin, followed by a visit to the Toitu Museum, and dinner at the Leviathan Hotel. Sunday started with 'Up Spirits' and rum issue, with a barbecue lunch.



The Otago Division of the RNVR was established in June 1928, based at the Kensington Army Hall. Sea training was carried out on HMS WAKAKURA, a Castle-class trawler purchased from Britain in 1926 as a reservist training vessel.

The Division commissioned as HMNZS TOROA on 4 December 1951. The unit operated Motor Launches and Inshore Patrol Craft up until 2005.

*Left: Nikki Willems, Brian Dowling, CPO Kim Leonard and LTCDR Mason Tolerton.*

*Clockwise below: Ex-HMNZS TOROA Officers Stu Duff, Brendon Moore, Bob McKillop and Matt Harger; Partners' photo; Brian Dowling, Heather Johnson and Lyall Mc Robb; Group shot during the pre-drinks gathering.*







# The gift of a sword for those from the ranks

*Navy Today* editor Andrew Bonallack meets Lieutenant Commander (rtd) Dick McBurney MBE, who is looking for a worthy officer to take his sword.

"I won't hold you to the Gurkha tradition," says Lieutenant Commander (rtd) Dick McBurney MBE, RN, RNZN, as he produces his naval sword, safely contained in his scabbard. Seeing my blank expression, he explains the reference about a Gurkha blade tasting blood before it is re-sheathed. As it turns out, the hinged catch that releases the sword from the scabbard painfully pinches his hand, but thankfully no blood is drawn.

Now exposed without injury, the sword's blade features the glorious woven embellishments of an ER11 1827 pattern Royal Navy officer's sword. The sword's ricasso (the portion of the blade without an edge, near the hilt) features an engraving of a squirrel, identifying the manufacturer as renowned German swordmaker Eickhorn Solingen. On the blade is stamped SUB LT RICHARD MCBURNEY HMS DRYAD 1963, the date the newly commissioned officer purchased the sword from naval outfitters Gieves of London.

Is that dried blood on the tip of the sword? Mr McBurney explains it's the result of his sword's first outing after he commissioned. It's not blood, but the stain from cutting his wedding cake. He and his wife Norma married 60 years ago in Malta, and in the excitement of the day the brand-new sword was put away without cleaning for quite a while. The sword is named Nordic (for Norma and Dick).

Dick, aged 90, and Norma have no family to pass the sword on to, and he would like to gift it to a naval officer who has had a similar career path to his.

To that end, he's been corresponding with the Leadership Development Group (LDG), responsible for the Junior Officer Common Training course that produces Royal New Zealand Navy officers. Dick has suggested the sword could be given as an annual prize to "someone who has shown some distinction, preferably ex-lower deck", and it's an idea LDG are keen on. It's yet to be finalised, but it's likely the sword will become an annual award for a well-accomplished officer commissioning from the ranks.

He wants a former "lower-decker" to receive it because it reflects his own lower-deck journey, which started in Northern Ireland in 1948, through to commissioning in 1963, joining the Royal New Zealand Navy in 1972, and leaving in 1981.

His navy journey started when he was in his grammar school classroom. The boy beside him said: "I don't think I'm going to pass this exam. I'm going to sea. Do you want to go to sea?"

The pair managed to get themselves an interview with the Navy in Belfast, but both were told they were too young. Mr McBurney's classmate never returned to school. "He ran off to sea. He had four brothers who were ministers and I don't think he wanted to be one."

In July 1948 Mr McBurney joined the Boys Training Establishment HMS GANGES, as a Boy Seaman Second Class, aged 15 years three months. He has a number of black and white images of his adventures in different parts of the world, including a picture of himself and crewmates posing with the Pope in Rome. That image proudly



*Clockwise from top: Dick McBurney MBE; LTCDR McBurney's sword, positioned on memorabilia; The Calliope House Community Centre is opened on 27 March 1976. Pictured is CDRE Roy Humby CBE, Commodore Auckland and his wife, speaking to Norma McBurney (second from right). LTCDR Dick McBurney next to the Commodore.*



ended up in a frame on his parent's wall in Northern Ireland – although it was sometimes turned to face the wall depending on who was visiting.

Moving steadily up the ranks as a seaman, he would return to GANGES as a Petty Officer and instructor, before attending HMS DRYAD in 1962 for a pre-commissioning course. He was promoted to Sub Lieutenant SD(B) (Special Duties Bosun) in June 1963 and attended Royal Naval College in Greenwich for a six-week course.

"We had to buy our swords. I remember sitting in class and the reps from the outfitters came around to measure us up." Gieves of London was considered the pre-eminent Royal Navy outfitter. "The sword was an expensive item and not normally issued to anyone."

After a variety of postings Dick and Norma found themselves in Singapore in 1969 with HMS TRIUMPH, a carrier converted to a fleet repair ship. Two and half years into the posting, Dick wasn't sure what his next job would be. The idea of joining the Royal New Zealand Navy came up.







"There were New Zealand ships in Singapore and I had gotten to know a few people," he says.

Norma was keen. "We both got on well with people and we were keen to leave London. It was just another adventure for us."

Dick came on the understanding he was to be the Assistant Queen's Harbourmaster. But first up he was First Lieutenant of HMNZS KIAMA. He remembers taking the ship to Wellington and being stunned by the crew's transformation into Māori ceremonial gear for the anniversary of the ship's launch.

As well as Basic Common Training Officer HMNZS TAMAKI and Boatswain of the Yard, he eventually did become the Assistant Queen's Harbourmaster.

But something that came particularly naturally to Dick and Norma was welfare.

"I noticed there was little support for naval families," he says. "We were used to a lot more welfare in the UK. People in New Zealand weren't being horrible, they just didn't realise there was a gap. So Norma and I started arranging car rallies, barbecues and many other events."



Their interest in naval family welfare led to bigger things, including the opening of the Calliope House Community Centre on 27 March 1976, with a crèche inside. (This would later become the Navy Community Childcare Centre for two to five year olds, while Tamariki House, for six months to age two, would open in 1998).

He started a free monthly magazine, the *New Zealand Navy News*. "When I was in Singapore we used to do newsletters for families. People didn't have TV, or social media. So I went to Commodore Auckland (CDRE Roy Humby CBE 1975–1978) and said, I'd like to start a Navy News. He said, carry on – as long as it doesn't cost any money. So we sold advertising for it." Norma would take over his editorial duties when he couldn't, including during his last RNZN posting as First Lieutenant of HMNZS MONOWAI.

Dick thought *NZ Navy News* ran until 1979 but in fact it continued after his retirement until 1996, succeeded by the *Navy Today* magazine.

He helped organise a Navy Day on 28 November 1977, with the dockyard and ships open to the public, which he thinks was the first of its kind for HMNZS PHILOMEL.

For his services, he was awarded the MBE by the Queen in 1977 in the Wellington Town Hall.

By now the pair's flair for fundraising saw them on a money-raising campaign to create the naval sports complex at Ngataranga. A navy calendar was produced and ships were instructed to sell them. Navy displays were set up in Farmers Auckland. Three film premieres were arranged to be held on the same night in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch showing the 1980 science fiction/navy flick *The Final Countdown*, with proceeds to the fund. The sports complex was eventually opened on 31 January 1984.

Dick left the RNZN in 1981, with the pair settling in Thames and Dick working for the District Council until his retirement in 1989. Norma and Dick are now in Levin with their treasures and stories.

He is delighted the sword can carry on in its naval journey. "I don't want it to disappear into the labyrinth of naval stores. It seems appropriate that it should go to someone on a similar career path to mine."

*From left: LTCDR McBurney beside the wife of Commodore Auckland, as Calliope House Community Centre is opened; Seaman McBurney (first left) and crewmates travelled by bus from Naples to Rome to meet the Pope.*



# BODY-BUILDING BENEFITS

■ By Wing Commander Stu Pearce

Now into its third year, the New Zealand Armed Forces & Emergency Services Bodybuilding Championships continues to go from strength to strength, attracting a diverse array of athletes representing their respective Services.

And while bodybuilding isn't an officially recognised NZDF Sport, it enjoys wide appeal, boasting an almost 50:50 gender split, catering for athletes from teen first timers to Masters Athletes in their 40s, 50s, 60s and beyond. The championships are open to current and former uniformed and civilian staff of all abilities (including those with disabilities).

Training for the competition offers profoundly positive benefits to physical and mental health. In fact, we've found it's the health benefits that have proven to be a powerful motivator for our people to train to step on stage, many competing in the Transformation Class – a bit like a cross between Biggest Loser and the Invictus Games. The competition also promotes drug-free sport with athletes being tested under World Anti-Doping Agency rules.

The 2022 competition, held in Palmerston North saw teams representing reigning champions NZ Army, go up against the Royal New Zealand Air Force, Royal New Zealand Navy, NZ Police, Fire and Emergency NZ, St John, Customs and Corrections NZ. The standard of athlete from all Services was particularly high, but it was Team Air Force who went home with the coveted Te Kiwi Maia (The Courageous Kiwi) trophy.

Team Air Force will be defending the cup on 28 October in Palmerston North and it promises to be a fiercely contested event. We're also delighted to have the Chief of Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Clark presenting the Te Kiwi Maia trophy and he had this to say:

"Clearly I would be delighted if a team of aviators went home with the trophy, but whoever wins overall, whether it's Navy, Army, Air or one of our partner Emergency Services, I congratulate you all on your achievements.

"Whether competing for the first time or as a seasoned athlete, the courage, determination and sacrifice required to prepare for stage is truly impressive. I particularly commend those athletes who have made the commitment to their health to compete in the Transformation class.

"Tournaments such as this not only promote high levels of health, fitness and operational readiness, they build strong friendships between our Services. And it's those friendships and inter-Service cooperation that are so important during times of emergency and crisis. We've seen this play out most recently as part of our all-of-government response to the Auckland and Northland floods and the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle."

If you'd like to find out more about competing in this years AFES Champs or advice on getting into bodybuilding, please email [bbcomp@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:bbcomp@nzdf.mil.nz)



# An act of compassion from DSSG



The Defence Force has ensured a Navy dive veteran received and held the medals he was entitled to before he 'crossed the bar'.

In the lead up to the RNZN Divers Reunion in October 2023, Commander Trevor Leslie, Commanding Officer HMNZS MATATAUA, and his team have been working hard tracking down past divers of 20+ years, to make sure all entitled medals and honours have been awarded.

During this search they came across an ex-diver, Chief Petty Officer Diver David 'Dinga' Boyes, who was entitled to six medals that he'd never received.

Dinga served in the Royal New Zealand Navy as a diver from the early 1950s to late 1970s.

After a thorough 12-month search, which led to Brunei and back, the team found a past neighbour who put them in touch with his daughter. She told them he was living in a retirement home in Orewa, Auckland, but sadly he was in poor health.

The team got in touch with Defence Shared Services Group (DSSG), and knowing the urgency of the situation, DSSG immediately set to work arranging the necessary paperwork to fast-track the creation and delivery of the medals by the Personnel and Archives Medals (PAMS) team.

Three weeks later, CDR Leslie received a call from Dinga's daughter to let him know Dinga had taken a turn for the worse and was unlikely to last the week.

That was on a Monday afternoon, and by early Tuesday morning the PAMS team had all six medals mounted and ready to be delivered to the hospital.

CDR Leslie, Warrant Officer Diver Lance Graham, Warrant Officer of the Navy; MATATAUA's Command Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer Physical Training Instructor Pete Hodge and

Dive Head of School Warrant Officer Diver Brendon Johnson, along with two past divers, John Kearney and Merv Tenant, visited Dinga that evening to perform the formal medal ceremony and award him his well-earned medals.

The next morning Dinga passed away.

Dinga proudly held onto those medals that night, and he and his family were honoured to see his time in the service recognised in a meaningful way.

CDR Leslie says the compassionate and fast actions of the DSSG and PAMS teams meant the Navy could bring pride and comfort to him and his family on his final night.

"His family were thrilled that he finally received his medals, and this, on the whole, is due to the fantastic work done by our team in DSSG behind the scenes," said CDR Leslie.

# NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TRADE

Are you looking to pursue a new challenge?

Do you want to be part of dynamic and operationally focussed team?

Does working with new and emerging technologies, and highly professional, motivated soldiers sound like the workplace for you?

E Sqn (EOD), 1NZSAS Regt are requesting nominations for the upcoming EOD trade Evaluation. Successful candidates will be fit, motivated, and highly disciplined soldiers capable of decisive action in complex and challenging environments.

You will also meet the following *minimum* requirements:

- Hold the rank of Private (Band 4)
- Have a full class one vehicle license
- Hold a confidential vetting security clearance
- Have a minimum medical grade of A4, G2, Z1 (RFL minimum G2)
- Complete the EOD evaluation week and an evaluation by an NZDF psychologist as suitable to operate as an EOD team member.

If you are successful, you will commence your EOD training at the next available opportunity.

Once qualified your future postings could include support to domestic, expeditionary, or special operations with locations in Auckland, Linton, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Further training and opportunities include:

- EOD Team Leader Qualification
- Tactical and Assault IEDD Training and Support to Special Operations
- Advanced EOD and High Threat IEDD Training
- CBRNE Training and Operations, and
- International Training and overseas Operational Activities.

If you want to find out more or apply, visit <http://org/nzsof/LP/Recruiting.aspx> and download your AFNZ 3 today.

For further information, please contact SSM, E Sqn (EOD). [ESQN.EOD.SSM@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ESQN.EOD.SSM@nzdf.mil.nz)

EOD are also now directly recruiting officers from any trade and any service. For officers wanting to pursue a career in EOD please contact OC, E Sqn (EOD) for further information on this process. [ESQN.EOD.OC@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ESQN.EOD.OC@nzdf.mil.nz)

**Nominations close  
Friday 29 September 2023.**

**EOD Evaluation week  
09–13 October 2023.**

## PROMOTIONS:

Congratulations on your promotion  
(2 May to 8 June)

CDR GRANT BOORE  
CDR RHYS PEVREAL  
CDR GUY HAYWOOD  
LTCDR KAT PAVLENKO  
A/LTCDR ALEXANDRA BARNETT  
LT CODI WEHI-NGATAI  
A/LT DAVID ROUT  
A/LT JACOB LANGRIDGE  
SLT MATTHEW ATKINSON  
WOMEDIC ROCHELLE ZWART  
CPOSTD REILLY BROWN  
POET RICK IDDON  
POCSS ALICIA WALL  
A/POMT(L) CODIE EDMISTON  
LCH BENJAMIN DAIS

LMT(P) JACOB BROWN  
LDR RYAN MOODIE  
LLSS SIMON WILD  
LDR SIMSON SHIELDS  
LMT(L) CHASE SLAUGHTER  
LSCS JACOB LAURIE  
LSCS AKUIRA TIAKIWAI  
ADR EDWARD FROST-HENRY  
ACH LAURA ASHWORTH  
AET HARRY GOODALL  
ACH MACKENZIE HILL  
ADR ISAAC JENSEN  
ACSS MANAIA JONES  
ADR EDUARD KORENT  
AET DAVID MAKI

ACSS GRACE MALLEY  
AMT(L) ANTHONY MCKINNON  
AMT(P) LIAM MCNALLY  
ACSS DOZA MENDOZA  
ASCS CHLOE O'NEILL  
ACSS TAI ORBELL  
ACH FERN REWETI  
ANP SAM RICKARD  
ANP CHRISTIAN ROBERTSON-WALLIS  
POET JONATHAN STEAD  
ADR CODY SWEET  
ACSS PIATARIHI TAURUA  
AHSO BLAKE TODD



# WHO, WHAT AND WHERE

## *The Definitive list of Warships*

**It's a naval story as old as time. When did that aircraft carrier call into Wellington? When was the last time the Russians visited? How many times have submarines been in New Zealand?**



Historian Peter Cooke and the Defence of NZ Study Group have effectively ended those water cooler discussions and dubious Google searches with the publishing of *Ships of War in New Zealand Waters: 380 Years of Naval Activity*, a two-volume work that goes back to the visit of the first non-Māori waka in New Zealand in 1642.

The formidable aspect of this three-year project is the list of every warship to visit New Zealand, noting each visit and dates, in alphabetical order. That's over 2,600 vessels, including naval gun-armed vessels, troopships, storeships, pirates, tugs, scows, hospital ships, tankers, submarines (friendly or not) and any other ship on an official or martial mission. In effect, it is the definitive source for names of warships in New Zealand waters for future researchers and historians.

In the same volume, Cooke keeps the reader entertained with historical and pictorial narratives and photos on the evolution of warships within and visiting New Zealand, discussing the influence of the East India Company, the global expansion of trade and navies, and growth in maritime technology.

The sheer weight of data has thrown up some interesting facts. No Russian warship has visited since the 1890s but dozens of non-military Soviet Union research ships have arrived sporting long-range electronic surveillance equipment. No warships from South Africa, Thailand or the Philippines have visited New Zealand. More Japanese ships than Canadian have visited. More submarines have visited than aircraft carriers. More American ships (966 of them) have visited than from any other navy; William Bligh, made famous by the mutiny on the *Bounty*, visited NZ twice. The Chatham Islands, Coromandel Peninsula, Miranda and Galatea are named after warships.

This alone could be enough, but Cooke tops it with Volume 2, the deluxe edition, with images of more than half of the 2,600 listed ships, running chronologically.

The book was launched at Wellington Museum on 13 June, hosted by the Friends of the Maritime Museum.

*Navy Today* was delighted to have assisted Mr Cooke in the pursuit of ship photography, particularly with details of the vessels which attended the RNZN 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.

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For more information,  
contact Peter Cook at  
[petercooke\\_donz@icloud.com](mailto:petercooke_donz@icloud.com)

# 15 ROUNDS

## LIEUTENANT SAMARA MANKELOW



01

**Job title and description:**

Commanding Officer, HMNZS TAUPU

02

**Date joined RNZN:**

Joined RNZN January 2013

03

**First ship posted to:**

HMNZS HAWEA

04

**Best deployment:**

OP CASTLE 2014/2015 in HMNZS WELLINGTON, where operating off Antarctica was an incredible experience and for most a once-in-a-life-time place to visit.

05

**Hometown:**

Puhoi

06

**High school:**

Orewa College

07

**Favourite book:***The Alchemist* – Paulo Coelho

08

**Favourite movie:***The Intouchables*

09

**Favourite album:**

I have many, probably *The Heist* – Macklemore – big fan and I've even met him!

10

**Favourite song:**

I'd be lying if I didn't say *Wagon Wheel* by Old Crow Medicine Show

11

**Favourite holiday destination:**

Spain

12

**Outside of work, what's something you enjoy doing?**

Skiing with my family.

13

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

I am named after a boat (my great grandfather's), which I managed to track down in Nouméa during a port visit in 2015.

14

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

Jim Mattis's book *'Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead'* is full of valuable lessons, I particularly liked his take on why substance is essential in your ability to connect, influence and lead others. "If you can't be additive as a leader, you're just like a potted plant in the corner of a hotel lobby: you look pretty, but you're not adding substance to the organisation's mission."

15

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

Endless opportunities to develop, learn and have fun with your mates.

*The Alchemist* – Paulo Coelho





# UNCLASSIFIED:



**For more than 20 years the NZDF worked alongside partners in Afghanistan, making a significant contribution to regional security and the lives of the local people.**

This year marks a decade since the withdrawal of NZ's Provincial Reconstruction Team, so we're bringing you tales of service and sacrifice from those with first-hand experience of life at the front-line.

***Listen wherever you get your podcasts.***

