



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2025-5511

22 August 2025

R S Bicknell
fyi-request-31988-2fbbe277@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear R S Bicknell

I refer to your email of 13 August 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I would like to request under the Official Information Act the generally accepted nicknames given to vessels past and present in the New Zealand Navy.

The Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) does not have official nicknames for its vessels.

However, a three-letter designation is used as shorthand for RNZN vessels. Enclosure 1 provides the relevant designations for recent RNZN vessels. More information on historic RNZN vessels can be found in RJ McDougal's book, *NZ Naval Vessels*, published in 1989. Copies of this book are held in the National Library in Wellington.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley
Brigadier
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. RNZN vessel designations

Enclosure 1 – Navy Vessel Designations

- HMNZS TE KAHA (TEK)
- HMNZS TE MANA (TEM)
- HMNZS CANTERBURY (CAN)
- HMNZS AOTEAROA (ROA)
- HMNZS MANAWANUI (MAN)
- HMNZS WELLINGTON (WGN)
- HMNZS OTAGO (OTA)
- HMNZS HAWEA (HAW)
- HMNZS TAUPO (TAU)
- HMNZS ROTOITI (ROT)
- HMNZS PUKAKI (PUK)
- HMNZS ENDEAVOUR (END)
- HMNZS WAIKATO (WAI)
- HMNZS SOUTHALAND (SOU)
- HMNZS MONOWAI (MON)
- HMNZS TUI (TUI)
- HMNZS TARANAKI (TAR)