

NAVY

T O D A Y

EXERCISE
MAHI TAHI
ANZAC
DAY
ANTARCTIC
ICE BREAKER



SCHOOL TO SEAS

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“I am not only honouring those who passed through haka and waiata, but walking the battlefields they walked.”

- Able Writer Tiahuia Turei at Gallipoli



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

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Front Cover:
School to Seas students revel in a RHIB ride on Auckland Harbour.

Photographer:
PO Chris Weissenborn



NZ Navy navy.mil.nz



NZ Defence Force



Yours Aye

Chief Of Navy
Rear Admiral David Proctor



During the Anzac Day commemorations last month I stood alongside my colleagues from Australia at a moving service in Hawaii. I have seen images of our personnel in commemorations across the world, including the NZDF contingent in Gallipoli, our sailors in diplomatic and peace-keeping roles, and close to home in Aotearoa New Zealand's cities and smaller communities. Our Navy's tradition of a 'homeport' for our ships and their crew, a place to enjoy the warmth of a town's welcome, is always special to us, and I am pleased that Ships and Ship's Companies connected with their communities widely across the country for Anzac Day.

We stand at memorials across New Zealand, we read the long lists of names, and we think about the investment of the nation's precious blood of those who were called upon to defend principles we hold dear. I contemplated another number – 1,177 – when I had the honour to visit the USS ARIZONA memorial and pay my respects to the sailors who lost their lives in the opening hours of America's fight in World War II.

There is strength in unity, and during Anzac Day in Hawaii, I felt that strongly standing among our country's friends and partners.

That feeling continued as I had the pleasure of attending the International Maritime Security Conference in Singapore, where I enjoyed useful discussions with my counterparts from many navies from the Pacific, Asia, and as far away as Germany and the UK.

As I write this, New Zealand is welcoming HMS SPEY to Auckland. The Royal Navy's permanent deployment of patrol vessels to the Indo-Pacific region is testament to the United Kingdom's support of trade, a free and open global commons, maritime security, and our shared values in this part of the world, and it sends a very clear signal that a rules-based international order in our region is important to defend.

I note the success of Exercise Mahi Tahi featured in this edition of *Navy Today*. It has been particularly satisfying to see the evolution of amphibious multi-role capability combining HMNZS CANTERBURY, the skillsets of HMNZS MATATAUA, the specialist army teams and the growing number of Air Force and Navy personnel qualifying for shipboard flight operations. I echo wholeheartedly CANTERBURY's Commanding Officer's assertion that this needs to become business as usual as a tri-service capability.

This year that like-minded interoperability in the Pacific will continue, with HMNZ Ships AOTEAROA and TE MANA undertaking a significant South East Asia deployment, and HMNZS TAUPO working with Samoan and Fijian colleagues in pursuit of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities. Thank you all; to those on ships, in the newly-named Maritime Training Group, and all the support organisations and networks within the Navy, and to your families – your hard work keeps us prepared and ready for the job ahead.

He heramana ahau.

**Rear Admiral David Proctor
Chief of Navy**



AMPHIBIOUS CAPABILITY PROVEN IN FIJI

If you want amphibious warfare to be second nature, you have to practise it. Exercise Mahi Tahī in Fiji reinvigorates HMNZS CANTERBURY down this path, with NZ Army's new capability driving onto Pacific Island sands for the first time.

It's been a long time, COVID-speaking, since some of 5th Movements Company's amphibious support capability has 'crossed the stern' of HMNZS CANTERBURY.

During March and April CANTERBURY supported Exercise Mahi Tahī, which involved working alongside Republic of Fiji Military Forces to train personnel in amphibious operations and humanitarian and disaster relief work.

The ship transported nearly 300 NZDF personnel, two NH-90s helicopters, eight trucks and one fuel tanker to Fiji.

CANTERBURY acted as a Pacific Island 'lily pad' for flying operations, while its landing craft conducted beach landing operations at Lomolomo Beach on the coast of Viti Levu.

Rolling off the landing craft for the first time on Pacific sand was a Beach Preparation Extraction Vehicle (BPEV), which can be used to help prepare the beach by clearing any debris such as logs or boulders, smoothing it out for other vehicles to land ashore.

The 18-tonne modified forestry skidder debuted at Exercise Joint Waka in 2020, a result of Capability Branch's Logistics Over The Shore (LOTS) project.

It can be fitted with a Push Plate that can be used to force the landing craft off the shoreline if it were to get stuck there, and it also has a rear winch for land vehicle recovery, said Lieutenant Callum Wilkie, Amphibious Beach Team (ABT) Commander from NZ Army's 5th Movements Company.

There's a bit of a double-act involved in the next vehicle, a modified 20-tonne CAT938K loader with a FAUN trackway dispenser attached to the front, also inspired via LOTS.

The 20-tonne CAT 938K can roll out a modular aluminium trackway, 40 metres long, from the landing craft, and can deliver more lengths to roll out and connect to the first.

It means less robust trucks can drive onto a beach with less risk of getting bogged. But if they do, the BPEV is on hand to sort it out.

"Operation Mahi Tahī is about making sure that we are ready to assist in the Pacific if we need to respond to a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief situation," Lieutenant Wilkie said.



“Having this opportunity to deploy on CANTERBURY to Fiji, has been a great chance for us to build up experience within the team and test the capability.

“We haven’t practised this type of amphibious landing for a while and this is the first time we’ve used both the BPEV and CAT938K overseas so it’s really great to see it deployed here at Lomolomo Beach.”

This is the first amphibious exercise for CANTERBURY since Exercise Tropic Major in Vanuatu in 2018, although the ship’s amphibious capabilities came to the fore in November 2020 during a resupply mission to Tokelau during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commander Bronwyn Heslop, Commanding Officer CANTERBURY, is keen for this kind of capability to become business as usual between the ship and the Amphibious Beach Team.

“We also extracted 107 3rd Battalion Fiji Infantry Regiment soldiers from Kadavu Island, embarking them using the landing craft across the stern ramp and then disembarking them via the side ramp alongside in Suva the next day. The evolution mirrored what CANTERBURY could do if called on to evacuate large numbers of people.

“That was a high point for the ABT this trip – a real-time extraction of personnel and relocating them.”

The exercise proved its worth for the Air Force, with No. 230 Squadron establishing high frequency communication sites across three locations on Viti Levu Island. No. 3 Squadron, operating the NH-90 helicopters, completed 37 hours of flying in a tropical environment and in rugged terrain. Two new pilots qualified for ship operations with CANTERBURY while four others gained currency.

Photos: Elliot Lim.







ANZAC DAY

From across New Zealand and around the world, our Navy stands at dawn and says, we will remember them.

Right: OMA Nelly Aruquipa-Southerwood,
Achilles Division BCT 23/01.
Photo: CPL Rachel Pugh





NAVY OBSERVES ANZAC DAY AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

While the home of the Navy saw a substantial uniformed turnout for Anzac Day services, Navy was well represented across New Zealand and internationally.

Basic Common Training intake 23/01 spent two days on the streets selling poppies on behalf of the RSA, then joined with the Junior Officers of class 23/01 and personnel from Devonport Naval Base for Auckland's Dawn Service at Auckland Domain. The recruits and personnel later marched in Devonport's traditional Anzac Day parade, some wearing medals of family members.

Across New Zealand, Naval personnel joined with Army and Air Force for services ranging from the National Commemoration at Pukeahu National War Memorial in Wellington, to remembrances in suburbs and towns.

HMNZS AOTEAROA conducted a homeport visit to New Plymouth, with personnel attending dawn parades at Waitara, Hawera and Inglewood, plus the dawn parade and civic service for New Plymouth.

A contingent from HMNZS MANAWANUI, currently in drydock, travelled to their ceremonial

homeport of Gisborne for Anzac Day. MANAWANUI had provided aid to Gisborne in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle.

The NZDF contingent who attended a rainy Anzac dawn at Gallipoli in Türkiye saw the highest crowd numbers seen since the 2015 centenary of the doomed World War I landings.

More than 1,500 New Zealanders, Australians, Turks and people of other nationalities gathered at Gallipoli, 108 years on from the horrific yet formative battle that saw the loss of more than 10,000 ANZAC lives.

The Gallipoli services included a rededication and remembrance ceremony at the place where New Zealand Māori Contingent made its camp before the bloody assault on the heights of Chunuk Bair, an iconic but costly and ultimately unsuccessful attack.

In the United Kingdom, the contingent deployed to the UK to train Armed Forces of Ukraine personnel,

conducted an Anzac Day Dawn Service during a field training exercise. Personnel in posts across the world, including Lebanon, Japan, South Sudan, Korea, Abu Dhabi, Washington DC, Bahrain and Australia, gathered to remember the fallen.

More than 30,000 New Zealand military personnel have been killed in wars and conflicts since 1915, with the ongoing struggle for a more peaceful world still happening today.

Photos: Personnel from HMNZS AOTEAROA at New Plymouth's cenotaph. Dawn service at Papamoa.

LLSS Te Aranga Savage at the Dawn Service, Gallipoli.

CPOCSS Aaron Pau hugs A/POYDS James Faleofa before the Chunuk Bair service.

LLSS Te Aranga Savage, AWTR Tiahuia Turei and CPOCSS Aaron Pau walk with the NZDF contingent onto Chunuk Bair.

LTCDR Teina Hullena, XO HMNZS MANAWANUI and diver, talks to Korean War veteran and former Navy diver Teurangaotera 'Toti' Tuwhakairiora Tuhaka QSM at Gisborne's Anzac Day service.

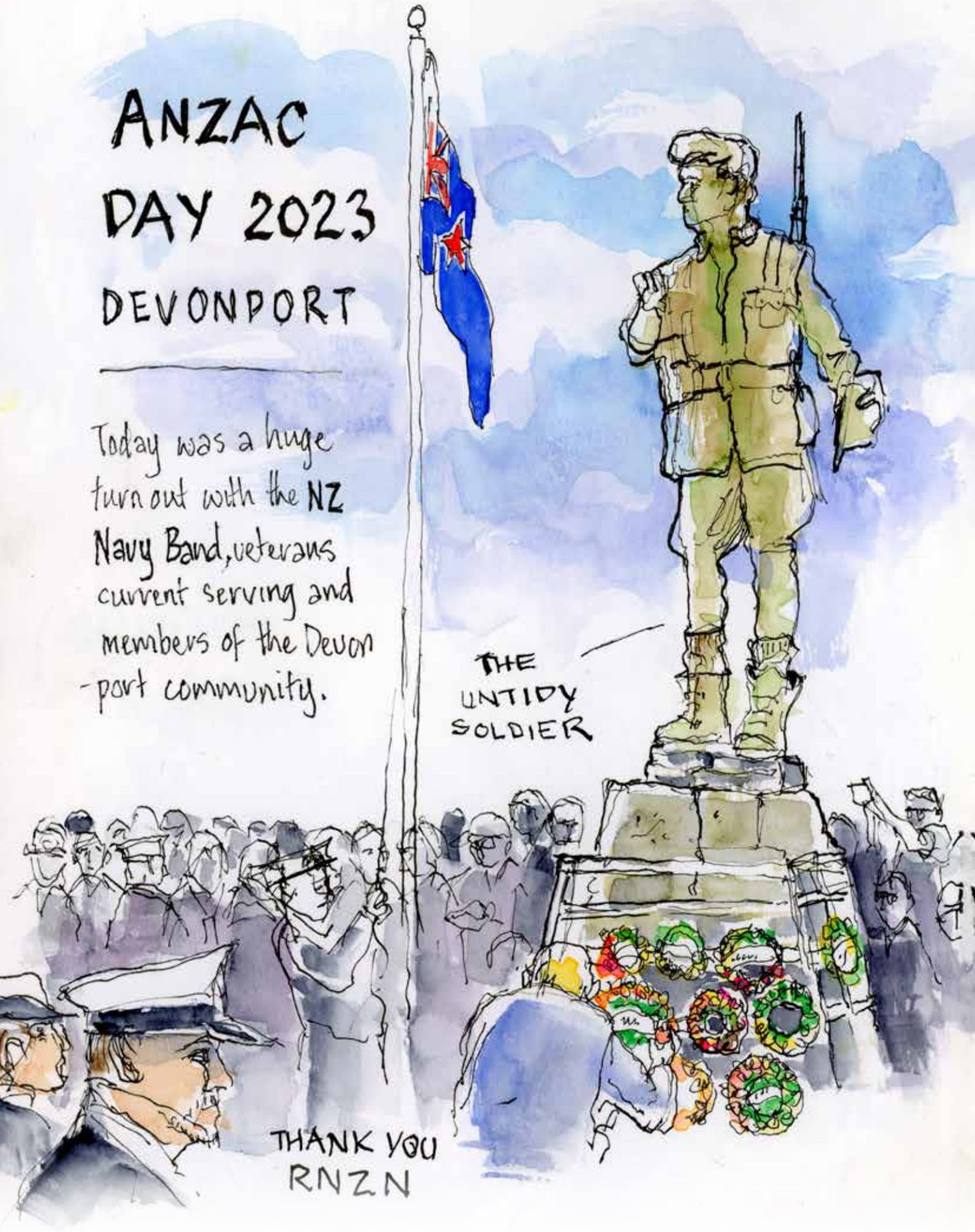


ANZAC DAY 2023 DEVONPORT

Today was a huge
turn out with the NZ
Navy Band, veterans
current serving and
members of the Devon
-port community.

THE
UNTIDY
SOLDIER

THANK YOU
RNZN



POEM - IN FLANDERS FIELD

In Flanders fields the Poppies grow - between the crosses row on row
that mark our place and in the sky - the larks - still bravely singing fly
We are the dead - not long ago - we lived felt dawn saw sunsets glow

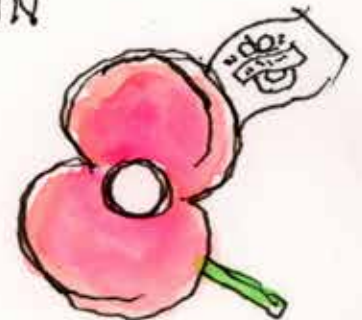
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THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD
AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD
IN THE MORNING AND WITH THE
SETTING OF THE SUN -

WE WILL REMEMBER
THEM .

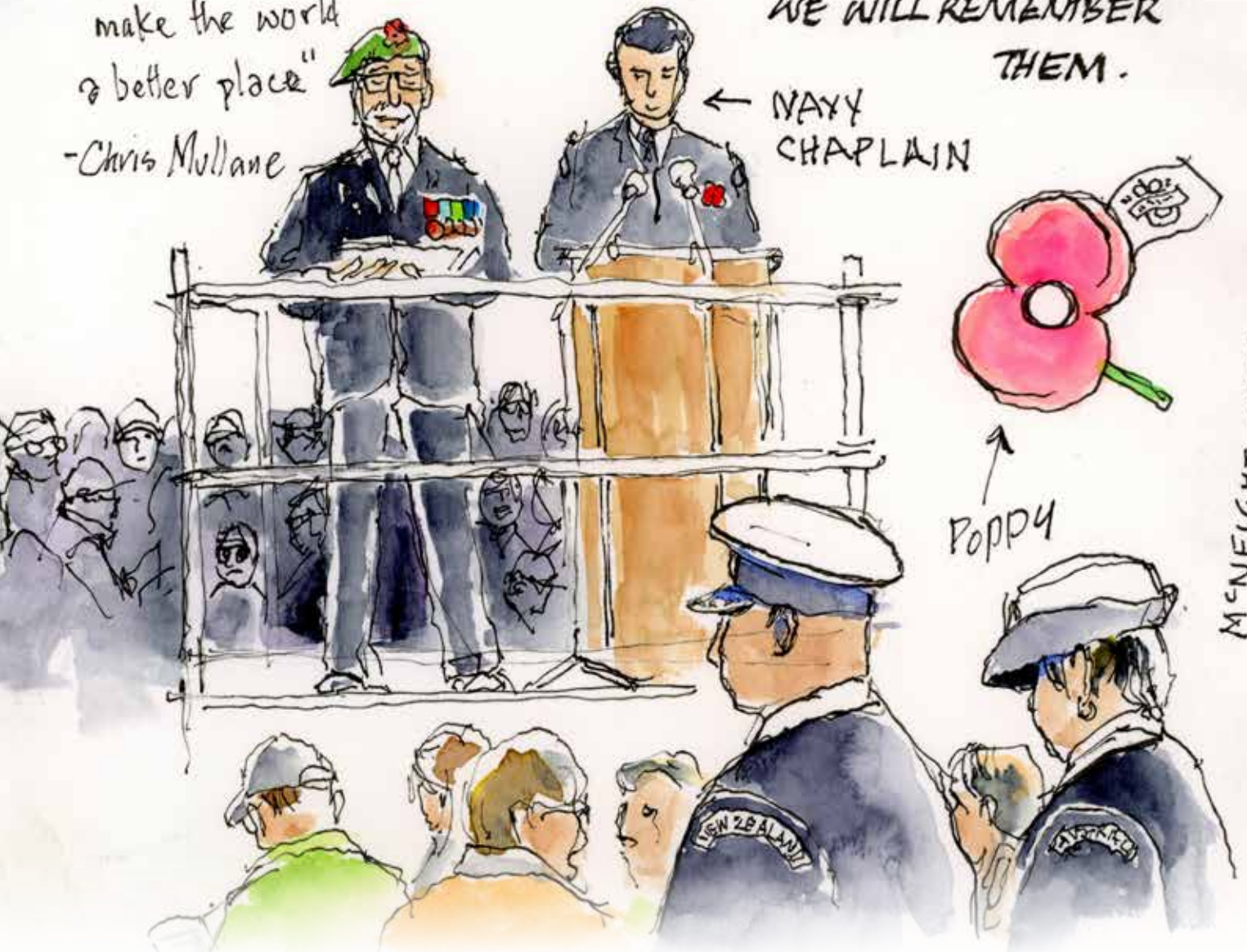
"We can all
make the world
& better place"
-Chris Mullaney

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CHAPLAIN



↑
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EAST COAST SAILOR AT GALLIPOLI COMMEMORATIONS

Ngāti Porou sailor Tiahuia Turei says it is the honour of her life to be in Gallipoli for Anzac Day.

Royal New Zealand Navy Able Writer Tiahuia Turei might normally spend Anzac Day at the remote Tikitiki Returned and Services Association on the East Coast.

However, this year the 23-year-old travelled to Gallipoli in Türkiye as part of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) contingent supporting Anzac Day commemorations.

"It was a surprise to be given the opportunity, but the honour of my life to be here," she said.

"Only four people from my community have been able to travel to Gallipoli to connect with our tipuna," AWTR Turei said.

"I took my people who haven't been able to be with me in spirit to experience what I did on the Peninsula.

"I am not only honouring those who passed through haka and waiata, but walking the battlefields they walked."

AWTR Turei also has connections with the battlefields of World War II as her grandfather and great-grandfather both served in 28 (Maori) Battalion.

She was determined to follow in their military footsteps.

"Growing up in a very rural small Māori community and attending Kōhanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa Māori my whole life I struggled with the academic side of the entry level for NZDF and failed my first attempt.

"Despite that, with some extra support I was able pass the second time with flying colours," she said, which was a lesson for other young people.

"Don't let failure make you stop on what you want if it is your desire. Put in the work and focus and you will succeed."



NAVY TRAINING OPENS PATHWAY TO PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Being taught surveying skills while a hydrographer in the Navy inspired Able Hydrographic Systems Operator Kenneth Woodall towards a career in land surveying.

AHSO Woodall, who attended the reserves forces exercise RESERVEX 2023 in Devonport last month, left the Navy to undertake a Bachelor of Surveying at Otago University. He opted to stay on as a Reserve Forces sailor, basing himself with HMNZS TOROA in Dunedin.

Now in his third year of a four-year degree, AHSO Woodall says his three years of trade training in hydrographic surveying was a plus in applying for the course. The BSurv degree has limited enrolment numbers from the second year.

Navy hydrographers help create accurate seabed and coastline charts

for navigational and military purposes, as well as operating the Navy's Autonomous Underwater Vehicles and Remotely Operated Vehicles.

"I didn't know what surveying was when I joined the Navy," he says. "I found it pretty interesting and it inspired me to do it more professionally. But I wanted to stay connected with the Navy."

He's not the only one; at the start of the surveying course he discovered another Navy hydrographer colleague with the same career plan as him.

He says his reserve obligations are 20 training days a year, which can include parade nights at TOROA.

"You can fit it around your schedule. If you're under the pump at university, you don't have to put your hand up."

He stays connected because he would like to remain open to the possibility of deployments. In the meantime, RESERVEX was "awesome" and it was great to get back up to Devonport and build resilience by getting back into military activities, he says.

TOROA is an active reserve unit and very supportive, he says. "They're always keen to get out and get involved."



NEW MILESTONE FOR NAVY RESERVES

The Royal New Zealand Navy has celebrated its first en-masse graduation of reserve officers and sailors for over a decade.

The graduation on 2 April at Devonport Naval Base was the culmination of the revamped Naval Reserve Common Training course, designed to produce personnel who can transfer seamlessly in and out of the Regular Force (RF).

Previously, reserve personnel qualified in a drip-fed fashion, moving into the Maritime Trade Operations role, a trade dedicated to liaison between merchant shipping and Navy. Now, trade options also include Medical,

Legal, Chaplaincy, Psychology, Musicians and Public Affairs.

It is also the first time the Navy has trained officers and ratings together. The course delivers the same content as the Regular Forces Junior Officer Common Training and Basic Common Training but over a longer period – 12 months for officers and nine months for ratings.

Trainees were taught during residential blocks at Devonport Naval Base, RNZAF Base Woodbourne and Dip Flat, and attended weekend and Wednesday evening training at their reserve units. There was also remote learning and Microsoft Teams training, which helped accommodate their civilian career demands – and a useful flexibility during the remaining challenges of COVID-19 last year.

Fourteen midshipmen and seven ratings marched out on the parade

ground in front of family and friends, to be reviewed by the Deputy Chief of Navy, Commodore Andrew Brown. They included three legal advisors, one medical officer and – in a first – two public affairs officers. The remainder, as well as the ratings, will now train as Maritime Trade Operators.

Commander James Burt, Commander Naval Reserves (Personnel and Training), said it was excellent to get more diversity in the reserve force.

“Maritime Trade Operations remains important, but it’s one specific output. It’s really heartening to generate people that are qualified to perform tasks in regular force branches and who will go on to contribute to RF outputs. It’s also really encouraging to see regular force elements – Defence Legal, Defence Health and Defence Public Affairs – reaching out, keen to welcome their new Naval Reserve colleagues and the contribution they will make.”



Photos: PO Chris Weissenborn.



ASCS Scouse Finnigan assists in seamanship skills refresher training for reserve force sailors attending RESERVEX 2023.



WOMT(P) Peter Ward, HMNZS NGAPONA, utilises a bosun's whistle during RESERVEX 2023.



Deputy Chief of Navy CDRE Andrew Brown and CEO Ryman Healthcare NZ Cheyne Chalmers officially open the William Sanders VC Retirement Village.

OUR P



CPOWTR Nicholas Rzepecky with family after receiving his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal first clasp (21 years).



A/POYDS James Faleofa and CPOCSS Aaron Pau at Anzac services at Chunuk Bair, Turkiye.



CHAP Lloyd Salmon speaks at the Auckland Domain Anzac service.



LT Rebecca Nelson on the stage at the opening of the William Sanders VC Retirement Village.



LT Jen Dive, HMNZS WAKEFIELD (left) and SLT Jennifer Fellows, HMNZS OLPHERT, collect for Poppy Day in Wellington.



Commander Joint Forces RADM Jim Gilmour collects for Poppy Day in Wellington.

PEOPLE



ALSS Sam de Bueger at the Auckland dawn service.



AWTR Monica Motuga and POCT Bradley Amos during the Maori Pah service on the Gallipoli peninsula.



LT Paula Lee (left) and LT Jamie Looström collect for Poppy Day in Wellington.





SCHOOL TO SEAS

Where can Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics take you? Over 30 young women were shown where their studies could lead in the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Photos: PO Chris Weissenborn

FEMALE STUDENTS EMBRACE 'SCHOOL TO SEAS' EXPERIENCE AT NAVY BASE

More than 30 students, from Kerikeri to Invercargill, attended the Royal New Zealand Navy School to Seas camp at Auckland's Devonport Naval Base during 10-17 April.



The camp is about empowering young women with confidence and curiosity about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers in the marine industry. Recruiting a diverse and inclusive workforce that represents all New Zealanders is critically important for the Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Proctor.

Pasifika, that rate is even greater. 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 marine industry," says School to Seas Project Lead, Lieutenant Commander Emily Kutarski.

Throughout the camp, the students were given hands-on learning opportunities in a number of different STEM related fields within the marine sector, showing them how the subjects they are currently studying at school can be practically applied to careers in the RNZN and the wider maritime industry.



"I'm pleased that the percentage of wāhine serving in our Navy is currently at 27.5 percent and growing. Even so, we recognise that we have to work hard to ensure women see an exciting career path with us. School to Seas certainly helps to show the range of career opportunities the Navy has to offer," says RADM Proctor.

"The camp aimed to introduce what life is like on our Navy ships, as well as break down stereotypes and barriers that may prevent women from enlisting in the Navy. The participants met many of our young service people, who not long ago were in their shoes, trying to decide what to do after school," says LTCDR Kutarski.



The year 12 and 13 school students got hands-on experience with machinery, robotics and electronics, planning and executing a naval navigation exercise in the bridge simulator, and developing resilience and leadership skills with specialist workshops from women in leadership.

This is the first time the programme has been available since 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"New Zealand's STEM workforce has less than 30 percent representation of women. Female students in New Zealand drop out of studying maths and science at a rate far higher than their male counterparts, and if they happen to also be Māori or





Thaeya Hoyle,
Southland

Southland Girls' High School student Thaeya Hoyle said it couldn't get any better than spending her 17th birthday on camp with the Navy.

"When I was a kid doing Sea Scouts we got to tour the Navy ships. Ever since then I've thought the Navy is completely up my alley. I also really want to be an engineer and I study physics, engineering and maths, so the camp was just awesome for me," says Thaeya.

A highlight for Thaeya was the flood chamber at the Sea Safety Training Squadron's Damage Control school. The students had to work to plug leaks in a simulated ship's compartment as it filled up with water.

"That was a favourite. Also taking part in the navigation exercise was quite cool."

She said being away from home was challenging but everyone became close to each other, with students sharing bunk rooms aboard HMNZS CANTERBURY and having meals together.

"I would 100 percent recommend this, especially if someone is looking at going into the Defence Force. It's more real, it's a real eye-opener into what it's really like, and shows you what actually goes on."

Along with a passion for the Navy and STEM, Thaeya also strives to give back to her local community.

"I'm the youngest member of my local fire brigade and one of the only females. My dad is the Deputy Chief, so I really hope to continue on the family tradition. It's another fun and cool way to be of service and give back to my community, just like the Navy does," says Thaeya.



Shirleane Leuty,
Papakura

Every weekday 16-year-old Shirleane Leuty travels for six hours from her Franklin home near Papakura to attend Vanguard Military School in Auckland's North Shore, so she can realise her dream of joining the Royal New Zealand Navy, and now she's one step closer.

"When I was in Year 10 I decided I wanted to join the Navy so I started at Vanguard Military School. I really like the idea of becoming a Seaman Combat Specialist.

"It's been a really cool experience for me," says Shirleane. "The camp has really shown me what life is like in the Navy and see what my future could look like."

She says the water activities, especially the rides in the Navy's sea boats, were among the best activities. Her favourite was also the 'flood room'. "That was so much fun."

Shirleane studies engineering and says she has an equal passion for developing the physical side needed for life in the Navy.

"At school we learn marching, discipline and do physical training three days a week. One of my favourite things is doing the mud run in Matakana. The mud stinks and you get completely covered in it, but it's one of the most fun experiences I've had," she says.



Maria La Parra,
Hamilton

Rototuna High School student, Maria La Parra was inspired by a teacher to come on the programme.

"I was in my chemistry class and my teacher had experienced the School to Seas programme as a teacher. He thought it would be great as it's for girls who love science and STEM subjects. I think it's an amazing opportunity to part of a programme that focuses on STEM for girls," says Maria.

Maria says when her family emigrated from Colombia when she was six years old, She didn't speak and word of English, but now a career in science is on the horizon.

"My family came to New Zealand so my brother and I could have more career opportunities and a better life. I came to a place where nobody understood me and I was the different one. It motivated me even more to learn English," says Maria. "Now I'm really interested in science engineering or science research and development."

Maria says the week was really amazing. "It was wonderful all the different opportunities given to us. I really enjoyed learning about the different trades in the Navy, and getting to participate in all of them."

Her favourite part was helping build a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) that could work underwater. "That was something new to me, and it made us work on our problem-solving."

She says it felt like they had become a family. "It was really sad to see each other go at the end of the week."



EXPERT PILOTAGE

HMNZS AOTEAROA ventures out of Tory Channel and into Queen Charlotte Sound in the Marlborough Sounds, a side trip during her voyage from Devonport to New Plymouth last month. The ship was conducting navigation and piloting manoeuvres, following the route of the Cook Strait ferries. She anchored near Picton and hosted Marlborough mayor Nadine Taylor on board.

Photo: SLT Sophie Barry





SEA-RIDING SOUTH

A sea ride that sounds like a constant earthquake is one way of describing a trip to McMurdo Sound in the United States Coast Guard Cutter POLAR STAR. But for Midshipman Emma Walker, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

MID Walker had graduated as a Maritime Logistics Officer in June 2022 and was into her Navy studies when she was told there was an opportunity to take a sea ride on an icebreaker down to Antarctica.

She was a confident traveller, having worked overseas in America and Japan, but COVID brought her home. "I thought, let's just do it. It's not something you get to experience on RNZN ships."

She joined USCGC POLAR STAR in Hobart in the middle of December for a three-month journey that ranged to McMurdo Station and onto Chile.

POLAR STAR's annual job is to break open a channel in the summer sea ice surrounding New Zealand's Scott Base and America's McMurdo Station, which allows research and supply ships to deliver fuel and supplies to Antarctica.

Every year the ship endeavours to take sea-riders, she says. "I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I embarked. But they had made a programme for me. For the 13 weeks on board, I spent a couple of weeks at a time in different departments. I spent time in the galley, supply shop, ship's office, engineering, and damage control."

She was the only non-American onboard, with a crew of 150.

Progressing south, encountering six feet of ice is "not too bad", she says. "Then we hit some pretty big flows the further south we went. The ship can handle up to 21 feet of ice, around six and a half metres."

An icebreaker has a very rounded hull, and will ride up onto the ice, allowing gravity and the sheer weight of the ship to crack through.

"The noise is like a constant earthquake. You're breaking ice 24/7, there's no real downtime from it. You get used to it. In fact, since being home, I struggle to sleep in silence."

Once a channel is made, POLAR STAR has to go back and forth, keeping it open, running in close proximity ahead of container ships to escort them into McMurdo Station.

Sailors understand the concept of a long voyage, but you get port calls, says MID Walker. "Here it's three months on a ship with only four days ashore in McMurdo Station, where you are very limited to what you can do. I was lucky – this was the first year the ship had Starlink, so we had wifi on board. Full coverage, all the way down."

For a morale booster, the ship stopped in the middle of the ice and slid the brow out, letting everyone out onto the ice. "We were out there, on this vast flat mass, with nothing there, not even a bird. It's hard to explain, it's crazy to think about."

Christmas on a ship was pretty cool, she says. "We decorated gingerbread houses, wore ugly Christmas sweaters, had a Secret Santa, and ate turkey for dinner. It even snowed on Christmas, which was pretty special. The command team was really good about keeping up morale. There is always something going on during downtime.

Every weekend there were Mario Kart tournaments held, which got very competitive." The ship has a gym, but unlike Royal New Zealand Navy ships, there's no Physical Training Instructors on board.

MID Walker had one more unique experience, as the ship finished up in February and headed east. "We crossed Drake's Passage, which is the body of water between South America's Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands of Antarctica. It was the first time in over 40 years Polar Star crossed the passage. I disembarked in Valparaiso, Chile. The ship still had a month at sea before getting home to Seattle."

Her advice to others considering the sea-ride is to get stuck in with everything happening on the ship. "Get involved. It is incredible, the things I saw is unreal. There is so much to learn by observing, having conversations and being a part of the ship's company. The ship's culture is so different to New Zealand, immerse yourself and learn from it.

"And everyday you're down there, take the time to have a look outside." *Photos: US Coast Guard.*





FINDING THE ‘MAGIC’ AGAIN

A charity started by ex-service personnel combines the ‘magic’ of shared service experiences with outdoor pursuits.

Mike Walker, a 10-year veteran of the Royal New Zealand Navy, co-founded the Soldiers Sailors and Aviators Association of New Zealand in 2018 as part of his own mental health journey.

His career after the Navy involved the New Zealand Customs Service, Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries as a dog trainer and handler.

In 2015 he was diagnosed with complex post-traumatic stress disorder. “I knew I had something going on. I ignored it and it caught up with me. I embarked on a mental health journey to understand it, and this ended up being involved with Dave Benfell to create this charity.”

The charity organises outdoor pursuits, adventurous activities and sporting events for current serving and ex-serving personnel, including their families. It taps into the bonds and esprit de corps that exists between those from service life, while providing the physical and mental well-being from robust outdoor activities like tramping, fishing and hunting.

“There a real magic in the Defence Force,” says Mike. “It’s the way you connect to each other. But some have trouble transitioning. People talk about the gate hitting you in the backside when you leave, and it felt like there was nothing out there for us. People want to feel connected again. So by creating this charity, we create a healthy social network.”

When both veterans and current serving personnel get together around a campfire, there’s a spirituality, he says. “Something happens in a short period time. There’s teasing and banter. There’s real magic when you have a current soldier mixing with people who have served 20 or 30 years. Our veterans feel connected, and a young soldier gets an idea of their service as well.”

Via the website www.ssaanz.co.nz, members can book events months in advance. “Sometimes you can have a sense of loss of purpose. Having events coming up gives you something to aim for and something to look forward to.”

Warrant Officer Marine Technician (Electrical) Kramer Pierce joined the Navy at the same time as Mike. He’s the Navy representative for the charity.

“I’ve been on one of their kayak excursions. We had a US Coast Guard guy working at the base and he came along. He told me later it was one of the most adventurous things he’d done in his life.”

WOMT(L) Pierce has also done an introductory hunting excursion with his son. “There’s something for everyone, at any level. It’s about bringing people back into the fold with ex-serving and currently serving. We’re a time-poor society. It’s about slowing down, being around a fire, with a glass of wine, and spinning a story.”

The charity had a stall at the recent Veteran Affairs Auckland forum, and WOMT(L) Pierce says they got asked a lot about cycling events. “We thought, well there’s a demand right there.”



UPLIFTED IPVS DEPART FOR IRISH SEAS

Two decommissioned Inshore Patrol Vessels, ROTOITI and PUKAKI, departed Auckland's Captain Cook Wharf aboard sealift vessel HAPPY DYNAMIC last month, on their way to Ireland.

The IPVs were decommissioned from the Royal New Zealand Navy in October 2019 and were sold to Ireland's Department of Defence for the Irish Navy in March 2022.

A condition of the \$42 million sale to the Republic of Ireland Department of Defence, was that work would be undertaken to regenerate and modify the ships to a seaworthiness standard before they left New Zealand.

More than 15 New Zealand businesses spent last year bringing the vessels back to a seagoing state.

"This work provided a welcome \$26 million economic boost for all the local maritime contractors and sub-contractors involved," said Chief of Joint Defence Services, Brigadier Rob Krushka.

Along with an overhaul of all major machinery such as main engines, generators, drive shafts, propellers, stabilisers and boat davits, the ships also had a number of system upgrades installed including a new integrated platform management system, maritime communications suite and CCTV system.

Lake-class IPVs HAWEA, TAUPO, ROTOITI and PUKAKI commissioned into the RNZN in 2008 and 2009 as part of Project Protector. Their role was to provide fishery protection and conduct border patrols around New Zealand's 15,000 kilometre coastline. However, Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Proctor said larger ships in the fleet have gradually taken on these roles.

"At the time of their entry into service, the IPVs provided operational capability around our coastline. But now we have a far greater need to project a presence further afield and that's something these ships simply weren't designed to do," said RADM Proctor.

Lieutenant General Sean Clancy, Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces was looking forward to the arrival of the ships.

"The changing face of maritime security in the Irish Sea has highlighted a requirement for a specialist inshore capability in order to protect Irish interests," he said.

"These vessels will strengthen the ability of the Naval Service to fulfil its role in protecting our national sovereignty."

A FORTY-YEAR CONNECTION

The ties forged within your intake can be stronger than those developed at sea.

Most of us came straight out of 6th form, says Callum McDonald. He's referencing the 62 RNZN Apprentices in intake 1/82, with slightly over half that number attending a recent 41st reunion in Auckland (postponed from the 40th due to COVID restrictions).

"Weather was great and turnout was fabulous!" he says. "A pig on a spit, Navy Museum visit, Saturday and Sunday brunch, non-stop cricket game, and night at the Patriot Hotel. Great friendships kept alive."

School reunions? "Only four of my year came." Ship reunions? "Don't tend to hold as much interest." Basic Common Training was three months, with people he had never met before. "But it's about that time you spent in dorms together. This reunion is our one."

He has an old photo (pictured) taken at the Sea Dog pub in 1982, snapped by an opportunistic photographer hoping for sales. "That's Derek Claxton, Mike Jolly, me, Jon Foster and Mark Prescott. If you went out, it was on a Friday night and you wore full number ones. I remember going back on the last ferry and getting lined up and inspected."

The time was especially profound, he says. "The Falklands War was kicking off, and we were watching it in the canteen, thinking, holy crap, there's [Prime Minister] Muldoon talking about ships. We were just kids, thinking we were here to play space invaders, and we're seeing New Zealand talking about sending ships."

The classmates he knows have done "bloody well", he says. "It's that Navy foundation that's made us what we are. We didn't know each other, it was a brief time together, but today we always have time for each other."

Peter Daly answered a Navy ad to escape the prospect of accounting studies at Otago University. He realised years after he left the Navy that he wanted to stay in touch with classmates.

"When you have an 'adverse' experience with someone, it forms a strong bond. I remember getting tear-gassed in training, doing damage control exercises with water being pumped into compartments. All these things form strong bonds.

After 30 years, when we met up again, it was like we had never left each other's sides. I don't think people can understand it without experiencing it."

Mr Daly spent 27 years in the police force and his Navy experiences were a great benchmark. "It was one of the best things a young person could do. Get out of bed, do what you are told, learn what discipline is. There's a lot of stuff I learnt in the Navy which has served me extraordinarily well in life."





HISTORY: SNAPSHOT

HONG KONG SIDE PARTY

A chance identification of a HMNZS OTAGO sailor in a sixties photo has prompted some fond memories from the sailor in the picture.

Leading Electrical Mechanic Richard 'Dick' Tyson was spotted as the OTAGO sailor in the centre of a Navy Museum photo on page 39 of the Navy's 80th anniversary book, *Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa / The Royal New Zealand Navy*, published in 2021.

A family friend contacted Defence Public Affairs to request a copy, later presenting it to Mr Tyson as a framed gift. *Navy Today* asked Mr Tyson what was happening in the photo, believed to be in Hong Kong in 1963.

"I was so delighted when this picture turned up," he said, confirming the year and location. "What they used to do in those days, when you got to Hong Kong, you took on board what's called a side party. These gangs of

young Chinese girls would come on board the ship and paint the side of the ship."

The Hong Kong female side parties were well known among Royal Navy and Commonwealth vessels from around 1920, with certain crews having 'rights' for contracts with particular navies. The women would clean the vessels, chip off rust and repaint the sides, plus carry out a number of husbandry tasks, freeing up the ship's company to enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong.

Mr Tyson says he joined the Navy as a reservist following on from his Compulsory Military Training in the fifties and stayed a reservist for 23 years, serving in HMNZS ROYALIST and HMNZS OTAGO. He remembers being in the Royal Guard for the Queen's visit to New Zealand in 1953.


"I enjoyed my time in OTAGO, she was a Rothesay class and a modern ship, not like ROYALIST. There were about a dozen reservists on board but we were not liked because we

were reservists and people thought we made mistakes. I didn't mind, I figured that was their problem, not mine, and you learn from your mistakes."

He wanted to serve in the Navy because he wanted to learn to sail and go to sea. "But I didn't want to sign up for years. I wanted the sort of freedom of movement that I got in civilian life."

Photos: LEM Richard Tyson in the centre on board HMNZS OTAGO. Source: GN 63 10359 01 / National Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy.

A Hong Kong side party approaches HMNZS ACHILLES in 1946 in a sampan. Source: OC24 / National Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy.



NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TRADE

Are you looking to pursue a new challenge?
Do you want to be part of dynamic and operationally focussed team?
Does working with new and emerging technologies, and highly professional, motivated soldiers sound like the workplace for you?

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

You will also meet the following **minimum** requirements:

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

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

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

Further training and opportunities include:

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

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

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

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

Nominations close Friday 29 September 2023.
EOD Evaluation week 09–13 October 2023.



TE OPE KĀTUA O AOTEAROA
DEFENCE FORCE

Te Hāpua Kuranga O Te Ope Kātua
New Zealand Defence College

VOLUNTARY EDUCATION STUDY ASSISTANCE

Semester Two, 2023 applications are being accepted. You may submit your request for funding within 90 days of your study start date. Apply online (ILP) at Training & Education, New Zealand Defence College (NZDC), Learning Toolkit VESA Application (e-form).

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

They should also:

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

Contact your local Adult Learning Tutor, Defence Learning, who can assist you with your application. If you have any queries, please email our Tertiary Services & Support Advisor at nzdclearnvesa@nzdf.mil.nz



HEI MANA MŌ AOTEAROA
A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

OBITUARY – COMMODORE FRED BLAND OBE



In a naval career spanning nearly 37 years, Commodore Fred Hutchinson Bland OBE worked with everybody from Stoker Mechanics and Dockyard Labourers in double bottoms up to the top Admirals in New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

The former Gunnery (Ordnance) Engineer, HMNZS Dockyard Engineer Manager, Chief of Naval Technical Services and Head New Zealand Defence Liaison Staff died in Lower Hutt on 24 April 2023.

CDRE Bland joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in 1943, travelling to the United Kingdom during wartime to undertake training at the Royal Naval College, Eaton Hall and at Keyham, the Royal Navy's Engineering College.

Following service in HM Ships BELLONA and BLACK PRINCE he returned to New Zealand in 1949, posting to HMNZS Dockyard as the Assistant Engineer Manager. He then underwent a series of postings to the cruiser HMNZS ROYALIST, HMNZ Dockyard, Joint Service Staff College and in 1960 as the Engineer Officer of HMNZS ROYALIST on promotion to Commander. This was his last seagoing commission, having served six times in five different Dido-class cruisers in every engineering capacity.

In 1963 he posted as Engineer Manager of HMNZ Dockyard. Three years later he posted to the Technical Directorate at Navy Headquarters in Wellington in a series of posts culminating as the Chief of Naval Technical Services (CNTS) in 1970 with promotion to Captain. He was the first cadet who had entered the Marine Engineering Branch to become Captain.

Whilst at Navy Headquarters he was responsible for the management of a number of ship acquisitions, modernisations, reorganisations and development projects, including the completion of HMNZS CANTERBURY.

In an interview in the nineties he said two major projects, the acquisition of future survey ship HMNZS MONOWAI and the Lake-class patrol craft were among those that gave him a sense of satisfaction. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1974 and was CNTS for five years.

CDRE Bland was then posted as the Head of Defence and Naval Liaison Officer to the Staff of the High Commissioner in London and promoted to the rank of Commodore. It was an unusual role for an engineer officer but his skills proved extremely useful with contract negotiations, notably when dealing with problems with the refit of MONOWAI in Scotland in 1975.

He stayed in the role until his discharge from the Navy in 1980.

In his interview CDRE Bland noted he was fortunate that most of his career involved him being completely involved in engineering, and they were complete postings where he was able to make a full contribution while building on his experience.

Deputy Chief of Navy Commodore Andrew Brown, speaking at CDRE Bland's funeral service, said it was a privilege to speak not only as DCN, but as an ex-ordnance artificer who had also followed a path to Commodore.

Photo: Copyright NZIPP Photograph by Jane Nelson 1247-7249. CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0

PROMOTIONS:

LT CHRIS MCKEICH
SLT NOAH PURCHASE
WOMT(P) MATT SARA
WOMUS JONATHAN FRANKLIN
CPOEWS RAMEKA PITA
POMT(P) BEN CASEY
POCWS HARRY PHILPOTT
POCW STEPH BROWN
POCWS ANNA NELISI

POWT ASH FITZWATER
LCWS JACK COULSTON
LEWS NGATAI CAMPBELL
LET LOGAN HUDSON
LMT(P) TRAVARN RUA-CHASE
LCWS JADE TAIKATO
LWTR JOANNA MAFI
LET HAMISH MOWAT
LCSS NADISHA MAHARAJ

Congratulations on your promotion (8 March to 13 April)

LCSS DAVID HOWIE
LCWS AUSTEN BELL
AMT(P) JAMES PURVIS
AWT WAYDE JANSE VAN VUUREN
AET STEPHAN DIEHL
AMT(P) WIREMU GEORGE
ACWS SAMUEL CRON
AMT(P) JACK LEES
ACT SAM EDWARDS

ACT HUNTER REILLY
AET RONAN SUTHERLAND
AMT(P) ETHAN COOPER-WIKI
AMT(L) ABBY TURNER
ALSS MASON BERRY
ACH CALLUM LYNCH

15 ROUNDS

WARRANT OFFICER MEDIC GREG STAINES



01

Job title and description:

I'm currently employed as the Fleet Hospitality Support Manager providing support to the Messes across the Devonport Naval Base. The majority of my work is as the Head of Trade of the RNZN Stewards.

02

Date joined RNZN:

20 Sept 1989

03

First ship posted to:

The Leander-class frigate HMNZS CANTERBURY

04

Best deployment:

Being part of Light Medical Team 02 posted to Banda Aceh following the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2005. I learnt more about emergency medicine in 18 days than my previous 13 years of military service.

05

Hometown:

Napier

06

High school

Colenso High School – 1985-89

07

Favourite book:

I'm currently reading *Churchill's Pirates* by Dianne Canwell and Jonathan Sutherland. It's about the Royal Navy Patrol Service in WWII. Both my granddad and great uncle served in the RNPS. Granddad survived the war but his brother was lost at sea on HMT BIRDLIP. His ship was torpedoed off the Liberian coast by a German U Boat.

08

Favourite movie:

Guardians of the Galaxy 1 or 2 – Great fun movies to sit down with my family

09

Favourite album:

I'm a huge fan of 80's music. Duran Duran, Spandau Ballet, Tears for Fears, Aha, you name it and it's probably in my Spotify Library. The album I'm listening to now is Depeche Mode: *The Best of*

10

Favourite song:

Depeche mode: *Enjoy the Silence*

11

Favourite holiday destination:

Hihi (near Mangonui) in the Far North. Beautiful little beach and great friends in the area.

12

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

Lawn bowls. I've just taken it up at my local club at Sunnybrae Bowls. You can go from sensational to absolutely mud in two bowls, but it's great fun.

13

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

I have an identical twin brother who lives and works on the North Shore. He constantly gets into conversations with sailors who think it's me.

14

A valuable life/Naval lesson for me is?

One of my DO's many years ago told me "Every sailor achieves one rank more than they should, you Staines have been particularly lucky". That grounds you pretty quickly.

15

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

Doing great things everyday with great people.

Calling all Wrens from the Women's Royal New Zealand Naval Service

There is a project underway to create a database of everyone that served in the WRNZNS from its inception in 1942 until final demise in 1977. All the names of the women that enlisted have been found, but for many, details such as forenames, enlistment date, trade, highest rank/rate etc are not known. Can you help?

If you were a Wren, or you know someone who was, please get in touch with the database assemblers, Margaret Mitchell at margaretmitchell@xtra.co.nz or Fred Wilson at fred@kfwilson.nz to share your information or provide a photograph.

The database will eventually form part of permanent display about the WRNZNS, currently being assembled for display in the RNZN Museum.

HMS NEPTUNE Dunedin Memorial Service

15–17 December 2023

HMNZS TOROA and the Otago Military History Group, invite the whanau and connections of those who perished on HMS Neptune to a reunion, in commemoration of those who served and those they left behind.

15 December: Meet and Greet at HMNZS Toroa.

16 December: Dinner at Spitfire Restaurant.

17 December: Memorial Service at the HMS Neptune Memorial on Wharf St.

Please register your interest by 22 September to either:

Mr Peter Trevathan
0275018224,
petebond058@hotmail.co.nz

CPO Christina Scadden:
0272282548,
HMNZSTOROACOORD@nzdf.mil.nz



THANK
YOU!



N A

V Y



To the people of the of the Royal New Zealand Navy,

Thank you for all the help and support you put into transporting food and materials to people who couldn't get them at a time of need. Thank you for the supplies you gave the local people after Cyclone Gabrielle. We really couldn't have done this without you. So many people's lives have been ruined, but you have saved so many others.

Thank you for bringing your ship and donating a generator so that the people could at least talk to family and friends, and we would like to thank the Navy who came from Christchurch and Canterbury who had supplies. Thank you for the twenty thousand litres of water and tons and tons of emergency aid. You have done so many things like save beloved pets and animals who are stuck in ditches and multiple layers of silt. You were so brave going out and rescuing sailors who were out in the ocean.

Yours sincerely

IS AC

Isla Redshaw and Annabelle Cope
in Room Six at Twyford School