

NAVY T O D A Y

EXERCISE
BERSAMA LIMA

HYDROGRAPHERS
AT TALISMAN SABRE

WHAKAIRO/
CARVING OF POU



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“The Navy goes beyond the ability to serve. It also opens up so many opportunities, which excites me. It’s a whole different world that you don’t really know about until you join.”

– Midshipman Anna Zam, Reserve Legal Officer



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Editor:
Andrew Bonallack
Email: navytoday@nzdf.mil.nz

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Front Cover:
AEWS Caleb Kutia works on one of two pou destined for the entrance to the Leadership Development Group.

Photographer:
PO Chris Weissenborn

Back Cover:
The two pou are unveiled at the Leadership Development Centre.

Photographer:
PO Chris Weissenborn



Yours Aye

Sailor of the Year

It has been a blessing and a privilege to represent the Royal New Zealand Navy as Sailor of the Year. As I write this, I'm about to depart the United Kingdom, having completed a Study Tour and knowing that I'll be straight back into it when I get home. I look forward to the Navy selecting this year's new Sailor of the Year shortly.

The study tour, which I undertook with Sailor of the Year 2021 (Leading Marine Technician (Propulsion) Jemma Hokai-Mataia), was quite an eye-opener. What stood out for me was the tours of the Royal Navy's largest training establishment, HMS RALEIGH in Cornwall. It's where they do their basic training, but unlike New Zealand, with two intakes a year, they have intakes almost every week, with classes of 30 for 10 weeks.

And when you think of the size of the Royal Navy! In the UK, if you do a course or post to a ship, you might see those people only once in your career. Back in New Zealand, you run into your oppos all the time.

But what struck me were the similarities between our Navy and theirs. We came halfway around the world and talked to the recruits at RALEIGH and there were the same kind of questions you get from junior rates in New Zealand. One question in particular was about time away from partners. I was lucky enough to have my wife with me on this study tour and we were both able to talk to the recruits about being part of the Defence Force family and the challenges involved.

The Junior Rates in the UK think the same way. They're concerned about pay and housing, just like ours. They want to spend time with family. They want shore postings as well as sea postings. And there is attrition in the Royal Navy, as we have in New Zealand.

RALEIGH might have a Damage Control school three times the size of ours and obviously they had more recruits. I also had tours in Portsmouth aboard Royal Navy vessels, including HMS VICTORY – which is still a commissioned Royal Navy ship! But in terms of how the Royal Navy works, there was a lot of the same things as ours. Nothing was new to me. I thought to myself how grateful I was that the Royal New Zealand Navy is the way it is. It really opened my eyes that how, even though we're a small Navy, we're quite switched on, quite equal as small Navy. I like the fact that we all know each other and we see each other throughout our careers.

I've realised we are blessed with a really good culture in our Navy. I'm not saying the UK guys don't. But our Maori culture, our Pacific Island culture, all our cultures, it's what makes us unique. We're encouraged to be the people we are.

In my other duties I've attended meetings with industry leaders and found there's a lot of interest in the work the Defence Force does at the Youth Development Unit, and also my initiative Fahi On with Kelston Boys High School.



Being the Sailor of the Year has opened some doors and allowed me to share my story. I also went to Gallipoli this year for Anzac services, and it's something I'd love to do again with my partner and kids.

To the incoming Sailor of the Year I would say, just be yourself. As Sailor of the Year, you'll get amazing experiences and you'll be able to use your new role to reach out and explore. But don't be afraid to say no and as always, look after yourself and your family.

Petty Officer Youth Development Specialist Misi Faleofa

NEW ZEALAND TRAINS ALONGSIDE FIVE POWERS PARTNERS

In a warship's operations room the screens display fast jets, submarines and surface vessels – lots of them – all mixed in with civilian planes and civilian shipping.

That's what Frigate HMNZS TE MANA and Maritime Sustainment Vessel HMNZS AOTEAROA were dealing with over the final two intense days of Exercise Bersama Lima 2023, conducted off the coast of Malaysia.

Exercise Bersama Lima is an annual Five Powers Defence Arrangement exercise based in Malaysia and Singapore that has run since 1971.

More than 400 NZDF personnel were involved, including the crews from TE MANA and AOTEAROA, and alongside personnel, ships and aircraft from Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and the United Kingdom.

Over the 19 days, Royal New Zealand Navy sailors carried out maritime operations, conducted boarding training and replenishment at sea exercises, while New Zealand Army soldiers trained in jungle warfare.

For the Navy, operational objectives were to regenerate warfare skills in multiple areas, including task group operations, surface warfare, air warfare, anti-submarine warfare, naval fire support, and core mariner skills.

Exercise Bersama Lima was one of the key events of the ships' five-month deployment in South East Asia. For HMNZS AOTEAROA, this included

a maintenance period in Singapore in early September followed by the ship's first Maritime Training Group force generation shakedown package while overseas. Prior to the exercise, both ships conducted a port visit to Viet Nam (*Navy Today* October 2023).

Last month, the maritime forces participating in Exercise Bersama Lima all met for the harbour phase in Kuantan Port, Malaysia for a week's preparation. This involved briefings, meetings and for TE MANA a mid-deployment maintenance period. In addition, AOTEAROA hosted a week-long boarding course run by experts from the five nations.

The sea phase saw the Commanding Officer of TE MANA given Tactical Command of the maritime force consisting of a number of warships and helicopters from New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and Australia. This mix of assets and nations allowed the task group to share experiences, assets, fuel, and even parts, all achieved through aircraft cross-decking, personnel exchange programmes, boarding exercises, task group logistics, and tactical replenishment.

The sea phase was extremely valuable for both units with TE MANA using the concentration of assets to conduct operational evaluation of the Frigate Systems Upgrade equipment and systems. TE MANA's leadership team also gained valuable experience filling a range of Commander Task Group (CTG) staff roles that controlled and coordinated the collective efforts of the seven ships, two aircraft and approximately 800 sailors and aviators.



Photo: HMNZS TE MANA's Seasprite helicopter conducts flying operations from HMNZS AOTEAROA.





For AOTEAROA the sea phase was no less busy with the RNZN Maritime Training Group overlaying a force generation activity to drill the crew in all areas of maritime operations, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate their readiness for subsequent tasks within the current operation. This phase also included AOTEAROA providing fuel to ships during the day and at night, sometimes under simulated attack. Just less than one million litres of fuel was passed to partner nations during Exercise Bersama Lima.

The large range of live air and surface assets provided a perfect opportunity for both ships to fully test out their crew and the performance of their equipment. This 48-hour period of “free play” warfare allowed operations teams to hone their warfighting skills versus live assets from partner nations. On TE MANA, in order to make the ship ready to deal with incoming threats in the air, surface, and sub-surface domains the ship's on-watch Principal Warfare Officer

HMNZS TE MANA fires a shell from its five-inch main gun.





was given free rein to bring the Ship to Action (the highest degree of readiness with all personnel and equipment ready to defend the ship). Damage Control experts on board provided a 'menu' of different battle damage scenarios in order to train and test the full range of functions required to ensure the survival of a combat platform. The congested and action-packed period was challenging for the crews of both ships, but the increase in confidence of their personnel was noticeable.

On completion of the exercise there was another milestone moment for AOTEAROA: a Change of Command. On 24 October 2023, while alongside in Singapore, Commander Rob Welford (above, right) took command of HMNZS AOTEAROA from outgoing Commanding Officer, Commander Dave Barr.

The Maritime Component Commander, Commodore Garin Golding, facilitated the ceremony on behalf of the Chief of Navy.

He reflected on AOTEAROA's many successes, describing the operational effect it delivered for New Zealand and that the ship was the "tanker of choice" for partner navies. He said, "from supporting Tonga after the devastating volcanic eruption in early 2022, to its inaugural resupply to Antarctica, AOTEAROA has propelled itself to being a steadfast tanker in support of many nations' warships".

Commander Barr gave an emotional speech on the ship's capability and output, and paid homage to all the crew that had served with him over the last 18 months. For Commander Welford it was a particularly memorable day, taking Command in the forenoon and sailing into the South China Sea in the afternoon.

CDR Dave Barr, RNZN passes HMNZS AOTEAROA's Symbol of Command to incoming Commanding Officer CDR Rob Welford, RNZN.

HMNZS AOTEAROA (centre) conducts a replenishment at sea refuelling operation with HMAS BRISBANE (left) and HMNZS TE MANA.





SHARING SKILLS IN MINE COUNTER MEASURES

For a first overseas deployment, Exercise Talisman Sabre in Australia provided an excellent deep-dive for Able Hydrographic Systems Operator Nicole Anderson.

AHSO Anderson was part of a Mine Counter Measures team from HMNZS MATATAUA, embarked on USS MIGUEL KEITH to conduct Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) and dive operations alongside teams from the US Navy and Royal Australian Navy.

As an AUV operator for MATATAUA, her job involves ocean surveying, search and recovery and mine counter measures.

“During Talisman Sabre, we undertook mine counter measure practice on inert mine-like contacts. Once we’ve made a contact it’s the AUV operator’s job to pass the information on to the divers to confirm whether it is a mine or not. In a real-time scenario, the divers would then render the mine inert and then recover if required.”





It was a big change from her team's usual style of operations, which typically involve small boats based from land. "Sailing on the MIGUEL KEITH meant an exciting and different aspect to the deployment, something I haven't experienced before. Prior to Talisman Sabre we had just done New Zealand-based trips. It meant having to quickly adapt to a new style of work, but it gave us an insight into how other nations operate.

"Working with sailors from other nations was an opportunity to enhance my own understanding and skills as an AUV operator as well as use the opportunity to form friendships with people from all around the Pacific. It was really cool working with the Americans, and we could see them using the same kit. They do have a lot more kit though! But they were super-friendly. We went out on their boats as well and they showed us a few new ways of operating. It was really valuable for us."

AHSO Anderson came to the Navy in 2020 after finishing at Villa Maria College in Christchurch. She graduated from Basic Common Training during the COVID pandemic lockdowns.



The Navy was something I had been interested in since I was younger. I wanted a job that was more than sitting in an office. I wanted something important. My recruiter was a hydrographer and she introduced me to the trade."

She liked the surveying and mapping side of the hydrographic trade. "It was definitely a trade I found most aligned with my interests."

She loves the work. Her advice to people wanting to join the Navy is to look at what interests them and find out where those interests can align with the Defence Force. "If you can do that, you'll love it. It's very hands-on."





**Able Combat System Specialist
Hailey Gibbons**

SUPPORT EASES SECOND NAVY CAREER

A second Navy career has been made possible for Hailey Gibbons through flexibility and support.

Over her working life, she has been a go-to-sea Navy sailor, worked in civilian roles, embraced Navy Reserve duties and is now back to regular force duties at Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQ JFNZ). And throughout those times, it's been the support from Navy and civilian employers that has made the difference to her and her family.

Able Combat System Specialist Gibbons joined the Navy in 2004, just before she turned 18. "It was my first experience as a full-time job, which was both cool and terrifying at the same time. I had never travelled before, we couldn't afford it. So the first time I went overseas was with the Navy, and it was an incredible experience."

Other than the positive experience of travelling and gaining lifelong friends, she also liked the security of the job. "You get experiences, clothing, food, skills. I had absolutely great deployments, posted to HMNZS TE MANA and HMNZS TE KAHA, to places like Viet Nam, Hong Kong. Amazing for someone so young."

Her life was either at sea gaining valuable life experiences or alongside upskilling on various courses. "By the time I was 24, I wanted something that wasn't living out of a locker. Back then, I thought that there was only one option for change – get out. What I hope new sailors understand is that nowadays there are other options. I wish I had tried changing trades or taken on a land mission. But back then, I was young, I hadn't explored all the avenues, I hadn't known there were opportunities at places like Joint Forces. I thought, if I want to do something different, I have to leave."

With skills honed in a frigate's Operation Room environment, she was able to find a second fulfilling career working as a CCTV expert for Waka Kotahi, in Auckland's Joint Transport Operations Centre. "I would use CCTV, Bluetooth, and live Police radio, to coordinate and divert resources to where they were needed. It was like an Ops Room on a ship, where you gather a picture and feed it to Command. There was a real sense of pride and accomplishment. There are people walking around now because I found them before their suicide attempt was successful or because I had played a part in getting a dangerous driver off the road."



ACSS Hailey Gibbons helps pack RSA Christmas Parcels alongside Vanni Kapoor from Pams.

She then worked for Tauranga City Council starting in their Operations Centre before turning her skills at coordinating to a new challenge. She became an invaluable staff member coordinating work for the senior management team. With the added challenge of raising two children, she found she needed to move to Dunedin to be closer to family. She thought she'd have to leave her job but her boss said, take the job with you, and do what you need to do for family. She was able to work remotely. It was here, out of the big city life that she was able to find the time to join the local Naval Reserve unit HMNZS TOROA.

The support from her boss taught her a lot about flexibility and accommodating employers. She developed further skills, and passions, notably gaining qualifications in Civil Defence, but throughout her time away, she missed the Defence Force life. "Mums are self-sacrificing and kids come first. You do what you've got to do. You pull your socks up and get the job done. But now the kids were getting older, they were more settled and I was able to start thinking about the other things that I wanted to get out of life. It's good to show your kids if they choose to do something challenging, they can do it. It's about finding job satisfaction, finding a passion. And for me there is still a passion for the Defence Force."

Since rejoining, she has discovered a Navy that has made a lot of advances. "It's a lot more flexible, massively supportive of women, and there's a whole pool of things that have been awesome. It's made my naval career easier."

Today, she works out of Joint Forces Headquarters, handling operational deployment administration for NZDF's land missions. "The hours are flexible and there's all the benefits of being back in service such as the ability to do physical training for an hour a day, the availability of the doctor and dentists. I'm using the social worker support, and making use of the Big Sister Big Brother programme for the kids. It's just an easier existence, with lots of support."

She is looking at future options that can make use of her skills and passions. She is now aware of the amazing possibilities throughout the NZDF and is open to things she had not thought of when she was younger, such as changing branch, volunteering for an operational mission, or, when the time is right, going back to sea.

“

The Navy I remember is what drew me back but the support I get now allows me to see a brighter future with the Navy. It is really motivating for me and I look forward to a long term career.”

Finding that awesome



**Leading Chef
Chris Treacher**

The new national Navy Reserves recruiter is more than ready to help members of the public “grab that piece of awesome” – and he can speak from experience.

Leading Chef Chris Treacher joined the Navy in 1975 straight from school. After a career in the Navy he entered civilian life, then went through basic training again in 2018 – the oldest in his intake – to serve as a reservist, based out of HMNZS OLPHERT in Wellington. Now, in taking on this new recruiter role, he's back in regular Navy.

“I got a call in late 2021, asking me to come and help with recruiting for five weeks, and I'm still here! But in my new role as Navy Reserves recruiter. I'm the only one in this role, so it's important to me that I do it right for our Navy. I am so lucky to be working with an amazing team from around New Zealand.”

He returned to the Navy in 2018 because he wanted “that piece of awesome” that comes with serving. It's something he wants others to experience.

“I jumped at this opportunity. I was helped when I was recruited and serving, and I want to be that person helping others.”

Many people he deals with want to serve part-time and experience the pride in wearing a uniform. They want to be part of something good. “Giving back is important to people, and that's why I love this role. I have people coming to me, thinking they are too old or not qualified. I tell them my story and how I did it. It's giving them faith, so they can sell the idea to themselves. If people have that belief, that's half the battle won.”

He gets enquiries from citizens who are from other countries, who want to repay New Zealand for providing them a home. “We have people in careers who are looking for another challenge in their lives. Some people are connected to the sea, either practically like fishing or boating, or in a romantic way – the Navy just appeals to them. Some have relatives who have served in the past and there's a familial tie. Or it's something they saw on TV and it resonated with them.”

He guides people through the recruiting process and stays in touch. “I'm the person putting a face on their process. I tell them, just ring me if you need anything. It's part of the service, dealing respectfully and considerately with people, letting them know you care and are monitoring the process.”

In 2018 it was sufficient for people like LCH Treacher to do the first five weeks of the 16-week Basic Common Training course for regular Navy sailors. Today, prospective reserve force sailors and officers undertake the more structured Naval Reserve Common Training course, a part-time course designed to ensure reservists are trained to the same standard as their Regular Force counterparts, but in a way that works around their civilian employment.

LCH Treacher has a message for those who are considering joining the Reserve Force.

“If you think you're too old, if you think you're not up to it, think again. You don't know how good you can be. We will give you the opportunity, as an individual, as a person who's part of a team. I mean this from the heart and I know it because I'm living it myself. I'm just getting started again in the Navy, and it's hopefully going to be a long and successful journey.”

Medics share the watch



**Able Medic
Adam Armstrong**

It's a busy life for medics aboard the Navy's smallest ships, where sick bay duties combine with watch keeping shifts on the bridge.

Able Medic Adam Armstrong posted to Inshore Patrol Vessel HMNZS TAUPO two months ago for a six-month posting. He's at sea a lot, in support of the ship's role as the training platform for the Officer of the Watch (Basic) course, or "Bravos".

Speaking to *Navy Today* in Wellington, he says sea sickness is the most common condition he deals with. The ship had just arrived in the capital after a bumpy crossing over the Cook Strait from Nelson.

"The Navy like their medics to do a 'sole-charge' role before promoting to Leading Hand," he says. On larger ships there are several medics and in some cases a Surgeon Lieutenant, working out of a sick bay. On TAUPO, the sick bay is a shared space and is utilised by a lot of the Ship's Company, particularly the Bravos officers planning briefs and pilotages.

Unlike other ships, the medic on TAUPO is also a watch keeper on the bridge due to the small number of Ship's Company. "It's hard to do a sick parade (a set time when crew can see the medic) because we're helping drive the ship. So people come and see us when they can." The sole charge duty teaches medics to back themselves and take charge, useful skills when they get promoted to Leading Hand.

"TAUPO being such a small ship is more susceptible to ship roll than the other bigger ships in the fleet. That being said there aren't too many injuries resulting from this but we do have to deal with the occasional sprained ankle and lots of motion sickness."

AMED Armstrong grew up in Lower Hutt and after finishing at St Bernard's College worked for a while. After being accepted into the Navy he undertook basic training and three years of medic training in Burnham Military Camp, obtaining a paramedic degree.

"There's a lot of university work involved. They have lecturers coming and teaching classes. You also do emergency department shifts and ambulance shifts. After I finished at the Defence Health School I posted up to Navy Hospital in Devonport. It was the middle/end of COVID times, and I was doing vaccinations and loads of PCR testing. I then went into the Managed Isolation Facilities for three months, then off to Canada for three months."

That was a posting to TE MANA, to help bring the ship back to New Zealand after its Frigate Systems Upgrade.



New town-houses for Navy personnel

A new housing development is providing townhouses for Navy personnel 20 minutes' drive from Devonport Naval Base.

The Navy have just taken possession of nine brand new three-and four-bedroom apartments in a complex off Sunnybrae Road in Northcote, located over the road from an earlier set of two-and three-bedroom apartments already occupied by sailors.

It's meant there has been a total of 31 new apartments and townhouses added to Navy housing stock for sailors since 2022.

Commander Julie Simpkins, Commanding Officer Devonport Naval Base, says a concern she hears most often from sailors is the quality and quantity of Navy housing available.

"The organisation certainly understands the importance of having a modern, warm, dry home that is conveniently located and reasonably priced," she says.

The units boast three big bedrooms, large lounge and dining room, spacious kitchen, two bathrooms and internal access from a garage.

Deputy Chief of Navy Commodore Andrew Brown says the Sunnybrae housing development is the first of what he hopes will be more accommodation options available for Navy personnel.

"Providing modern, affordable and environmentally-friendly housing options for our sailors and their families is of upmost importance to Navy leadership. We are committed to ensuring our people are well cared for so they can deploy knowing their whānau are safe. The supply of service housing, within the limitations imposed by tenancy time periods, offers our people an opportunity to establish themselves and remain operationally effective."

RESERVE FORCE LAWYER BUILDS CONNECTIONS

■ By SLT Phil Barclay
Public Affairs Officer



Midshipman Anna Zam

Midshipman Anna Zam was already an experienced and busy lawyer and tech entrepreneur with her second tech start-up and a Masters degree underway when she decided to join the Naval Reserve.

MID Zam is a trainee in Naval Reserve Common Training class 23/01, and will graduate as a Reserve Officer next year.

“Our family farm was affected by Cyclone Gabrielle but not to the same extent as others, and it was a wake-up call. I’d recently returned from overseas and felt I needed to do more. I had put my hat in the ring to volunteer with the Coastguard, but a friend put me in touch with a Regular Force lawyer and it sounded like a real adventure,” she says.

A lawyer with a special interest in international humanitarian law, MID Zam says she’s more of an entrepreneur in the technology space these days. Early on, she worked with

a King’s Counsel to lower barriers to accessing justice through technology. She is developing a start-up aiming at reducing barriers to housing affordability and has attracted a Westpac Government Innovation Fund grant.

MID Zam also sits on the board of the NZ Global Youth Awareness Trust and was an academic tutor to youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“I hadn’t had a lot of insight into the Defence Force, so it was pretty daunting to begin with, but I’ve been really enjoying the training so far. I wanted to give back to the community and felt this was an impactful way to serve by using my legal training.

“What sticks out is the level of connection you build with your team. We come from all these different backgrounds and you don’t expect to become so close in a very short time. That’s what’s kept me going despite being busy at work and in civilian life. You don’t get that in too many other places, and I’m constantly surprised at my use of ‘Jack speak’ lingo outside of the Navy.

“Down the track, there may be opportunities to be involved in things like command investigations, Courts of Inquiry, courts martial and summary trials, which suits my background in litigation. The Law of Armed Conflict and how that relates to operations is an area I would love to work in more.

“What is special about the Navy is the area of international maritime law, which I’ve not had much exposure to. I’m a member of the Asia New Zealand Foundation leadership network, and I’m fascinated by the issues around the South China Sea and Indo-Pacific.

“Other things could have been equally rewarding, but the Navy goes beyond the ability to serve. It also opens up so many opportunities, which excites me. It’s a whole different world that you don’t really know about until you join.”



Carver creates Gateway to the Navy

A sailor on a journey to grow his skills in whakairo (Māori carving) has found the ideal project in the creation and placement of two pou at the entrance to the Leadership Development Group (LDG).

Able Electronic Warfare Specialist Caleb Kutia apprenticed himself to local carver Natanahira Pona to convert two former piles from Calliope Wharf to create a gateway where sailors pass through for training.

The pou, which had their whakaputanga (unveiling) at dawn on 26 October, represents all sailors coming through the Navy as they embark on their journey of training and development. A common expression for sailors is passing through the 'gate', with the pou culturally representing those brand new to the Navy and those undertaking leadership and professional development in the progression of their careers.

AEWS Caleb Kutia is in his second year of studying whakairo at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, and had been doing a course at the Lake House Art Centre in Takapuna where he met the centre's resident carver Natanahira Pona. Natanahira was scheduled to create the pou for the Navy and AEWS Kutia asked if he could work alongside him to develop his own skills.

Warrant Officer Seaman Combat Specialist Ngahiwi Walker, Māori Cultural Advisor (Navy), has also had an input in the work. The three said a karakia before the carving began, and AEWS Kutia always did a karakia before each day's efforts. "It's something you do to keep you safe."

He says it's been a very fulfilling journey, albeit both mentally and physically challenging. The piles used for the pou are from Australian jarrah, a heavy hardwood timber. It's a symbolic connection to the past, present and future, but it's certainly hard on the tools.

"These piles were taken down a while ago, and stored near the Sea Safety Training Squadron," says AEWS Kutia. "It's a bit difficult on the tools – I've chipped a couple of chisels working on it. But we expected it. It's got a really distinctive smell as you work on it."

He's never worked on anything this size before. "This is my first big project. Everything else I'd done had been at beginner level. It's certainly a lot harder than I thought it would be. It's hard on the body, because I'm quite tall, and you have to bend over a lot and use your entire body to carve the right angles.



It's not just the physical – I'm still in a learning phase and I had to concentrate hard. Knowing how important the project was added a bit of weight because I don't want to let everyone down. That's why I'm lucky working with Natanahira. He can guide me through fixing mistakes."

The pou are intended to be the physical manifestation of the symbol of leadership, allowing a spiritual connection to the Navy, and symbolise the movement and transition towards the future. It provides an earlier connection to the Navy, rather than waiting for the new sailors' welcome to Te Taua Moana marae.

The carvings include faces, symbols of the stingray – the symbol of LDG – rings for the leadership framework and the four winds. This brings together the themes of manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga – looking after people, and the unity of the people, all belonging to the Royal New Zealand Navy.

AEWS Kutia had been planning on leaving the Navy to follow his whakairo journey full time. "I am grateful that the organisation came up with a pathway that would benefit both parties. The Navy has allowed me to follow my dream whilst giving back to the Service."



Photography: PO Chris Weissenborn



WOTR Celia Tioeli at the Royal New Zealand Navy birthday service, Wellington.



CDR Andrew Dowling awards LWTR Joanna Mafi an MTG Commendation for her dedication to the Maritime Training Group and the Royal New Zealand Navy.



CDR Tim Hall leads the guard of honour at the funeral service for RADM Cedric Steward CB at Devonport Naval Base.

OUR P



MID Jessie Cheng, JOCT 23/02, during Exercise Storm at Tamaki Leadership Centre.



LTCDR Andrew James receives a Chief of Navy commendation, with his wife Carrie fixing it to his uniform.



MID Jessica Kingdon, JOCT 23/02, during Exercise Storm at Tamaki Leadership Centre.



SLT Ilana Ibbs speaks at the Royal New Zealand Navy birthday service in Wellington.



CDRE Andrew Brown, Deputy Chief of Navy, presents the Chatham Cup to winning Christchurch United captain Matt Todd-Smith.



MID Renee Woodward and CHAP Jacqui Fuller during the Navy's Birthday celebrations in St Christopher's Chapel, Devonport Naval Base.

PEOPLE



The first time in General Work Dress for OMA Ajeet Singh and OMT Torin Webb, BCT 23/02.



CAPT Simon Rooke carries the medals, decorations and rank slides of RADM Cedric Steward CB, former Chief of Naval Staff, during the funeral service for RADM Steward.



Padre Glen Popata on the guitar beside LTCDR Mark Te Kani, at the Royal New Zealand Navy birthday service, Wellington.

75 YEARS OF DEFENCE FIRST AID COMPETITION

Can you survive the Defence Force's tricky medic competition?

Transporting casualties, trauma care, CPR, medical evacuation logistics and communication – everything that makes up the expertise of a Defence Force first aider is put to the test in the Waterhouse competition.



The Waterhouse Trophy is a biennial Tri-Service first aid competition, in which teams are confronted with a number of training scenarios designed to challenge both the physical and mental components of military first aid. Fire and Emergency New Zealand entered the only non-New Zealand Defence Force team, while 2/1 Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment fielded the only non-health team.

Run by Defence Health Organisation, this year's event – the 75th anniversary of the competition – was hosted at the Police College in Porirua.

Officer in Charge, Lieutenant Aidan Bilbe NZA, said the competition got underway in howling wind and pouring rain.

"The teams really hit their stride and enjoyed the new twist on a competition which first ran 75 years ago." Normally teams of four, this year the teams were reduced to three, creating a resourcing challenge for life-saving duties in each scenario. "And there were plenty more twists to keep those soldiers who had competed in the past on their toes."

As well as dealing with trauma and organising handovers and evacuation of patients, teams were quizzed on first aid and brain-twisting logic puzzles.

Able Medical Assistant Olivia Jones, who is in her final year of medic branch training for the Royal New Zealand Navy, said it was heaps of fun.

"They picked the class who had done the most branch training to compete. We were on the bus at 0445 and the first round started at 0600."

She said the tasks were pretty testing, notably the stretcher challenge which required teams to hoist a heavily-weighted stretcher to the top of a tower. "And the puzzles were pretty hard," she said.

AMA Jones had recently done a substantial medic exercise in Tekapo, and said her team was in the zone for the variety of scenarios and fake blood which came their way.

Originally from Tauranga, AMA Jones joined the Navy after "hearing good yarns" from her grandfather, a former Navy man. She expects to graduate from medic training in November.

Lieutenant Colonel Kelvin McMillan, Commanding Officer Defence Health Organisation, said within a military context, treatment received in the first 10 minutes can have a significant impact on the survivability of a casualty.

"Their skills as a first aider or first responder put simply, saves lives," he said.

The Waterhouse competition began in the 1940s in Wellington, between 13 field ambulance sub-units. Since the Vietnam War, the competition has included memorial trophies dedicated by the families of the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps and Royal New Zealand Air Force medics who have been killed on military operations.



TE MANA RHIB CREW COMMENDED FOR BRAVERY

Four HMNZS TE MANA personnel who rescued a stricken yachtsman in atrocious conditions during Cyclone Gabrielle this year have been recognised for their bravery and skills.

The coxswain of the Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat (RHIB), Petty Officer Seaman Combat Specialist Leon Reilly has earned the Defence Meritorious Service Medal (DMSM), while Petty Officer Diver Te Pumautanga Campbell, Leading Diver Israel Davis and Able Seaman Combat Specialist Ashlea Farrar (now Leading Hand), who was the bowman, were awarded Chief of Defence Force Commendations for their part in the rescue.

In February, HMNZS TE MANA was called on to help with the rescue of a solo yachtsman east of Great Barrier Island when the rough conditions prevented the Northland rescue helicopter from carrying out the rescue utilising their rescue winch.

TE MANA approached the yacht which was taking on water in 5-to 6-metre swells and 40kt winds.

A discussion between the Commanding Officer and the Northland Rescue Helicopter resulted in TE MANA being requested to undertake the rescue – it was too dangerous for the helicopter. POSCS Reilly was summoned to the bridge and the CO asked him if he was happy to coxswain the RHIB. He was ready to give it a go.

POSCS Reilly said he had never encountered sea conditions like that in a RHIB before.

“The sea was like a washing machine. There was no consistency in the waves, they were all over the place – even barrels were breaking.

“The sea spray was probably the hardest part of it because you can't breathe as soon as the water hits your face and mouth.”

Piloting the RHIB to the yacht was also a test, with POSCS Reilly sometimes having to take direction from the rescue helicopter as he couldn't see where the yacht was at times.

“It felt like a game of forceback. You'd gain ground but then some waves were too big. At times I had the boat under full power but it was still going backwards.”

POSCS Reilly was trying to safely get the RHIB in close to the yacht when the crew realised the yachtsman was in the water and they were able to pull him aboard.

The trip back to TE MANA was no easier and the waves meant the RHIB was airborne at times.

Thirty-four-year-old POSCS Reilly, from Rotorua who enlisted in 2006 and was named Sailor of the Year in 2014, said he was grateful and proud to be awarded the DMSM.

At the time, POSCS Reilly's partner Steph was five months pregnant with their first child, River Jay Reilly.

He put thoughts of his own safety and family-to-be to one side.

“I didn't think about the risks, if things were to go wrong I was responsible for the boat and its crew once we left the ship. I used that huge responsibility to drive me to get us all back on board TE MANA safely. It wasn't until afterwards that I started dwelling on what might have happened to me or my crew.”

POSCS Reilly said the Navy's continuous training paid dividends during the rescue.

“When it's the real thing, everything we have we have trained for kicks in and muscle memory and a bit of adrenalin takes over.”

NEW COMMANDER AT PEGASUS

■ By SLT Phil Barclay
Public Affairs Officer



When not in uniform, HMNZS PEGASUS Commanding Officer Lieutenant Commander Rob Hall leads an effort to transform the asset management of New Zealand's social housing. He also holds a Ministerial appointment on a Government regulatory board.

LTCDR Hall is one of six Kāinga Ora staff in the Naval Reserve. He took over from Commander Grant Boore in June, when CDR Boore rejoined the Regular Navy.

LTCDR Hall joined the RNZNVR aged 17 in May 1988, transferring to the RNZN as a Midshipman a year later. After training as a GLX officer and hydrographic surveyor, he left in 2001.

After two decades working overseas and as chief executive of the Christchurch City Council's Development Company post-earthquake, he rejoined the Reserve in January 2022.

"I wanted to give back to the Navy after the great start it gave me in launching my working career. I'm now applying my previous Navy experience and executive leadership and governance skills to help encourage, sustain and modernise the way the Unit in Christchurch responds to the needs of the NZDF," he says.

There are clear parallels in his day job, and the challenges the NZDF has ahead of it.

"The Naval Reserve provides a resource to the NZDF to aid it meeting its wider defence outputs. It also provides the NZDF with service personnel with modern and innovative perspectives to operational systems, technology and transformation.

"At Kāinga Ora I'm leading a detailed asset management and maintenance review, which aims to transform the way we manage and maintain about 71,000 properties across Aotearoa New Zealand. That work involves about half of our 3,100 staff in some way, and a large supply chain of maintenance companies and supporting trades. It's part of a significant investment in modernising and maintaining these properties.

"Like the Navy, we aim to be a world leader in what we do. Continuous improvement is important, but won't deliver the shift we desire.

"Transforming large management operating systems in big organisations isn't always easy. It requires dedicated staff with the space to fully understand how things work. Often, there is no one person who fully understands how a complex system operates.

"You need to be inquisitive and open to challenging the way things are done and to absorbing honest feedback wherever it comes from, including other high performers. Whether that's the All Blacks or Mercedes Benz, there are always lessons in how successful organisations operate, flex, continuously improve, and transform.

"As the NZDF responds to the recent Strategic Review it will need to keep an open mind to how it operates – at all levels. It will need to operate differently to the past, and perhaps even the present to meet the demands placed on it in an increasingly dynamic environment."



MARITIME TRADE OPERATORS HONE SKILLS

Exercise Manaia 23-01 in mid-September sought to refresh the Naval Reserves' Maritime Trade Operations (MTO) capability.

Maritime Trade Operations personnel are the link between naval operations and the commercial shipping industry, and in times of crisis, war, piracy or other armed conflict, MTOs work with industry to ensure the safety of sea farers and the continuation of trade.

Exercise Director Lieutenant Commander Jeremy Packham said the exercise scenario involved a cyclone battering the country for several days (simulating Cyclone Gabrielle), with severe impacts on shipping around New Zealand and the ports at Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, Lyttelton and Dunedin.

Personnel from each reserve unit conducted rapid port assessments to identify the impacts on their local port to inform recovery activities. Exercise injects involved varying damage to port infrastructure and navigable channels, affecting cargoes and fishing activities, and the impact of adverse waves on each port's ability to operate.

"We last did an exercise of this type in 2021, so it was really about getting back in the swing of things. By the end of the exercise, we wanted the personnel involved to have a decent understanding of the basic pattern of life and capabilities at those ports, and critical cargoes in and out. While considering how shipping would be managed in their local scenario, personnel also visited port facilities to get a fresh sense of what things looked like on the ground.



Exercises like this also provide an opportunity to maintain the relationships we need to have with port companies, local authorities and the maritime industry. There's plenty we can build on from here, and further exercises are already being planned."

LTCDR Packham

*The model ship Santa Maria,
constructed from pieces of wardroom
furniture from HMNZS LEANDER.*



LEANDER STILL ON THE WATER

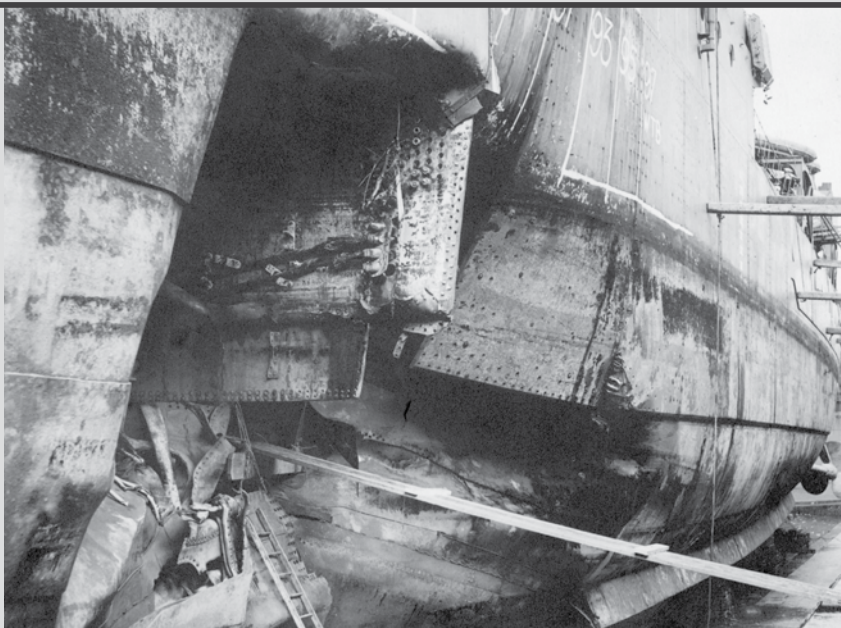
*A very small piece of World War II light cruiser
HMNZS LEANDER is still sailing today.*

*A close-up of the planking
detail on the Santa Maria.*



H M N Z S L E A N D E R

A photo showing the hole made by the torpedo in the side of HMNZS LEANDER, positioned in Calliope Dry Dock.



CPO Maurice Mudge

A radio-controlled model ship, 'Santa Maria', owes its existence to war-damaged wardroom furniture collected from LEANDER and a crewmember with dreams of completing a full-sized sailing vessel.

The model is owned by the family of Maurice Mudge, LEANDER's former Chief Petty Officer Shipwright. He had to leave his building project, a 45-foot yacht, to go to war.

On 12 July 1943 LEANDER was part of US Navy Task Group 36.1 at Tulagi, Solomon Islands. During an engagement with the Japanese, a torpedo struck LEANDER on her starboard side, hitting the armoured bulkhead forward of 'A' (Number One) boiler room. Twenty eight sailors were killed instantly and a further fifteen were wounded. Due to superhuman efforts in damage control, the crew got engines and power working and the ship was able to limp into Tulagi under escort.

After repairs in Tulagi, LEANDER returned to New Zealand, entering the drydock at HMNZS PHILOMEL.

CPO Mudge's nephew Warwick Copeland says he remembers as a five-year-old how he and his cousin Brian (CPO Mudge's son) ran to Bastion Point to watch LEANDER come into Auckland.

According to Mr Copeland, his uncle was one of the men who helped remove the concrete repairs and recover the remaining four bodies from the boiler room.

It was during this time he acquired the damaged wardroom timber, says Mr Copeland.

"Prior to the war, my uncle had been an active Naval reservist and was building his yacht. He had it at planking stage when he was called up."

Following temporary repairs, LEANDER sailed to Boston for permanent repair. The crew continued on to the United Kingdom, for transfer to sister ship HMNZS ACHILLES.

"On those passages my Uncle used the timber that he salvaged from the damaged wardroom furniture to make a 120cm long 140cm high model of his yacht."

Sadly, he never finished the full-size yacht, he says. When he returned from war, the partially constructed yacht had fallen into disrepair.

"The model yacht is still in perfect condition and has now been fitted with radio control by his son Brian and grandson. It is still being sailed today."

The name of the yacht – Santa Maria – is named after Christopher Columbus' flagship. Brian was reading the adventures of Christopher Columbus when the model was brought home at the end of the war.

CPO Mudge passed his boatbuilding skills and love of the sea onto Brian who built a 20-foot launch (Carabo) for his family and to Mr Copeland (a retired Lieutenant Commander) who built P-Class and Starling Sailing Boats for his own son.

Navy Paintings Stir Memories

Sea paintings are meant to stir the emotions and prompt a tale of the sea. Captain Clive Holmes certainly had one to tell when the covers came off the latest artwork by official Navy artist Colin Wynn.

The oil painting shows Navy Inshore Patrol Craft (Survey Vessels) HMNZS TAKAPU (A07) and HMNZS TARAPUNGA (A08) in Stephens Passage, a notorious stretch of water between the top of D'Urville Island and Stephens Island (Takapourewa), where the Marlborough Sounds meets the Cook Strait.

Marine Chart NZ6151 describes the passage as “extremely turbulent and liable to strong tide eddies, rips and overfalls (violent surface agitation)”. The chart credits TAKAPU and TARAPUNGA specifically for soundings in the passage between 1987 and 1989.

In 1988 TAKAPU, with Lieutenant Clive Holmes as Officer in Command and on the throttles, went up on a submerged rock.

“Uncharted,” points out CAPT Holmes at the painting’s unveiling. “On those vessels we had a rock watcher on the bow when surveying coastlines, and that position is rotated every 30–60 minutes throughout the day. We had just been in Elaine Bay to pick up the mail, and sadly the Leading Chef received a ‘Dear John’ letter.”

Later, while surveying in Stephens Passage, it was the somewhat glum sailor’s turn to be rock watcher. CAPT Holmes recalls looking down from the bridge, as they were steering cautiously towards a patch of calm water, and thinking, perhaps it’s not such a good idea he’s on rock watching duties today. “And just as that was going through my mind, TAKAPU went up on the rock, a feeling which was very similar to driving a jet boat up on a trailer.

“I flicked the throttles to full astern and that pulled the 100-tonne vessel back off. We went to damage control stations, did a search for leaks before anchoring, put on the goggles and fins, and went over the side to check the damage, which was thankfully surprisingly minor.”

The rock is now marked on NZ6151, 2.5 cables ESE of Saddle Rocks, as ‘drying’ one metre, meaning at the lowest possible tide, it shows a metre above the water but is covered by high tides.

The painting was one of three artworks unveiled during the Navy’s 82nd birthday commemorations in Wellington in October.

Wynn says CAPT Holmes approached him about the subject of Inshore Patrol Craft, saying there was a gap in the Navy’s collection. Wynn chose to set the boats in Stephens Passage. “Those small boats poked around all these places, and I really like this spot,” said Wynn.

TAKAPU and TARAPUNGA, which operated until 2000, rubbed shoulders with Dive Tender HMNZS KAHU (decommissioned 2009) and the Royal New Zealand Navy Volunteer Reserve Moa-class Inshore Patrol Craft HINAU, WAKAKURA, KIWI and MOA, virtually the same design. They were decommissioned in 2007.

The other two artworks show HMNZS AOTEAROA refuelling HMNZS TE KAHA and HMAS ANZAC somewhere near South East Asia, and HMNZS MANAWANUI departing Lyttelton as snow falls.

Right: HMNZS TAKAPU (front) and HMNZS TARAPUNGA in Stephens Passage; HMNZS AOTEAROA undertakes a replenishment at sea with HMNZS TE KAHA (left) and HMAS ANZAC.

Page 28–29: HMNZS MANAWANUI departs Lyttelton in the snow.







SPORTS

ELITE RUNNER PUSHES FOR WORLDS



Navigating an elite athletics programme around a busy psychology internship has meant an active year for Sub Lieutenant Anneke Arlidge.

She graduated from Junior Officer Common Training last year while her fiancé organised their wedding. Now a Navy psychologist, she fits in around 120km of running and three gym sessions per week towards her busy athletics calendar and her build-up to a world champs next year.

She's already clocked up a rack of placings at the New Zealand Track and Field Championships in March, gaining a first in the 3000-metre steeplechase, second in the 5000-metre and third in the 1500-metre. She later topped that during one weekend at the New Zealand Cross Country and Relay Championships with two golds, winning the senior women's category and gaining another gold as a teammate for her North Harbour Bays Team. She then represented New Zealand at the 2023 World Cross Country Championships in Bathurst as part of a mixed relay team, which finished 10th.

SLT Arlidge, 27, is originally from Tauranga and attended Aquinas Catholic College and Sacred Heart Girls' College. She says she couldn't begin to guess when athletics started for her. "I've been doing it almost forever. At school you try everything in track and field, even the ones you are not very good at. Both my parents were runners, and I found a knack for it."

Her result at the New Zealand Cross Country Championships places in her preferred selection for the World Athletics Cross Country Championships in March.

"The Navy have been very supportive. I'm quite lucky in my trade, in that I'm able to work from home if I need to. And running competitions are mostly on the weekends, so there's not much interference. When I went to Australia [for the World Championships], I had almost no leave as I'd only just completed JOCT. But when you represent New Zealand in a sport, you can apply for representational leave, and that was very handy."

At time of writing she was preparing for a 10-km time trial as part of the selection process. She recently ran slightly over 10km in 34 minutes and is aiming to better that in the official trial.

She loved the fitness aspects of officer training, and blitzed the Navy's cross country run, but she said she definitely had moments during the 22-week course. "I did have some 'what have I got myself into' moments and I really missed my partner, but I love my job and it's been worth some tough times in training."

Aspiring psychologists undertake university studies to masters level and then complete a registration programme. She's very pleased she's doing it via the NZDF. "NZDF and Corrections have approved supervision to registration programmes. If you're interested in Defence it's a great pathway."

VOLUNTARY EDUCATION STUDY ASSISTANCE (VESA)

Start thinking about your study options now

**Semester One, 2024
applications are
being accepted**

You may submit your request for funding within 90 days of your study start date. Apply online (ILP) at Training & Education, New Zealand Defence College (NZDC), Learning Toolkit VESA Application (e-form).

Applicants should be aware of their responsibilities prior to making an application, IAW Defence Manual of Learning (DMoL), Part C, Chapter 2: Voluntary Education Study Assistance. Our recent amendments to VESA have:

- Increased postgraduate and undergraduate funding limits.
- Introduced the option to study micro-credentials at Level 4 or higher, which sit on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF).

Prior to starting the application process, applicants are to:

- Confirm the level of study is right for them with Defence Learning, NZDC.

- 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 Adult Learning Tutor, Defence Learning, who can assist you with your application.

If you have any queries, please email our Tertiary Services & Support Advisor at nzdclearnvesa@nzdf.mil.nz



FROM WARFARE TO WEEDING

Six members from the Directorate of Sea Power and Warfare conducted a team-building expedition in Taupō in September, in support of conservation group Greening Taupō. The team tackled the less glamorous side of replanting native vegetation – preparing around 100 holes so that school age volunteers would have an easier time planting their natives at Hipapatua Reserve, near Huka Falls. They also mulched a large area of native trees recently planted.

From left, MID Floyd Ross, DOC rangers, CDR Andy Grant, LTCDR Peter Jensen, POHST Isaac Durie, LTCDR James Harper and CDR Rob Welford, with kahikatea trees ready to be planted.

Rear Admiral Cedric John Steward CB

Chief of Naval Staff 1983–1986
31 January 1931 – 6 October 2023

Whether it was landing a Hawker Sea Fury on the deck of an aircraft carrier, flying faster than the speed of sound or racing frogs down a hallway, Rear Admiral Cedric John Steward CB was never shy about taking on a challenge. But it was the politics of the Fourth Labour Government that encouraged him to draw a line on a highly successful naval and Defence Force career.

Rear Admiral Steward was born in Auckland and educated at Northcote College on the North Shore. In his final year he decided to join the Navy, triggered from a memory of seeing HMS Achilles arriving in Auckland in 1940 after the Battle of the River Plate.

He joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in 1949 as an Officer Cadet and taught himself University Entrance Physics to enable his entry to the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He served aboard various ships including HMS DEVONSHIRE and the Fleet Trials Carrier HMS ILLUSTRIOUS.

He was commissioned as a Sub Lieutenant in 1951 and served in Korean waters in another aircraft carrier, HMS GLORY.

Son Mark Steward recounts how his father was given an opportunity to train to fly Fairy Firefly and Hawker Sea Fury aircraft, which operated on British carriers during the Korean War. The story goes that when Royal New Zealand Navy heard about it, they asked the Royal Navy to desist, saying they didn't have a Fleet Air Arm in New Zealand and had no intention of creating one. There was no point training a RNZN officer in something risky like flying on a carrier. However, the Royal Navy were apparently short of pilots and the training continued, to the point of RADM Steward flying reconnaissance missions from HMS GLORY over Korea.

Continuing the aviation theme, RADM Steward has a framed certificate declaring him to be a member of the thousand-miles-an-hour club. He flew in Britain's first supersonic fighter, the British Electric Lightning, in 1978.

In October 1951 he joined the flagship of the Royal Australian Navy, HMAS AUSTRALIA and then later served in HMAS BARCOO.

Between October 1955 and April 1958 he was Seaman Boys Training Officer at HMNZS TAMAKI before being posted to the training ship HMNZS STAWELL as Executive Officer until May 1959, when he became the first New Zealand naval officer to be attached to the staff of the Royal Australian Naval College at Jervis Bay.

In February 1962 he was posted to HMNZS ROTOITI as Executive Officer, during which time the ship was employed on Operation Deep Freeze. From there he went to HMNZS TAMAKI as Executive Officer for the move of this establishment in 1963 from Motuihe Island to the mainland. In January 1965 he was appointed First Lieutenant and subsequently Executive Officer of HMNZS ROYALIST which served in Malayan waters during the Indonesian Confrontation.

In October 1966 he took command of HMNZS INVERELL and became Senior Officer Fishery Protection. Promoted Commander in 1967, he attended the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, London, in 1968. After his return in July 1968 he spent a year as Director of Naval Training in Wellington before being posted in June 1969 as Deputy Head, New Zealand Defence Liaison Staff, Canberra where, in addition, he became the New Zealand member on various ANZUK working parties tasked to build the framework of the ANZUK force.

Rear Admiral Steward returned to New Zealand in 1973 to command HMNZS OTAGO which was deployed to the Far East and became the first frigate to form part of the newly-established New Zealand Force South East Asia.

In July the following year he was appointed captain of the 11th Frigate Squadron and Commanding Officer HMNZS CANTERBURY. During this command the frigate was deployed to Hawaii for RIMPAC exercises and the American west coast where, for the first time, an RNZN ship was attached as a fully integrated unit of a United States Destroyer Squadron.

In 1975 RADM Steward was in command of an international Task Group in the first of the TASMEX series of exercises prior to being posted to Defence Headquarters, Wellington, as the Defence Director of Officer Postings and Appointments.

He then attended the Royal College of Defence Studies in London in 1978 and became Director of Policy Development Defence Headquarters in January 1979.

RADM Steward was appointed Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Wellington, in October 1979 and in 1981 became Commodore Auckland. He was promoted to Rear Admiral and appointed Chief of Naval Staff on 16 April 1983.

Mark describes RADM Steward as a brilliant family man, even with 14-month deployments in his at-sea career. He was an excellent networker, able to pick up a phone and talk to anyone he needed to, and very good at breaking the ice, putting people at ease and creating a level playing field, often around contentious issues. His connections in the Pacific

were wide ranging, forming alliances with Fijian, Tongan, Samoan, South Korean, Malaysian and Japanese Navies and maritime forces.

He was an expert marksman with pistol and rifle and Bren gun. An accomplished rugby player, he represented New Zealand at the inaugural Sevens tournament in Hong Kong as part of the New Zealand Navy and defence personnel team. He won the Naval and Armed Forces golf championship in Auckland. In his retirement, he bred racehorses, one of which went on to win the DB metric mile at Pukekohe.

He enjoyed the hospitality side of the job. On the family property in Pauatahanui, north of Wellington, Mark recalls his father setting up the visiting Second Sea Lord, a keen huntsman in the UK, for a 'hunt' with his sons Mark, Brett and John on the family's horses in hill country near their home. On a challenging corner jump, the Second Sea Lord came off, landing straight into a gorse bush. He was brushed off and persuaded not to continue, as it would be a poor look to send the British Admiral home on a stretcher.

While based in Canberra, the story goes that RADM Steward held a party that involved the Prime Minister, the Chief of Defence and the Chief of Navy, slapping the hallway floor to encourage frogs to move in a frog race.

Posted to Naval Staff in the early eighties, he was very focused on future frigates, favouring Dutch frigate options as a replacement for HMNZS OTAGO – a project turned down by Prime Minister Rob Muldoon. As Chief of Naval Staff, RADM Steward would go on to have more significant struggles under Prime Minister David Lange in confronting the fallout of the breakdown of ANZUS over New Zealand's nuclear-free policy from 1984 and the Labour Government's angst over frigate replacements.

RADM Steward would have keenly felt the breakdown of relations with the United States. He was highly regarded by the Americans, and his notes make reference to him being afforded 'five-star status' when he was in the United States and Hawaii as Chief of Naval Staff. Rear Admiral S. David Griggs, a former NASA astronaut, presented RADM Steward with his Admiral's pennant. This had been taken into space by RADM Griggs on the space shuttle Discovery in April 1985.



His concern over the rift between the US and New Zealand would be pivotal in his decision to retire. Mark says RADM Steward turned down the position of Chief of Defence Staff, not wanting to carry on under Lange and, in his view, watch his hard work building up the Navy go backwards. His official paperwork says his Reason for Release is 'At own request'. Mark says he decided to voluntarily discharge himself on 31 January 1986, and go out celebrating his birthday.

On 12 October 2023 the Navy farewelled RADM Steward at St Christopher's Chapel, Devonport Naval Base, with military honours, including a firing party, 50-person guard, pall bearers and the Royal New Zealand Navy Band.

Mark says the family were honoured and humbled, while his father would have been a bit embarrassed by the fuss. He was a person of doing rather than telling, he says, and it honoured a man who had succeeded at all levels of his life.

PROMOTIONS:

Congratulations on your promotion
(To 17 October 2023)

CPOET Jamie Broxup

AHSO Cole Bullot

AHSO Codie Cairns

AHSO Christopher Cornell

POCWS Rhys Davis

A/LTCDR Anna-marie Garnett

SLT Tristan Gill

LMED Matthew Good

AMT(P) Thomas Goodhew

AET Daniel Hanna

CPOYDS John Hood

AMT(P) Isaiah Jennings

CPOMED Annaliese Johnson

LT Caitlin King

CPOCWS Matthew Komene

AHSO Gene Mace

POLSS Deanna Makoare

LTCDR Adin Martinus

LMED Terrick Mill

LMED Hannah Norris

LTCDR Kim Rapson

ASCS Kya Ratana-Keepa

LTCDR Bryden Reay

CPOYDS Albert Roebeck

LMED Laura Salmon

LMED Ben Steele

LSTD Chloe Sullivan

ACH Zackarier Talataina

POSCS Petera Teaia

LSCS Alexander Thornton-Smith

AHSO Rhyley Tiatoa

WOEWS Lafaele Tugaga

AHSO Mya-Marie Wells

POMT(P) Jackson Yovich



BABCOCK CHIEF MARINE ENGINEER APPOINTED

Babcock Australasia (Babcock) has appointed Kelly Smith as its Chief Marine Engineer based at the Royal New Zealand Naval Base in Auckland. This new role spans all of Babcock's marine technical teams in New Zealand, including engineers and technicians who support the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Kelly has a distinguished career in the defence sector, rising from an RNZN electronic technician in 1998 to becoming the first female Petty Officer and later a Chief Petty Officer Electronic Technician by 2006.

Kelly retired from the Navy in 2022 at the rank of Commander, General List Engineer and was one of two engineers qualified as both a Weapon and Marine Engineer. In February 2022, Kelly began her career with Babcock and in July was appointed into her dream role as Chief Marine Engineer.

In her new role, she will utilise her Navy experience to continue to strengthen the partnership between RNZN and Babcock and to deliver successful project outcomes. She also aspires to continue being a vocal advocate for women, mental health and wellbeing in the workplace.

15 ROUNDS

WARRANT OFFICER CHEF MELAINE DIXON



01

Job Title and description:

Command Warrant Officer,
Maritime Component Commander.

02

Date Joined RNZN:

5 February 1991.

03

First ship posted to:

HMNZS MONOWAI.

04

Best deployment and why:

HMNZS MONOWAI was my first posting and deployment. Queen's Birthday in 1994 saw a massive hurricane strength storm hit the South Pacific after the Ship sailed on its South Pacific deployment. This was a real 'awakening' and introduction to the power and fury of the sea and also demonstrated how quickly and effectively a Ship's Company can come together to help rescue and provide assistance to those in grave danger and distress on the high seas, this provided a real sense of pride and achievement and what it means to serve.

05

Hometown:

Mount Maunganui.

06

High School:

Mount Maunganui College.

07

Favourite book:

Red Leaves by Paullina Simons.

08

Favourite movie:

Whale Rider.

09

Favourite album:

Like a Prayer – Madonna, first record I ever brought.

10

Favourite song:

New York by Alicia Keys.

11

Favourite holiday destination:

Noosa, Australia.

12

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

Spending time with family and walking the dogs.

13

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

Maybe not too exciting, but I have 62 house plants, and I am always looking out for more!

14

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

A Career Manager approached me when I was a Leading Hand and said if I was to continue to say no to promotion courses that I would end up working for those who would effectively jump ahead of me in my career. At the time it was the push and realisation I needed as a young mother to get out of my comfort zone, take up the challenge and progress on my own career path. The lesson being don't have doubt or hesitation, believe in your abilities and accept and try all of the things that are offered to you. If you sit back and continue to wait you will miss out on some wonderful opportunities and you will have no one else to blame but yourself.

15

How would you describe the Navy in 10 words or less?

Fantastic career with great opportunities, variety, and long-lasting friendships.

