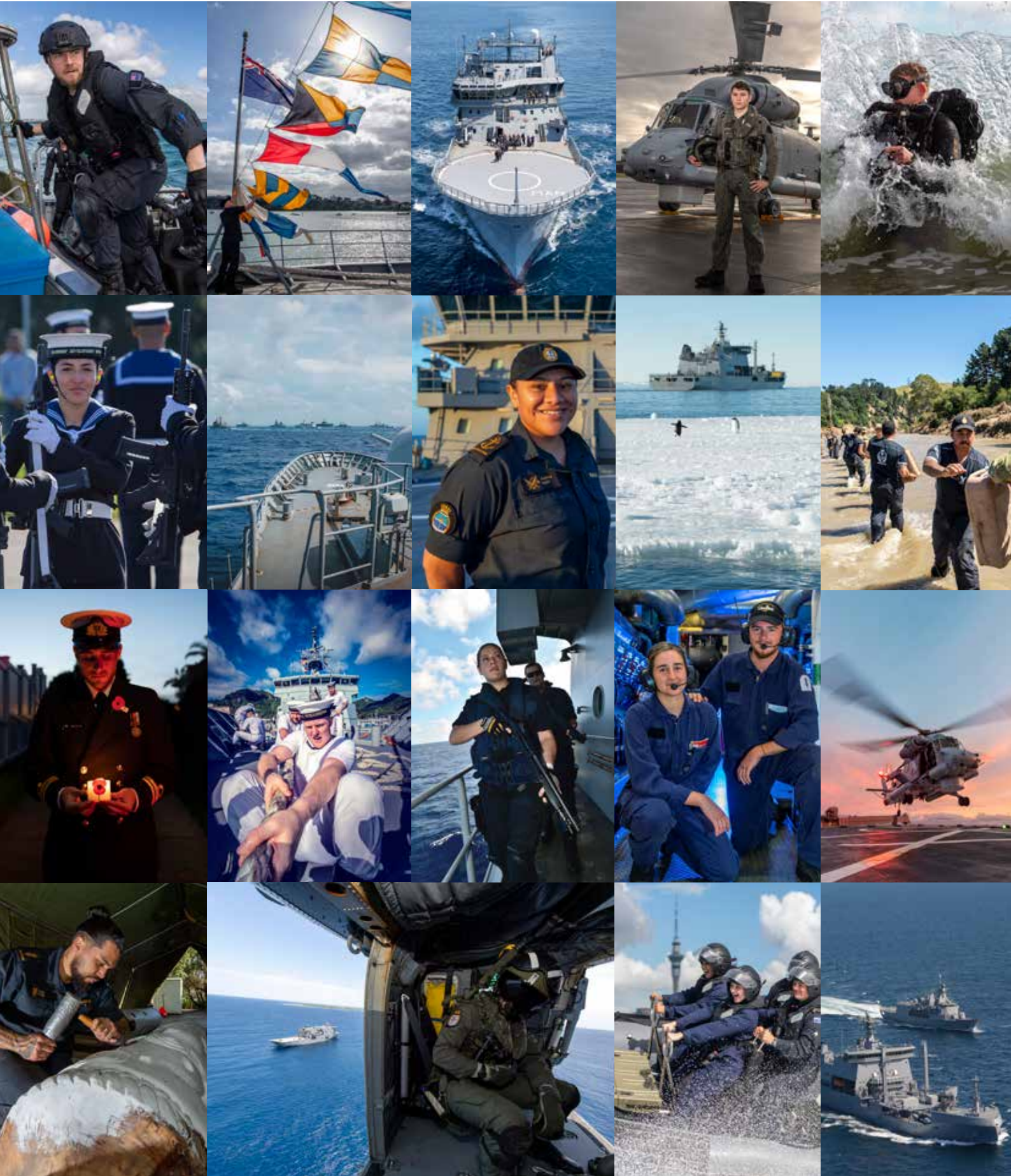


# NAVY

T O D A Y

OPERATION  
HIKI ANO  
NEW CHIEF  
OF NAVY  
OPERATION  
CRUCIBLE



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**“I’ve made lifelong friends. You find people that are in your corner and the instructors here all just want you to succeed.”**

– Able Medical Assistant Kjersti Faraimo, graduating as a medic



## Magazines moving to digital only

As you may be aware the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), like many public sector agencies and private businesses, is facing challenging times financially, and operating within tight constraints. A process has begun to reprioritise the Defence Force’s budget to keep ships, aircraft equipment and personnel ready to respond where needed. To do that, the NZDF has to address a \$130 million shortfall this financial year. That means the NZDF is identifying spending that can be reduced.

While sharing the work the NZDF is tasked with remains a key priority for Defence Public Affairs, increased cost pressures means we are having a rethink in what we do in order to tell our story.

Therefore from October we will no longer publish a printed magazine. The monthly editions of *Navy Today* will be digital only, published online at our website [nzdf.mil.nz](http://nzdf.mil.nz), and available as downloadable PDF files or as viewable online magazines.

Across the media, print versions are reducing or disappearing. Most people access material online now, and we are no different.

We know this is a big change for many of you, and we thank you for your understanding. *Navy Today* started in 1996, taking over from an internal periodical called *Navy News*.

Readers will be able to access service magazines via [www.nzdf.mil.nz/navy-today](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/navy-today). Followers of the Royal New Zealand Navy on social media will see posts of the latest magazines and links to the digital magazine on the website.

If you would like to be emailed an electronic copy of the magazine each month, please let us know via email: [navytoday@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:navytoday@nzdf.mil.nz)



[navy.mil.nz](http://navy.mil.nz)



*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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# From the Editor



**As described on page two, this is the last printed version of *Navy Today*. The magazine has been online for at least the time I have been editor – eight years – and it will continue in that manner.**

I could tell myself that this nicely matches a trend I've been observing, of people who contact me to say they'd rather read it online than receive a hard copy. There's definitely people with the environment on their mind, where the idea of being kinder to the carbon footprint sits better with them. Certainly the plastic wrap caused a few grumbles.

But I know it's a small trend. I know there will be readers that, for them, going online isn't the comfortable niche they've gotten used to. I come to *Navy Today* from newspapers and I can tell you, no editor of my generation contemplates a change to their publication without a bit of a lurch in their guts.

I know that a media model utilising printing and postage is a painfully expensive exercise. *Navy Today*, and the other service magazines *Army News* and *Air Force News*, had neither subscriptions nor advertising. They were free to anyone who requested them. It's a great thing, but it's not sustainable.

When the magazine was created in 1996 it held the monopoly on front-of-house public relations for the Navy. Today, most of the material in the magazine you're reading has already been published on the NZDF website and purposed for a variety of social channels – Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.

We've been 'digital' for a while. It's hardly unusual for media. Whether you prefer the NZ Herald or Stuff, or the Guardian or the Daily Mail, the ability to keep readers informed on line with almost fathomless content, for all tastes, has never been greater.

There are unlimited stories coming out of the Navy, as anyone should expect of a diverse and exciting military organisation, and we're telling these stories in different ways. The magazine has the depth and analysis that print can provide. But today you can watch filmed interviews with our sailors and officers, who are proud to share their environment with you visually as well as with words. If you follow our social channels, you'll be directed to further reading via the Royal New Zealand Navy website. We have partnership channels with ships and training schools, who provide fantastic insights about daily life in the Navy.

So my advice to any reader is: connect with the Royal New Zealand Navy through our channels. Watch, read, engage and take it all in. The stories of the Navy are always going to be told.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'A Bonallack'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A'.

**Andrew Bonallack**  
Navy Today Editor



# Operation Hiki Ano

**HMNZS CANTERBURY** is leading a surge in training, building up its crew's competencies as well as embarked Army and Air Force personnel in the lead-up to deployments and cyclone season.

*HMNZS CANTERBURY arrives in Lyttelton after 10 days of training activity down the east coast of New Zealand.*

*Photo: Lyttelton Port Company*



# HMNZS CANTERBURY LEADS TRAINING SURGE



**HMNZS CANTERBURY** has put its training backlog to bed – or at least put a substantial dent in it – with some dedicated sea training down the east coast of New Zealand, including a ceremonial homeport visit in Lyttelton.

Operation Hiki Ano is the Navy's operational name for a professional crew development and training surge, particularly for junior personnel undergoing training, with a view to clearing training backlogs and getting taskbooks signed off. It is named for an all-of-Navy effort in 2019.

CANTERBURY and Embarked Forces, as well as helicopter input from No. 3 and No. 6 Squadrons, started off with Landing Craft operations around Army Bay, Whangaparāoa Peninsula, during the first week. With a Landing Craft married up to the stern ramp, members of 5 Movements Company, NZ Army, played the role of an Amphibious Beach Team on a beach landing exercise. An Army Pinzgauer was used to test Roll On Roll Off (RORO) vehicle movements across the ramp.

The ship then transited to Napier, conducting gunnery and aviation training.

In that first week alone, five pilots and four helicopter loadmasters obtained refreshed ship landing currency, while nine Seamanship Combat Specialists passed their Local Weapon Director assessment.

In week two, internal training was the main focus, although poor weather made for a tough and delayed passage south to Lyttelton.

CANTERBURY always makes the most of a ceremonial homeport visit. Over five days, events included the scattering of ashes of a Navy veteran and bringing aboard six potential recruits to experience the ship's entry into Lyttelton Harbour. The wardroom attended a Canterbury Officer's Club function, and in turn hosted the Burnham Officers' Mess on the ship. Over the weekend the ship hosted youngsters from the New Zealand Cadet Forces for a 'Navy day in the life' as they joined the ship's duty watch. The Lyttelton volunteer firefighters joined with Navy for a joint damage control exercise on board, and the Commanding Officer and members of the ship's company attended a pōwhiri and charity gala at Rāpaki Marae.





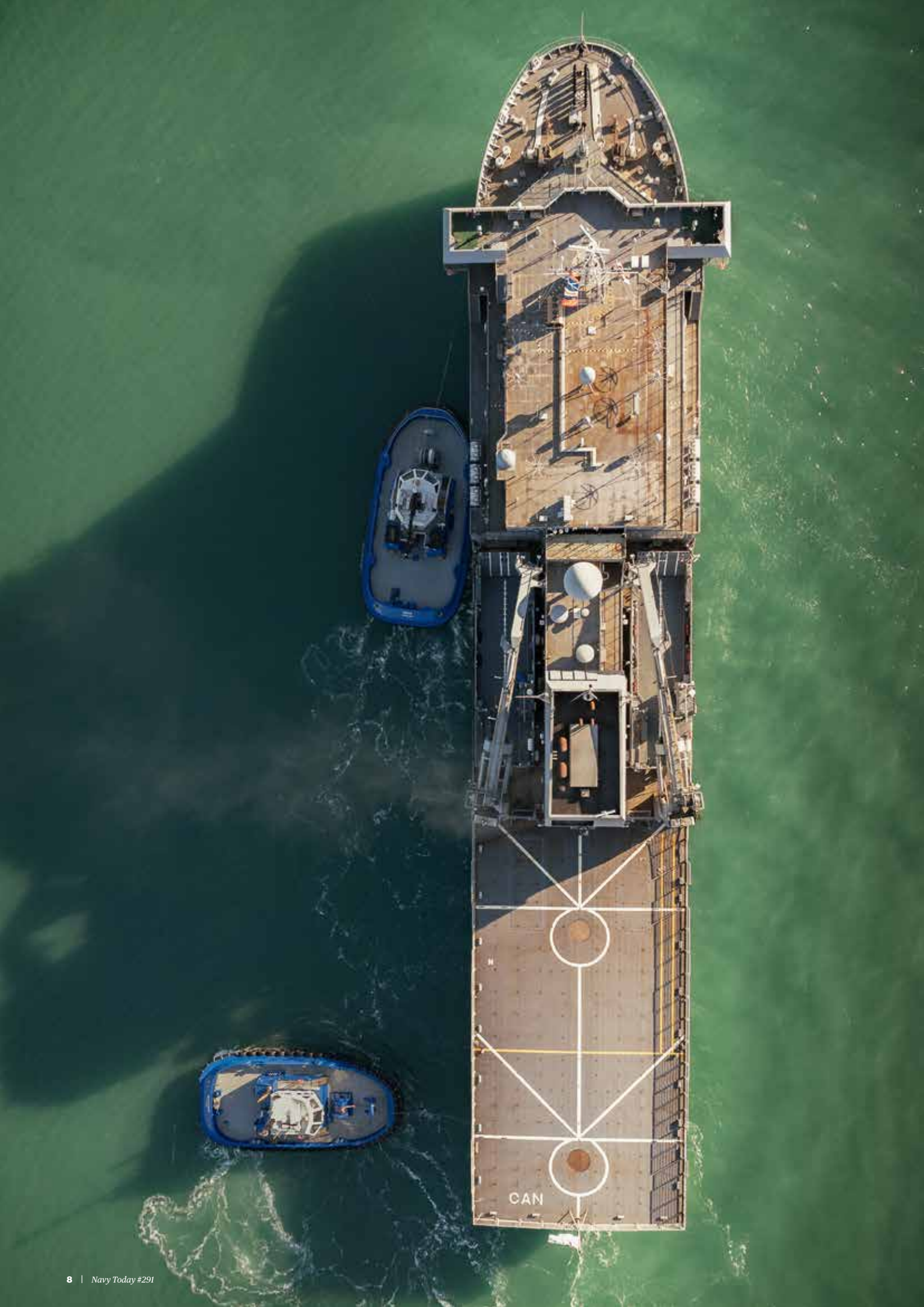
Of particular note was the ship hosting 104-year-old World War 2 Navy veteran Lieutenant (rtd) Keith Williamson, who featured in *Navy Today* August 2024. Commander Bronwyn Heslop, Commanding Officer of CANTERBURY, gave LT Williamson and his family a tour of the ship.

On returning to sea, the ship transited north with 10 more recruiting candidates experiencing life at sea all the way to Kaikoura.

Also on board were 12 Navy Reserve Force personnel from HMNZS PEGASUS, who carried on to the Marlborough Sounds as the ship conducted pilotage training. They were able to have a familiarisation on a Landing Craft as the ship continued regenerating its amphibious landing capability. Bad weather meant the ship had to hunker down in Cloudy Bay near Blenheim, waiting for some calmer weather to make the crossing to Wellington.

CANTERBURY's build-up, particularly with helicopter competencies, is in readiness for its deployment to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024 in Samoa in October.











# New Chief of Navy

Rear Admiral Garin Golding says he can't wait to get his feet under his new desk and get started.

His appointment as Chief of Navy was announced at Parliament on 28 August, alongside the appointments for Commander Joint Forces, Chief of Army and Vice Chief of Defence Force.

He was promoted to Rear Admiral the following day at Defence House, and had his Assignment of Command ceremony on 9 September at Te Tāua Moana Marae. His predecessor, Rear Admiral David Proctor, had relinquished his command on May 11, with Commodore Andrew Brown stepping in as Acting Chief of Navy.

Growing up on the North Shore, Auckland, RADM Golding is a student of Target Road Primary School, Wairau Intermediate and Glenfield College.

As a 17-year-old, he had ambitions to join the NZ Police, but he wasn't old enough. His father, Warrant Officer (rtd) Reece Golding MNZM, MSM, suggested the teenager try out for Navy officer selection, telling him it would be good experience. RADM Golding joined the Royal New Zealand Navy on 25 January 1988.

Initially RADM Golding took a traditional path through the Navy as a Navigating Officer before taking up a specialisation in diving.

He posted to HMNZ Ships WAIKATO, TAMAKI, MONOWAI, SOUTHLAND, WELLINGTON, TUI, MANAWANUI, CANTERBURY and ENDEAVOUR in the course of his warfare officer training, which included an 'around the world' deployment in CANTERBURY, in company with ENDEAVOUR, in 1993.

He commenced specialist diving training in 1994, passing his Able/Leading Diver course with notable results.

He then completed the RAN Clearance Diving Officer course held at HMAS PENGUIN, Australia, which he passed as top student. In 1996, RADM Golding concluded his diving training by completing the RN Mine Warfare Officers' course in HMS DRYAD. On his return to New Zealand, he was posted to the staff of the Maritime Commander, New Zealand and appointed Staff Diving Officer.

Between January 2000 and October 2002, RADM Golding completed a two-year diving exchange with the Royal Malaysian Navy based in Lumut. Following his time there, he was appointed Commanding Officer MANAWANUI, which included deployments to South East Asia and the South Pacific.



RADM Golding has since been the Commander of the Deployable Joint Inter-Agency Task Force, the Assistant Chief of Navy (Strategy and Engagement) and most recently the Maritime Component Commander.

He told the audience at his promotion that he was excited to get to work with a very talented executive leadership team.

*RADM Garin Golding observes the haka at Te Tāua Moana marae.*



# Vice Chief of Defence Force

Rear Admiral Mat Williams is the new Vice Chief of the Defence Force.



**There are a lot of people in this room who have supported me throughout my career. You know who you are. Thank you for your ongoing support that you've provided me, and I hope that will continue into my next role."**

*- Rear Admiral Garin Golding*

He comes to the role as Acting Vice Chief, and prior to that as Head of Defence Capability, a role he held since 2021.

RADM Williams joined the Navy in 1989 as a seaman officer. He served most of his formative years at sea, including on exchange in the Royal Australian Navy.

Returning to New Zealand in 2001, RADM Williams served as the first Maritime Planner at Headquarters, Joint Forces New Zealand, as well as numerous other roles including a three-year command of HMNZS TE KAHA from 2008.

RADM Williams has been involved in Coalition Maritime Force counter-piracy operations throughout the Middle East region, and had appointments at Defence Headquarters, New Zealand Naval Attaché to the United States (NZ Embassy, Washington DC) and Military Secretary to the Minister of Defence.

He has previously been Maritime Component Commander and Deputy Chief of Navy.

RADM Williams was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2007 New Year Honours list, and is a Member of the Royal College of Defence Studies, London.

*New Vice Chief of Defence Force RADM Mat Williams is fitted with the VCDF korowai.*



# AOTEAROA IN GOOD COMPANY ENFORCING UN SANCTIONS

**Following a successful five-week deployment in Hawaii for Exercise RIMPAC 24, HMNZS AOTEAROA tackled Operation Whio, helping monitor violations of sanctions against North Korea.**

New Zealand has contributed to monitoring United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against North Korea since 2018, but the deployment of a Royal New Zealand Navy ship to the operation is a first. Typically the Government has deployed reconnaissance aircraft, lately the P-8A Poseidon, and that too is intended to increase.

Over four weeks, AOTEAROA's role was to replenish international Navy vessels patrolling the Korean peninsula.

Prior to Operation Whio, AOTEAROA and Canadian frigate HMCS VANCOUVER spent five days in company during their transit from Hawaii to Japan.

Rendezvousing on 8 August, the two vessels practised their interoperability by conducting Replenishment at Sea (RAS), tactical manoeuvring, communications exercises, 'night steam' exercises and two sets of crew 'cross decks'. VANCOUVER also supported AOTEAROA's Seasprite helicopter in proving communications and other operational systems.

The 'cross decking', where crewmembers travel from one ship to another, involved 12 junior sailors from each ship swapping complementary roles for a 24-hour period. The sailors, including Electronic Technicians, Seamanship Combat Specialists, Communications Warfare Specialists, Writers, Logistics Support Specialists and Chefs, got the chance to work and experience shipboard life on another nation's vessel.

The time in company was shorter than hoped due to poor weather, but both ships came together again, sharing a port visit in Yokosuka, Japan.

VANCOUVER's mission is similar to AOTEAROA's. Both are on a five to six-month Indo-Pacific deployment, which started with RIMPAC. VANCOUVER will also participate in the monitoring of UNSC sanctions against North Korea.

*Above: HMNZS AOTEAROA berths in Yokosuka, Japan*



*From the top: HMCS VANCOUVER; Armed with goodie bags, VANCOUVER personnel get ready to leave AOTEAROA by seaboat; HMCS VANCOUVER sailors join in with AOTEAROA's Maori Culture Group; VANCOUVER and AOTEAROA personnel work together during a Replenishment at Sea exercise.*

# Home away from home for Ōpōtiki sailors





*The four Ōpōtiki sailors on board HMNZS AOTEAROA from left to right: ASTD Dani Kurei, LSCS Tremayne Waenga, POCWS Trilesse Black, LCH Nicole Mio Mihaere.*

## For Able Steward Dani Kurei, her main motivation for joining the Royal New Zealand Navy was the opportunity to travel and see the world.

Although she did have some reservations about leaving her beloved hometown of Ōpōtiki.

“I loved growing up in Ōpōtiki,” she said.

“It’s a relaxed and friendly town where everyone knows each other, so a part of me was a bit reluctant to leave that behind.”

Her current posting has been made easier in this regard by not only having some fellow Ōpōtiki-born sailors on board HMNZS AOTEAROA, but her ex-classmate from Ōpōtiki Primary School, Leading Seamanship Combat Specialist Tremayne Waenga.

“He joined before me but I actually didn’t know that until I started training and saw him marching across the base in uniform.”

The pair remember playing rugby together at school, something they both recently rekindled during the harbour phase of Exercise RIMPAC in Hawaii during July – the world’s largest maritime exercise.



LSCS Waenga slotted into the midfield for a friendly rugby match between the Ship and Hawaii Harlequins (a local club side) while ASTD Kurei took part in the women's touch rugby competition.

ASTD Kurei also finished second in the bench press competition, narrowly losing to the American favourite.

"I enjoyed getting to compete against different countries and getting the chance to meet a variety of people," she said.

"I think it was an important part of the exercise because we made friends with foreign sailors who we then linked up with later on in the exercise. Having already formed those relationships really helped when we ended up working together."

In case a ship's company isn't enough of a family-feel, ASTD Kurei also had whānau on board through Petty Officer Communications Warfare Specialist Trillesse Black, who was also a leading influence in her wanting to join the Navy in the first place.

"Dani is one of the hardest workers I know," POCWS Black said.

"I was so happy when I heard she was joining as I knew she would be a good asset to the organisation."

In case a three-strong Ōpōtiki contingent isn't enough there was a fourth member of the team, making sure they had a real taste of home while abroad.

Galley Manager, Leading Chef Nicole Mio Mihaere led the team in the kitchen in charge of producing three hot meals a day for all 108 crew on board.

"It can be a busy job! I think a big difference to working in a restaurant ashore is that I sometimes lose workers to launch boats, help with helicopter operations or complete seamanship tasks during meal times," LCH Mihaere said.

"Also, because I live in close confines with my customers, I have to put up a good feed or I will hear some banter when I see people around the ship."

Beyond the opportunity to experience everything RIMPAC had to offer in terms of the training opportunities, ASTD Kurei said the chance to network with sailors from so many nations was a particular highlight, as well as trading badges, souvenirs and military coins.

Following RIMPAC, AOTEAROA headed to Japan as part of a multi-national force to help detect and deter actions that directly contravene United Nations Security Council sanctions on North Korea.

*Clockwise: ASTD Kurei (right) receiving her trophy for finishing second at the bench press competition during the harbour phase of Exercise RIMPAC.*

*LSCS Waenga (far left) playing rugby for the HMNZS AOTEAROA rugby team against a local Hawaiian club side.*

*LCH Mio Mihaere busy preparing food in the Ship's galley.*

*POCWS Black (front row, second from the left) performs with the ship's Multi-Cultural Group.*



# Navy medic's decade-long journey to her dream job

## Able Medical Assistant Kjersti Faraimo is finally fulfilling her dream of working as a medical professional at sea.

From Porirua, she's one of 32 medics who graduated from Defence Health School at Burnham Military Camp in August.

From her class of fifteen graduates she also achieved two additional awards: Top Student and He Whakatu Nui – an award to recognise the student who shows outstanding competence, reliability, compassion and care.

Both awards were quite fitting for AMA Faraimo. Both her parents worked on missionary ships, and were in large part the inspiration for her to follow her career path.

AMA Faraimo's journey to the Navy wasn't your average pathway though, having completed her Bachelor of Science at Otago University a decade earlier.

"The time in between I worked odd jobs as a cleaner, in a slaughter house and for New Zealand Police," she said.

"I always had a desire to join the military. I have a cousin in the Army and they convinced me it was finally time.

"I had a bit of an idea of what I was getting into through my previous studies, but nothing really prepares you for the Defence Health School training."

She said she had to brush up on her medical knowledge while also learning how to apply it in a completely different military environment.

These skills were put to the test during Exercise Last Cut - the final hurdle for medics-in-training where they were assessed on all their experience from primary health care to trauma response.

"That was the hardest thing I went through. You have to be flexible and think on your feet," she said.

"The instructors try to make the scenarios realistic, so you get curveballs like having to interact with upset members the public in the middle of a medical response.

"It's very fatiguing but at the end of the day it's not about me, it's about my patient."

The graduation was also a chance for her to reflect on how far she's come.

"If you told me everything I could do now, I wouldn't believe it.

"We are on the pursuit of excellence and it's important to learn from your mistakes and grow."

Training together with her classmates for the past two and half years meant they formed strong bonds.

"I'm from Porirua - that's where my heart is - but we are in Burnham for a long time with the training, and it can be challenging.

"I've made lifelong friends. You find people that are in your corner and the instructors here all just want you to succeed," she said.

AMA Faraimo will now post to Devonport Naval Base, one step closer to her dream.

"On a deployment, I could be looking after 250 people. I'm trying to not have any expectations but I can't wait to get my hands on the tools."



*Above: Able Medical Assistant Faraimo will be based at Devonport Naval Base.*

*AMA Faraimo receiving the Top Student award from Acting Chief of Navy Commodore Andrew Brown.*

*AMA Faraimo during field training on their Defence Medic course.*

# OUR PEOPLE

1. World War 2 veteran LT Keith Williamson, 104, meets CO HMNZS CANTERBURY, CDR Bronwyn Heslop, during the ship's visit to Lyttelton.
2. Navy photographer PO Chris Weissenborn on the job in Tonga.
3. WOSCS Ngahiwi Walker, Māori Cultural Advisor Navy, greets CAPT Lisa Hunn at Te Taua Moana Marae
4. MID Matteus Lander undertakes the firefighting evolution during JOCT 24/02's first exposure to Tamaki Leadership Centre, Whangaparāoa Peninsula.
5. LMED Courtney Davies receives the NZ Operational Service Medal and NZ General Service Medal (Sinai) from Acting Chief of Navy CDRE Andrew Brown.
6. MID Alice Calnan, JOCT 24/02, undertakes a Workplace First Aid course with her classmates.
7. 2LT Jasmine Hill on board HMNZS CANTERBURY with Commanding Officer CDR Bronwyn Heslop.
8. CPOCH Andrew Stevens receives his RNZN Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from Acting Chief of Navy CDRE Andrew Brown.
9. HMNZS AOTEAROA's Ship's Company celebrate the ship's fourth birthday. AOTEAROA commissioned on 29 July 2020.
10. Royalist and Bellona Divisions, JOCT 24/02, at Officer Training School, Narrow Neck.
11. Defence Minister Judith Collins is formally welcomed to Devonport Naval Base.
12. SLT Campbell Ecklein in the role of Space Operations Centre Liaison Officer during Exercise Pitch Black.







# NAVAL RESERVISTS DELIVER THE BIG PICTURE AT RIMPAC 24

**Shipping is always moving, especially when it involves the Port of Honolulu, a hub vital to the economy of Hawaii. So how does the world's largest maritime exercise, RIMPAC, fit in?**

Any maritime nation values its Navy, but it also values its maritime trade and freedom of navigation. At RIMPAC, it's the role of Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) personnel to advise the masters of merchant ships on safe passage through contested waters and guidance that enables the ongoing conduct of commercial shipping and port operations in an area where military activity is present. Practising these skills during exercises ensures the Navy is connected with the maritime industry and able to respond when the need arises.

In New Zealand, this kind of guidance falls to the Naval Reservists trained in Maritime Trade Operations (MTO).

Two MTO experts, Captain Phil O'Connell and Sub Lieutenant Tiffany Duke, travelled to Pearl Harbor in July to support exercise Rim of the Pacific 2024 (RIMPAC 24). Based out of the Expeditionary Shipping Coordination Centre (ESCC) at the US Coast Guard Station, Sand Island Honolulu, they joined NCAGS teams from the United States, Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, France, Germany and Japan.

To busy merchant ship masters, working to tight schedules, advice from a person in uniform might sound like extra logistics on an already busy day – especially when it's an exercise. But not only do they want to engage, they absolutely value the opportunity to engage with Naval personnel, who are able to provide advice and guidance for times of tension and heightened security threats, says CAPT O'Connell.

“Before the shooting starts, merchant ship Masters need to know what the likely threats are to their ships, crews, cargo, routes and schedules. They want to be prepared before a crisis emerges, understand how we will work together, what they need to do in a crisis and how they will keep running their operations. We're here to give them that advice.”

The Port of Honolulu handles 92 percent of all civilian cargo entering the state, making the port's resilience paramount to both the economy of the State of Hawaii and military operations in the Pacific.

“If they were to lose the port of Honolulu, through some sort of event, how could they operate? Hawaii is a lot like New Zealand, it's very dependent on shipping.”

*Above: HMNZS AOTEAROA departs Pearl Harbor Hawaii to sail out for the Sea Phase of RIMPAC 2024.*

*Photo by: CPL Maddy Butcher*



RIMPAC is scenario-based, but there are other parts of the world where actual attacks on merchant vessels are happening. "Shipping is predicated around insurance rates. Shipping companies might decide, we don't want to pass through that area. In worse-case scenarios, there's denial of sea lanes. Resources and food and resupply for military operations can't make it through.

"So from an MTO perspective, we have two key tasks. One is to understand the maritime 'pattern of life' and provide advice on that, towards merchant shipping's Freedom of Navigation. And second, we provide advice to masters that separates commercial from military operations to ensure the transport of vital cargo – usually done through commercial shipping – that's needed to sustain both the local populations and military operations. How do we make sure that's protected while supporting the Operational Commander's Freedom of Manoeuvre to achieve military objectives?"

Effective Civilian and Military Cooperation (CIMIC) is the key to ensuring the economic wellbeing of maritime nations and operational success in times of conflict. During RIMPAC the primary NCAGS CIMIC relationship was established with the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDoT), Harbors Division.

"Harbors Division was excellent to work with, they provided office space for a deployed Shipping Coordination Team pier side in downtown Honolulu. Our people learnt a great deal about the local environment and liaised with all of the key maritime industry participants that we would need to work with in a crisis."

SLT Duke, plus a US Navy and Dutch Navy counterpart also travelled on board container ship MAJORIE C from Honolulu to the island of Maui.

The ship was playing the role of a ship transporting vital cargo while receiving advice and guidance from on-board Navy specialists on the 'situation'.

"It was a bit more kinetic than your standard 'what's happening' brief. We even had two coast guard escorts taking us out," says SLT Duke.

It isn't just about shipping. Maintaining an uninterrupted flow of maritime trade needs liaison and cooperation from key maritime participants including port operations, shipping operations, public officials and international bodies.

NCAGS shipping coordination teams conducted independent port assessments in Honolulu, Pearl Harbor, Kaelaeloa and outlying island ports also supported by HDoT.

"These ports are the landlords, essentially," says CAPT O'Connell.

"They have a really strong interest in keeping things operating, sustainable, and protecting the local environment, whether it's from a hurricane or a future conflict.

"Overall, RIMPAC is a big enabler that brings together international personnel who are the interface between partner navies and the maritime industry actors critical to maintaining global maritime trade, sea lanes of communication, and port and cargo operations. We've built some great relationships and we're really keen to keep it going."

SLT Duke says working with like-minded maritime trade practitioners has been invaluable and has successfully demonstrated the interoperability of the NCAGS capability.



**Highlights for me have been leading the NCAGS team at the deployed Shipping Coordination Centre, sea riding in the Hawaiian archipelago and undertaking an on-the-ground port assessment in an unfamiliar location."**

*Above: SLT Tiffany Duke gives the Master of container ship MAJORIE C a RIMPAC exercise brief, alongside LT Liam Hood, US Navy.*

*SLT Duke meets with the Hawaiian Department of Transport in Maui during the port assessment activity.*

# ENGINEER TAKES COMMAND

Commander  
Chris Bone



## HMNZS TE MANA's newest Commanding Officer is no stranger to the workings of the Royal New Zealand Navy's frigates, having spent the majority of his seagoing career on these platforms.

Commander Chris Bone assumed command of TE MANA on 14 June, taking the ship from Commander JJ McQueen.

For almost three years between 2020 and 2023, Commander Chris Bone was the Marine Engineering Officer (MEO) for the ship, leading the ME department through regeneration following the ship's Frigate Systems Upgrade in Canada.

This followed a posting as the Assistant MEO regenerating HMNZS TE KAHA following its Platform System Upgrade in 2013–2015, and three and a half years as a Marine Technician rating in the early 2000s.

Frigate time and culture definitely make an impression, he says.

“The culture, team environment and camaraderie that comes with a frigate – whether it be within your messdeck, department, mess or across the whole ship – cannot be understated. Every ship in our Navy develops this, but on a frigate you live and work together in such close confines, deploy for longer periods, and train for operations where the possibility of damage is that much more real – that everything to do with that team environment is amplified, and the satisfaction and sense of achievement from your time on the ship, as well as the friendships you make, stays with you for life.”

TE MANA is normally crewed by up to 178 sailors that are trained in operating in both peacetime and opposed environments.



Right now, the recently-promoted commander is leading the ship through an extended refit period at Devonport Naval Base to prepare it for not only this role but also conduct essential upgrades to meet the intended service life to the mid-2030s.

His experiences in Canada and New Zealand has set him up well for this period, with a deep understanding of the challenges the ship will face with maintenance and regeneration.

Growing up in Gore, he joined the Navy straight from school, where he attended the University of Auckland, obtaining a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Honours), before undertaking the Systems Engineering Management Course (Marine Engineering) at HMS SULTAN in the United Kingdom.

Throughout his career, CDR Bone has served on HMNZ Ships TE KAHA, TE MANA, ENDEAVOUR, and AOTEAROA, as well as HMS ILLUSTRIOUS in the Royal Navy.

Highlights of his career have included the centenary celebrations of Anzac Day in TE KAHA during the multi-national sailpast of Anzac Cove, sailing up the Thames river in London on ILLUSTRIOUS, and his time in Canada in TE MANA which enabled him to get some great North American skiing in during his downtime from ship.

The soon-to-be 40 year old is also no stranger to contributing to the RNZN ashore, with appointments including Deputy Fleet Marine Engineer Officer, Head of the Marine Engineering School, and Marine Engineering Technical Lead and Integrated Logistics Support Manager as embedded military staff within Babcock NZ Ltd.

“This posting for me is an opportunity to put the knowledge I've gained through being part of two regeneration cycles across both frigates to the best use for the organisation. I am looking forward to ensuring that the Ship's Company of TE MANA are able to enjoy their work and workplace, and to take their ship from the depths of maintenance in drydock through a regeneration cycle and into a force generation period, ready to deliver on whatever tasking the government and NZDF leadership put in front of them – and in achieving this I hope that all of the team on the ship can feel the sense of accomplishment that will come with it.”



# MATATAUA TEAM ON RECON DUTIES FOR ROYAL NAVY

**An Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) team from HMNZS MATATAUA provided the Royal Navy with an ‘on call’ surveillance capability during fisheries patrols in the south-west Pacific.**

Petty Officer Physical Training Instructor Marc Thomas and Able Seamanship Combat Specialist Joel Jackson joined the crew of Royal Navy patrol ship HMS TAMAR in early August for Operation Island Chief.

Their job, using drones launched from the flight deck, was to provide an Information Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capability of fishing vessels in the area.

There was no boarding of vessels, says POPTI Thomas.

“We’d put the drone up and fly it over a Fishing Vessel of Interest (FVOI),” he says. “Later, we would download the data and the ship sends off a report. It’s purely surveillance, establishing a picture of what boats are out here.”

Within 20 minutes of a vessel being located, the UAS would be in the air.

The ship was augmented during the week by surveillance reports from a United States Coast Guard C130 Hercules and an RNZAF P-8 Poseidon aircraft, helping build a bigger picture.

“A deployable UAS team is very cost-effective and we can deploy at short notice with minimal crew,” he says. “This was our first international UAS deployment following our course.”

The capability was recognized during a previous six-week deployment in TAMAR with MATATAUA’s Deployable Boarding Team in April (*Navy Today* May 2024) in Fijian waters. One of the team trialed a drone during boarding operations.

“The guy did such a good job back then, we got a request for UAS support for TAMAR. They were pretty keen to work with us. There’s lot of people in MATATAUA qualified now. We can put our people on a ship and achieve the mission, and it’s very positive interoperability.”

He says TAMAR’s crew was very hospitable and made them feel like they were part of the crew, rather than sea riders.

“This operation has continued to strengthen our relationship with the Royal Navy, spreading our Navy’s reputation as competent, hardworking and synergistic.”

The mission adds to a growing list of RNZN interactions with TAMAR, which is forward-deployed to the Indo-Pacific region for five years. Crews are rotated in while the ship remains in the region.





As well as the Fiji and UAS missions, MATATAUA has supplied TAMAR with a Deployable Survey Team to assist Royal Navy hydrographers with charting waters near Nauru.

The ship has also embarked Royal New Zealand Navy warfare officers for Officer of the Watch training, including Midshipman Kalani Doole while the UAS pair were on board.



Commander Trevor Leslie, Commanding Officer MATATAUA, says the success of Island Chief “not only reinforces the success of the Deployable Boarding Team concept but also the value of MATATAUA’s ‘constellation of capabilities’ being scalable, exportable and value for money in this contemporary operating environment.



**The unit’s culture of innovation has seen a number of Junior Officers and sailors cross-trained in boarding and UAS operations which enhances their utility and usefulness. It’s not only mission success, but fiscal savings and a retention positive environment.”**



# A TONGAN INFLUENCE

**Able Musician William Filimoehala considers himself a huge advocate for the NZDF Pasifika community and will never settle for less. He tells his story.**

## **Able Musician William Filimoehala**

“I joined the Navy in 2020. The opportunity came about while I was in preparation with University, and I took it.

“I am a full-time Musician in the Royal New Zealand Navy Band. Our band provides a strong, visible platform in support of RNZN outputs. Its unique ability to connect with communities and organisations, many of which don't have experience or know about the maritime environment or have any direct dealings with the Defence Force makes it a core element of the NZDF.

“My cousin, Leading Musician Seluimatai Fotu, is also in the band with me.

“What we do continues to develop and adapt within an ever-changing world, all of which is reflected through the music and arenas that the Band performs.

“As musicians we can be deployed. In late 2023 a few NZDF members including myself were very fortunate to deploy alongside the United States Navy and various other military forces onboard USS PEARL HARBOR. We were on an exercise called Pacific Partnership (PP23) in which the Ship and company sailed throughout South Asia and the Pacific, providing aid, disaster relief, diving operations, morale and much more.

“I'm a New Zealand-born Tongan, raised in central Auckland. I'm proud of the rich history our people come from. We're very outgoing, friendly and cheerful people. As a Pacific Islander in the NZDF, I believe there's something

about us that people just love. We're kind, respectful, easy to get along with, morale boosters some would say, and we get right to it if told to do something.

“My parents have definitely been the biggest influence on where I am today. I think the main cultural value I bring to work is respecting my elders. Being the youngest in my trade, it's important to do so!

“For me, my proudest moments in the Navy were being selected as the colour guard in charge for our Basic Common Training church service and then being the Guard right-hand guide during our graduation parade.

“I'd love to see gatherings for all Pasifika personnel in the NZDF, with activities, food, and discussions. You could have formal and informal aspects to it. Maybe once a year, to create that bond between everyone, have those connections and become one big family.

“But I think there's been a lot of success within the NZDF in getting Pasifika personnel together to work on projects and future planning. I've been able to share thoughts in a lot of these discussions during my time in the Navy. I've also been a part of language week videos, RNZN Pasifika choir performances and had the opportunity to choreograph dance items to a few trainee intakes. I consider myself a huge advocate for our Pasifika community and I will never settle for less.”



**But I think there's been a lot of success within the NZDF in getting Pasifika personnel together to work on projects and future planning. I've been able to share thoughts in a lot of these discussions during my time in the Navy.”**

*Left: AMIUS William Filimoehala (right) with his cousin LMUS Seluimatai Fotu.*

*Photo: LAC Jalesa Nomani*

# ADDING VALUE IN CANADA

## A three-year deployment to Ontario, Canada for Navy couple Chelsea Dixon and Rhys Williamson had its challenges, but it was worth every moment.

It's a long way to go with a small child, says Petty Officer Electronic Warfare Specialist Chelsea Dixon.

She and her partner, Chief Petty Officer Combat System Specialist Rhys Williamson posted to the Canadian Joint Warfare Centre at the Canadian Armed Forces Shirley's Bay Campus in Ottawa, arriving there in November 2021 with their 10-month-old daughter Guinevere.

Her role was producing Elisra libraries for both the Canadian and New Zealand navies. Elisra is a brand of Electronic Warfare systems, newly installed in HMNZ Ships TE KAHA and TE MANA as well as Canadian ships. TE KAHA had returned home from Canada in December 2020 after its Frigate Systems Upgrade, while TE MANA would return in July 2022.

The pair would say it was an amazing experience. Canada is a prime location to travel from for recreation, with the USA, Caribbean, greater Canada and even the United Kingdom all relatively easy to access.

But being so far from family support had to be factored in. The family, who travelled over in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, all caught Covid in early 2022. Guinny ended up in hospital for several days with breathing issues.

"That was a really isolating time, with only one of us allowed to be with her," says POEWS Dixon. "We felt a long way from home in those moments."



Staying in close touch with their networks in New Zealand made the difference.

Now, having just returned home after three years, the couple can feel they've contributed effectively to both New Zealand's and Canada's naval combat force. As well as constructing the libraries, POEWS Dixon undertook briefing and training of Canadian personnel on the new systems, on both the east and west coasts.

"We would do pre-deployment briefs for personnel deploying in Canadian seagoing units. Our briefings ensured units understood what their purpose was while at sea, and ensuring they used the new kit effectively."

Winters in Canada were very harsh, she says, but there are ways to make the most of it. "Daily temps over winter can be expected to be around -30°C which can take some getting used to. But Ottawa is home to the world's largest outdoor ice skateway, the Rideau Canal, which is seven kilometres long!

"But summers in Ontario are great. You can go exploring the lakes and rivers, although they can never beat being by the ocean! When our family came to visit, it was great showing them our home and everything we love about Ontario."

During holidays the family travelled across the USA and Canada, plus visits to the UK and the Caribbean.

"We had 18 days driving in the States. We camped in the Rockies and did loads of hikes, seeing grizzly bears in the wild. We also did a two-week camping holiday in Scotland. Our Caribbean highlight was doing absolutely nothing on a beach in St Lucia."

She says life is always a little different when you're deployed. "But we have loved all the opportunities this posting has given us, including seeing how another nation works. Now we're home we can finally eat a pie and Weetbix, and have babysitters (aka grandparents) again!



“My advice to others considering this sort of posting would be to take the risk. Posting like these give you the opportunity to move overseas and experience different cultures with very little risk. It’s a great way to see more of a country and really immerse yourself into a community rather than just having a few days alongside in a port. Even if you have young kids, they will love all the new experiences as well.”

*Photo previous page:*

*POEWS Dixon pins a poppy on a Canadian officer during Anzac Day.*

*Photo: Richard Lawrence Photography*



# Razor RHIB carves wake in Lyttelton in proof-of- concept trial

■ By SLT Phil Barclay

A proof-of-concept trial at HMNZS PEGAGUS investigating the return of small boat capability to the Naval Reserve is underway with a typical Canterbury twist.

Crewed by PEGASUS personnel, RHIB06, with the radio callsign 'Razor' as a nod to new All Blacks coach Scott 'Razor' Robertson, hit the water in Lyttelton and completed a Safety and Readiness Check (SARC) in early July.

PEGASUS Commanding Officer Lieutenant Commander Rob Hall said the South Island trial location would highlight the ability to support and operate a small craft far from Devonport, while achieving outputs at sea and in coastal and inland waterways.

With the support of the Seamanship Combat Specialist School and the Coastguard, a Cat B Coxswain course will be included in the pilot, open to all Reserve Divisions and 2/1 and 2/4 Battalions, to build capability and capacity.



"We've identified several qualified personnel for key roles to safely operate, transport and maintain the RHIB, and train others. The goal is to demonstrate the operation, support and maintenance of a small craft remote from Devonport, with particular focus on activities that support Civil Defence and disaster relief outputs in the Canterbury region.

"The pilot is still in its very early stages, but we already have the support of several local agencies and the Lyttelton Harbourmaster to support our training and taskings," LTCDR Hall says.

Regarding the 'Razor' callsign, LTCDR Hall says it was the unit's way of showing support to a Canterbury icon.

"As a keen surfer, Scott Robertson has a well-known affinity with the ocean and the lessons it can teach, making 'Razor' a good choice."

The last vessel attached to HMNZS PEGASUS, the 91-ton twin diesel Moa class Inshore Patrol Craft (IPC) HMNZS KIWI, was based in Lyttelton between 1984 and 2006. KIWI was involved in a variety of tasks, including frequent Search and Rescue operations and assisting Fisheries, Customs and the Police, as well as ceremonial duties and training for both Reserve and Regular Force crews. It was decommissioned in 2007.

The RHIB is based at Burnham Military Camp and is supported by 3 Field Squadron RNZE and other Reserve Divisions. A proof-of-concept report and business case is due by December. The trial will conclude in June 2025.

## Do I have Qualifying Operational Service?



**Qualifying Operational Service (QOS) is a term used to describe service that has been carried out in areas that have been assessed as having environmental or operational risks to NZDF personnel that are significantly greater than those of peacetime activities. It recognises service that goes above and beyond the normal duties of military personnel and exposes them to significant risk of harm.**

Typically QOS would include deployments to war zones, peacekeeping missions, and international disaster relief operations, but not all, as there still needs to be the significant risk of harm.

After a decision to deploy NZDF personnel has been made, the Chief of Defence Force (CDF) reports to the Minister for Veterans about the threat level of that deployment. The CDF assesses the operational and environmental threats and if the threshold for a significant risk of harm is met or exceeded, then the CDF will recommend that the Minister makes a qualifying service declaration on that deployment.

If the Minister for Veterans agrees then he or she will declare the deployment as Qualifying Operational Service.

Those who deployed on an operation that has a Qualifying Operational Service declaration, will get QOS.

While serving in the NZDF, all primary health and wellbeing support is provided by the NZDF. However after leaving the NZDF, ex-service personnel with QOS are automatically eligible for some support from Veterans' Affairs, and have the ability to apply for additional support if they have or develop a health condition that can be attributed to their service on that deployment.

Not all of New Zealand's overseas military deployments meet the required threat level of QOS. If a serving person is deployed overseas, it does not automatically mean that they get QOS.

The Veterans' Support Act 2014 allows for deployments to have their threat status reviewed if new information about threats on a deployment becomes available.

All Qualifying Operational Service declarations are published on the Veterans' Affairs website, but we have made it easy for you to check your eligibility for support and whether you have Qualifying Operational Service because Veterans' Affairs has created an online Eligibility Tool for you to work through.

If you have QOS and a medical practitioner's confirms specific conditions which may be related to your qualifying deployment then you can make a claim to Veterans' Affairs for support.

You can check your eligibility on the Veterans' Affairs website:

[www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/eligibility/check-your-eligibility/](http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/eligibility/check-your-eligibility/)



# COMMITTED TO THE FIGHT

## ACSS Deanne Read

### BOXING

Thailand was an incredible experience. After my result at the first Olympic Qualifier last year, I came out hungry in 2024 with an attitude to do as much as I possibly could to increase my chances of qualifying in May, the final Olympic qualifier. With support from the Navy, I sought out nutritionist and psychologist advice and guidance as well as financial assistance which contributed immensely to my build up.

I worked closely with my strength and conditioning coach, nutritionist, the Navy and of course my boxing coach who adjusted my training to suit the international amateur boxing scene and we got to work. By the time I left for Thailand I was strong, fit and confident. We participated in a two-week international training camp before the competition started. Here, I was able to gain invaluable international experience sparring with former Olympians, qualified Olympians and world amateur boxers alike. It was incredible. We all had one thing in common, we wanted to qualify.

I drew Mexico, Germany and the USA. This meant I would have to win three fights to qualify. I had been in camp with both the USA and German boxers, so I was feeling quietly confident. I had the belief and the fitness, it was just a matter of time. Fast forward three days into competition. I didn't win my first fight against Mexico, which meant I did not progress any further nor did I qualify for Paris.

When you give your all, you tick all the boxes, everything is feeling right, you can feel it in your skin and your whole being that this is it and you will be walking away with your ticket. It really is a crushing feeling when it doesn't work out. Despite that, I still felt like I belonged there. I was happy with my performance, based on the fact that it was my first fight where I was completely present. I soaked in every second, from the walkout, the atmosphere, to that final bell at the end of the fight. It's one of my best performances to date in all aspects. Mentally, emotionally and physically, I knew my ability was only inches from the rest of the world and I know now what needs to be done to get to where I need to be.

With time, I believe I will become one of the most recognised female fighters in the world. I allowed myself a few days to sit with the feelings and emotional turmoil that comes after a defeat. This time away allowed me to silently scheme and plan what my next moves would be. My coach then sent me the most wholesome message which put everything into perspective for me.

Ultimately, there's always going to be a winner and there will always be a loser. That's sport. Life goes on. We return to our lives, our families, our normal and it's up to us what we make of the experience. We can choose to take the loss and let that dictate what we do and say OR we take a step back, acknowledge what happened, get up, shake ourselves off and go again. I will not let this be the end of a dream. Only I get to decide when it's over and today is not that day. I refuse to give up. I know I am better than that, and with time I will prove it. I choose to work on myself every day. To work on my craft, my mind, my individual progress so that this time next year or four years from now, I can look back and see how far I have come. If I am constantly improving, success will inevitably follow.

Thank you to all the amazing people who have supported me on this journey.

It's not the end!





## SLT Anneke (Annie) Arlidge

### CROSS-COUNTRY

Earlier this year, I was selected to compete for New Zealand at the World Cross Country Champs in Serbia. This is the highest level of competition for cross country and an event I spent many months of hard training (110km+/week) working towards.

Unfortunately, things did not go my way on the day and I performed poorly, which was a huge disappointment. I spent time reflecting and trying to work out what went wrong, but couldn't really put it down to anything in particular. My coach and I decided maybe we needed to make some adjustments to training after the NZ half marathon champs. At this point, I only had about a week until the half marathon and had low expectations of how it would go considering my performance in Serbia. However, I decided to put myself out there and compete anyway. I ran an unofficial 10km PB in the half and continued to finish 1st in a personal best performance of 73 minutes and 9 seconds.



This performance came as a massive shock and a timely reminder that we are capable of more than we think if we give ourselves the opportunity. This performance also guaranteed me the only selected spot available to compete for NZ at the Gold Coast half marathon. Unfortunately, a cold and some adverse conditions hampered any chances of another personal best, but I managed to come away with 4th in Oceania in a time of 75 minutes and 12 seconds

I'm looking forward to a few more key races to close out the year, including defending my title at NZ cross country champs at the end of August. I'm extremely grateful for the continued support from the RNZN which has enabled me to compete at this level.

# Navy's vessels are just as valuable ashore

A 'mini' blood drive at the Devonport Naval Base recently resulted in over 26 litres of much-needed blood being donated by 56 personnel.

"There would have been more," said Base 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, Lieutenant Paul Bowler, "but we simply didn't have the resources or space to process the numbers who turned up."

LT Bowler hopes that a much bigger blood drive planned for October in the Fleet Gymnasium would result in a far greater turn out of personnel willing to do their bit.

"With additional admin staff to process and a bigger space to manage the blood donations, there'll be less waiting and we'll get more people through the door in a slicker operation."



Lewis Catterall from the New Zealand Blood Service (NZBS), who conducted the procedures on the Base, said donations of blood are a priceless gift for those New Zealanders going through cancer treatment, undergoing surgery or have been involved in a traumatic accident. It's also vital for those with auto-immune or bleeding disorders.

"The donation of 26 litres by Royal New Zealand Navy personnel will benefit the lives of over 160 Kiwis," said Mr Catterall. "NZBS are delighted with their contribution to the cause."

That has inspired LT Bowler who wants to assist even more New Zealanders following the Navy's Big blood drive in October.

"Based on the positive reaction of everyone involved this time, I'm definitely expecting to see a new blood type in a couple of months – E for Enthusiastic!"

*Able Medic Celynia Thompson was happy to contribute to the blood drive at the Navy Base.*

*Photo by PO Chris Weissenborn*

## PROMOTIONS:

### *Congratulations on your promotion*

Updated to 15 August 2024

AEWS Jack ADAIR  
A/LSCS Trent ANDREWS  
AMT Connor BALL  
POMT(L) Tyrone BOWLER  
LSCS Joanna BROWN  
SLT Holly CASEY  
LMT(P) David CLARKE  
ALSS Paige COX  
MID Stephan DIEHL  
A/LT Alex DOOLEY  
LLSS Shannon EDWARDS  
ENS Henare EILERS  
ENS Jaamin FULLER

LT Anthony HAMMOND  
LWTR Leighton HAMPTON  
ENS Shannon HARRIS  
ENS Maddison HARTLEY  
ENS Zac JENKINS  
LT German KALEIDIN  
POSTD Ramari KATENE-REI  
POWT Blake KAVEA  
ENS Sean KEVEN  
LMT(L) Hyun Woo KWON  
LT Jacob LANGRIDGE  
LMT(L) Hunta MARSH  
ENS Jorja MARSHALL  
LMT(P) Sean MCGINNISS  
LSTD Cadie MCQUEEN  
ENS Sebastian MORGANS  
ENS Manukura NGAWAKA  
LTCDR Timothy O'BRIEN

LT Georgia OGILVIE  
LTCDR Matthew PATTEN  
LCSS Wesley PERKINSON  
SLT Scotty PINDER  
LT Jack PITKETHLEY  
SLT Ben REDMOND  
LT Tayla RICHARDS  
ENS Shay TAHANA  
AEWS Molimoli TAMALE  
ENS Leighton TANNER  
CPOSTD Chloe TOPHAM  
LT David TREBILCO  
LT Bronwyn WALSH  
ASTD Dayzshar WHATUIRA-KAIMOANA  
SLT Aiden WILD  
SLT Rachael WILLISON  
ADR Calvin WILSON

# 15 ROUNDS

## LIEUTENANT COMMANDER COLIN CARKEEK



- 01 Job Title and description:**  
Executive Officer Leadership Development Group (XO LDG). I lead the Executive Support Squadron encompassing admin, discipline, physical training, and resource management. XOs are affectionately known as parks and gardens and this actually fits what we do in ensuring that all of the background noise is taken care of enabling the CO LDG and our five Squadrons to focus on quality delivery.
- 02 Date Joined RNZN:**  
I signed the line in HMNZS TAMAKI 13 February 1980 aged 17 and a bit. I served 23 years in trade as a chef, promoted out of trade to WO and commissioned from the ranks in November 2009 as a Branch Admin officer.
- 03 First ship posted to:**  
F55, the mighty WAIKATO.
- 04 Best deployment and why:**  
This is difficult to pick one from another; I have to mention the 1982 deployment in WAIKATO heading stateside, we completed RIMPAC 82 in Hawaii and were redeployed to the Gulf via South East and central Asia, Africa, and the Middle East for the ARMILLA Patrols to support RN assets during the mop up of the Falklands War. I saw the best and the worst of places and people, and as a spotty faced 19-year-old I thought I'd discovered the world.  
  
There are three very sobering moments from my career, watching the Russian cruise liner Mikhail Lermontov roll over and sink in Port Gore, Marlborough Sounds; life at sea is unpredictable. Being isolated at sea on exercise off Malaysia on 9/11, a moment to consider why am I here. And whilst deployed to MT Buin, Bougainville as part of the Peace Monitoring Group (unarmed), having live rounds whizzing over your head as the 'boys from the blocks' returned home after a raid, a moment to think about what is important in life.
- 05 Hometown:**  
Born in Tokoroa, brought up in the mighty Tron (Hamilton).
- 06 High School:**  
Saint John's Catholic College for Boys.
- 07 Favourite book:**  
Definitely non fiction and with a military flavour – *Sun Tzu; The Art of War* – at a moment in my life this was a real eye opener and has changed the way I view global posturing.
- 08 Favourite movie:**  
*Gladiator* – and sadly my Netflix account is full of Vikings and war mongering.
- 09 Favourite album:**  
*Wish You Were Here* – Pink Floyd.
- 10 Favourite song:**  
*Bohemian Rhapsody* – Queen (everyone knows the words and joins in).
- 11 Favourite holiday destination:**  
Anywhere with my family – Bland Bay in Northland is where we have had many treasured memories made.
- 12 Outside of work, what's the one thing you enjoy doing?**  
Pretty much anything that involves water or thrills, but the best day involves a fishing rod.
- 13 What's something about you that not many people know?**  
At age seven the Ōhau River, Ōtaki just about took my soul.
- 14 A person that taught you a valuable life/Navy lesson... and the lesson was?**  
Prior to joining the Navy a Magistrate asked me what I was going to do with my life. I told him that I had applied to join the Navy and the reasons why, he advised that I should stop letting people around me down and that pursuing a career in the Armed Forces is one that I should pursue. The lesson – you are not a bad person, stop pretending to be – I wish that I could go back and thank him.
- 15 How would you describe the Navy in 10 words or less?**  
Service is a choice, so is making a difference.

