

# NAVY

T O D A Y

AOTEAROA  
TRAVELS  
CHANGES OF  
COMMAND  
NAVY MUSEUM  
BOARD

## NZDF Person of the Year



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*“This is an opportunity to take a ship, still in its infancy, and further the capability of that ship, and influence and help the next Navy. It was that opportunity that made my eyes light up.”*

- CDR Yvonne Gray, the new Commanding Officer of HMNZS MANAWANUI



**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**Front Cover:**  
Leading Youth Development Specialist James Faleofa NZDF Person of the Year.

**Photographer:**  
CPL Chad Sharman



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NZDefenceForce



# Yours Aye

Chief of Navy



## Kia Ora Koutou!

The sight of a warship out doing the mahi is a profoundly satisfying one, and it was on my mind as HMNZS TE MANA called into Wellington last month after completing First of Class Flying trials in Australia. Add to this warship AOTEAROA returning to Auckland after a six-month deployment, CANTERBURY and MANAWANUI at sea off coastal New Zealand and HMNZS TAUPO and MATATAUA completing a very busy year, and I think the nation has much to be proud of from our Navy.

In visiting TE MANA in Wellington, what impressed me was that vibrancy of purpose in the passageways and mess decks. It is that feeling you have when a ship and its Ship's Company – complete with helicopter and associated flight crew – have proven themselves on the job and returned better than before. And those are the key things. The 'job' is there to be done, and I can see our people are excited to be at sea, doing the work, and enjoying the opportunity to get ashore overseas and around New Zealand. That said, a degree of 'tiredness' was discussed with me by a number of the ship's company. I heard the message... how we address this is a priority of senior leadership mahi.

In this month's *Navy Today* we hear from TE MANA Weapons Maintainer AWT Jacob Burkhard, who describes how he and his course mates were pulled from study to staff MIQFs in Auckland. That was the job back then, he says, and it needed to be done. But this is now. On 13 May this year Operation Protect came to an end and today, he's able to revel in what he's always dreamed of being – a weapons maintainer in a warship.

This sense of strength, resilience and pride in our people, achieving so much at home and overseas, is also notable in HMNZS AOTEAROA. The ship caps off an exemplary year of deployments to Tonga, Antarctica, Hawaii (RIMPAC), Singapore Malaysia, Korea, Japan and the Solomon Islands. There is no doubt the ship's reputation as a global and preferred inter-operable platform for replenishment at sea is firmly established.

This year, HMNZ Ships WELLINGTON, CANTERBURY and MATATAUA, supported by No. 3 and No. 6 Squadrons, also delivered for Tonga following the tsunami. HMNZS MANAWANUI and WELLINGTON have continued to support our Pacific partners, surveying Unexploded Remnants of War, charting harbour depths, supporting MPI and the Forum Fisheries Agency in patrols and working alongside our Pacific partners as we each develop our military competencies. HMNZS CANTERBURY is now re-establishing itself for the cyclone season and scientific missions next year. HMNZS TAUPO, as always, is one of our hardest workers in the fleet, travelling between New Zealand ports as it trains our future warfare officers.

I look to the coming years knowing the military effect and benefit to New Zealand, delivered so professionally this year, is going to get better. But while we are in an 'ok' position for 2023, attrition remains a critical challenge. Housing, improved recruiting, delivery of fair and equitable allowances, Devonport Naval Base regeneration, there is progress being made in all of these areas. And while improvement has not been as fast or as large as desired, conditions

of service and addressing basic remuneration issues will continue to be the critical focus for me and the NZDF Executive in 2023; just as delivering or enabling outputs is the focus of the rest of the Navy.

To provide clarity of intent and effort for our near and medium term, I will be releasing a consolidated Regeneration Plan (a four year view) and updated Directive (covering 12-18 months in detail) very early in the New Year. There should be no surprises in what either document states, however, I am aware that a consolidated picture in one or two documents is currently required.

As I conclude this article, it is with deep pride that I acknowledge our Sailor of the Year and the New Zealand Defence Force Person of the Year, Leading Youth Development Specialist James Atelea Faleofa.

He is a man who not only demonstrates high professionalism and outstanding commitment on a daily basis, but strives to make a difference in his community using our core values, his training and by literally opening his doors to those who need it. It is through his encouragement that three youngsters from his community graduated as sailors this month. Bravo Zulu James!

We are in a very different position compared to 12 months ago, and I thank all sailors and iwi heramana for embracing our new freedoms to get out there and deliver the mission for New Zealand. Please be safe these holidays. Unwind, power down, embrace the summer break and if you do think about work at all, think about it with pride.

He heramana ahau

**Rear Admiral David Proctor**  
Chief of Navy



A photograph of the HMNZS Aotearoa, a New Zealand Navy ship, sailing on the open ocean under a blue sky with light clouds. The ship is viewed from a distance, moving towards the left of the frame, leaving a white wake behind it. The water is a deep blue with some whitecaps.

# AOTEAROA'S TRAVELS

HMNZS AOTEAROA has been warmly welcomed in both Korea and Japan, enjoying the hospitality of the two nations and giving back just as much. Public Affairs Officer Sub Lieutenant Holly Edmonds reports in as the Ship's Company celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.



Operation Crucible, Royal New Zealand Navy's South East Asia deployment, has seen Maritime Sustainment Vessel HMNZS AOTEAROA renewing ties with Korea and Japan, as well as demonstrating her sustainment capabilities to partner Navies in the region.

After participating in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise off Hawaii in August, HMNZS AOTEAROA made diplomatic port visits to Singapore, Malaysia, and South Korea before arriving in Japan for historic celebrations.

Enroute to Busan, Korea, AOTEAROA conducted Replenishments at Sea with USS AMERICA, HMCS VANCOUVER and HMAS ARUNTA. The ship was warmly welcomed into Busan, with a Republic of Korea Navy Band playing as AOTEAROA arrived.

"For the cocktail party that night, guests were treated to performances by our Multi Cultural Group and also by Republic of Korea Navy musicians who performed Korean Folk music and even a beautiful rendition of Pōkarekare Ana," says SLT Edmonds.

"Ship's Company were given the opportunity to tour Buddhist temples (Tongdosa and Hongbeopsa) where they learnt about Korean culture and experienced amazing hospitality and delicious food."

AOTEAROA's next stop was the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) navy base at Kure. "The Japanese put out the welcome banners, there were band performances and a lot of media attention on arrival. Our Japanese Visit Liaison officers have commented on the impressive capabilities of the ship and the warm hospitality we have shown them on board."

The Kure visit was about diplomacy and strengthening ties with Japan, she says. It meant many official calls for the Commanding Officer, Commander Dave Barr, including the Vice Admiral at the Headquarters, the Captain of the Port, the Coast Guard Chief, Chief of Police and the Mayor of the city.

The ship proceeded to Yokosuka, the home of the JMSDF and the host city for the International Fleet Review in celebration of the JMSDF's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. AOTEAROA was among 38 ships from 13 countries taking part, and one of the ships holding a Ship Open To View for the public during 'Fleet Week'.



SLT Edmonds says the open day was a huge success.

“Many were delighted to learn about the ship’s capabilities in Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief situations and refuelling at sea. There was a video of some of the recent Tonga and Antarctica trips playing in the hangar which the public enjoyed watching. Some members of the public even showed their gratitude by gifting small origami trinkets to some of ship’s company as a thank you for allowing them on board.

“AOTEAROA also sent a group to participate in a marching parade down the streets of Yokosuka alongside other nations who are here for the IFR.”

For the formal Fleet Review on 6 November in Sagami Bay, AOTEAROA was part of one of three ‘celebration units’, comprised of six other foreign navy ships and led by a JMSDF ship. The ships travelled in column formation to pass the Reviewing ship, with the Japanese Prime Minister as Reviewing Officer.

CDR Barr says it’s really with a gathering of like-minded nations like this “that you truly get a sense of just how connected and committed our allies and partners are.

“By regularly conducting regional and international defence engagements such as this, we improve inter-operability and enhance our strategic relationships which contributes to peace and security in the region.”

AOTEAROA moved the short distance to Tokyo for several days before departing Japan and making a one-day port visit to Honiara in the Solomon Islands. The ship returned to New Zealand on 25 November.

CDR Barr says it has been a big year for the ship and crew.

“We’ve achieved a lot in 2022. AOTEAROA may be designated a tanker, but we’re more than that and have proven the capability of the ship in a humanitarian disaster when we deployed to Tonga at the start of the year. We’ve made our maiden voyage to Antarctica - the first RNZN tanker in 50 years to do so.

We performed at RIMPAC and we’ve conducted a hugely successful tour, engaging with our regional partners in the Pacific and Asia. I’m incredibly proud of the ship and every one of the crew that I serve alongside.”

*Top to bottom, from the left: Ships from 13 countries form up in Sakami Bay, ready for the review.*

*A warm welcome to Yokosuka.*

*HMNZS AOTEAROA’s Ship’s Company line the rails during the review.*

*HMNZS AOTEAROA draws the visitors during the ship’s open day in Yokosuka.*

*HMNZS AOTEAROA’s contingent takes part in the International Fleet Review parade.*

*A great day out at the International Fleet Review parade in Yokosuka.*

*HMNZS AOTEAROA’s Commanding Officer, CDR Dave Barr, joins in the haka during an on-board function at Kure Naval Base.*

*Function at the New Zealand Embassy in Tokyo.*



# THE RIGHT TIME TO GIVE BACK

The Sailor of the Year and Defence Force Person of the Year is a man who has picked his moment to give back, both to his service and the high school service academy that inspired him.

Leading Youth Development Specialist James Atelea Faleofa, from Kelston in Auckland, is described in his citation as having “an exemplary work ethic and the highest of professional and personal standards” since joining the Youth Development Unit (North). He attended Kelston Boys’ High School and its in-house service academy before joining the Navy in 2009. He volunteers his personal time to the academy, as well as opening his and his wife’s home to Kelston Boys’ students for physical training sessions, mentoring and advice.

As a teenager at the academy, he says he was inspired by one of the instructors, Warrant Officer Ngahiwi Walker. Initially it was the idea of playing sports for the Navy that appealed. “That, and the travelling,” says LYDS Faleofa. “But only if you’re good enough, Misi’, he said.

“I thought, you know what? I’m going to do it.” He says the Service Academy had given him excellent grounding for service life, and Basic Common Training wasn’t a shock. “I had done induction camps, we do a lot of team evolutions, and we’re taught the leadership framework, at a level for high school.”

Training initially as a chef, LYDS Faleofa discovered a passion for cooking and got to travel all over the Pacific on deployments. He

says he always put up his hand to go to sea. But he was also growing a family – he is a father of three under-fives today – and was worried he wasn’t seeing them enough.

A Service Academy classmate, Leading Seaman Combat Specialist Farani Farani, based at the Youth Development Unit at Trentham, recommended he post to the Unit. “Giving back is something I had always wanted to do. I just didn’t know when I would get to do it. When I saw this I thought, this is me, this is the time. The Navy has given me a lot of tools, and I can put those tools to good use.”

The Youth Development Units’ courses include the six-week Limited Service Volunteer (LSV) courses for unemployed 18-24 year olds who are not in study or training. The focus is on motivation, self-confidence, teamwork, resilience and life skills.

In 2020 LYDS Faleofa extended the concept with an initiative called Fahi On, opening his own home after work to former and current Kelston Boys High School students for physical training and motivation.

“My wife and I made this little gym. When I’m at the Service Academy, I talk to boys who have a lot of potential but are getting distracted by silly things. They come to our home, about 8-10 boys daily, for PT sessions. These are boys who might be mucking around, who have cousins who do drugs, who are a

bit lost and don’t know what to do. Sometimes a boy would message us, asking for help, and saying they want to join the services before something goes wrong. For a lot of them, it’s about building resilience. My wife does a lot as well, telling them what it is like to be a partner with someone who is in the Navy.”

As a direct result of his initiative, three former Kelston Boys’ students are currently in Navy Basic Common Training and graduating this month.

“We’ve also had one boy just graduate from Army training. He’s out there doing it now. He went to KBHS, he had potential, he was keen, but it was the crowd he hung around with. Today, he’s never looked back, and I’m so proud of it.”

If you put your mind to it, you can do it, he says. “The gym comes out of my wife’s and my pockets, but this means more than money to us. It’s about seeing these boys on their way. I can’t wait to see them at the graduation.”

## He at ate nui o tea o?

What is the most important thing in the world?

## He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.

# FALLING IN LOVE WITH A NAVAL CAREER

Commander Yvonne Gray had contemplated all sorts of directions in life.

She trained as a teacher and later hoped to establish her own restaurant. But she found her perfect niche as a naval officer, first in the Royal Navy and today with the Royal New Zealand Navy, as HMNZS MANAWANUI's newest Commanding Officer.

CDR Gray took command of Dive, Hydrographic and Salvage vessel MANAWANUI at Devonport Naval Base on 9 December, uttering 'I have the ship' to outgoing Commanding Officer Commander JJ McQueen.

Originally from Yorkshire, CDR Gray gained a teaching degree but ran up against a lack of jobs, except in London – and she didn't like London. Inspiration came from the time she and a friend had spent their university holidays instructing outdoor activities at a Sea Cadet facility in the Lake District.

"I worked with a lot of Navy people and there was something about their way which appealed to me," she says. "When I graduated my friend said, why don't you join the Navy? I thought, why not."

She joined the Royal Navy in 1993, signing up for an eight-year commission. "The idea was at the end of eight years, you get 23,000 pounds. I was really into cooking at the time and I thought, do eight years, get 23,000, open my own restaurant."

She spent most of her junior career at sea, including in the aircraft carrier HMS INVINCIBLE and the minehunters WALNEY, BRIDPORT and CROMER after specialising as a Mine Warfare Officer.

She remembers, as a young officer under training on board INVINCIBLE, being in the Adriatic near former Yugoslavia and watching Sea Harriers take off and land. "It was only about 10 years since the Falklands War, where the Harriers had been so involved. To be in the ship, watching those aircraft, for a young officer, it was pretty awesome."

Five years later, during a six-month deployment to the Gulf, she was fed up with telling the 'eight-years, then a restaurant' story to people who asked why she'd joined. "I talked myself out of it. Captains were telling me, become a general list executive officer, do the Principal Warfare Officer course, you'd be really good. I applied, thinking if I wasn't successful, I'd leave it. But I got it first shot. By this time, I was really enjoying myself. I could see it was an organisation where I fitted well."

After completing Principal Warfare Officer course in 2004, she joined HMS WESTMINSTER as the PWO (Underwater) and Operations Officer, with operational experience in West Africa, Northern Europe and the Gulf. She joined HMS ARK ROYAL as the Group Warfare Officer in 2006 and from ARK she joined the Battle Staff of Commander United Kingdom Carrier Strike Group. Following a posting to the Maritime Warfare Centre in Portsmouth, she took the opportunity in 2009 to work with the Royal Australian Navy at HMAS WATSON, Sydney.

"In the summer of 2010 to 2011, my wife Sharon and I booked a campervan and travelled New Zealand for four weeks. How do we get to live here, we asked ourselves. The most obvious thing was to apply to join the Royal New Zealand Navy."

CDR Gray joined the RNZN in 2012. Notable appointments include being the Fleet Warfare Officer and later the Fleet Seamanship and Executive Officer in the Maritime Operational Evaluation Team (MOET), working up nearly every ship in the RNZN at least once. She has also been the Commanding Officer of the Mine Counter Measures Team, participating in activities in the United States, South East Asia and New Zealand.

In late 2019 she left the RNZN and, until early 2022, she travelled some 57,000kms around Australia in a campervan with Sharon and their dog, Dennis.

"When you turn 50 you kind of take stock. My Dad died at 62 and I thought, if that happened to me, I've got 12 years left. I love being in the Navy but I don't want to be like my Dad, who never got to retire. So I thought, now's the opportunity, while we're young. We sold our house, left our jobs, and off we went."

MANAWANUI is her first ship command. "Sure, for a lot of warfare officers, that's the pinnacle of their career, to get a drive. But I shy away from a pinnacle because then you can only go downwards. I prefer to think of my career as a ridgeline, sometimes the view is good and sometimes it is better."

What drives her in her career is making things – and people – better. "When I've really enjoyed a job, it's because I've made a difference, where things are little bit better than they were before. With MANAWANUI, it's not just about the command. I come with a skill set that understands the littoral world. This is an opportunity to take a ship, still in its infancy, and further the capability of that ship, and influence and help the next Navy. It was that opportunity that made my eyes light up. The team and I are willing to work hard, to get the mahi done."





# TAUPO'S NEW COMMAND

When Samara Mankelow was finishing at Orewa College, she was looking for something “a little less ordinary, as they say”. A family friend in the Navy gave her a tour of the base and she fell in love with the idea.

“Here I am, 10 years later,” says Lieutenant Mankelow, speaking to *Navy Today* before taking command of Inshore Patrol Vessel HMNZS TAUPŌ at Devonport Naval Base on 30 November. She uttered “I have the ship” and received the ship’s symbol of command (a carved ceremonial hoe) from outgoing Commanding Officer Lieutenant Fletcher Slierendrecht.

HMNZS TAUPŌ is one of the busiest ships in the fleet, utilised for patrol of New Zealand’s waters and as a training vessel for newly-graduated officers undertaking the Officer of the Watch (Basic) course. It’s a role close to the heart of LT Mankelow, who was recently Head of Navigation School, training junior warfare officers who go on to the OOW course in TAUPŌ. “It’s fitting taking command of this ship,” she says. “I understand where the students are coming from.”

LT Mankelow’s warfare journey was similar, doing her OOW course in sister ship HMNZS HAWEA, and then ending up posted to the ship for fisheries and customs patrols.

She then spent two months on exchange in USS SHILOH, a Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser, which included patrolling the East and South China Sea in a Carrier Strike Group. The following year she posted to HMAS PARRAMATTA, exposed to numerous exercises and port visits in Australia.

“Exchanges with foreign navies offer a great insight into other nations. You’re seeing operations on a large scale, combined with hours of watchkeeping in busy environments, that makes it such an invaluable experience.”

Domestically she has served in HMNZS WELLINGTON, including a posting as Operations Officer, for various operations from the Sub-Antarctic Islands to the Kermadec Islands.

On successful completion of the Major Fleet Unit Navigating Officer Course in 2018 she became the commissioning Navigator in HMNZS MANAWANUI, which involved her training in Norway in Dynamic Positioning and ship handling with Azimuth thrusters.

“I was involved for about three years as part of the commissioning crew. It was really rewarding bringing such a unique capability to the Navy. When I look back on it now, I feel that we were whanau. It was such a complete team effort, to get MANAWANUI to sea. It was the height of the COVID pandemic as well, but we still took MANAWANUI to RIMPAC in Hawaii, and even though we couldn’t get off that ship for 55 days, it was the best trip I’ve ever done in my career. Stepping off was like an end of an era.”

TAUPŌ is going to be busy under her command, she says. “TAUPŌ is always busy and next year it’s a big programme. I’m really looking forward to the privilege to lead and the opportunity I have been given. It’s a small Ship’s Company, we will all know each other well, and I am looking forward to working with them to make TAUPŌ the best ship in the Navy.”

*Top: Outgoing CO LT Fletcher Slierendrecht hands TAUPŌ’s symbol of command to LT Samara Mankelow, while WOSCS Ngahiwi Walker, Maori Cultural Adviser (Navy) carries out the necessary tikanga to smooth the transfer.*

*Bottom: RADM David Proctor, Chief of Navy, presents LT Slierendrecht with his Commanding Officer’s pennant.*



# WORKING UP FOR SUMMER

The approaching 'High Risk Weather Season' for New Zealand and the South Pacific means HMNZS CANTERBURY, No. 3 Squadron and No. 6 Squadron have to be at the top of their game when it comes to helicopter operations at sea.

During a week in November, sailors and aviators from No. 6 Squadron's 'A' Flight (Reduced) were embarked on board HMNZS CANTERBURY for Sea Acceptance Trials (SATs) and Aviation Safety And Readiness Check (SARC Air).

Utilising No. 6 Squadron's SH-2G(I) Seasprite and No. 3 Squadron's NH90, 'A' Flight and CANTERBURY's personnel were assessed in delivering helicopter operations. The teams were exercised in the basics of launching, recovering, refuelling, conducting winch transfers and load lifting.

From there un-alerted emergencies were injected to test the teams' readiness should the worst occur. This included a fire breaking out while the helicopter was airborne, the helicopter crashing on the flight deck, recovery in poor weather and ditching into the sea near the ship.

The teams and the ship achieved a Safe to Operate with aircraft by day, meaning CANTERBURY can now respond to the High Risk Weather Season with aid and a rotary wing capability should it be needed.

'A' Flight (Reduced) operates with fewer aircrew and does not fly or maintain an aircraft; this is conducted by the Flight it works alongside, be it 'B', 'C' or an NH90 detachment. It is composed of sailors of various trades and No. 6 Squadron maintainers.

The training will also serve CANTERBURY for her scientific missions to the Kermadec Islands and Sub-Antarctic islands, scheduled for February.

# Civilian of the Year



The phone call to the RNZN Civilian of the Year has a curious background hiss combined with distant instructions and companionable chatter. It turns out Phil Bishop, the Navy's Experiential Leadership Squadron manager, is enjoying about five knots of breeze aboard one of the squadron's Sail Training Craft, with trainee Navy sailors from the BCT 22/02 intake. He'll be out in the Hauraki Gulf for about four days.

Announced as the RNZN Civilian of the Year last month, his citation describes Mr Bishop as exceeding expectations in the deliverables of his unit, as well as taking on the vacant maintenance manager's role to ensure all sail training craft and ELS equipment remain viable.

"An outstanding example of the value that civilian staff bring to the RNZN and NZDF. He is a skilled and trusted leader who, unsurprisingly, passes credit to those who support him," says the citation.

Mr Bishop spent 14 years in uniform, transferring from a Chief Petty Officer to his civilian role in 2012, and he has been at the ELS ever since. He's been sailing his whole life, and has a passion for teaching. He and his team are the first people to introduce 'life at sea' to the Basic Common Trainees and Junior Officer trainees each year.

"Small craft training in general is something I have a passion for," he says. "Whether it be power or sail, or in the classroom, I just like to share my nautical knowledge and have fun doing it."

As well as teaching young sailors, the squadron delivers experiential leadership development activities (ELDA) courses for senior leaders, such as supporting the Lead Integrated Capability course in partnership with the Institute for Leadership Development.

It isn't just about adventure training or learning core maritime skills. "There's no point taking people out and pushing them in big seas. They just get sick and annoyed. We use the sail training craft as an enabler for leadership training. There's Lead Self and Lead Teams values right there. Our job at the squadron is to do it safely, while they learn."

When it comes to delivering outputs, even during COVID restrictions, Mr Bishop says he likes the challenge of projects.

***"I work the Naval system. I've been around a while and know how to get things done, and I make sure we do it safely."***

# ENGINEERING TRAINING REFORM

The Engineering Training Reform (ETR) project team has come a long way since the previous *Navy Today* update in November 2021, with some impressive improvements for the engineering trades.

Here are some of the wins over the past 12 months:

## **Refreshed Basic Branch Training (BBT) course content and structure for Electronic Technicians, Weapon Technicians, Marine Technicians (Propulsion) and (Electrical):**

Tranche 1 has updated the BBT course syllabus and training materials for the four trades above to ensure the content is relevant and effective in terms of meeting best practice adult learning principles. Through taking a wider branch perspective across the four trade pathways, greater training efficiencies have been identified as well as increased access to civilian qualifications.

The new training model was rolled out to the first cohort of BBTs in January 2022. It is shorter and involves more outsourced training to help balance out the capacity of instructors within the technical schools. Approximately 30 percent of the new BBT training can be conducted online and approximately 50 percent is outsourced, resulting in reduced instructor loadings in the Navy schools, along with the need to maintain course materials.

## **Developed a new Talent Management cell:**

In parallel to the above, Warrant Officer Electronic Technicians Phillip Coetzee and Jeffrey Watt have developed a Talent Management Cell concept and model. This is a pilot that will be tested with ETR, and if successful is expected to be rolled out Navy-wide. It involves a new database that tracks everyone's progress in the task books. The creation of new roles to oversee the on-job-training elements will provide greater oversight of where each individual is at in their training, to assist with career management and capacity planning for professional courses.

Further down the line, a Record of Learning will also be created to keep track of which unit standards people have completed and their alignment to the qualifications available to them.

## **What's coming?**

In 2023, the team will take on the Leading Hand professional courses within the Engineering branch. We will update the structure and content of the courses to align with qualifications. The materials will reflect current learning doctrine through gamification (application of elements of game playing), developing fun activities, and updated syllabi and instructor manuals.

Also on the agenda is investigating solutions to bring existing personnel onto the new qualification pathways, and the extension of those pathways to additional level four qualifications or level six diplomas.

Big thanks to Lieutenant Steve Winikerei (previous project manager), Warrant Officer Marine Technician (Propulsion) Brent Chamley, WOET Watt, WOET Coetzee and Chief Petty Officer Musician Jonathan Franklin who have machete'd their way out of thick weeds, crawled through dark NZQA caverns and managed to keep most of their hair (and sanity) to find the best solutions for our RNZN engineering personnel, so we can continue to strive towards becoming a world-class Navy for a large maritime nation.

*Above: The ETR team show contractors around HMNZS TE KAHA. From left, WOMT(P) Brent Chamley, Rachel Kapeli (Interim project manager), Jenny Cheng (Contractor), WOET Jeffrey Watt and Tony Shittleworth (Contractor).*

*Below: A qualified Marine Technician hard at work in the depths of HMNZS TE MANA.*





*SLT Emma Fulbrook on the bridge of HMNZS AOTEAROA as the ship moves into line for Japan's International Fleet Review.*



*Pastor Jaqui Fuller is inducted as a Defence Force chaplain at St Christopher's Chapel, Devonport Naval Base.*



*CDREs Andrew Brown and Melissa Ross greet during a ceremony to appoint CDRE Brown as Deputy Chief of Navy, taking over from CDRE Ross.*

# OUR IP



*LTCDR Sam Fox, Executive Officer HMNZS AOTEAROA.*



*Navy chaplain Lloyd Salmon works out in HMNZS AOTEAROA's hangar.*



*Marine Engineers LTs Samuel Redmayne (left) and Jake Hunt in the RAS Control Room of HMNZS AOTEAROA.*



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**LCWS Hayden Maxwell,  
HMNZS AOTEAROA.**



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**CAPT Dave Turner,  
Defence Attaché Seoul,  
in the bridge of  
HMNZS AOTEAROA.**



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**AMT(L) Tyrone Bowler,  
HMNZS TE MANA, is  
promoted to Leading  
Hand (September).**

# PEOPLE



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**LLSS Anita Berry and  
POMED Sarah Kaulima-  
Clifford beside HMNZS  
AOTEAROA during the  
open day in Yokosuka.**



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**ASCS James Perham,  
HMNZS CANTERBURY,  
nominated for the  
NZDF 2022 Safety Award.**



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**MID Shannon Harris,  
JOCT 22/02, during  
Exercise Storm at Tamaki  
Leadership Centre.**

# NZDF PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE SUMAN PROTECTOR 2022

One of the world's oldest defence agreements continues to enhance the interoperability between the militaries of five nations.

The New Zealand Defence Force participated in Exercise Suman Protector 2022, undertaken by member nations of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) and intended to be the most challenging and complex Command Post Exercise (CPX) in the FPDA exercise series. Last year the FPDA celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Suman Protector is hosted alternately every five years by Singapore and Malaysia, with Singapore hosting this year.

Around 280 personnel from Australia, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Singapore and New Zealand attended in October, with the aim of enhancing interoperability among militaries of the FPDA nations and build capabilities to respond to an increasingly complex security environment.

New Zealand fielded 31 personnel, contributing to the Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters (HQ CJTF) planning and roles within Exercise Control. The exercise also included shared learning between participating nations as well as professional development, country briefs and relationship building through cultural and sports activities.

This exercise introduced new Joint functions to trial, including a Commanders Advisory Group (CAG), a CIMIC cell and a Targeting cell.

There was also the inclusion of Cyber Security and Information Operations. The CAG included Legal, Policy, Gender, Counter Terrorism and Media advisory cells. The exercise scenario spanned conventional operations to non-conventional and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) which allowed all elements of the HQ CJTF to develop procedures for Joint working groups.

Non-government organisations (NGO's) and International Organisations such as Red Cross were invited to participate in the HADR phase.

Commander Danny Kaye, the NZDF Senior National Representative, says the exercise is very important for the NZDF's professional development and relationship building between the FPDA partner nations. "We have a long standing and valued relationship with the FPDA member nations and enjoy the benefits that come from opportunities like this in terms of interoperability, joint training and close engagement with each of the nations. This exercise provides essential development for our people to gain knowledge, skills and experience within the FPDA setting that builds lasting professional and personal relationships within our FPDA whanau."

*Top: Commander Danny Kaye, the NZDF Senior National Representative, with colleagues at the end of the exercise.*

*Below: A gathering of FPDA participants at Exercise Suman Protector.*



# Maritime Culture – The *Navy Today* Stories of the Future

The Maritime Culture Guardianship Group (MCGG) has been working this year on understanding the culture we have in the Navy, but more importantly has been working on understanding the culture we want as sailors / iwi hēramana of the Royal New Zealand Navy / Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa.

As was highlighted in last month's *Navy Today*, the MCGG conducted the Maritime Culture survey earlier this year, ran focus groups with Junior Rates and Junior Officers, undertook analysis of Pulse and Exit Survey data, as well as a number of workshops and facilitated sessions across the Navy. From this work the MCGG identified five priority areas:

- Revitalising our shared sense of purpose – what makes us unique as sailors and civilians in the RNZN
- Improving our internal communications to ensure the right information is flowing up and down the chain of command
- Focusing leaders on prioritising people in decision making
- Building effective and empowering career management and development systems
- Strengthening whakawhanaungatanga across the Navy community with a focus on Devonport Naval Base and surrounds.

The culture of any group is made up of the stories that we share, so the Maritime Culture project team asked the recent Navy Leadership Board and the Warrant Officers Forum to tell the *Navy Today* stories of our preferred future culture using the five priorities as guides.

There was some fun to be had – plastic sandals and white shorts made a comeback, sports competitions were won, and a knighthood or two were on offer. The stories however were similar across all the groups – and were comparable to the feedback of our Junior Rates and Junior Officers earlier in the year during the focus groups. Our preferred future is one where we have a strong sense of purpose as sailors / iwi hēramana, we are connected with our whānau and wider community, we are continuing to train our people to an exceptional standard, and we are having fun together.

The stories we tell will continue to strengthen our unique maritime culture. What stories will you tell?

He waka eke noa / We are all in this together.

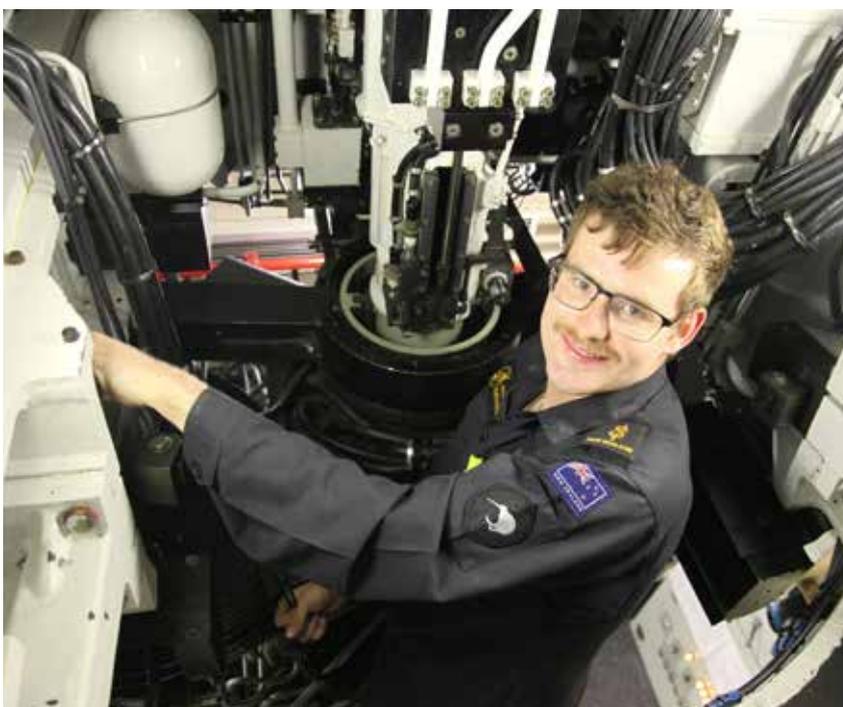
# MANAGED ISOLATION NO SETBACK FOR DREAM JOB

Able Weapon Technician Jacob Burkhard is a happy man.

He's a Weapon System Maintainer with frigate HMNZS TE MANA and more than ready to show off the workings of an Anzac-class five-inch main gun, the biggest gun in the Defence Force, to visitors and VIPs on board during the ship's visit to Wellington last month. TE MANA has returned from a robust period of training off the Australian coast, which included firing the main gun – one of the biggest reasons for being if you're a Weapon Technician.

It seems a long time ago when AWT Burkhard, then an Ordinary Electronics Technician in 2021, was pulled from his trade training to help staff a Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facility in Auckland as part of the Government's response to COVID-19. In fact, he ended up doing two postings at MIQFs, with the second lasting six weeks. He helped with meet-and-greet, security and front-of-house tasks.

The demanding role Defence Force played with MIQFs has been cited as one of the factors in the attrition across all three services. But AWT Burkhard has been there, done that, and doesn't feel it set him back in any way. In fact, during a *Navy Today* interview last year, he said when you're spending months training and studying, it was exciting to be tasked with something that benefitted the whole country.



He reflects on it now, in his small workroom immediately below the ship's main gun. "It was a job that had to be done," he says. "It was an important job to try and keep COVID out as long as we could while more and more people got vaccinated. COVID's affected me personally. It's affected our coursework, and I've had COVID twice."

Even with the long stints in MIQF, no-one fell behind in their training. "Our whole course got sent for MIQF duties for six weeks, so no-one got left behind. The instructors were very accommodating."

His posting to TE MANA is his first sea posting and it's been a good one. "It's a great environment on a frigate and this is the best trade in the Navy. Everyone looks out for each other and I've had some good experiences. This is a dream job and it was exactly what I wanted."

And when you've got visitors to ship, you can guarantee they all want to see the big gun. "I've been helping with tours over the weekend – hopefully some of them will want to become Weapon Technicians!"

# Legal Expert Joins Naval Reserve

Auckland criminal barrister James Olsen loves his work and can't imagine practising any other kind of law. But he can imagine himself as a legal officer in the New Zealand Defence Force.

Midshipman Olsen is part-way through the Naval Reserve Common Training course for 2022/2023, a new 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. MID Olsen started his training in January 2022, with an intake of 14 officers and eight ratings. He attends weekly training at reserve unit HMNZS NGAPONA in Auckland, undertakes remote learning and attends one weekend training a month. There are also three 10-day residential blocks throughout the course. He will graduate as a naval officer in April.

"I've always had an interest in the Services and serving my country," he says. "In university, I had applied to the Naval Reserves but unfortunately the intake was cancelled."

He considered becoming a full-time legal officer in the Defence Force, but other opportunities for his legal career came up and he moved onto criminal law. He's been a practising criminal barrister for over five years.

"Then a mate sent me a link to the Naval Reserve intake, and I discovered they were recruiting reserve legal officers."

He says he thoroughly enjoys being a criminal defence lawyer, but couldn't contemplate 50 years doing the same thing without some variety thrown in. "I'd already achieved a lot in my short career and wanted something different, a challenge. The reserve legal officer role presented just that: it allowed me to keep my day job but undertake something in the weekends that challenged me and would provide other opportunities throughout my career. I ended up applying that night and haven't looked back since."

The training to becoming an officer in the Navy, from sea survival to handling and using weapons, has been really enjoyable. "Ultimately, though, it is the people who have made this course what it is – not only the other trainees but also the staff. We are usually based all around New Zealand but come together to train at different bases and camps. We're lucky on this course to have a number of trainees that have commissioned from the ranks, who collectively have years of experience in the Navy and sea time. This has meant for the ab initio trainees – like myself – we've been able to pull from this knowledge as well as that of our instructors."

The most challenging aspect has been the physical side. "I'm not someone who is particularly sporty and found this challenging at times, but it's this challenge that is part of the reason why I joined up in the first place."

When he attested and started training, his employer was very supportive and gave him time off for training periods. Today, MID Olsen is self-employed and simply blocks out time in his calendar for training.

"Being a full-time lawyer and reserve officer under training, is full on and takes up a lot of my time. While this does require very good diary management, it ultimately comes down to passion. I'm passionate about serving our community through representing those who are marginalised, without a voice and find themselves before the courts. But I'm equally passionate about serving our country through being a reserve legal officer."

After graduating he will post to Defence Legal Services. "As a reserve legal officer, I will work on the same matters as my regular force counterparts. This will include opportunities to deploy on operations. I will also contribute my skills and knowledge from civilian practice to augment the experience of regular force legal officers who don't always have extensive experience in civilian areas."

His advice to others is that it's a great opportunity to do something different, but be realistic about the commitment needed when managing full-time work and Navy training.



# ON BOARD WITH A DIVERSE MUSEUM

For the first time since its establishment in 1987, the Navy Museum Board of Trustees is comprised of more women than men and also for the first time has a woman as Chair.

The Navy Museum's board is made up of eight members, five of whom are women.

Sally Manuireva, the general manager museum experience at the Museum of Transport and Technology in Auckland, joined the Navy Museum board in 2017, becoming chair two years later. She says she had set herself a challenge to get more diverse perspectives around the board table, which includes former North Shore Deputy Mayor and Local Board Member Dianne Hale QSO; researcher Robyn Tauroa, Whangaroa Papa Hapū; Te Pouhuaki National Librarian Rachel Esson, and Commodore Melissa Ross, Deputy Chief of Navy (now Commander Logistics).

Sally is proud that the museum board is leading the way in creating opportunities for women to hold positions of influence.

"The make up of our current board positively reflects the Navy's commitment to increase the representation of women in all facets of the Navy including governance. Having fresh perspectives is essential to keep the museum moving forward, particularly at a governance level. Also having women with service experience at the table, such as Robyn, is so beneficial, as we look to grow more diverse Navy Stories in the museum."

The other board members are Rear Admiral (rtd) David Ledson ONZM (Deputy Chair), Chief of Navy Rear Admiral David Proctor and Lieutenant Commander (Rtd) William Stevens.

"I became familiar with the museum while working at the Auckland War Memorial Museum," says Ms Manuireva. "I enjoy governance work and I feel the pull of this museum because, being a national museum, it's a really important part of New Zealand identity. The Navy Museum punches above its weight and delivers great things."

She references the museum's new contemporary Navy Gallery, Te Taua Moana, showcasing the current fleet and its capabilities. "What I love about the museum is that it's a living, breathing entity. It features the Navy of today as well as the past. I love it when you see serving personnel in the Navy at the museum. I've always been struck by the strong, positive culture, and you get a sense of that when you are in that gallery."

Ms Manuireva is delighted with the new trend of Navy ceremonies being hosted at the museum, a legacy of avoiding gatherings on base due to COVID risk. Basic Common Trainees often attest

at the museum. "It's wonderful that new recruits experience the museum as part of their training, because it's through them that we share stories of our Navy today."

Rachel Esson came to the Navy Museum board about a year ago. "They were looking for someone with collection experience. I'm interested in governance and it was an opportunity to keep developing in governance." She has family involved in the Defence Force and a very good friend in the Navy.

"I think the museum does an amazing job in what they do, to connect the museum to Navy and the wider community. They do amazing programmes that showcase history but also make it quite contemporary."

She says it hasn't been an easy time for museums. "I'm full of admiration for David Wright (director) and his team, and how they responded to COVID. They focused on projects they could do behind the scenes."

CDRE Ross, in her position as Deputy Chief of Navy (December 2019 to November 2022), acts as Executive trustee.

She says the museum has been fortunate to have such high-calibre board members with the skills to make the museum such a successful model.

“We want the museum to connect with our sailors, with ex-sailors and with the community. We’re guardians of past, and we want to show our new sailors our history and pride and where we’ve come from. We also want to be contemporaneous to our sailors, and show where the Navy is going.”

The museum’s development of a new learning and education strategy, with the creation of a School Kit, especially resonates with her because her son came home from school talking about it. “I thought, this is great. The decisions the board has made, the work that’s been done, to connect with school children, and we get to see that being played out.”

Looking to the future, Ms Manuireva is excited about the numerous opportunities for the Board to work in partnership with the Navy and museum team to successfully navigate the next decade.

“The way forward is not without its challenges, but it’s great to see some positive momentum in progressing our vision. I’m looking forward to reaping the benefits of a range of opinions, skills and experience around the board table,” says Ms Manuireva.



*Top: Rachel Esson,  
Te Pouhuaki National Librarian.*

*Below: Clockwise from back left,  
Sally Manuireva, CDRE Melissa Ross,  
Robyn Tauroa and Dianne Hale.*

# Maritime Uncrewed Surface Vehicle Battle Lab

■ By Colin Moore, Joint Experimentation Manager - Maritime

The Navy has taken the opportunity to follow closely with our partners into the Uncrewed Surface Vehicle (USV) environment.

The battle field of today includes a plethora of new technology, most notably over the past decade with the proliferation of Uncrewed systems. The NZDF does not currently have a USV capability and as a result the RNZN has embarked on an experimentation activity called a battle lab to explore the feasibility of such a system. The battle lab will inform how the USV could possibly close gaps in capability as well as inform policy requirements to meet future RNZN aspirations in autonomous surface system operation. The battle lab also provides the platform to explore and understand the wider implications of introducing a new capability into service. For example, the understanding of the training

and maintenance burden as well as effective tactical application of the system in a RNZN context through conducting deliberate operational scenarios.

The Navy Experimentation Programme has undertaken this Battle Lab with the MARTAC MANTAS T12 system through regional agents Blue Zone Group. This same system is being explored by many of our close strategic partners so the RNZN now has ability to keep pace with these larger partners in this rapidly emerging part of the battle space and engage closely with their efforts to develop a greater understanding of the benefits.

The primary focus for RNZN is the capabilities a USV could potentially provide in the littoral environment. It removes the burden on the sailor within a non-permissive, dirty, dull or dangerous environment to effectively collect information to make rapid assessments of areas of interest. This could include remotely assessing the shore line and approaches following a natural disaster or evaluating the presence of mines and developing situational awareness of activities ashore prior to lodgement of NZDF force elements.

RNZN have trained a small cadre of personnel to operate the USV for the duration of the battle lab. These individuals are primarily from HMNZS MATATAUA and Geospatial Intelligence NZ and include hydrographers and small craft operators, who have the skillset for effective operation of both platform and sensors. This is a potentially attractive area of growth for the Navy as the small craft trade and littoral warfare specialists are both core capabilities within the fleet and are both exciting dynamic trades. With the potential inclusion of 'USV operator', it will hopefully boost recruitment into this field.

While this is not NZDF's first foray into the field of uncrewed, remotely piloted or autonomous systems, it is the first into the surface realm. But given the potential of these technologies further objectives will explore the integration and uncrewed teaming of underwater, surface and aerial systems to create a seamless system of sensors that cover all three domains.



# HISTORY: SNAPSHOT

■ By Bryan Petley

## HMNZS HAKU AGROUND

It was October 1969. I had just taken command of HMNZS HAKU as a Sub Lieutenant and we were proceeding in company with two other Harbour Defence Motor Launches (HDMLs) to Wairoa for the adoption ceremonies of the fisheries squadron by the good citizens of that town. After two days of evil weather we arrived off the Wairoa river mouth at estimated time of high water (no tide tables for Wairoa), and HMNZS MAKO followed by HMNZS KAHAWAI safely crossed the bar. Lastly it was HAKU's turn, being tail end Charlie and the junior boat.

We were almost through but near the critical point of no return a couple of large waves slammed into the stern, sending huge amounts of spray all over her. In a matter of seconds the boat was lifted up, catapulted forward and broached to port, almost capsizing. I ordered "full astern" but it made little difference. Our fate was sealed and still doing about five knots HAKU shot straight up onto the beach – high and not very dry!

She sat broadside to the surf, pounded and rolling heavily on the sand, while the crew were being tossed around the wheelhouse like dice in a cup.

I realized I had about 60 seconds before she started breaking up so in very short order I gave engine orders and screwed the stern out into the surf. The Cox'n and I looked at each other a bit horrified as she went further up the beach, but at least the stern was in deep water (if you could call three feet of water deep).

"Full astern both engines", and as each succeeding wave rolled in lifting the stern, she gradually jumped back into deeper water beyond the surf line.

Having survived that ordeal more or less unscathed, and with no place else to go on that rather bleak coast, we made a second attempt and five minutes later crossed the bar into the river in a normal seaman-like manner. We stopped to check for damage, relieved to find very little. We lost our spud locker, a life-raft, ensign staff and one life ring. We had some water in the aft cabins and two hot engines with strainers full of sand.

We were all very lucky indeed but I like to imagine that good training, quick thinking and a little bit of skill played a part! Also, I had been messing around in boats most of my life. Later the Cox'n gave us all a tot but my hand was shaking so much I spilt most of it.

A day later at the ceremonies in Wairoa, the Commodore Auckland (Commodore Joffre Vallant) arrived and was introduced to all the ML crews. When it came to our turn (last of course), he looked up at me and in his rather brusque growl said,

"I see you have been trying to wreck a perfectly good boat, Petley". The crew all smirked at being singled out by the Commodore. I wasn't quite so sure. All I could imagine was the tip of my sword pointing towards me at the subsequent court martial. In the end Naval Staff referred me to Seamanship Manual Vol 3 page 361 'Precautions to prevent broaching'.

I remember sighting the life-ring before leaving Wairoa, in some drinking establishment near the bridge. A case of finders keepers! I was not inclined to argue with the finder about misappropriation of government property, as the locals had been so good to us. It's probably now in a local RSA hall today or perhaps the local council office!

HAKU later went on the boatyard slip in Auckland, revealing two rather shiny screws (propellers) and lots of smooth bare wood, but no serious damage.

I spent 11 more months thrashing around the New Zealand coast in HAKU with many adventures still to come. I earned my pay that day but as Admiral of the Fleet Lord Louis Mountbatten said to another ML skipper (Gerry Wright) during a visit to New Zealand long ago, "does the Navy pay you for this or do you have to pay them!"

**The author has abridged this story from his account called 'The Wairoa Bar' in Gerry Wright's excellent book on MLs, *Salty Dits*. *Navy Today* has made enquiries with the Wairoa Museum regarding the life ring but with no success.**

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Bar Almost Claims Another Victim ...

## Little Damage To "Haku" In Crossing

Contrary to many forecasts, little damage was suffered by the Fisheries Protection Vessel R.M.N.S. Haku during its crossing of the Waikato River last yesterday morning.

Superior weather conditions were reported by the Haku crew, and the all-weather motor launch was able to make the crossing in a few hours.

One of the forecasters in the Waikato district, Mr. H. A. Dyer, who was in the Haku before crossing the river, stated that the Haku was in good luck at the start.

### WAIROA

The launch, which is owned by the Fisheries Department, was seen on the river last night.



R.M.N.S. HAKU pictured early yesterday morning as she made her way across the extremely heavy seas on the Waikato river bar. The Haku suffered only minor damage.



# Keeping Tradition with a Ship's Bell

An extended Navy family have embraced the tradition of baptism using a ship's bell, with cousins Beauden Tāne Bovett (12 months) and Ace Murray Littleton (4 months) united for the first time in November.

The occasion, substantially delayed due to geography, COVID-19 and Auckland lockdowns, used the bell from the Officer Training School, brought down to St Christopher's Chapel in Devonport Naval Base. Ace's father, Lieutenant Mark 'LJ' Littleton, had been posted as the Junior Officer Common Training Course Officer when he found out he was having Ace, and got permission to use the bell.

Chaplain Glen Popata RNZN carried out the ceremony, using a paua shell to extend that connection to the sea.

According to the Navy Museum, it is a custom to baptise a child under a ship's bell, and sometimes the bell is used as a christening bowl with water for the ceremony (as in this case). The child's name may be engraved inside the bell.

LT Littleton says the cousins' names will indeed be inscribed inside the bell during a downtime period for the Officer Training School.

*From left: Jordan, Marie, Beauden, Chaplain Glen Popata, Ace, LT LJ Littleton, Zoe.*

*Chaplain Popata uses a paua shell to perform the ceremony.*





# Keeping well heading into 2023



The end of the year can be a fun and busy time. We hope you all take time to recharge, enjoy yourself and celebrate achievements.

It's also a busy time when pressures, risks and stressors, can begin to build up at work and at home.

#### Our key message to you:

Spend some time doing things that you enjoy, whether that's getting outside in the sun, going for a swim, spending time with loved ones, reading a book or even have a bit of time doing nothing!

Over the Christmas period it's important to think about your own self-care. It's also a time to keep an eye out for friends and loved ones for whom Christmas may be a lonely or difficult time.

Like you, we want people to enjoy this time of year, have a good break and be back in good shape to start 2023, energised and happy.

Defence Health have created a helpful resource with useful information on keeping ourselves and others safe and well.

#### It covers:

- Support services for you and your whanau
- Financial Health – links to tools and resources
- Healthy relationships and consent – guidance and contacts for support and advice
- Tips and tools for keep yourself and others safe regarding alcohol and other substances
- Defence Health Hub – for tools and information to help us all thrive and perform at our best



Scan the QR code below to get this helpful guide. Share it with your team as we head towards the end of the year and upcoming break.

Remember – rest, relax, be proud of your achievements and enjoy a well-deserved break!

# VOLUNTARY EDUCATION STUDY ASSISTANCE

**Semester One, 2023 applications are being accepted. You may submit your request for funding within 90 days of your study start date. Apply online at NZDC, Defence Learning Toolkit VESA Application (e-form)**

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

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

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

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

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

## APPLICATIONS SOUGHT

### Regional Naval Officer (RNO) – Waikato



**Applications are being sought for the position of RNO Waikato in the Naval Reserve, based in or near Hamilton.**

RNOs are drawn from the local community; they are chosen for their links with Local Government, Iwi, port companies, local business, the media, schools and/or the wider community. They may or may not have had previous military service.

RNOs represent the Navy in their region, working to lift the level of knowledge about the Navy in every community and facilitating local naval activities.

The successful application will be appointed as a Lieutenant Commander, Royal New Zealand Naval Reserve, after accepting an initial three-year offer of service.

Please contact Dianne Fowler at [Dianne.Fowler@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:Dianne.Fowler@nzdf.mil.nz) or Cdr Clive Holmes, RNZN at [Clive.Holmes@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:Clive.Holmes@nzdf.mil.nz) before 31 January 2023 for further details.

# 15 ROUNDS

## WARRANT OFFICER COMMUNICATION WARFARE SPECIALIST DARREN CROSBY



01

**Job title and description:**

Command Warrant Officer Deputy Chief of Navy (DCN)

02

**Date joined:**

1 June 1988, the day I turned 19 years of age

03

**First ship posted to:**

HMNZS SOUTHLAND

04

**Best deployment(s):**

Consecutive Multinational Interception Force deployments to the Arabian Gulf, enforcing a United Nations embargo on Iraq in 1995 HMNZS WELLINGTON and 1996 HMNZS CANTERBURY. First time the RNZN had operated in the area.

05

**Hometown:**

Tūranganui-a-kiwa – Gisborne.  
Iwi Ngati Porou.

06

**High school**

Gisborne Boys' High School

07

**Favourite book:**

World Atlas

08

**Favourite programme:**

Aussie Gold Hunters

09

**Favourite album:**

I have a wide variety of tastes, nothing specific

10

**Favourite song:**

Tangaroa by Waihirere Maori Cultural Group

11

**Favourite holiday destination:**

Singapore

12

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

Relaxing with family

13

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

I had the privilege of being a pall bearer for Sir Edmund Hillary during his state funeral

14

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

A New Zealand Olympic and Commonwealth athlete, name withheld. "if you want the victory be prepared for the fight."

15

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

Opportunities are endless – whanaungatanga.

