

NAVY

T O D A Y

SAILOR OF THE YEAR
WAITANGI DAY
MOKO KANOHI HUI



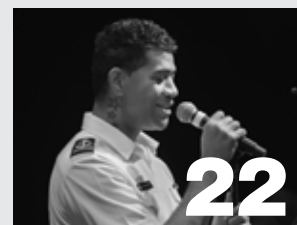
Contents

- 04** Sailor of the Year
- 06** Waitangi Day
- 08** Uncrewed vessel
- 09** Winterfest
- 10** New Year's Honour 1
- 12** New Year's Honour 2
- 14** School to Seas Teachers Edition
- 15** School to Seas success story
- 16** McBurney sword recipient
- 20** Moko Kanohi hui
- 22** RNZN Band photo essay
- 26** Cutter donated to cadets
- 28** Nelson's Regional Naval Officer
- 29** Junior Rates Whakaaro
- 30** Reservist – Jonathan Otto
- 31** The Old Salts Award
- 32** Book Review
- 33** Apply for UK Nuclear Testing medal



“It’s the ability to make a meaningful and significant contribution, that’s important to me. I’d do it all again given the opportunity.”

– Lieutenant Commander Mark Te Kani MNZM, DSD



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

Published by:
Defence Public Affairs
HQ NZ Defence Force
Wellington, New Zealand

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Design and Layout:
Defence Public Affairs

Printed by:
Bluestar
Private Bag 39996, Wellington

Distribution:
Email: navytoday@nzdf.mil.nz

Contributions are welcomed, including stories, photographs and letters. Please submit stories and letters by email in Microsoft Word or the body of an email. Articles up to 500 words welcomed, longer if required by the subject. Please consult the editor about long articles. Digital photos submitted by email also welcomed, at least 500kb preferred. Stories published in *Navy Today* cannot be published elsewhere without permission.

Copy deadline is the 15th of the month for the following issue. Subject to change.

Views expressed in *Navy Today* are not necessarily those of the RNZN or the NZDF.

Defence Careers:
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(0800 136 723)
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Front Cover:
HMNZS Manawanui fires a gun salute as the 100-person guard parades on the Treaty Ground at Waitangi.

Photographer:
PO Chris Weissenborn



Yours Aye

Chief of Navy



The year has started at pace; however, I gladly note it is not the frenetic start that 2023 was, as we responded to the Auckland flooding event and Ex-Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle in Hawke's Bay. That said, I know that planning activity, developing options for operations and exercises in New Zealand and the wider Pacific, and around the world, has dominated the month for many. I also note the mahi of those in ships preparing to Force Generate and the effort from those involved in the critical work of training our newest recruits. Thank you.

Regards new options being worked up for consideration, I assure you that the essential regeneration of our Navy, building a sustainable workforce as the foundation, remains at the core of our effort for the year. Yes, we will need to be austere with the very precious funding provided by Government, and some improvement programmes might be slowed or stopped. However, the fundamentals of our regeneration programme should only be enhanced in the long run by the new opportunities that are under consideration. Command will keep you informed of any changes to programmes if necessary.

Regards communication, by the time you read this article you should have already heard about my February-March schedule for engagement opportunities with sailors. I am executing my stated intent to prioritise communication in 2024 (you may recall this is a direct result of feedback in Pulse).

As I type this Yours Aye I am mindful that I am about to attend my last Waitangi week in uniform. The Navy, originally the Royal Navy, have been at Waitangi since the beginning of the Māori- Crown relationship. Furthermore, shortly after the establishment of the Royal New Zealand Navy in 1941, the Navy has been proudly supporting the celebration and events at Waitangi. Between 1946 and now, Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa only missed 2022 due to COVID19 lockdowns. Iwi heramana are proud of our relationship with the people of Tai Tokerau ... and I note a special friendship with the Waitangi Treaty Grounds' board and grounds staff. Notwithstanding the discourse in some media, there is no doubt Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa will be at Waitangi into the future ... we are part of the fabric up there, in that very special part of the motu. And I expect you will continue to see us evolve as a Navy, folding more of our Māori culture into our everyday life at sea and ashore. We will continue to integrate our proud Māori mariner heritage with our historical Royal Navy traditions. This is deliberate evolution, it is what is right for iwi heramana and Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa. The kaupapa is good.

Over my three decades of service I have had the privilege to attend eight Waitangi commemorations. I was there in the 1990s as a junior officer, and then in the early 2000s ... they were occasionally contested times. And I have had the good fortune to have participated over the largely festive occasions of the last few years, where as a nation we have spoken of the wrongs of the past, the challenges of the present, but also acknowledged the opportunity of the future. From 'sporty' occasions to festive celebrations, all Waitangi events have been important to our journey and growth as a nation. They have all been unique occasions amid 2024 will be no different ... because people care, and the kaupapa to realise the opportunity of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is so very important.

It has been my honour to tautoko our Commander in Chief on so many occasions, and a privilege to listen and learn from every kiwi who shares their message at that special place on that special day. And of course, watching our sailors parade so proudly is a national highlight.

Shipmates, as I close, please note that in the next month or so, you should be briefed by your Command, manager or Divisional Officer/Senior Rate, on an updated CN Directive that is about to be released. It provides clarity for prioritisation and effort in the coming 12-18 months. There will be no surprises, however, please do not hesitate to ask questions; communication is two way.

He heramana ahau.

Rear Admiral David Proctor
Chief of Navy

SAILOR OF THE YEAR

Leading Writer Joanna Mafi

DO IT NOW!

Do something about it and do it now, is something Leading Writer Joanna Mafi keeps in her mind when there's a goal she's striving for. Andrew Bonallack chats to our Sailor of the Year.

LWTR Mafi says she can remember the morning musters during her Basic Common Training. Standing at ease, she was always opposite a classroom window and she could see herself reflected.

"I would look at that reflection and say, this is where I need to be. I have this many days to go. Just stick through it."

It's a drive to succeed she would bring up if she was describing the Navy to others. "You need mental toughness," she says. "It's fun, it's absolutely fun, but it can seem hard, especially the physical side. You just have to remember, good things sometimes require hard work. Keep the end goal in sight, because the end is always worth it."

LWTR Mafi is Tongan, growing up in Manurewa, South Auckland and attending McAuley High School. From her family's perspective, her decision to join the Navy might have seemed a dramatic leap from her university studies, but she thinks it had been in the back of her mind all along.

"I knew where the Navy was – our parents used to bring us to Devonport in the holidays. I finished high school, concentrated on my academics, but in my second year of my degree, I was questioning myself a lot. How am I going to pay my student loan? Will I use my degree in the long run? Am I wasting my time and my money?"

One day, while in the library, she saw a friend looking up Defence Forces careers. "I opened the Careers website and had a read. It had everything that I wanted to do. I had done work with Amnesty International, so I was passionate about humanitarian aid and there was the travel side. I need constant change and I could see it was about not doing the same thing every day."

Her parents asked her, "Are you sure you're making the right decision? You've already put in the time and money. What if you change your mind? I told them: 'I'm going for it', and they said, 'if it's in your heart, do it, we'll support you'."



Fitness worried her, so she attended Force Fit training programmes. She originally applied as a Maritime Logistics Officer in 2018, but was told there was a bit of a wait. "I said, I want the next intake. Can I go in as a rating?" She was in the first intake of 2019, graduating in the middle of the year.

She's done some solid deployments, including the sub-Antarctic Islands, Canada, Hawaii, Guam, Singapore, Australia and more recently to Fiji and Niue on board HMNZS MANAWANUI.

As a Writer, she's enjoyed the administration side, earning herself glowing plaudits from a previous Commanding Officer that contributed to her nomination as Sailor of the Year (Navy Today December 2023).

"I love problem-solving," she says. "If there's a will, there's a way. But as it happens, I'm trade changing to become a Marine Technician. I come from a family of engineers."

"I had always thought of it as a 'male' role, but when I was posted to HMNZS TE KAHA, I was doing admin for the engineers and I got plenty of exposure to the engine spaces and machinery control room. Nothing scared me; if anything it made me eager to learn more about engines. They always have to be on their toes, always faced with challenges. I need that constant stimulation of solving problems and knowing why and how things work or don't work, and it just clicked with me."

As Sailor of the Year, LWTR Mafi is now posted ashore. She will be among the Defence Force contingent at Gallipoli on Anzac Day and will likely have a study tour overseas.

She accepted the award in December while in Fiji with MANAWANUI. Her family attended the award ceremony at Devonport Naval Base, while LTWR Mafi watched via a Microsoft Teams link. "It felt good to receive it at sea with my Ship's Company behind me. I keep my work and family life separate, so seeing my family there receiving my award came as a surprise and it felt very special.

"This has all happened because I decided to follow my heart," she says. "I think everything has a line to exactly how things should be, and I am exactly where I am meant to be."

“

It's fun, it's absolutely fun, but it can seem hard, especially the physical side. You just have to remember, good things sometimes require hard work. Keep the end goal in sight, because the end is always worth it."



FOR THE RECORD:



BRAVO ZULU AWARDS 2023

RNZN Seamanship Award
HMNZS TE MANA

The Commander WJL Smith Trophy
RNZN MARITIME TRAINING GROUP

The Monowai Trophy
HMNZS MATATAUA

The Chatham Rose Bowl and E-Pennant
HMNZS TE MANA

Naval Support Command Efficiency Trophy
SEA SAFETY TRAINING SQUADRON

Customer Service Award
HMNZS PHILOMEL WARDROOM STEWARDS

Reserve Division Trophy and E-Pennant
HMNZS OLPHERT

The Joseph (Joe) Simms Memorial Award
LMUS SERGUEI KHOUSNOUTDINOV

COM JFNZ Award for Joint Operational Excellence
HMNZS MANAWANUI

NAVY IN BIG NUMBERS FOR WAITANGI

The Royal New Zealand Navy, a long-established guest for Waitangi Day commemorations, has stamped its mark during several days of sensational weather this year.

It's a welcome contrast to the weather events of last February and the cancellation of the event in 2022 due to COVID-19.

Representing the RNZN this year was Chief of Navy Rear Admiral David Proctor and Deputy Chief of Navy Commodore Andrew Brown, along with a large number of Navy personnel.

Dame Cindy Kiro, Governor General of New Zealand, reviewed a 100-person Royal Guard of Honour during the Beat Retreat and Sunset Ceremony on Waitangi's Treaty Grounds on 5 February, an annual tradition.

The Royal New Zealand Navy Band were supplemented with five Royal Marines musicians, brought especially from the United Kingdom for the event. The band also has a Royal Marines musician on exchange.

On Waitangi Day, HMNZS MANAWANUI fired a 21-gun salute to observe the 184th Anniversary of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

MANAWANUI, at anchor at Waitangi since February 4, hosted 20 senior secondary students from high schools throughout Te Tai Tokerau, giving them an opportunity to experience what a career in the RNZN could offer.

RADM Proctor declared Waitangi the "ceremonial highlight of the year.



This day is a taonga for our nation and we're grateful we can once again share it with the people of this region, other New Zealanders and visitors alike.



Photography: PO Chris Weissenborn





Trial of Uncrewed, Renewable-Powered Vessel

The Royal New Zealand Navy has taken delivery of a 6.8-metre renewable-powered Uncrewed Surface Vessel (USV) to trial on a short-term lease.

USVs offer potential to undertake a wide variety of roles for the New Zealand Government. These could include fishery protection, border protection or providing meteorological data.

HMNZS AOTEAROA transported the vessel from Sydney to Auckland in December and once operational it will be able to undertake maritime tasks at sea without fuel or personnel on a trial basis.

The Bluebottle is designed and manufactured by Sydney-based Ocus Technology, which has already sold a number of USVs to the Australian Defence Force and worked with Australian Border Force and other energy and scientific agencies.

The solar-, wind- or wave-powered vessel uses a retractable rigid sail to provide wind propulsion. Photo-electric cells on the sail can drive its motor.

In the absence of sunlight and wind, the Bluebottle has a unique flipper

and rudder device to steer and propel itself. It has a top speed of five knots and the ability to operate at sea indefinitely in sea states up to 7 (wave heights of six to nine metres).

Sensors allow both safe and effective control of the system and identification of other vessels. Sensors include radar, and electro-optic and infra-red cameras.

The USV will be constantly monitored and operated from a control room at Devonport Naval Base. Communication with the control room is through mobile phone signal while close to shore or via high- and low- bandwidth satellite when further offshore.

The sheer size of New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is one of the reasons the Maritime Component Commander, Commodore Garin Golding, is excited about the potential capability of the USV.

"Our EEZ is the fifth largest in the world at more than four million square kilometres. Coupled with the 30 million square kilometre search and rescue area that New Zealand has responsibility for, that is a lot of ocean to cover," CDRE Golding said.

"The evidence we've seen from our partner militaries overseas is that uncrewed drone aircraft and vessels can provide real value in fulfilling some of these search and surveillance tasks."

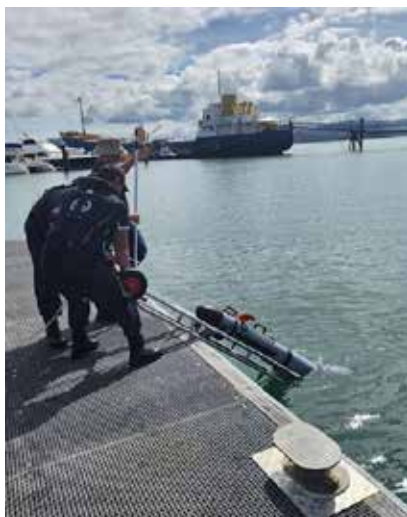


The RNZN's Autonomous Systems Staff Officer, Commander Andy Bryant, is also looking forward to the USV demonstrating its potential.

"The Bluebottle has already undertaken a range of activities in support of the Australian Government for long periods of time without the need for refuelling, recharging or crew respite.

"I'm confident we will see similar benefits from the time we have with the vessel, particularly a better understanding of how to operate and sustain uncrewed vessels, and this will provide a great opportunity to share experiences on the new system with the Royal Australian Navy."

The USV can be transported by trailer to almost anywhere in New Zealand where it can be launched and recovered from a boat ramp. It can also be craned on and off a Navy ship to launch on operations while deployed overseas.



A WINTERFEST OF DEFEATING MINES

■ By AHSO Cleo Ford

Members from HMNZS MATATAUA's Hydrographic Mine Counter Measures (MCM-H) team and the MANTAS Uncrewed Surface Vehicle (USV) team recently took part in Exercise Winterfest 23 in Northern Tasmania.

Hosted by the Australian Maritime College's (AMC) training and consultancy division (AMC Search), Exercise Winterfest promoted collaboration, experimentation, and the improvement of capabilities. Twenty-five personnel attended, including seven personnel from MATATAUA, two personnel from Geospatial Intelligence New Zealand, two from the Royal Australian Navy, and a number of industry representatives.

AMC Search showcased a number of their own systems including the Iver 4 AUV, the WAM-V and Edu-Cat USVs. Industry representatives were able to test equipment including the NemoSens Micro AUV, and JaiaBot hybrid AUV.



Exercise Winterfest was held in Beauty Point, Tasmania on the Tamar River, at AMC Search's purpose-built marine technology facility. This provided a shallow water estuarine environment where personnel were able to experiment with their capabilities, and collaborate alongside academic and industry experts. Shallow water estuarine environments are unfamiliar territory for the MCM-H team, and this posed complex operational and environmental challenges which they learned to overcome.

For the MCM-H team that attended, Exercise Winterfest 23 was a great opportunity to further increase knowledge and understanding of the new REMUS 300 system. Having experts at hand allowed personnel to learn and adapt rapidly and gave further insight into data analysis and more robust tactics, techniques and procedures. This knowledge is an important step toward improving future capabilities within the MCM-H team.



COOK ISLAND ISOLATION NO BARRIER TO GOOD WORK

When Lieutenant Commander Mark Te Kani posted to the Cook Islands in January 2020 as Maritime Surveillance Adviser, COVID lockdowns happened soon after and the Cook Islands isolated itself from the rest of the world. With no means of travel, he poured his time, resources and years of experience into the Cook Island police's maritime capability – and a few extra projects.

LTCDR Makoare (Mark) Kohupara Te Kani MNZM was awarded the Distinguished Service Decoration in the New Year's Honours for his accomplishments during the three-year posting. He was born in Gisborne and is of Ngati Porou, Rongowhakaata, Te Aitanga Mahaki and Te Whakatohea descent. He also traces his whakapapa to Mauke, Cook Islands through Kautia o te Rangi (Paikea).

His brief was to lead the Cook Islands Police Maritime Security capability in their replacement of their aging Pacific-class Patrol Boat TE KUKUPA to the more modern Guardian Class Patrol Boat donated by the Australian Government. The Cook Island Police operate the patrol boat to provide maritime security to the 15 islands and two million square kilometres of ocean that make up the sovereign territory of the Cook Islands.

In addition to the patrol boat replacement, LTCDR Te Kani also led a significant project to upgrade the Cook Island Police Surveillance Centre to ensure there was a support facility that was fit for purpose to deliver effective maritime security outcomes. These were multimillion dollar projects and the largest ever completed in the Cook Islands under the New Zealand and Australian Defence Cooperation Programme.

LTCDR Te Kani provided support to the New Zealand and Australian High Commissions and several Cook Islands Ministries and Agencies, acting as escort for high profile state visits and Master of Ceremonies for New Zealand recognised public events.

He took on a number of voluntary tasks and functions within the Cook Islands community. He acted as an observer to the Cook Islands Airport Authority Emergency Exercise in the revalidation of their operating license, attended and contributed to emergency management planning meetings, and served on the committees of the Cook Islands Aotearoa Society and Cook Islands RSA.



He also found time to coach the Premier, U19 and Junior grade Rugby and Rugby League teams of the Arorangi Bears Rugby and Rugby League Club.

His citation says LTCDR Te Kani has shown great leadership and dedication throughout his posting to the Cook Islands. "He has been an inspiration to the local populace, enhancing the reputation of New Zealand as a strong Pacific partner who unreservedly supports the people of the Cook Islands."

LTCDR Te Kani says he arrived in the Cook Islands thinking he'd travel all over the Pacific attending conferences and meetings. "Then on March 4, the whole world closed down. But I must say, if you are locked down, Rarotonga is the place to be. They didn't have COVID."

With time on his hands, he conducted a review of the police force's maritime security capability.

He discovered the Cook Island maritime police didn't have enough sailors to crew the future Patrol Boat. He went to the commissioner with recruiting options, which ultimately created 25 positions from 13 in the maritime police through police transfers and direct entry recruits from the street. Train them as mariners first, then train them to be police officers was the pitch to the commissioner.

He is especially proud of the training programmes that he and Technical Adviser, Chief Petty Officer Marine Technician (Propulsion) Tamatoa Short, developed and delivered in preparation to receive the new patrol vessel TE KUKUPA II which was due to be received in July 2022, and the hard work of the maritime police. "We decommissioned the old TE KUKUPA, then the crew flew to Perth for three months of transition training. There have been 14 patrol boats handed to the Pacific, and our crew were reported as the most efficient crew that has ever gone through the handover of a vessel."

The maritime police also have new operational uniforms and formal 'white' uniforms similar to Royal New Zealand Navy uniforms, to emphasis their maritime status.

He says it's definitely been one of his more memorable postings since he joined the Navy in 1973. "It's just the ability to make a meaningful and significant contribution, that's important to me. I feel like I made a worthwhile contribution to the Cook Islands, providing as much help as I could, and I'd do it all again given the opportunity.

"On a personal note, the posting allowed me to trace my whakapapa. I visited Mauke, and went to a particular spot where Kea, the wife of Paikea, waited for him to return from a fishing voyage."

Paikea, a great fisherman, was swept away from Mauke in a storm, with Kea eventually dying as she waited in vain. Māori legends describe Paikea coming to Aotearoa on the back of a whale.



"The person showing me around said the test of being a true descendent of Paikea is being in this spot and seeing a whale. Just as we were leaving a whale appeared and breached. We did a haka on the spot."

A former Warrant Officer of the Navy, he was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the 1998 New Year's Honours for his role as chair of Te Runanga o Te Iwi Heramana which oversaw the introduction and development of the Tikanga Māori within the RNZN and the later construction of the Royal New Zealand Navy Marae, Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa Marae.

He left the Navy in 2004 to work for the Department of Corrections, returning in 2013 as a commissioned officer.

Far Left: LTCDR Mark Te Kani flag photo.

Above: LTCDR Mark Te Kani and Inspector Te Paki Baxter, Commanding Officer of TE KUKUPA II (in the background).

ENGINEER RECOGNISED FOR HELPING BRING NAVY'S LARGEST SHIP INTO OPERATION



The Commissioning Engineer of the largest vessel in the Royal New Zealand Navy's history has been awarded the New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD).

The award citation says Lieutenant Commander Louis Munden-Hooper was a pivotal figure in the development, delivery and integration of the new tanker, HMNZS AOTEAROA, starting with its construction in Ulsan, South Korea.

"LTCDR Munden-Hooper has shown great leadership and dedication throughout the project, and was vital to the successes of the ship in her first years of service that ultimately delivered strategic success for the

New Zealand Defence Force, New Zealand Government and the people of New Zealand," it says.

He joined the Maritime Sustainment Capability Integrated Project team in August 2018 as a Logistics Manager, then posted to South Korea as the commissioning Engineering Officer. As a representative of the New Zealand Defence Force, he was involved throughout the construction, setting to work, trials, acceptance and capability integration of the ship.

As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, LTCDR Munden-Hooper was pivotal in managing the impacts on international travel and integration of the commissioning crew. "His leadership across all facets of the ship's operating profile was instrumental in allowing AOTEAROA to commence her sea service safely," says the citation.

LTCDR Munden-Hooper was a key person in the success of AOTEAROA's first eighteen months of sea service through two

deployments in the Indo-Pacific region, including the humanitarian relief mission to Tonga in January 2022 following a volcanic eruption and tsunami that devastated the island kingdom. The ship then completed her first resupply voyage to Antarctica and took part in the United States-led exercise RIMPAC 2022.

LTCDR Munden-Hooper says he was extremely surprised to receive the award, and never thought he would be the commissioning Engineering Officer when he was initially trying to get on the project team.

"I was very keen to be part of the project," he says. "I went to Korea in 2018 to scope out elements of my role and was there full-time from April 2019 until we brought the ship to New Zealand. It was definitely interesting times with COVID. When we brought the ship over in June 2020 we had to do 14 days quarantine at sea and when we arrived we had to sit and wait outside the harbour for the time to count down."



He says his time in Korea was extremely rewarding and very procedural. "It was a huge project, and even on a slow day in the shipyard there could be hundreds of people working on the ship. Work was going at an extreme pace and you had to work hard to keep track, and make sure everything was happening as we expected. There were long days on administration and assurance checks."

Once the ship was in New Zealand, there was the work towards achieving interim operational release. "We had the Tonga volcanic eruption mission, and it was really rewarding to see the team pivot on a dime to change their focus and deliver for that circumstance. Then Antarctica, and RIMPAC, and a maintenance period in Singapore. I posted off AOTEAROA in September 2022."

LTCDR Munden-Hooper grew up in Blenheim, attended high school in Nelson and moved to Auckland to study for his engineering degree. He joined the Navy in 2009 under a scholarship scheme that paid for him to complete his studies after graduating from officer training.

He cut his teeth on large ships, including logistics ship HMNZS CANTERBURY, tanker HMNZS ENDEAVOUR and a stint with Falklands-era aircraft carrier HMS ILLUSTRIOUS. Large ships, especially older ones, need a work-hard ethic to keep them going, he says.

"If I'm honest, there were days in Korea when I thought, 'how long is it going to be until I get to the bottom of this pile of work?' But it was a great time being in Korea, building a ship and being part of the team to serve as the commissioning crew. It was hard work, but an exceptional experience."

Far Left: LTCDR Louis Munden-Hooper during his Antarctica deployment.

Above: LTCDR Louis Munden-Hooper (in white overalls) directing engineering personnel during HMNZS AOTEAROA's mission to Antarctica in February 2022.

Teachers Sample Skies and Seas Camp

Devonport Naval Base joined forces with RNZAF Base Auckland to host the Teachers' Edition of the first-ever combined School to Skies, and School to Seas Camp last month.

The camp is a prelude to the School to Seas and School to Skies camps for female students looking for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

About 40 teachers from throughout the country gained hands-on experience in the aviation and maritime industries and were provided with new educational tools and ideas, as well as being introduced to the inspirational career opportunities available to their students.

During their time at Devonport Naval Base, the teachers were exposed to a wide range of Naval activities, including the day-to-day life of Navy personnel, firefighting, navigation and leadership skills.

Recruiting and supporting a diverse and inclusive workforce that represents all New Zealanders is also critically important for the RNZN.

"School to Seas certainly helps to show the range of career opportunities the Navy has to offer. The camp aims to introduce what life is like at sea, as well as break down stereotypes and barriers that may prevent women and other under-represented groups from enlisting in the Navy," says School to Seas Project Lead, Lieutenant Commander Emily Kutarski.



"With global long-term shortages in the STEM workforce, we need to attract young women in order to sustain and grow our numbers both in the Navy and the wider maritime industry."

The School to Seas camp will take place in April.

St Joseph's Kaikōura School teacher Breanna Moller says the Kaikōura earthquake was still something her students talk about.

"My students were five years old when the earthquake hit back in 2016 and cut off land access to the township," she said.

"They still talk about how the Navy was keeping everything together for the people of Kaikōura."

Miss Moller teaches Year 7 and 8 at St Joseph's, and says the Royal New Zealand Navy's presence played a significant role in her students' experiences.

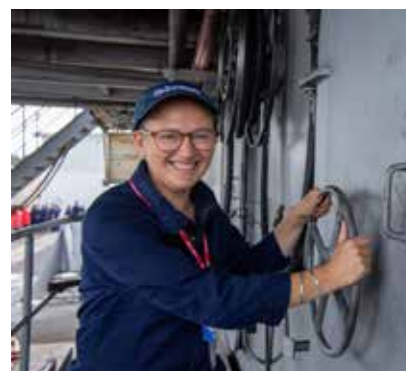
"The Navy evacuated people and brought them food and supplies. Seeing our Navy ships in the landscape was really significant for the kids. So when the chance came to spend time at Devonport Naval Base, I just couldn't say no."

She says the bridge simulator was so real, she was nearly sea-sick.

"We also got to board HMNZS Te Mana and I really didn't realise how big Navy ships are!

"The visit to Defence Science & Technology opened my mind to just how much technology existed in the New Zealand Defence Force. I think my kids would definitely be amazed by the experience."

Before the camp she says she was quite closed-minded about what the military offers, but now realises there are so many different jobs you can do while in service.



“The visit to Defence Science & Technology opened my mind to just how much technology existed in the New Zealand Defence Force. I think my kids would definitely be amazed by the experience.”

– Breanna Moller

School to seas success

Renee Woodward was pretty certain she wanted to join the Royal New Zealand Navy. But what ‘sold the deal’ was her taking part in the Navy’s School to Seas programme in 2020.

Today, Ensign Woodward is a Warfare Officer who graduated from Junior Officer Common Training in June 2022. She is posted to HMNZS CANTERBURY and is looking forward to her first overseas deployment at the end of March.

“It had been pretty much solid for me that joining the Navy was what I wanted to do,” she says. “I’m from Rangiora, North Canterbury and had been to Defence Careers events in Christchurch. I hadn’t been anywhere near Devonport Naval Base. School to Seas was an enjoyable and rewarding experience, and there were a few other girls that joined the Navy as well out of it.”



She has some familiarity with CANTERBURY, because she and the rest of the School to Seas students bunked in the ship for the week-long course.

“That was really fun,” she says. “We were in four Embarked Forces cabins, with 12 bunks to a cabin. A highlight for me were the Squad Leaders, these Lieutenants were always around, getting to know us, answered any questions we had about the Navy and shared their personal experiences and adventures. They slept in the cabins with us which was pretty crack-up.”

What impressed her was seeing the bond the Navy personnel had with each other. “They got stuck in, they had this comradeship and were always helping each other out. They were incredibly approachable and go-getting.”

Other highlights included tours of other ships, rides on seaboats, eating at the base galley, building Remotely Operated Vehicles and testing them in the fleet pool, and training on the Navigation School’s bridge simulator.

“One great thing was a Lieutenant who taught us how to service a car, he took us through everything from filling up the wiper fluid to changing the oil, a learning experience for sure.”

As an officer, she says she is now experiencing exactly the comradeship she admired when she was doing School to Seas. “100 percent. It’s a very welcoming wardroom in CANTERBURY, super social, where you can hang out, share good yarns and best the more senior members of the wardroom at card games and uckers.”

CANTERBURY has come out of a period of maintenance and is “amped” up for the year ahead. “I’m a bit nervous about what’s to come, but we’re going overseas and the ship has a pretty good line-up of activities this year. I’m looking forward to finally getting into it.”

SWORD OF DISTINCTION GOES WITH PRIDE OF SERVICE

Midshipman Sean Keven

When Midshipman Sean Keven became the first ever officer to receive the Dick McBurney Sword of Distinction, it was during his intake's graduation day in December. It's only now that he's had a chance to appreciate the story behind it.

In July *Navy Today* ran a story on Lieutenant Commander (rtd) Dick McBurney MBE and his desire to donate his sword to a deserving officer, someone who had 'lower deck' origins like LTCDR McBurney and was now Commissioning From the Ranks (CFR).

MID Keven was one of five officers in Junior Officer Common Training intake 23/02 who had previously served in the ranks. As the top overall CFR graduate, he was presented with the sword, as well as the Commodore Davis-Goff CBE, DSC Trophy, traditionally presented to the best CFR graduate.

The sword stays on display at the Leadership Development Group but any time in his career MID Keven, and subsequent awardees, are entitled to request the sword and wear it for ceremonial occasions.

LTCDR McBurney, originally from Northern Ireland, joined the Royal Navy in 1948, commissioned in 1963 and served in the Royal New Zealand Navy from 1972 to 1981. He and his wife are retired in Waikanae.

The sword, purchased from renowned Naval outfitters Gieves of London, is made by noted German swordmaker Eickhorn Solingen.

It's quite likely LTCDR McBurney and MID Keven joined the Navy for the same reasons: a desire to leave a small town and see the world.

"Wellsford is a very small town, with not a lot to do," says MID Keven. "I was looking at the Air Force initially as an avionics technician, but the recruiter pitched the idea of an electronics technician in the Navy." He didn't think of himself as a very confident person back then, so it was a big step. "I looked into the Navy and thought, why not, let's go for it. I knew this would help me grow into someone I could be proud of. And nearly five years on, it's been the best decision I've made."

He joined in early 2019, completing Basic Common Training (BCT) and trade training. He was then posted to HMNZS TE MANA, which was undergoing its Frigate Systems Upgrade in Canada.

Above: RADM David Proctor, Chief of Navy, presents MID Sean Keven (holding the McBurney Sword) with the Commodore Davis-Goff CBE DSC trophy.



"Again, it was someone selling me an idea. While in Canada, my divisional officer suggested I might be a good fit for officer training." He'd found he liked being challenged, out of his comfort zone, and finding new opportunities to grow. "And the Navy gives you very good opportunities for that."

It meant nearly six months of officer training. "It's interesting – as a rating, you're taught to do stuff, and be efficient about it. So the biggest thing for me was changing the way I thought. As an officer, you step back, look at different factors, juggle the team and the task. It's a lot more dynamic as you solve problems, rather than be focused on one task. And in JOCT, instructors are a lot more hands-off, letting you figure things out. But if you muck it up, they rein you in and show you."

MID Keven will now train as a Weapons Engineer Officer. That means a three-year Engineering degree at university, followed by a two-year weapons engineer course in Australia. He will likely post to frigates after that.

It's hard work, but what he's noticed is how well the Defence Force manages work life balance for its people.

This was particularly brought home to him when he asked if his partner could be with him in Canada.

"They said, let's do it, and they made it happen. Considering I was an Ordinary Rate at the time, this was very surprising. We spent over a year in Canada together, in our own apartment, with plenty of opportunities to travel and see the country. It was an amazing experience and is just one instance of what the Navy has to offer."

Training, study and travel are all great benefits, he says. "But arguably the best thing is being given the opportunity to be part of an organisation that doesn't care about making the most profits, or expanding their reach to more clients. The Defence Force cares about protecting New Zealand, her interests, and her people. I feel a lot of young people are lacking purpose, community, and a challenge, all of which the Defence Force offers in spades."

“

There's always opportunities to take leave, or get away from work for something important. As a whole, the NZDF tries really hard to accommodate its people interests and wishes, especially in the regards of family and sports."



AEWS Jessie-lee Ellis on Calliope Wharf, welcoming HMNZ Ships TE MANA and AOTEAROA back from deployment.



CDRE Mat Williams congratulates newly promoted CDRE Maxine Lawes. CDRE Lawes takes up the Commander Logistics role.



WOCH Tug Wilson, Command Warrant Officer HMNZS AOTEAROA.

OUR P



WOSCS Shane Dixon, State Opening of Parliament.



LTCDR Nigel Heslop receives a DCN Commendation for his initiative and outstanding commitment to duty during his tenure as Commanding Officer HMNZS NGAPONA.



LTCDR Josh Stephens at the head of the tri-service guard at the State Opening of Parliament.



LCH Susana Sili and her shipmates wave to families as HMNZS TE MANA returns home.



LTCDR Ryan Hissong, who posted as a psychologist aboard HMNZS AOTEAROA.



Graduating MID Hayley Ambrose receives an award for the highest academic marks during JOCT 23/02 from RADM David Proctor.

PEOPLE



Dale Stringer is awarded a DCN Commendation for his outstanding contribution to the Navy as a Naval Architect.



CDRE Andrew Brown, Deputy Chief of Navy, and RADM Edwin Leong, Chief of Staff - Naval Staff Singapore, sign a Navy Engineering & Logistics Information-Sharing Arrangement agreement at Defence House.



LTCDR Wendy Frame receives a DCN Commendation for her outstanding professionalism and dedication to duty.



CPOSCS Rawiri Barriball (right) with SGT Charles Raihania.

Moko kanohi and Moko kauae

There are many different personal experiences and journeys that lead people to embark on receiving this taonga.

Moko kanohi and moko kauae is a traditional facial tattoo in Māori culture and represents a personal connection between the wearer and their identity as Māori.

There are approximately 25 people (uniform and civilian) who wear a moko kanohi and moko kauae in the New Zealand Defence Force.

In November last year, Te Taua Moana marae hosted an overnight hui (meeting) for Defence Force personnel who wear moko. Guest speakers included Melanie Huata-Lucas, the first woman in the employ of the Royal New Zealand Navy to wear moko kauae (a facial moko worn on the chin) and Chief Petty Officer Seaman Combat Specialist Rawiri Barriball, who received permission to wear mataora (male full face moko) in 2017, the first person in the Royal New Zealand Navy to do so. Lastly, Kaitā moko artist Cody Hollis was invited to speak about the process of gifting moko. Cody was also the first Kaitā to tā moko in the wharehau at Te Taua Moana marae.

Organiser, Petty Officer Chef Chrissy Montgomery says they wanted to share stories from others who wear moko kanohi and hold space to talk about their individual journey, some potential challenges, and begin a conversation about the permissions needed with the Defence Force, which varies between the three services.

"It went really well," she says. "We wanted to connect, meet each other face to face and talk about challenges or situations that each of us may

face every day, both in the uniform and out of it. It was really to identify ourselves to each other, create a network of people who have already embarked on this journey and how to navigate life in the military and how we can help others seeking to receive their taonga one day."

She says she has encountered both positive and negative responses since receiving her moko kauae in March 2023.

"I have faced a few confrontations and moments of racism when I first received my taonga. It hasn't been all that bad; it's all a part of the journey and the preparation you do beforehand. Once you are settled within yourself you know when you are ready. It is invasive, it's on your face, and I believe you need to be ready to face all types of responses. This is my responsibility as a wearer to help raise awareness and educate those who just don't know. People are quite inquisitive and want to ask questions and I welcome that. More Māori are embracing their rich history every day and revitalising our ancestral markings".

SGT Te Rina Naden leads the way onto Te Taua Moana marae.

From left, POCH Chrissy Montgomery, 2LT Kume Papuni-Tuhaka, SGT Te Rina Naden, SGT Tayma Matoe, Melanie Huata-Lucas, SGT Charles Raihania, SGT Ngahua Harrison, CPOSCS Rawiri Barriball.



Mel Huata-Lucas and CPOSCS Barriball shared their process and experiences since they received their moko kanoahi and moko kauae. "These two really paved the way for Navy and the wider NZDF. They both had the courage to open the door way for those of us in service now and those who are yet to come in the future. I am really grateful for their support through my own process. They are awesome role models serving our country and Māori culture in the forefront."

The hui discussed what changes could be recommended for the approvals process within the NZDF. "We were able to discuss collectively a more culturally aligned policy and come up with initiatives for future discussions on moving forward. Our current process is to raise a minute requesting approval through your Commanding Officer. From there it gets considered and approved by Deputy Chief of Navy. In this space we were able to come up with a plan moving forward."

She says her own Commanding Officer readily sponsored her application, and even felt uncomfortable about the process, 'approving' something that was intrinsically part of Māori culture.

"There's not many in the Navy who have taken this journey yet- there's more in the Air Force and Army. We've not had the time to sit down and have this kaupapa, and talk about how we navigate living in the two worlds of military person and tangata whenua. We want to future-proof our Defence Force personnel on this journey, so that it's easier for our sailors, soldiers and aviators as they come through."

Photos: SGT Vanessa Parker





ARS USU JUVANDA

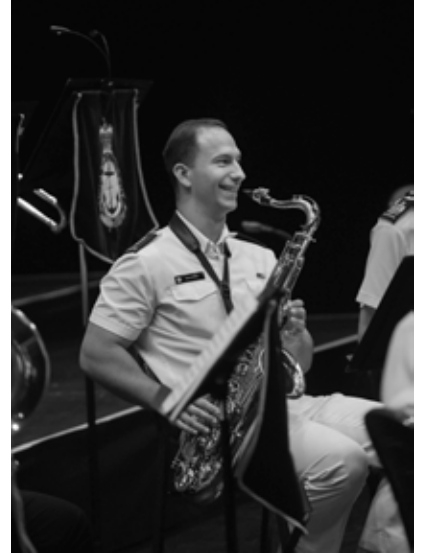
Art must be aided by practice

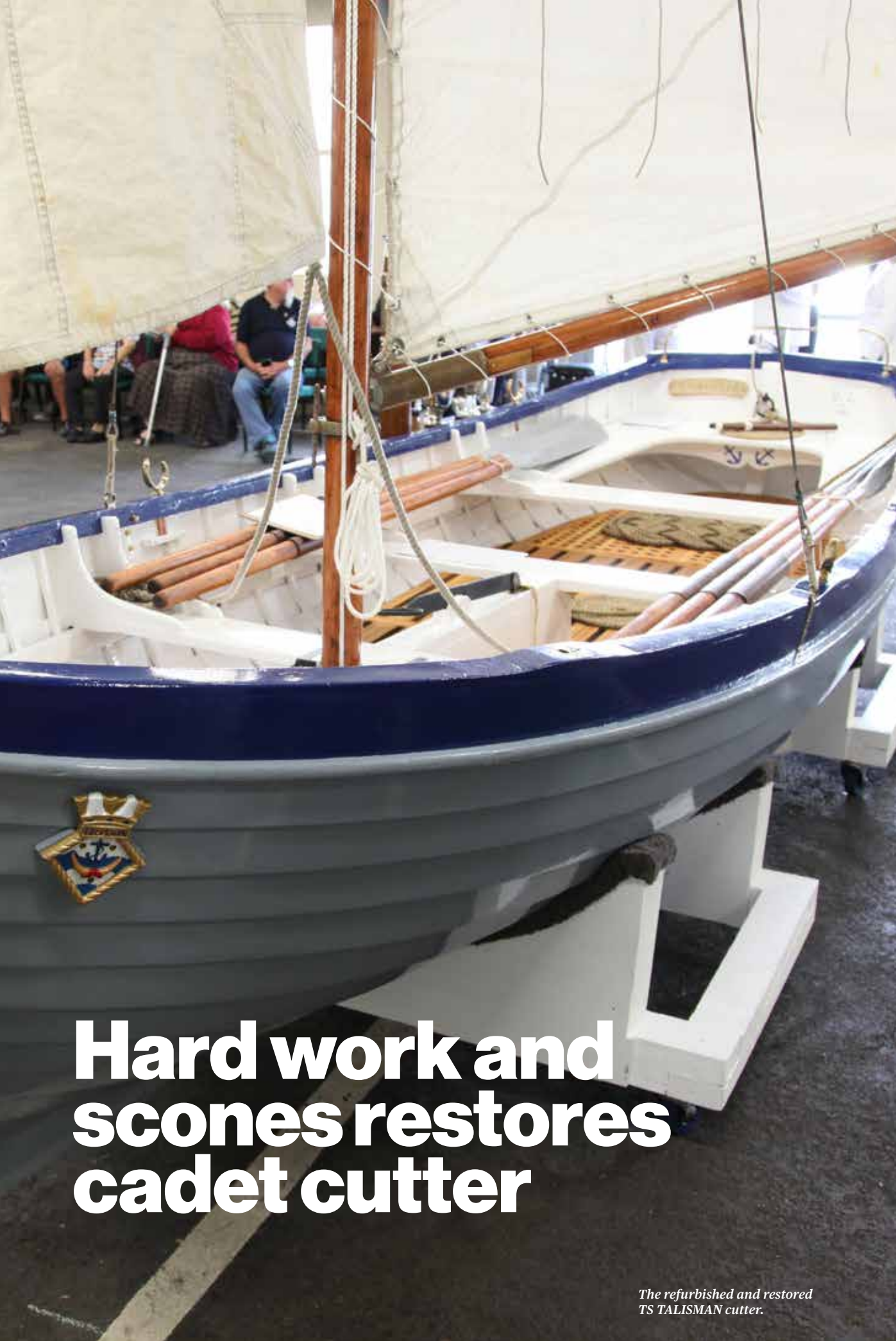
Introducing new NZDF photographer:
LAC Andrew Franklin

“

This was probably my second or third day on the job, and the first time photographing the band. I had a chat to the musicians and they said, be as creative as you like. Make the most of the opportunity. We'd like the action shots, but get the quiet moments as well.”







Hard work and scones restores cadet cutter

*The refurbished and restored
TS TALISMAN cutter.*

Right: Royal New Zealand Naval Association members beside the cutter.

A “heart and soul” project in the best traditions of Navy craftsmanship was unveiled at Nelson’s Navy Cadet Unit TS TALISMAN in December.

Nelson-based members of the Royal New Zealand Naval Association spent 18 months restoring the unit’s first Sea Cadet cutter, a 17-foot sloop-rigged training vessel built in 1965. The badly-damaged cutter had been sitting in TALISMAN’s boat shed for decades, ignominiously collecting rubbish.

Nelson RNZNA president Dave Rogers and Project Manager Ian McKnight worked with working-bee volunteers to completely restore the cutter, toiling in the carport of Association members Neville and Anne D’Herville and fortified by hot soup and scones in winter. Navy League Canterbury, who own the building TALISMAN is based in, helped with the funding of the project.

The restored vessel, presented back to the Cadet Unit on their final Hardy St parade night of the year, boasts refurbished mast, boom, sails and rigging, as well as brand-new duckboards. The paintwork is perfection. But what can’t be seen is the riveting in the kauri hull – over 200 rivets replaced, all sourced from Australia.

Mr McKnight says the cutter was likely built by apprentice shipbuilders at HMNZ Dockyard, Devonport Naval Base. Still etched in a panel inside the cutter is the notation XVII FT No 281 DEV:NZ 1965, with a pusser’s arrow. If this is number 281, it makes you wonder how many overall were built, he says.



“These are the boats where you first learnt the skills of rowing and sailing, as well as leadership and teamwork.” Mr McKnight was a diver at Devonport Naval Base in 1965 and says it’s likely he would have known some of those that built the cutter. “Divers were always over there bludging bits of stuff.”

Association members first tested the neglected boat in the water, and it promptly filled up.

“It needed a lot of work,” says Mr McKnight. “It was in a bit of a mess. I reckon it had been alongside the jetty and had been bashed. Damaged keel, broken ribs, split and sprung planks, rivets missing. So we all scraped and sanded and took it back to bare wood.

“I kid you not. That week of getting that paint off, to seeing what was what, was a huge job. But you really appreciate the lines of these boats – modern boats aren’t built like this.”

Neville remembers the riveting. “There was Bill at one end, and Dave and I on the other end, yelling at each other for two weeks, and telling wonderful stories.”

The cutter will not be used on the water but will remain on display at TALISMAN.

TALISMAN’s Unit Commander, Lieutenant Commander Tim Hoffman NZCF, says it is a “stunning” restoration.



Above: TS TALISMAN officers and cadets with Cutter Project Manager Bill McKnight (centre front).

“It was known as the ‘shed boat’. We didn’t have the money to do anything. But when the Association and CAPT Holmes got involved, things happened. I’m blown away with the work. The whole project is a visual representation of the craftsmanship, the shoulders we stand on, the values the Navy hold dear.”

Nelson has a big Navy legacy, he says, with the unit existing in the region for 62 years. “We definitely want more cadets through our doors.”

Captain Clive Holmes RNZN was a major supporter of the restoration and attended the final parade night. “People have put their heart and soul into this project,” he says. “It demonstrates how our older sailors, here in Nelson, are supporting our younger sailors of today and tomorrow. This is an important relationship we have throughout New Zealand, where we have Naval Associations who support our people.”

NELSON'S REGIONAL NAVAL OFFICER

Commander Alex Haughey once said you can't have it all, but there are great choices if you decide what you want and go for it.

That was in 2021, during her promotion to Commander while on maternity leave. Today, she's opted for some work-life-family balance as the Marine Operations Manager at Port Nelson, combined with her duties as the Nelson/Tasman Regional Naval Officer.

It's the role of a Regional Naval Officer to be the Navy's representative in that region, and stay connected with local authorities, veterans, the Port Authority and other organisations the Navy might need to get involved with.

Prior to 2013 RNO's were 'honorary' officers but today they are commissioned officers in the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve or (if previously regular forces) the Royal New Zealand Naval Reserve.

CDR Haughey, who joined the Navy in 2005 as a Warfare Officer, says she was at a stage in her life of looking for options that suited the family. She and her husband, a firefighter, have two children, three and six. "I started this job in July last year," she says. "It was a good way to step out of Defence, but stay within the maritime industry. And one of the good things about being a regional naval officer and reservist is you're keeping that foot in the door, leaving an option to return and keeping in touch with good people."



She says the Navy is a great place for challenges, but the posting cycles can be wearing. "In the military you come to a role, orient yourself, do it, and then 18 months down you start planning your handover and move to the next role. So this is a change of mindset, where I don't have an end date on this 'posting', for this chapter in our lives."

She is attached to the closest reserve forces unit, HMNZS PEGASUS in Christchurch. "We call Nelson PEGASUS North."

Her RNO duties include a lot of ceremonial events, such as citizenship ceremonies. "I have a lot to do with the Royal New Zealand Naval Association and the local Sea Cadet unit, TS TALISMAN. There are medal presentations and ship visits, where the RNO assists with berthing arrangements. Since I work for Port Nelson, it was a bit like two worlds

colliding when HMNZS TAUPU came recently. And I could certainly get them a good berth!"

The lifestyle is very different. "We've come from a two-bedroom cottage in Wellington, up a goat track with lots of stairs. Here, it's five minutes to work, I can bike in along the river, and we hardly need to use the car during the week. We live close to a mountain bike park and you can head off in any direction for a holiday to beautiful parts of New Zealand. We're both a lot more relaxed. This is not forever, but it's perfect for this stage in our lives."

CDR Alex Haughey, holding a pint glass of tea, chats to Royal New Zealand Naval Association members Jill and Ian McKnight at TS TALISMAN in Nelson.



SAILORS QUIZ SENIORS ON NAVY'S FUTURE

The challenges facing the Royal New Zealand Navy are mirrored in most Western navies.

That was among the topics discussed in November during the Navy's Warrant Officers' Conference and the re-established Junior Rates Whakaaro – the first since 2017.

Rear Admiral David Proctor, Chief of Navy, provided the two-day Warrant Officers' conference with an update on the state of the RNZN, followed by a variety of guest speakers providing insights on the global and regional dynamics and the challenges facing the Defence Force and its international partners.

The conference explored the NZDFs challenges with climate change throughout the Pacific and Navy-specific projects like the Future Naval Base and the future fleet project.

Guest speakers tackled diversity and the multitude of cultures that make up the RNZN and how this was one factor that will shape future workforce issues and future recruiting. Veterans Affairs and the Royal New Zealand Returned Services Association described their challenges and the benefits they provided to personnel.

The 2023 Junior Rates Whakaaro, on day three, involved senior leadership speaking directly to the junior cohort of the Navy – and the junior rates firing questions back. Master of Ceremonies Petty Officer Youth Development Specialist James Faleofa, 2022 Sailor of the Year, reinforced the purpose of the whakaaro – an opportunity for the leadership to listen to junior sailors.

Both RADM Proctor and the Warrant Officer of the Navy, Warrant Officer Diver Lance Graham, introduced their Canadian counterparts – Vice Admiral Angus Topshee and Chief Petty Officer First Class Thomas Lizotte – to provide the junior rates with an overseas perspective.

Both Canadians shared their views on recruiting, retention and similar struggles to get fleet units off the wharf. It was familiar ground for VADM Topshee, who had recently gone public about the Canadian Navy's critical state and severe attrition.

The Junior Rates were able to quiz both Chiefs of Navy on topics ranging from sick leave to international training opportunities and their views on their navies' strategic outlook. WODR Graham and CPO Lizotte carried on the Question-and-Answer session for the rest of the day.

Chief Petty Officer Marine Technician (Electrical) Richard Boyd, Military Assistant to WODR Graham, said it was a great three days of information, strategic thinking and most importantly – frank 'QnA'. "We had standing room only for the whakaaro, with Derek 'DJ' Forbes [former rugby international] kicking off the day with an inspiration discussion on being a leader, leading high-achieving teams and ultimately winning the day through teamwork."



Keeping the connection going

Thinking about joining the Naval Reserve Force? Lieutenant Commander Jonathan Otto would wholeheartedly encourage it.

For him, it's getting to do something a bit different from his full-time role, with a different set of challenges. He's the Cyber Security Operations Manager for Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency and the Executive Officer of Navy Reserve Force unit HMNZS OLPHERT, based in Lower Hutt.

He came to Waka Kotahi over two years ago, transitioning to the Royal New Zealand Naval Reserve after a career as a Weapons Engineer and cyber defence specialist in the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Growing up in Howick, Auckland, he attended Santa Maria and Macleans Colleges before completing a Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Electrical).

"I joined the Navy in 2013, starting as a marine engineer officer. I saw a lot of possibilities in the Navy, to do that next step of development beyond a degree. And I felt I had more to learn, as well as becoming a people leader.

"I had a number of really interesting roles in the regular force which led to my specialisation in cyber defence, including as an engineering manager in defence digital, establishing the Navy's cyber team and in the cyber security and support capability programme."

He left the Navy feeling great about the experience – which included overseas deployments in frigates – and feeling he'd tackled everything he could do in the defence cyber security role. But he was keen to keep contributing to the Defence Force.

Since joining OLPHERT, he's been the Initial Training Officer and now the Executive Officer. "Both roles have given me some great opportunities to broaden my skills and contribute to the unit."

"One of the biggest perks in my view is the sense of comradeship and the culture of working with Navy people which is a difficult concept to explain to those who haven't experienced it. Another fantastic benefit from being at OLPHERT is that we have the Reserve Small Arms Training Team attached to the unit, and as such I've never been at risk of falling out of date for my Annual Weapons Qualification!"

As well as his specialisation, his officer training has provided a useful skillset in the civilian sector.

"The Navy teaches you about being a leader and looking after a team, particularly during operations. It's about having a calm, collective approach, when you're under pressure.

"The Navy Reserves give you some really unique opportunities to both develop new skills, meet like-minded people, contribute to protecting New Zealand's interests, and get paid to do it."

THE OLD SALT UPDATE

'The Old Salt' Salt Shaker is a trophy that is held by the longest continuous serving member of the Royal New Zealand Navy.

As at January 17, 2024, the top 20 RNZN Old Salts (Continuous Service) are:

51 years	WO R M JENSEN 17 January 1973
49 years	CPO T M ALLEN 15 January 1975
49 years	WO M E NALDRETT-JAYS 15 January 1975
48 years	CPO C D WARNER 28 May 1975
48 years	WO W S OVERTON 7 January 1976
47 years	LTCDR S N KAYE 28 January 1976
47 years	CDR K A ROBB 28 January 1976
47 years	LTCDR P DAWSON 25 May 1976
47 years	CPO R P TAYLOR 26 May 1976
47 years	LT P W JOHNSON 2 April 1976
47 years	LTCDR R D GILVRAY 5 January 1977
47 years	CPO S F KENNEDY 12 January 1977
46 years	CPO A R WILSON 4 January 1978
45 years	WO R J DERKSEN 8 February 1978
45 years	CPO T PAENGA 24 May 1978

45 years	CPO W R HANNAH 20 September 1978
44 years	WO B P REES 3 January 1979
44 years	WO T K D TE WIATA 3 January 1979
44 years	WO R W T R WAAKA 8 January 1979
44 years	CDR P A JOHNSON 8 January 1979

REAR ADMIRAL K.F (FRED) WILSON (RTD), who initiated the tradition, held the Salt Shaker until his retirement on 08 April 2000, having served for 41 years & 68 days.

Other notable former Old Salts are:

52 years, 265 days	CPO L.J. (LEN) BILTON 12 January 1961– 4 October 2013
52 years, 2 days	LTCDR D.A. (ALLEN) MORTIMER 26 February 1964– 28 February 2016

Non-continuous Long Serving Personnel as of 17 January:

50 Years	CPO G T HANSON 9 Jan 1974
49 Years	LTCDR O L V GEE 9 Jan 1974
48 Years	CDR M E KENNETT 15 Jan 1975
47 Years	WO K A BANCROFT 23 May 1973
47 Years	CPO J R D MCKINNEY 15 Sep 1976
45 Years	LTCDR L D FRENCH 15 September 1976

Two 'Old Salts' left the RNZN in 2023:

LT WAYNE MORRIS

Joined 5 January 1977

WO JOHN GIBBS

Joined 26 January 1977

There can only be one holder of the Salt Shaker at any time. Should two or more persons qualify for the Salt Shaker, the person with the lowest service number will be the recipient.

BOOK REVIEW

It was Michael Wynd, naval researcher at the Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy, who said that one of the only constants in the history of naval uniforms is how often they are changed.

Today, we are lucky enough to have a measure of standardisation, including a single type of working rig for officers and ratings, but on clothing and shoe-wear alone there are still more than 40 separate items issued to modern-day RNZN personnel (NZBR 3).

If we stepped back a century, it would be a brave person – or a very dedicated enthusiast – who might attempt to catalogue the complexity of Royal Navy (NZ Division), Royal New Zealand Navy and Merchant Navy apparel.

Military collector and author Barry O'Sullivan has met that challenge abundantly in his 628-page two-volume work, ***New Zealand Naval Forces: Uniforms, Clothing, Badges and Personal Equipment 1921–1948***. The Navy theme is a first for the author, but if I mention he's previously published *New Zealand Dress Regulations 1853–1909*, *New Zealand Army Personal Equipment 1910–1945*, *New Zealand Army Uniforms and Clothing 1910–1945* and *New Zealand Air Force Uniforms, Clothing, Badges and Personal Equipment 1923–1948*, you get the idea. He's on very familiar ground, making use of what is clearly a very large personal collection as well as artefacts from the Navy Museum and other collectors.



The written minutiae is extraordinary, but what makes the volumes particularly pleasing on the eye is O'Sullivan's generosity with photos and illustrations, published in large format on the pages – often larger than the actual size of the artefact, allowing the reader to really appreciate the colour (or in the case of badges, the intricate stitching). There are more than 1,250 images ranging from socks to sweetheart badges, felt pennants and flying caps. There's a huge cloth badge section. The Merchant Navy gets plenty of room, and if you ever wondered why the gold rank braid was wavy, rippled, straight, circular or diagonal in war movies, you'll find the distinctions here. There are also two appendices covering kit issue, store lists and regulations.

Any Navy enthusiast – especially those who know the Navy is more than just ships – will get a lot of pleasure from these volumes.



Available online at Trade Me or direct from the author (barrylisa@xtra.co.nz) at \$99 (plus \$12 tracked postage within New Zealand).

Kiwi veterans eligible for British Nuclear Test Medal



New Zealand veterans involved in UK atmospheric nuclear testing in the fifties and sixties can now apply for the British Nuclear Test Medal.

The British Nuclear Test Medal was announced by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson, in November 2022, 70 years after the first British test of a nuclear weapon. It recognises military, civilian, and overseas staff and personnel who participated in Britain's nuclear testing programme in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Medal is awarded to UK and Commonwealth Service and civilian personnel who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967.

It includes Operation Hurricane (Christmas Island); Operation Totem (Emu Field, Australia); Operation Mosaic (Montebello Islands, Australia); Operation Buffalo (Maralinga Island, Australia); Operation Grapple (Malden Island, Christmas Island, Kiribati) and Operation Antler (South Australia, Western Australia).

Full eligibility criteria for the Nuclear Test Medal can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-test-medal-eligibility-criteria>

Applications are now open for eligible veterans, civilians and their next of kin. For more information go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-for-medals>

For any questions, please email the British High Commission at Defence.Wellington@fcdo.gov.uk.

For New Zealand veterans, the order of wear is immediately after the NZ Defence Service Medal.

This month the British High Commission presented medals to Operation Grapple veterans and their families at the Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy.

PROMOTIONS:

Congratulations on your promotion

November to December 2023

A/CDR STEPHEN BARKER
LT JAYDEN BARTRAM
AWTR IVAN BIBIKOV
A/POMT(L) MALCOLM BROWN
AMT(L) LAUREN CLARK-TAYLOR
POSCS VICTORIA CLEMENTS
LWT CALEB CORBOY
POSCS ALEXANDER CROUCHER
ACWS HARRISON DE JOUX
AWTR MANAIA DODGE
ASCS MATEROA EDWARDS
A/LTCDR BEN FAIRWEATHER
LMED PAUL FARR
CDR LETISHA FITCHETT
CAPT JULIE FITZELL
ASCS ANGUS FLETCHER
ASCS JOSHUA FULLER

A/LCSS KHALEEL GEOR
A/LCSS HAILEY GIBBONS
A/CPOCH COURTNEY GREY
SLT THOMAS HATTON
POCSS RYAN HAYNES
WOMAA CLINTON HEMOPO
AEWS JACK HERLIHY
A/LTCDR RYAN HISSONG
SLT DAVID HOWIE
A/POMT(L) ROBBIE JACKSON
LLSS SETELO KAUVAKA
LYDS MAXINE KEARNS
CDRE MAXINE LAWES
POWTR HIKI LEE
POYDS TAEAR LEPOU
LET YUWEI LI
LEWS KAHN LIEFTING
LMT(L) BRAYDEN LOWE
LET STEPHEN MCEWAN
AMT(L) MARIO MEIER
AMT FLYNN MERCER
LCH NICOLE MIO MIHAERE
ACWS BRODUS MURRAY
SLT JON NARCISO
POET TEREENA NOOMAARA

ALSS SENIO PEATO
LWT JACK PHIZACKLEA
ACT PUTI POMARE
LET DOMINIC POMFRET-HARDIE
ACWS SINA PORTER-SAMUELS
AMT JACOB POYSDEN
SLT KAMIL RAHMAN
CPOCSS WETINI RETI
ALSS MAKUINI ROBUST
LMT(L) BENJAMIN RUDDIMAN
ACWS REBECCA SAIL
A/LLSS ANNA SIMEK
LEWS LANI SKEEN
LLSS SAMANTHA SMALLMAN
POSCS WILLIAM SMART
CPOCH ANDREW STEVENS
SLT SYD SYDENHAM
LHST EVAN TEO
LT JESSE TODERAN
SLT BENJAMIN WARD
LMT(P) JOE WILLIAMS

Letter to the Editor

I was very interested to read "Through a Mother's Eyes" in the December issue of Navy Today.

In my one hundred and second year I still remember vividly seeing the anguish in my own mother's eyes when we stood on the station platform in Christchurch, Dorset, waiting for the train to take me back to London and then Liverpool after a short seven days leave from my Navy ship HMS Bluebell, a Flower class corvette. I had come home after a Russian convoy (PQ 18) and would be returning to what I felt would be a repeat performance. My Mother who had already lost her eldest son, killed as a pilot of a Wellington bomber, was farewelling me not knowing if or

when she might see me again. Fortunately I changed my ship to a Landing Ship (LSD) for the Normandy landings, while on 17th February 1945, almost at the end of the war, HMS Bluebell was torpedoed off the North Russian coast with just one survivor of the 90 crew. I heard the news while sitting on the mess deck of the LSD and my thoughts immediately went to those former shipmates and their families who would never see their loved ones ever again.

When I was finally demobilised and returned home from Navy service for the last time, I saw, this time, such a look of relief in my mother's eyes, that she had me home again safe and sound.

I always believed we fought and finally won world peace but it seems there are now again mothers who will show by their eyes the huge losses of family members, small children, so many, in the terrible fighting and killing in the Ukraine and in Gaza. Seemingly there is no end to the "killing fields" or a mother's burden at the loss of her dear ones.

I applaud Jo Priestley and her strong attitude towards her son's chosen naval career and for the support so willingly given. May life be good for both Jo and son Alex and for all those others who have chosen the Navy life.

Chris King
P/JX310293
Communications Branch.
Ex Royal Navy.

15 ROUNDS

COMMANDER BRONWYN HESLOP



01

Job Title and description:

Commanding Officer
HMNZS CANTERBURY.

02

Date Joined RNZN:

9 February 1990 (our intake was delayed because New Zealand was hosting the Commonwealth Games).

03

First ship posted to:

HMNZS MONOWAI, August 1990 (Port Visits: Rarotonga (survey) and Tahiti).

04

Best deployment and why:

South East Asia 2001 as Navigating Officer HMNZS ENDEAVOUR. Great command team, great Ship's Company, great trip. But I'm hoping that HMNZS CANTERBURY 2024 might beat this!

05

Hometown:

I don't really have one! I was born in Australia to Kiwi parents, and we returned to New Zealand to live when I was 8. We moved around a lot, all around the Bay of Plenty. I had five intermediate schools!

06

High School:

Rotorua Girls' High School.

07

Favourite book:

Ants' Castle, by Elleston Trevor. Beautifully written, with some great Principles of War employed!

08

Favourite movie:

Greyhound. Terrifying, humbling, grounding, with a great soundtrack – and a movie I love to watch with my eldest son.



09

Favourite album:

Zucchero 'Shake'. I lived in Italy between my two Navy careers, and love Italian music.

10

Favourite song:

Delta Goodrem's 'Sitting on Top of the World.'

11

Favourite holiday destination:

Bondalem (north coast of Bali).

12

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

I love yoga; good for both body and mind.

13

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

I study Qi Gong, a form of TCM similar to Tai Chi.

14


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

My Dad taught me many life lessons. One of the most valuable was when we visited his office one day when I was young, and the cleaner was there. Dad greeted her by name, and asked her how her family was (he knew her kids' names too!) When I asked him, as the boss, why he knew so much about the cleaner, he said that without her, the office would not function properly. He taught me that every person in an organisation is important, whether they work as the cleaner or the general manager, and you should treat them all the same.

15

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

Not just a job, but an adventure!



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NAVY RESERVES



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NAVY