

NAVY

T O D A Y

FRIGATE
EXCHANGE
BLUEBOTTLE
ON PATROL
SAMOAN
TATAU



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To meet the people and learn from the way that the RAN operates is an experience that I will be able to take back to New Zealand and share.”

– Sub Lieutenant Benjamin Sterritt



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Front Cover:
Royal New Zealand Navy officer Sub-Lieutenant Benjamin Sterritt on the forecastle of HMAS STUART during a Pacific Deployment.

Photographer:
LSIS Rikki-Lea Phillips RAN



Yours Aye

Sailor of the Year



I'm nearly halfway through my term as Sailor of the Year, and it's certainly the case that every day is different from the next.

It has been a privilege to champion the Junior Rates, and the work has opened up a whole new sphere of discussion, influence and a wider perception on the Navy and NZDF as a whole. There is no doubt that the role does come with its own hurdles, but it is often a matter of waking up each morning and accepting what is inside of my control, reminding myself of my own values and why I still choose to serve.

As Sailor of the Year, my calendar is busier than ever before, and I must admit, it can be difficult to weigh up work, family and rugby life. I reflect on the week, the month, and look at how to find the balance between my work life and home life, and there are many

commitments that take away from pivotal things I need to do. However, as I reflect back to former Sailor of the Year 2022 – POYDS James Faleofa's last Yours Ayes, his message to the upcoming Sailor of the Year was “don't be afraid to say no, and as always look after yourself and your family”. I am reminded of this statement when I find myself feeling a bit off balance. Learning to say 'no' is sometimes the hardest part, but as I learn to say 'no' the first time, it becomes easier.

In the five and a half years I've been in the Navy I've only experienced one Chief of Navy – Rear Admiral David Proctor – and his departure after nearly six years is really felt. Communication was a priority for him, and it was something he talked about in his own Yours Ayes. He had great people skills, and you would often find him having conversations with young sailors and listening to their concerns. But he had been spurred by the Pulse Survey 2023 feedback regarding trust in senior leadership and the indication that communication could be a lot better. He said he wanted to commit time to ensuring we all understood the 'what', the 'how' and the 'why', of any issues that were raised or that the Navy was working on.

It's something I'm passionate about as well. I've always wanted to understand the bigger picture of our organisation and to learn why or how decisions are made. I am able to do this is by actively seeking understanding and questioning information instead of relying on unchallenged assumptions. As the lead on the Junior Leadership Advisory Board (JLAB), I sit in on big board meetings, and also invite a different JLAB member to attend. It is an opportunity to listen to and understand the organisation from a broader, strategic perspective. As a member of JLAB, their role is to sit in, observe and provide a junior rate perspective.

I know that we've always had the Divisional System, but I remember how during COVID we felt disconnected from our senior leaders. So the creation of the JLAB while I was an Able Rate was fundamental. It means that as junior rates we are able to have our unvarnished truths heard, and be able to connect with our senior leaders in order to have effective communication from the top to the bottom.

Furthering the communication theme, in August a date is set for the Junior Rates Whakaaro. I want this Whakaaro to focus on transforming challenges into opportunities. I advise everyone to come with an open mind, a passion to engage and challenge the assumptions you may hold. And it starts with asking yourself what is your purpose? What values or principles drew you to a career in the Navy? And how do you see your military service influencing your future career or life goals?

Our Navy is not just an occupation. It is a lifestyle surrounded by people who become your family. A family away from our biological families. I know that it can feel like just a place of work for some, and perhaps lately it's felt like that. The Navy has always fostered a strong sense of community and family, and it's crucial to revive that culture to work effectively together, especially in these times when we witness conflicts occurring globally. Much like a family, every family member has their own roles and responsibilities, and as we navigate uncertain times, it is imperative to strengthen this foundational relationship to ensure our overall success and harmony as a navy.

He heramana ahau

Leading Writer Joanna Mafi
Sailor of the Year





FIRST TIME VISITOR

In its first visit to Australia, Dive Hydrographic and Salvage ship HMNZS MANAWANUI passes through the heads of Sydney Harbour on 17 May, as sailors fall in to stand at Procedure Alpha, lining the flight deck. Upcoming activities for the ship this month include working with the Australian Defence Force to destroy unexploded remnants of war in Vanuatu.

Photo: Chris Sattler

Hydrographer branches out into boarding team duties

A Hawke's Bay sailor is thriving as a team member with the Royal New Zealand Navy's specialist boarding team.

Able Hydrographic Systems Operator Mya Wells was part of an eight-person Deployable Boarding Team (DBT) on board Royal Navy vessel HMS TAMAR recently.

The team supported the Royal Navy and the Fijian Fisheries Authority in the boarding of 23 fishing vessels in Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone, checking for illegal activity.

AHSO Wells, from Ōtāne in Hawke's Bay, attended Central Hawke's Bay College in Waipukurau. She says she studied hard at school but couldn't find an academic avenue she liked. She came across a Defence Force brochure one day.

"I thought, that looks different from everyday normal life."

She joined the Navy in 2022, opting for the Hydrographic trade. Navy hydrographers are assigned to the littoral warfare unit HMNZS MATATAUA, mapping seabeds and coastlines as well as searching for mines and underwater explosives using remotely operated devices.

"Hydrography is a really good trade and I would recommend it to anyone, but the cool thing is you don't have to do just that. We get to do Seamanship Combat Specialist training, we can do dive courses. So when the option came up to join the Deployable Boarding Team I thought, that sounds like a challenge – I'll try it out."

The DBT concept, operating out of HMNZS MATATAUA, was created last year as a specialist capability, providing a ready-to-go 'fly-in, fly out' team capable of supporting a Royal New Zealand Navy ship on operation or the vessels of partner nations.

Team members have to pass a Boarding Team course, which covers communications, pistol and shotgun training, close-quarter combat, first aid, room clearing and ladder drills.

She enjoyed the six-week deployment with TAMAR.

"You feel like you have a purpose. There's a reason we do this, and I'm here to do it.

"There's a bit of excitement every time we got into a seaboat. We had two teams of four, Alpha and Bravo, and we would usually have a quote of the day as part of the routine; things like 'train hard, fight easy' and 'success comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it'.

"There's great morale, and that's what makes a good team, when you get to know each other, and know what each team member needs."

Throughout the day, Alpha would swap with Bravo for boardings. "There were some days when we would crack out quite a few boardings, which were very compliant. There was no hassle with the fishing crews. They were really interested in where we were from and excited to see people – they'd been at sea for a while."

When they weren't on boarding duties, there were ongoing Alpha versus Bravo competitions to foster a positive team dynamic. They organised physical training sessions for the whole ship's benefit, and took part in ship duties. "It was a really great crew and they looked after us really well. We'd pitch in with seamanship, bridge watches and just help out where we could."



Now back to her regular hydrographic duties, she's just been accepted to go on an exchange with the Royal Australian Navy.

Her advice to others is don't worry if you can't find your passion while at school.

"That's okay. It doesn't mean you can't find your passion elsewhere, even if that means going through some trial and error. Always take every opportunity you are given, not only for a good experience, but because you are more than capable even when you don't think you are."

Photos: Royal Navy





 Benjamin STERRITT

NAVY

 TRELAR

NAVAL ENGINEERS TAKE ON THE AUSSIE ANZAC EXPERIENCE

Three Royal New Zealand Navy officers are among the lucky few honing their trade aboard three Australian Anzac-class warships.

Sub Lieutenants Taylor Bell-Booth, Ben Sterritt and Aron Mago completed their introductory engineering course in Australia in HMAS CERBERUS. Now, posted to frigates HMA Ships PERTH, STUART and WARRAMUNGA, they are completing their training as assistant marine engineering officers and have given the experience high praise.

"It is an incredible opportunity to work alongside New Zealand's closest ally and 'bigger brother'," SLT Sterritt said.

"To meet the people and learn from the way that the Royal Australian Navy operates is an experience that I will be able to take back to New Zealand and share."

SLT Bell-Booth echoed SLT Sterritt, sharing the eagerness to pass on their experience to other RNZN officers.

"Being involved with the RAN has given me a diversity of experience and a deeper understanding of how the RAN operates," SLT Bell-Booth said.

"I can take this back to the RNZN and provide a better perspective when our navies work together."





Each officer has found it easy to work alongside his Australian shipmates, remarking on the similar cultures, lifestyles and perspectives on service they all share. There was the occasional hiccup, however.

“We share very similar lifestyles, although the only difference has been the Aussies getting used to my Kiwi accent,” SLT Mago said.

The importance of the Anzac tradition is not lost on the officers, and neither is the significance of their time aboard an Anzac class frigate.

Each officer has already marked an Anzac Day alongside RAN members, and SLTs Mago and Sterritt looked forward to the rare opportunity of marking it at sea.

“I looked forward to marking Anzac Day on board. It has been a very cool experience serving in an Anzac-class frigate with the Australians,” SLT Mago said.

SLT Bell-Booth participated in a dawn service and parade with his shipmates before taking time to share experiences and stories with other members and veterans – something close to his heart.

“My grandfather fought in Italy in the Second World War as a member of the 5th Field Artillery Regiment. He had some incredible stories. He passed away a couple of years before I joined the RNZN. He was a fantastic role model,” SLT Bell-Booth said.

“I am grateful every day that we serve under vastly different circumstances to those that he endured.”

Australia and New Zealand share a deep bond of military cooperation and friendship that is expressed through the exchange programme.

While their experiences differ greatly, the Anzac spirit is alive and well with Australians and New Zealanders working together at sea, said SLT Sterritt.

“While not even close to comparable to our ancestors, I too have had a taste of the Anzac relationship in the armed services first-hand and it is something that will always stay with me. It is a privilege to be a part of and one that I will never forget.”

Words and photos: Royal Australian Navy



Left: MID Kalani Doole using an electronic range finder during time in company with HMNZS AOTEAROA.

Right: SLT Thomas Forbes taking a bearing from TAUPO's bridge wing.



TAUPO'S BASICS BRING OUT THE BEST

■ By Midshipman Finbar O'Flaherty

As the sun begins its slow descent towards the horizon, workers all over Aotearoa return to their homes to begin winding down for the night, but not on board HMNZS TAUPO.

Here amidst the array of screens, navigation instruments and controls the bridge is a hive of activity. The Navigating Officer instructs me to calculate the exact time and bearing of sunset to confirm the gyro is correct, using one of the compass repeater displays. At the same time my instructor reminds me to keep the radar plot updated and subtly prompts, "Have you reported that vessel to the Commanding Officer yet? ... and don't forget to put a fix on to confirm the ship's position".

These are a few of the basic tasks required by an Officer of the Watch (OOW) to keep the ship safe while at sea. These are a few of the tasks my

eight course mates and I have been learning to execute accurately and efficiently as we complete the OOW Basic (OOW(B)) Course.

The path to becoming an OOW(B) began in the classroom with a foundation of ship handling, navigation principles, International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea, bridge team management, and learning how to operate the various systems on board. These lessons were then put to the test in the Navigation Training Group bridge simulator for three weeks. This is where we had our first practical exposure to watchkeeping.

The true test of our knowledge and skills came when we stepped on board TAUPO. All the theory and simulation became a reality. As a watchkeeper, one is entrusted with the safety of the vessel and its crew. Being on a real bridge where precision and foresight are used to make rapid, very real judgments came as a big learning curve.

Midshipman Thomas Milmine calls it, "the moment months of theory and bridge simulator training came together. We left Auckland Harbour and passed Alpha Buoy.



I was then given a brief on where we were going and immediately took over as Assistant OOW. Taking control of the bridge was a moment of realisation for the responsibility that comes with being in charge of the Ship's navigational safety and crew. It was suddenly all very real, with the humming of the engines beneath my feet, and the rolling of the ship on the waves. Once I had settled in, it was back to implementing the bridge routine ingrained in us from the start of training. This helped to make the transition from simulator to ship much easier”.

Training in TAUPO has been an immersive experience, not only for becoming a Watchkeeper, but also for becoming accustomed to the intricacies of ship life that no simulator or textbook can teach.

Midshipman Kalani Doole explains. “Life on board TAUPO is fun. Whether it's jumping into the ocean as swimmer of the watch, doing PT on the quarterdeck, or witnessing the best sunsets from the bridge, there is never a dull moment. TAUPO was supportive of both our training and familiarisation with ship life. It was also great to have exposure to what the other trades do on board, and see how everyone works together to reach a common goal.”

Each watch brought its own challenges and correspondingly unique rewards. As Sub Lieutenant Thomas Forbes, RNZN explains, “No watch is quite like the other on a warship. You're always at a moment's notice to respond to an emergency. For us training to be an OOW, this means practise, practise,

practise. Our ability to process and react to an engineering alarm must be honed in order to best maintain the ships capability and operational outputs. We must be ready to respond if someone throws 'Oscar', our person overboard mannequin over the side. We must make a quick alteration to recover them, taking into account the wind, weather, and sun. It's a new lesson every day. We have had many experienced instructors mentoring us along the way through these different challenges, each with their own nuances and tips of the trade to share.”

A big part of the OOW(B) course is learning to conduct pilotage, which can be described as precision navigation in vicinity of navigational hazards. “Pilotage at sea has been an exhilarating and demanding experience for us OOW(B)s,” says Midshipman Logan Davy. “It requires an abundance of accurate planning, research, and administration before even beginning the pilotage. During pilotage we must maintain a high work rate and level of accuracy to ensure a safe transit. However, the hard work pays off when the pilotage goes as planned. Through the three pilotages we have each had so far, our skills have definitely developed.”

The journey of becoming a fully qualified OOW is still only just beginning for my oppos and me. But as the sun sets on another day at sea, I am proud to have progressed from the classroom to the bridge wing, and look forward to our careers as an OOW on board future ships.

Left: MID Ethan Andrews, MID Logan Davy, MID Thomas Milmine, MID Kalani Doole, MID Finbar O'Flaherty (absent: SLT Thomas Forbes) during sea phase 1.

Right: MID Ethan Andrews configuring bridge equipment.



RESERVISTS NAVIGATE LIFE AT SEA IN MANAWANUI

■ By OMTO June Paing

In an unprecedented venture from our usual shore-based roles, myself and three other Maritime Trade Operators (MTOs) from HMNZS NGAPONA, a unit of the Royal New Zealand Navy Reserve, recently embarked on an enriching sea ride aboard HMNZS MANAWANUI. It turned out to be a world quite different from our usual Navy routine.

The ship time allowed us to integrate with the ship's company and participate actively in daily naval operations. For me, living and working alongside the sailors who operate at sea regularly was incredibly insightful. It gave me a profound appreciation for the discipline and resilience required in their day-to-day lives.

We engaged in essential ship duties such as berthing and slipping from ports, providing us with hands-on experience that is rare for our usual shore roles. We also took turns standing watches on the ship's bridge, where the realities of maritime safety

and navigation became distinctly clear. Standing watch on the bridge taught me about the vigilance needed to ensure the safety and effective operation of the ship.

We also undertook tasks like deep cleaning the galley and sandpapering ship bollards for maintenance, which, though physically demanding, were crucial for understanding the continuous upkeep necessary to maintain a naval ship. The physical tasks were tough but extremely rewarding, and highlighted the ongoing efforts required to keep the ship in top condition.

This stint at sea provided us a practical perspective on the life of regular forces, enriching our understanding and appreciation of naval operations. The operation not only enhanced our maritime skills but also strengthened the bonds between the regular force and the reserve operators, underscoring the essential role of reservists in supporting the Navy's missions.

As we aim to enhance the interoperability between our regular and reserve forces, operations like these prove invaluable. They bolster our naval capabilities while enriching the reserves' appreciation of the maritime challenges faced by our Navy. Our time at sea and professionalism of the crew of MANAWANUI epitomise the unity and skill across the Royal New Zealand Navy, celebrating the spirit of collaboration and mutual respect.

From left: OMTO June Paing (left) and OMTO Alex Simons.

The reservists get hands-on with ship duties.

MIDs Georgia Bilby and Lucia West enjoy a snack in MANAWANUI's wardroom.



BLUEBOTTLE GETS TO WORK

■ By MID Jaamin Fuller and MID Sebastian Morgans

The 6.8-metre Bluebottle BELLONA is one of the Navy's first Uncrewed Surface Vessels and has been trialled from HMNZS MATATAUA since December 2023.

After a summer of developing Standard Operating Procedures, assurance staffing and undertaking the necessary maintenance, BELLONA began sea acceptance trials in mid- February and, following a successful week-long trial in the Hauraki Gulf, she was declared ready to begin further testing and operations.

The MATATAUA Bluebottle team is made up of six GLX officers with Lieutenant Sam Murray, as the Officer in Charge, along with Officers of the Watch (OOW) Sub Lieutenant Liam van Etten, Ensign Aiden Wild and Midshipmen Jaamin Fuller, Sebastian Morgans and Zac Jenkins (pictured).

The team keeps watch around the clock from their Operation Room in MATATAUA, controlling BELLONA as the vessel carries out her assigned tasking. Since arrival BELLONA has conducted testing and evaluation, as well as operations in support of other government agencies.

BELLONA uses 100 percent renewable energy, powered by batteries and recharging via a combination of solar and wind power when on the water. It means that the vessel can stay at sea for extended periods without returning to port. BELLONA's four cameras provide all-round vision which allows the OOW to pilot it safely, and is additionally equipped with a Pan, Tilt, Zoom camera for producing high quality images of target vessels. BELLONA is also equipped with an x-band radar which is both used as an aid to navigation and for detecting vessels at ranges up to 12 nautical miles.

Operation MULTUS began on 22 March with a launch from a boat ramp in Tauranga. As soon as she floated off the trailer and was remote controlled away from the ramp, command and control was passed back to MATATAUA in Devonport where one of the OOW took control.

For the first 10 days of the operation the Bluebottle team worked closely with New Zealand Customs Service, monitoring vessels of interest closely as they entered and exited Tauranga Harbour.

From 3–9 April BELLONA proceeded to the Firth of Thames for further Operation MULTUS tasking, supporting the Ministry for Primary Industries for a 'pattern of life' analysis. This is observation of vessel movement to establish what 'normal' looks like. This was a successful six days before a quick sail back to Auckland for a smooth recovery on the 10th.

This time BELLONA was headed to the Coromandel to further monitor vessels in the area, which proved to be another successful few days for the team. After eight more days at sea, BELLONA was safely recovered on the evening of 23 April. After a much-needed wash down and post deployment checks, the team could enjoy a few days off with Anzac Day just around the corner.

Over the month of Operation MULTUS, BELLONA positively identified 182 vessels via a combination of AIS (Automatic Identification System), radar and by camera. BELLONA achieved the objectives of the operation, strengthening the relationship of the Navy with our government partners, specifically New Zealand Customs Service and Ministry for Primary Industries, as well as our new relationship with the manufacturer Ocius, who provided invaluable 24/7 advice throughout.

Moving forward, BELLONA has transited on board HMNZS MANAWANUI to participate in an exercise off the coast of Sydney. BELLONA will then participate in more operations in the South-West Pacific region throughout June and July.

The ability to undertake persistent maritime Information Search and Reconnaissance (ISR) autonomously from MATATAUA across the SW Pacific region suggests exciting possibilities for the future of autonomous technology in the RNZN.

As a Junior OOW it's exciting to be at the forefront of this technology and be involved in a unit such as MATATAUA that has embraced this technology and brought it to operation.





SAILOR'S EXPERIENCE BACKS UP PSYCHOLOGY PATHWAY

If you weighed up every experience that top sailor Janneke Olthuis has been through in nine years, you'd probably conclude she'd be a good person to seek out for advice.

As the inaugural trainee in the Navy's Fleet to Psychologist tertiary programme, one day she'll be doing that formally.

Leading Youth Development Specialist Olthuis was commissioned from the ranks to Sub Lieutenant at Defence House last month, in preparation for officer training.

Her journey to become a Navy psychologist involves the Navy's Tangaroa Scheme, where students undertake officer training and then attend university, on full pay and associated expenses, to complete university studies. Traditionally set up for engineering degrees, it works just as well for other sought-after professional qualifications.

In SLT Olthuis' case, she will undertake the four-week officer commissioning course for senior rates, rather than 22 weeks of Junior Officer Common Training. The course, created in 2021, provides a more tailored and structured route for experienced sailors. At the same time she'll continue with her third-year studies for her Bachelor of Health Science, majoring in Psychology through distance learning with Massey University.

It is unusual to offer the officer programme to junior rates, but SLT Olthuis had completed her Petty Officer requirements.

It will involve plenty of further study, including a Masters degree and professional registration, but experience counts, and that's the point of the programme.

She joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in 2015, arriving with a sporting background with New Zealand titles in age group multi-sport and secondary school waka ama. She was course Dux of her Seaman Combat Specialist trade training, going on to serve in HMNZ Ships TE KAHA, TE MANA, CANTERBURY and WELLINGTON.

She completed a Defence Diving course, then tackled what she considers to be a turning point in her career, the Army-led Aumangea programme.

Aumangea involves New Zealand Defence Force personnel placed in an austere environment where they are challenged mentally and physically over 35 days. A drive to succeed, a creative mind and a talent for improvisation are all tested, with personnel learning about self-leadership and confidence.

SLT Olthuis, then an Able Rate, was awarded dux of the programme, being the first female and first Navy candidate to do so. She later was the first Navy person to become a fulltime Aumangea instructor in 2019.

She says that posting was when she connected deeply with her purpose in the New Zealand Defence Force. She had gained a powerful insight into human performance and behaviour, and the belief that people are capable of much more than they think.

"Seeing people go through that space in Aumangea, watching them make sense of their situation. I learnt a lot seeing how a whole cohort reacted,



Left: Janneke Olthuis is promoted to Sub Lieutenant, with her sister Wietske and fiancé LTCDR Nick Braun changing her rank slides.

Right: POYDS Taelar Lepou congratulates SLT Olthuis.

seeing their behaviours in raw form. It was amazing and humbling at the same time. I was very lucky to have been able to do that while it was around.”

SLT Olthuis started her degree studies in 2022. She sought and obtained scholarships to support her qualification for the Fleet to Psychology programme in the forms of a Massey Excellence Scholarship and the Targeted Tertiary Study Scheme that opened up to junior rates in 2023. The Youth Development Unit Central also facilitated reduced working hours to allow her to prioritise her studies.

She says she has always wanted to commission and was keen to study more. “I put a case forward for the Commissioned from the Ranks course. I was Petty Officer qualified, and if I had done the full officer training, it would have delayed my studies by a year.”

Continuing with distance learning was something else she was able to negotiate. “They said, it’s working, keep going. It was a win-win for me and the Navy, and shows the commitment and flexibility for people to achieve these qualifications.”

She says she feels privileged that she was given the freedom to explore the many opportunities available in the Defence Force.

“Being accepted into the Fleet to Psychologist tertiary programme feels like a collective achievement. The efforts of those supporting me through the application – Chief Petty Officer Weapons Mechanic Mack Maclean, Divisional Coxswain at HMNZS OLPHERT, close friends and mentors Commanders Emma and Martin Broederlow, my fiancé Lieutenant Commander Nick Braun, family and friends on both sides, and the support I got from the Youth Development Unit team, have all got me to where I am now.”

Fleet Psychologist Lieutenant Commander Ryan Hissong says the programme is designed to leverage the knowledge and pre-existing relationships of experienced personnel to further the reach and impact of Navy Psychology services.

“The scheme started in 2019, to look for experienced, suitable Navy people as part of the Tangaroa Scheme. It reduces the risk of job fit and brings invaluable experience to the job.”

He says it’s not the intent to stop direct entry recruitment to Navy psychology. LTCDR Hissong is a qualified psychologist who came to the Navy from a civilian career. “I remember having this idea that, as a culturally competent psychologist, Junior Officer Common Training wouldn’t have been essential to me, but I couldn’t have been more wrong. Life in service, particularly in the maritime context, is its own unique culture. From relating to people’s experiences to gaining credibility there’s a lot to say for having psychologists in uniform. So it’s great to have someone who has come through with such a rich Navy background.”

He says trainees need to maintain minimum grade requirements throughout their degree and Masters studies, which is also funded.

“Once they have achieved their Masters in Psychology, they can become a trainee psychologist and undertake supervised practice leading up to registration with the New Zealand Psych Board.”

OUR PEOPLE

1. CDR Mike Peebles takes command of the Maritime Training Group, as directed by Acting Chief of Navy CDRE Andrew Brown.
2. CDRE Andrew Brown presents ACWS Paulette Doctor with her first clasp to her RNZN Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
3. CDR Phil Eagle is promoted to Captain, with his partner Sandy and mother Sue changing his rank slides.
4. OCSS Dallas Makasini presents himself to Commanding Officer Leadership Development Group, CDR Paula Dacey, in preparation for inspection of BCT 24/01's mess decks.
5. CDR Mark Te Kani receives his Distinguished Service Decoration from Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro at a function at Government House, Auckland.
6. CDR Andrew Dowling, outgoing Commanding Officer Maritime Training Group, receives a Chief of Navy commendation from Acting Chief of Navy CDRE Andrew Brown.
7. OSCS Semesa Vakarewa, BCT 24/01, is inspected by Commanding Officer Leadership Development Group, CDR Paula Dacey as part of Gardiner Cup Rounds.
8. From left, Warrant Officer of the Navy WODR Lance Graham, Sailor of the Year LWTR Joanna Mafi and RADM David Proctor, during RADM Proctor's Relinquishment of Command as Chief of Navy at Te Taua Moana Marae.
9. CDRE Maxine Lawes, Commander Logistics, at a Pink Ribbon gathering at Defence House.
10. CDRE Andrew Brown presents LTCDR Eric Chapman with his RNZN Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
11. BRIG Rose King, Deputy Chief of Army (left), with CDR Linda Bruce, NZDF Wahine Toa lead, at a Pink Ribbon event at Defence House.
12. OSCS Alastair Abdulin (left) and ODR James Bosley, BCT 24/01, await the inspection of their messdeck during Gardiner Cup Rounds.









On busy missions, there's always time...

Photos: LAC Andy Jenkins

...for a Hands to Bathe

During Operation Moa in April (Navy Today May 2024) HMNZS CANTERBURY was in the Solomon Islands supporting No. 3 Squadron flights from the ship as they delivered election materials.

But there's plenty being achieved behind the scenes, especially when your crew includes 60 new sailors who have never been to sea before.



During CANTERBURY's time away, people got busy getting qualified:

1 2 3 4 1 1

RHIB
Coxswain
endorsement

Officer of
the Day
qualifications

Officer of
the Watch
platform
endorsements

Auxiliary
Machinery
Certificates

Maritime
Logistics
Competency
Certificate

Leading
Marine
Technician
promoted to
Petty Officer

1 7 1 11 15

NZ Defence
Service
Medal
Awarded

Switchboard
Machinery
Certificates

Control Room
Watchkeeping
Certificate

Zodiac
endorsements

Ordinary Ratings
promoted to Able Rate

BRIDGING THE GAP AT SSTS



The Sea Safety Training Squadron is continuing their evolution of modernising training outputs, recently adding a bridge compartment to their DC Communication Training Unit (CTU).

Three years ago the Squadron cleaned out their Leander frigate mockup and fitted rooms with floor to ceiling photographs to duplicate Anzac frigate compartments and bulkheads. Combined with machinery noise, lighting, operating systems, and communication systems, it means SSTS could offer realistic exposure to Command and Control (C2) aspects of Damage Control (DC) incidents.

The photo-realistic walls earned signage contractor Big Ideas Group an industry award in 2022.

Lieutenant Commander (LTCDR) Evan 'Mac' MacKay RN, Sea Safety Training Officer, says they have now transformed a portion of the Squadron's theatre into an Anzac frigate bridge.

"These upgrades are primarily for the Heads of Department Damage Control course, but there's a big opportunity here to get Command Teams from the fleet over here to use this simulator and provide valuable exposure to Damage Control incidents in a safe training environment, without needing to be at sea or disrupt ships' programmes. It's realistic, and we can put people under a fair bit of pressure.

The addition of the bridge enhances the ability to provide realistic sea-going DC incidents where the C2 team have to utilise effective communications to achieve success.

"The bridge mock-up is geographically separate from the other CTU compartments. It ensures there is a realistic time lag as personnel move between the various C2 nodes, somewhat similar to operating on a RNZN platform."

"It's now ready to use, the team at SSTS have developed several sea-going scenarios, and will prove really valuable for C2 training, especially for platforms with extended periods alongside."

LTCDR MacKay also stressed that while the CTU does mirror the Anzac frigates, this new capability provides training opportunities for Command Teams from any of our platforms, and while the visuals, and operating systems may be different, C2 principles broadly remain the same.

LTCDR MacKay says the HODs DC course in early July will be his last training commitment prior to heading back to the United Kingdom later that month. The SSTS role is traditionally a Royal Navy engineer exchange position, and LTCDR MacKay, who arrived as a Lieutenant in April 2021, is the 10th Royal Navy SSTS since the first, Lieutenant Commander Rob Metcalf, in 2001.

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND SPACE COURSE FOR NZDF

When Sub Lieutenant Campbell Ecklein gave a presentation on space during her Junior Officer Common Training in 2022, she probably never envisaged becoming part of the New Zealand Defence Force Space Program.

She went on to train in the United States, but this year the Program has launched its equivalent Joint Commercial Operations (JCO) course, the first of its kind to be conducted by a non-US team of instructors.

The four-week course at RNZAF Base Auckland hosts both Australian and New Zealand personnel, teaching them about the creation of Space Domain Awareness (SDA) products using commercial tools for sensing and data analytics.

It's part of the Space Program's brief to develop and maintain New Zealand's space capabilities, promoting the peaceful use of outer space and ensuring that New Zealand remains at the forefront of this technology.

Qualified personnel in Joint Commercial Operations will work as part of three 'cells' of analysts who work in shifts to monitor military satellite activity. New Zealand and Australia currently make up the Pacific cell, handing over to the Meridian cell led by the UK and France, which hands over to the United States. There are 15 countries involved with more nations set to join.



Commercial companies across the globe use sensors, such as radars and telescopes, to track satellites from launch. Cells take that data and use it to generate products for partner countries.

SLT Ecklein says she was followed up after giving her junior officer presentation on Space. After she graduated and started her Maritime Logistics Officer training she was offered the opportunity to do the JCO course in mid-2023.

"I brought the request to my command and before I knew it, I was on my way to Colorado, training under the US Space Force. Eight people were trained on that course—six of us were Kiwi!"

Back in New Zealand, SLT Ecklein works for the Naval Operational Support Unit as the Space Operations Centre Liaison Officer.

Later this year she will attend Exercise Pitch Black in Australia, experimenting with taking the Joint Commercial Operations concept into the field.

She appreciates that it sounds very Air Force, but any trade and service can take the course. "I'm very proud of being Navy, I've got a long family legacy. I would like to get more people across this. The main thing at the moment is to get the visibility of this course and program out there."

Flight Lieutenant Dave Evans, Regional Coordinator for the JCO Pacific Cell, says they are excited to be offering the course in collaboration with Australia.

"This is a unique opportunity for students from both countries to learn from some of the best instructors in the field and to gain valuable hands-on experience in commercial SDA operations."

"The instructors have been specially trained to deliver the curriculum developed in partnership with US experts. The New Zealand instructor team is supported by a US instructor, who provide additional insights in the latest developments in the JCO as well as overseeing the assessment and certifications element of the course."

There will be another course in September, with the potential of Japanese personnel coming to train.

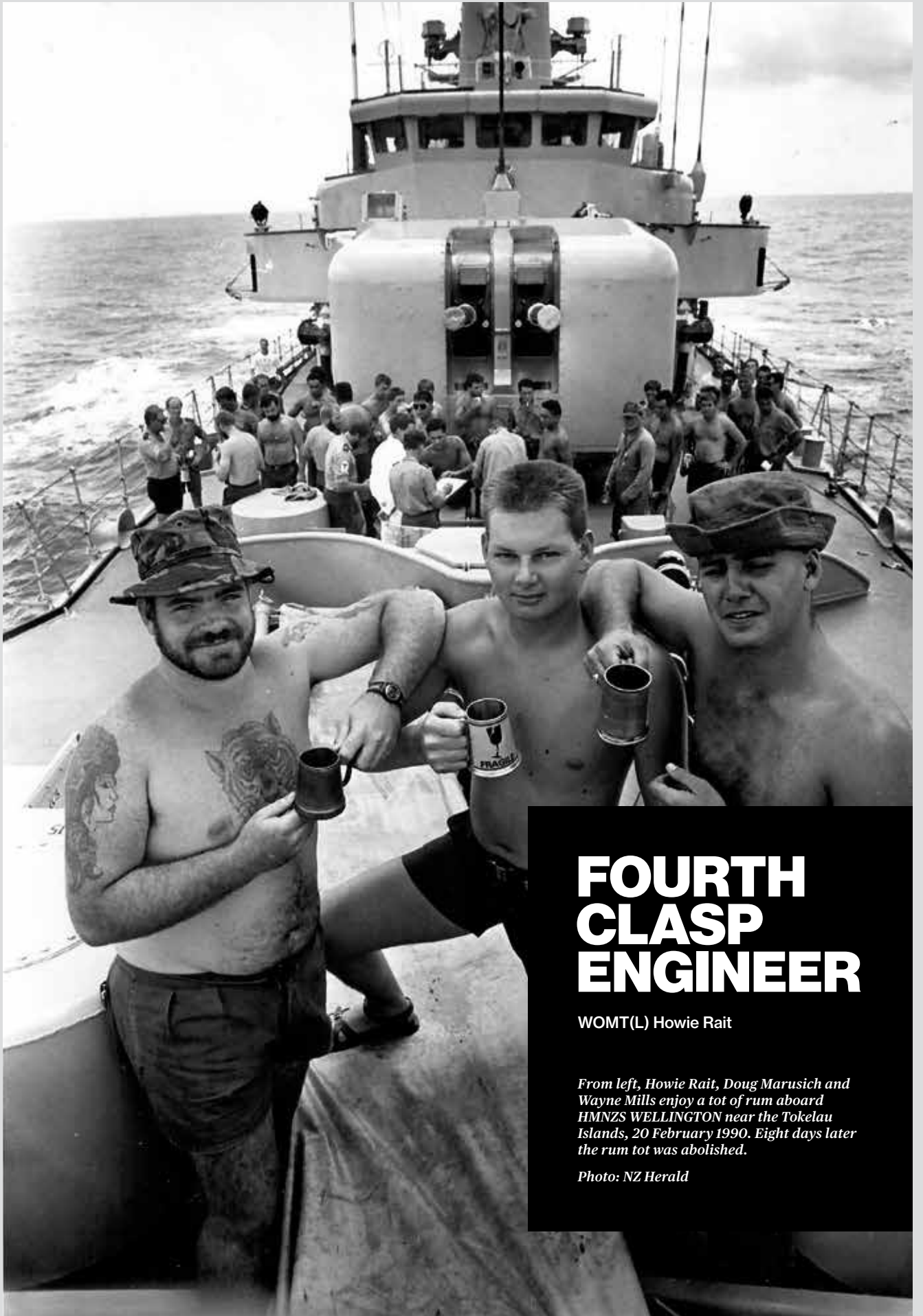
"It's been quite a journey for us and I've been in this for two years. I'm proud of what we've achieved. Our instructors have even been to Poland and the UK, helping to train six Polish and Ukrainian analysts."

Director Space Program Wing Commander Matt Tristram says they are committed to building strong partnerships with allies and partners.

"This is a significant milestone in demonstrating New Zealand's ability to deliver interchangeable training with the United States."

"By working together, we ensure that our space capabilities remain at the cutting edge and that we are prepared to meet the challenges of the future."

SLT Campbell Ecklein (centre) with Royal New Zealand Air Force and Royal New Zealand Navy Joint Task Force-Space Defense Commercial Operations Cell (JCO) operators, standing with JCO-US instructors at RNZAF Base Auckland last year.



FOURTH CLASP ENGINEER

WOMT(L) Howie Rait

From left, Howie Rait, Doug Marusich and Wayne Mills enjoy a tot of rum aboard HMNZS WELLINGTON near the Tokelau Islands, 20 February 1990. Eight days later the rum tot was abolished.

Photo: NZ Herald

FOURTH CLASP ENGINEER



At school, there are students who naturally endear themselves to their teachers. Warrant Officer Marine Technician (Electrical) Howard Rait MNZM was not one of those.

Howie, as he is universally known, found his niche in the Royal New Zealand Navy, recently earning his fourth clasp to his Royal New Zealand Navy Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, signifying 42 years of good service.

WOMT(L) Rait grew up in the fishing village of Ngawi, on the South Wairarapa coast. His dad was a fisherman.

He reckons he was often in trouble. "Never in serious trouble," he says. "I'm a cheeky person generally." He was getting the strap regularly at Featherston School and upgraded to the cane at Kuranui College in Greytown.

He joined the Navy in 1981, straight out of sixth form.

"I hated doing homework, my maths teacher hated me, I failed my School Certificate – except for woodwork and geography – and spent most of my class time standing in the corridor."

What had inspired him towards the Navy was the BBC television documentary *Sailor*, showcasing life aboard Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS ARK ROYAL. "It was awesome. I saw it at age 15 and thought, this is what I want."

He says his Dad, an ex-Merchant Navy sailor, was quite happy about his son joining the Navy. "I was 16 years and three months old. I got on a train from Featherston Station and that was it."

He thoroughly enjoyed Navy training. "I guess we weren't really treated like kids. I totally loved the discipline, the strict routines, and certain boundaries. I could relate to it. I didn't fit into schooling, but the military side, it worked for me."

Starting out as an Ordinary Weapons Engineer Fitter's Mate, he went to sea in November 1981, serving in HMNZS MONOWAI. He had his 17th birthday on board.

"I've served on all four Leander frigates, MONOWAI, MANAWANUI, ENDEAVOUR and a lot of short term tours of duty in the former Moa class Inshore Patrol vessels.

"The first real big highlight for me was picking up HMNZS SOUTHLAND in the United Kingdom." Formerly HMS DIDO, the ship was handed over to the RNZN in July 1983 with the name of SOUTHLAND. After refitting and commissioning in Southampton, SOUTHLAND departed for New Zealand in May 1984.

"A number of us underwent IKARA [anti-submarine missile launcher] training at HMS COLLINGWOOD during our time there.

"We ammunitioned SOUTHLAND for the first time on my 18th birthday. I was living in the UK for a year, I had a ball."

He has a great photo of him and his mates drinking their tot of rum on the deck of HMNZS WELLINGTON.

It was used to illustrate a *NZ Herald* story dated 20 February 1990 on the announcement of the abolition of the daily tot of rum (which happened on 28 February 1990).

"We were doing Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief after Cyclone Ofa, and there was a reporting team on board. We had a coffin for all our 'squirt mugs' on the final day of the tot."

He was then in HMNZS WAIKATO for the Bougainville peace talks, with HMNZS Ships WELLINGTON and ENDEAVOUR. "If I recall, we left Exercise Starfish early, missing the closing ceremony in Singapore, and sailed directly for Bougainville with the Māori Culture Group on board WAIKATO. I think we did 52 days at sea for that stint."

He's been to Bougainville two more times, earning a commendation in 1998 for his work during Operation Bel Isi as a Team Leader ashore from HMNZS CANTERBURY, helping insert a Truce Monitoring Group. The event is famous for an unarmed military force earning the trust and confidence of the Bougainville locals with cultural and people-to-people connections.

Another big highlight for him, and a fast-forward in his career, was being part of the NZDF build team for HMNZS AOTEAROA, being constructed in Ulsan, Korea.

"I would go over for three months at a time and come back for a month or so. It was pretty cool."



I've had an awesome career over the years and have met and worked with so many great people while having a great time. The NZDF has supported myself through a few rough patches along the way I am grateful for, and I would like to acknowledge that fact – and also all the “Old Salts” out there.

– WOMT(L) Howie Rait

He's worked at Command and Staff College, undergoing Warrant Officer professional development and later coming back to run the JWOAC course. “It was my first real experience of working in a tri-service environment and it's pretty cool. You learn about the culture of other services, and understanding how our partner Services work.”

He's even had eight years in career management, bringing an engineering mindset to the role. “You treat the situation coldly, the people warmly and the outcome fairly. Is this right for the Navy, right for the person, and is it the right thing to do. It might not be pretty, but we are here to do a job, and sometimes that's about making the hard calls.”

In 2004 he was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for his work as the Marine Engineering School Warrant Officer, for career management of all marine technicians, and his work in assisting in the restoration of electrical power on Niue following Cyclone Heta in 2004.

Today his job title is Technical Investigator Southern Ocean Patrol Vessel Project, but it covers a broad spectrum of maritime training and capability over a variety of platforms, including the recently-acquired Littoral Manoeuvre Craft.

He describes himself as someone who has always worked hard and tried to solve problems. “Engineers are wired differently. We don't (generally) like thinking in grey zones. We like go or no go. On or off. Black and white. Some people like to achieve 70 or 80 percent, I like to be 100 percent. If I can get to 98 percent, that's pretty good.

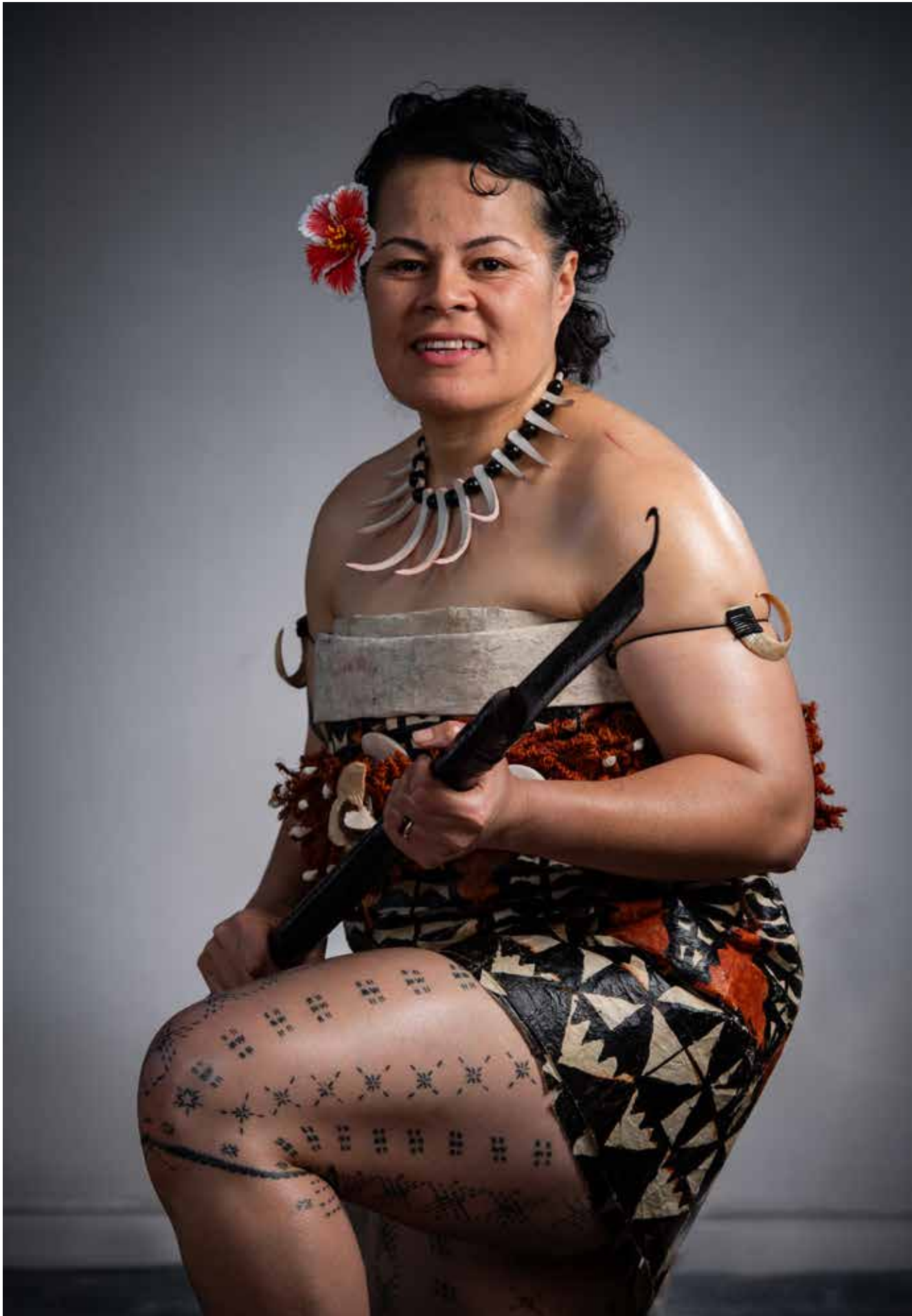


Above: WOMT(L) Rait (centre) among the NZDF team during AOTEAROA's sea trials in Korea.



Left: WOMT(L) Rait (front) working at a Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facility at the Mecure Hotel during the Covid pandemic.

Opposite page: Deputy Chief of Navy CDRE Andrew Brown presents WOMT(L) Rait with his fourth clasp to his RNZN Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.



A Samoan Tatau

■ By POSTD Marieta Makasini



A Samoan proverb for this year:

**Tautua ile Alofa, manuia le lumana’i” meaning
“Serve in love for a blessed future”.**

“E lele le toloa ae ma’au ile vai” meaning “No matter where the bird flies to, it always returns to the water or to its nest.” It also means “Wherever you go in this world, you will always come back to your homeland”

The legendary of Warrior Princes Nafanua and how the Samoan traditional tattoo/tatau arrived to Samoa.

My connection to Auva’a Nafanua.

I am the daughter of Auva’a from Falealupo Savai’i and my bloodline is from a woman named Auva’a Nafanua who single handedly fought an army of men and freed the people of Samoa from slavery. The word Auva’a in English is boat crew and these are Nafanua’s boat crew she blessed with four high chief titles under her wing. Falealupo is the only village who hold these titles in Samoa. Falealupo is also the only village that has a tradition of advocacy and support weaved into their fa’alupega (genealogy) because all the glory and blessings of Nafanua was gifted from Falealupo to lift up Samoa and because of that, today the role of Falealupo is to support and defend Samoa.

Nafanua was a prophet and a historical queen who took four district titles and who is known throughout Samoa as the goddess of war. Because Nafanua was always associated with victory she was bestowed the title and was highly respected by her family and village council. As a goddess of war, it was her responsibility to protect her family and save her village from harm.

Nafanua distributed many titles throughout Samoa – from my ancestors right down to our fathers. One thing my father always reminded us was the most important task of being a Auva’a is to carry the name with pride and to serve our people and the community.

Our traditional Samoan way is the chief leading and the women are the second role in everything. But in my family even though our fathers and cousins carry our family titles the women are the ones leading and making things happen. I know that this attribute comes from Nafanua’s strength.

Many centuries ago before the missionaries arrived in Samoa there was a high chief from the East. His goal was to claim all of Savaii for his side and enslaved the people from the West, including my village, Falealupo, and put them to hard labour. His punishment was to make them climb coconut trees feet first and head pointed to the ground as means of demonstration of his power, as well as bringing great shame to those who had defied him.

One of his captives was one of Falealupo’s orators who he ordered to climb the tree. While he made the climb, the pain and sighs caused him to make a loud sound that alerted Nafanua’s father. It was heard from Pulotu Fiti where Nafanua and her parents lived.

Nafanua’s father, a God of the underworld, heard the crying of his village and became enraged. With a thunderous voice that shook the earth, he awakened his daughter from her deep sleep and ordered her to go forth into the land of living and right the wrong that had been done.

He requested her to cut down the Toa tree and fashion four weapons that she needed to take with her into battle. After she saved her people she was chased by men who wondered who this great warrior was who had so viciously beaten all the men. It was not until she jumped and she abruptly stopped when a gust of wind blew her kiputa/shirt up, revealing her breast and revealing to her enemy that they had been defeated by a woman. The enemy were shocked. This is when the men decided that the war ended.

One of Nafanua’s weapon is called Ulimasao. This is a stand-by weapon she used to end war and bring peace. It also means driving safely to your destination. The weapon is shaped like a canoe paddle with round, smooth sides and one pointed edge. Nafanua used this weapon as her canoe to Samoa.

My husband who hails from the Kingdom of Tonga was blessed with the Ulimasao title and was also blessed to receive the tatau for his service to my family.



How the tatau/tattoo arrived in Samoa

Nafanua's father was proud of all the things his daughter has done for her people. He ordered his twin daughters Usuilefanua and Suailefanua to take the tattooing tools to Samoa for Nafanua to be tattooed and with his message "tattoo women not men".

As they swam in the deep ocean from Fiti singing their song "tattoo women not men", when they got to our village Falealupo they saw a giant clam in the ocean and wanted to get a closer look but when they surfaced, they sang their song incorrectly: "Tattoo men not women". But the tatau for women still survive, the Malu.

After Nafanua gave away many blessings throughout Samoa, the head of state Malietoa and Su'a came to seek help from her. But Nafanua already gave all the blessings away. In the end she blessed our family (Auva'a family) with one tattooing tool and the rest to Su'a family. She requested Su'a to dress the men in the ink as a sign of their courage and dress the women with malu as a sign of shelter and protection. In Samoan history only the Su'a family can carry out or be in charge of the tattooing task or tatau. Nafanua then told the head of state Malietoa, "Wait on the heavens for a crown for your kingdom". A week or so after this, the ship of Rev John Williams arrived in Malietoa's shores to bring the good news (Christian religion). The missionary arrived with the Bible thus igniting the rapid spread of Christianity through the islands. Nafanua also gave Samoa the governing structure that's still in place today.

The word tatau originates from the tapping sounds of the tool made during tattooing. This primitive tattoo tool is made of bones or boar husk sharpened into a comb style shape with serrated teeth-like needles. It was believed that you were tattooed with the lama ink that you are literally putting Samoa into your skin and tapping the land into your blood. Our tattoo will always belong to Samoa and the ink of the lama will always belong to the land.



So when you die that's when they put you into the land and the ink will finally return to its roots. Protecting the land for me will always means protecting my malu.

The malu is a female traditional tattoo that is from the upper thigh to the lower knee and historically only the daughter of a high chief will receive it. However, in more recent history there are a lot more Samoan women of all ages who are getting it done. When a woman was given a malu, she was seen as a protector of the village, a person who would shelter the family from harm. To me it is a representation of our ancestors and everything they represent. It's very special to our Samoan culture because it's such a sacred cultural treasure.

I've always wanted to get a malu in my younger years but I knew I had to experience hard life until I was ready so that when I finally get my malu done it was all worth it. My malu took about three hours and I felt the strength and the mana as it tapped my skin for the first time. It was a blessing for me to complete my malu in my homeland Analega Falealupo with singing and my family supporting me through it. Analega is where my late father and my brothers got their tatau's done years ago. This is where my family are buried and also a blessing getting it done in the land of Nafanua where it all began.

She will always live in me and I know that's where I got the strength from during my malu. When I first sat down Su'a assured me of this honour, I remember his encouraging words – to be brave.

The responsibility of having a malu is immense and something I don't take lightly. I've always held myself as a Samoan woman and when I got my malu done I knew my service had to increase to a new level. It all comes down to your service to your family, community and your people. The most common question I get asked is if it's painful. I never know how to answer that question because it's a different kind of pain. I know it's something that will always remain with me and the only thing I will go to the grave with.

Samoan males with the pe'a are called malofie and are respected for their courage. It's applied from the waistline, working down to the knees.

Getting a pe'a is an intense and painful experience because not only they are very large, but they can extend to very sensitive parts of the body. Only a section at a time is tattooed during these sessions depending how strong they are to handle the pain. So it takes weeks or even months to complete a pe'a tattoo. This Samoan tatau signifies courage and serves as a symbol of manhood, a rite of passage both beautiful and painful.



Their artwork and designs go beyond being skin deep – there is history and deep meanings behind them. The tattoo and designs of the Samoan Islands represent land, sea, community, warrior, power, status, respect, honour, and is a mark of pride. Each section denotes a special meaning to the person's character, his family, and culture."

– POSTD Marieta Makasini



FLAUTIST IN THE UK

Q & A with LMUS Priscilla Scanlan

I am currently posted on a three-month Long Look exchange programme between the Royal New Zealand Navy Band and His Majesty's Royal Marines Band Collingwood. Whilst I am based at HMS COLLINGWOOD in the United Kingdom, the flute player that I have exchanged with is Corporal Andy Steele, from the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Commando Training Centre (Lympstone). I hope that Corporal Steele has thoroughly enjoyed his time in New Zealand, whilst reconnecting with our Director of Music, Lieutenant Commander Michael Dowrick.

Q: Why did you apply for this, and what are some of the gains, professional and personal, that you want to get from this exchange?

A: I applied for the Long Look Exchange programme with the Royal Marines Band Service, so that I could gain insight on their programme planning, event management and daily schedules, whilst working towards several concerts.

My goal has been to observe the management, function, leadership and organisation of a different workplace, to then appreciate a wider understanding of the Royal New Zealand Navy Band's position within the RNZN. I hope that by the end of this experience I have gained further tools and strategies that would enhance my own leadership abilities, as I aspire towards promotion to Petty Officer Musician.

Q: Are you completely based at COLLINGWOOD, or are you moving around a lot?

A: I have been based at the Band of HM Royal Marines COLLINGWOOD for the majority of my Long Look Exchange, under the direction of Captain Phil

Trudgeon RM. This has included an array of public concerts and recruiting events, with the final concert being the 'Music Man Project' held in the Royal Albert Hall.

I have also been given amazing opportunities with short term postings to work with other Bands of the Royal Marines Band Service. This at first included spending time with the Massed Bands of HM Royal Marines at both HMS TEMERAIRE (Portsmouth) and the Royal Albert Hall, for the Mountbatten Festival of Music 2024 (under the direction of Principal Director of Music, Lieutenant Colonel Huw Williams Royal Marines). I later enjoyed working alongside Corporal Andy Steele's colleagues at the Band of HM Royal Marines CTCRM, for both a public concert and a King's Squad Pass Out Parade (under the direction of Major Ian Davis RM). The final part of my exchange is with the Band of HM Royal Marines Scotland (HMS CALEDONIA, Rosyth), which will include a concert in Ulverston (under the direction of Captain Ann Miller, RM).

Q: We've had Royal Marines musicians with the RNZN Band this year – has that sparked this exchange, or is it generally on offer?

A: The Long Look exchange is open to all musicians in the RNZN Band and I have felt so privileged to be the first RNZN Musician since 2013 to be able to enjoy this experience. I very much look forward to seeing regular exchanges from now on, so that we can continue our friendly relationship with HM Royal Marines Band Service.

This year the Royal New Zealand Navy Band invited members from HM Royal Marines Portsmouth and Scotland Corps of Drums to assist with the ceremonial events held at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds for Waitangi Day, as well as the Art Deco Festival. Members of The Stadacona Band (La Musique Stadacona) were also performing in these events, however they were invited as part of the CANZEX Exchange.

Q: What are some of the differences you've encountered in working with the Royal Marines Band?

A: The main difference I have encountered during my time working with the Bands of HM Royal Marines is their strength in numbers. They are a much larger establishment with three hundred and sixty years of history, with a total of three hundred and twenty-two personnel currently split between five Bands of HM Royal Marines and attached Corps of Drums. Whilst all bands fall under the direction of the Principal Director of Music, each have their own Director of Music, Band Master, Drum Major and Band Operations Co-Ordinator, along with a full divisional system with roles and responsibilities. The main Royal Marines Band Headquarters is based at HMS EXCELLENT, Whale Island in Portsmouth.

Although each of the bands have high levels of outputs through concerts and ceremonial events, some of them have areas of particular focus. For example, Royal Marines Band Portsmouth is utilised for the majority of rehearsals and concerts required for the Musician 1 and Band Master student examinations (promotional courses), whilst the Band of HM Royal Marines CTCRM (Lympstone) is focused heavily on



ceremonial elements, due to performing every week for the King's Squad Pass Out Parade. Having different priorities, each band will work to its own weekly routines and along with those routines, slightly different cultures are formed. A musician can be drafted between different bands throughout their careers, according to what instrumental position needs to be filled.

Q: What have been the biggest challenges?

A: I experienced some very quick turn-around times between concert programmes and managed a busy schedule by posting between bands. I had to adapt not only to learning repertoire at a much faster rate, but to be flexible with the many different styles of conductors throughout the posting. By the end of this posting I would have worked with sixteen conductors across the concerts, with up to five in a single concert. However, this was all part of the beauty and excitement of the exchange experience.

Of all the challenges I embraced, the most memorable were when I had to deliver results under pressure. The first was playing with the Band of HM Royal Marines COLLINGWOOD for the Bandmaster student arrangement examinations. For this task we had to sight read, rehearse and record arrangements under each student's directions, all whilst the examination panel looked on. The other was marching with the Band of HM Royal Marines CTCRM for the King's Squad Parade, with minimal rehearsal time and opposite mace signals to what I am used to. These were both however extremely valuable experiences which I gained so much from as a musician.

Q: What have you enjoyed the most so far?

A: The most memorable moment of my Long Look Exchange was performing with the Massed Bands of HM Royal Marines for the Mountbatten Festival of Music 2024, in the Royal Albert Hall (London). I had applied for the Long Look Exchange in the hopes that I would be able to be part of this experience, after watching and listening to many Mountbatten Festivals online during the initial Covid lockdown. It was a surreal experience when onstage to realise I had made it to the other side of the camera lens.

Another highlight for me was having the privilege to perform in the Romsey Abbey with the Band of HM Royal Marines COLLINGWOOD, under the Direction of Captain Trudgeon RM and WO2 Bandmaster Jamie Gunn RM. This was a humbling environment to perform in, as the Abbey was founded in 907 AD by King Edward the Elder (son of Alfred the Great), with the first stone church and nunnery built in c.1000AD. Looking back, it is amazing to realise I had performed in a venue that had stood through the Black Death and King Henry VIII's reign, when he had ordered the dissolution of the monasteries. I was privileged to have been able to perform in such a beautiful venue with a rich past.

Q: Have you managed to get some sightseeing, travels in outside of your work at COLLINGWOOD?

A: I have definitely enjoyed a bit of sightseeing and travelling during my long weekends and Easter leave. I have explored not only all of the local delights (Portchester Castle, Titchfield Abbey, the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth, as well as Southsea),

but also ventured throughout England and enjoyed the famous sight-seeing opportunities within London, Windsor Castle, Stonehenge, the Roman Baths, the Cotswolds as well as Oxford. I also continued my travels to Scotland to explore Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace, followed by going as far as Kilmahog, Glencoe, Loch Ness (including Urquhart Castle) and Pitlochry. I plan on embarking on some further travelling before I return home to New Zealand, especially to explore some more castles!

Q: If you were to advise another musician about taking this exchange, what advice would you give them?

A: I highly recommend this opportunity for musicians both within the Royal New Zealand Navy Band and the Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines, as it has been an entirely enriching experience by being immersed in not only another work environment, but also to embrace the unique culture of another country. I am proud to say that I will be able to leave this exchange with life-long connections and friendships made on the other side of the world, as well as with a wealth of experience which I can share with others. It has been nothing short of inspirational and has opened my eyes to fresh concepts and strategies, which I plan to embrace within my role in the Royal New Zealand Navy Band. If you are keen on applying for this position, my main advice is to be prepared to put in some decent work towards concerts that will be rewarded tenfold, followed by embracing every opportunity to travel.

PROMOTIONS:

Congratulations on your promotion

Updated to 15 May 2024

A/POMT(P) Mak Akania
ASTD Tamzin Bamber
LMT(P) Matthew Breen
AMT(P) Joshua Brodie
ACSS Charlotte Brown
LSTD Karen Brown
LCSS Joshua Caminada
A/LMT(P) David Clarke
LT Oliver Cook
LT Danyon Dvorak
A/CPOSTD Samuel Dysart
LT Holly Edmonds
LT Catherine Enticott
LTCDR Toby Foster
AWT Corey Fougere
LMT(P) Josh Galloway Mills
LCSS Khaleel Geor
LT Brittany Glanfield

ADR James Greig
LT Hamish Hahunga
AET Paris Hatcher
ASCS Maunganui Hawe
ASCS Jess Hone
A/LT Esther Hunter
CDR Andrew Jameson
A/LTCDR Richard Jiang
AWT Hadyn Jones
CPOMEDIC Sarah Kaulima-Clifford
ACSS Devyine Kaye
ADR Harrison Kemp
AHSO Jenna Luck
SLT Aleisha MacGregor
SLT Tayma Matoes
ACSS Cody Mildenhall
SLT Christina Montgomery
ASCS Jaden Munford
CDR Ambrose O'Halloran
ACSS Sam Olsen
SLT Janneke Olthuis
A/WOLSS Ben Owens

LLSS Ane Pahulu
AMT(P) Rubi Perano
LDR Michael Pitt
LMT(P) Sydney Prisk
LTCDR Seamus Shaw
LMT(L) Vanessa Simpson
LMT(L) Fabian Sinclair
ASCS Lawrence Smallman
ENS Mena Soluiman
CDR Andrew Sorensen
A/LT Caitlin Stone
POET Nathan Thompson
AMT(P) Cole Tilly
A/LT Te Naawe Tupe
ACH Sili Va'eno
LMT(P) Ofa Vala
ADR Aulky Wang
A/CDRE Rodger Ward
ASCS Marnie Welsh
AMT(L) Cole Whitaker
POET Jason Young

NZDF SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2024/25

Are you a serving Reservist about to complete your university studies or are you preparing for a break between semesters?

Do you want to learn more about what the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) does in your area of study?

The NZDF Summer Reserve Force Internship Scheme (RIS) will provide selected NZDF Reservists with an internship at a NZDF base across New Zealand. Interns will be placed where their individual skills can best be used while the intern will be exposed to opportunities to further a military or civilian career with the NZDF.

Eligibility Criteria

10 internships are available to current tertiary students who:

- Are junior rank or junior officer Reservists from either the Navy, Army or Air Force,
- Have completed more than two year's undergraduate studies or are undertaking post graduate studies,

- Are available between 11 November 2024 to 14 February 2025 (individual start and finish dates are able to be negotiated to suit academic commitments), and,
- Are not in paid full time civilian employment.

Remuneration

Interns will be paid in accordance with DFO 7.3.36 Reserves Full Time Duties noting:

- Interns are not to work in excess of five days/40 hours per week but may attend additional duty activities at Unit expense,
- All public holidays are unpaid as Holiday Pay is a component of Reserve daily pay,
- Interns are offered rations and quarters at the nearest military base to their place of employment at public expense. Packed lunches may be sourced through the mess but not subject to reimbursement if unavailable.
- Interns are offered a travel pass from their military accommodation to their place of work, if not located on a camp or base, and,
- Travel expenses to and from either university or home locations will be met by NZDF at the beginning and end of the internship.

Administration

For all queries please email Reserves@nzdf.mil.nz.

Selection Criteria

Applicants from any academic discipline will be considered.

Interns must have a NZDF (CV) security clearance prior to application.

Applications will be made available from **03 June 2024** by email request to Reserves@nzdf.mil.nz

Applications are to be endorsed and sent to Reserves@nzdf.mil.nz by the applicant's Chain of Command (OC / CO). Unit Commanders can endorse applications via email or by signature on the application form.

Applications are to include:

- Completed application form (available by email request to Reserves@nzdf.mil.nz),
- Covering letter, outlining why you would like to work at NZDF on a Reserve Internship,
- CV – current, to include all academic, sporting and cultural achievements.

Final day for applications:
16 August 2024.

15 ROUNDS

COMMANDER JULIE SIMPKINS



01

Job Title and description:

Commanding Officer HMNZS PHILOMEL/Officer in Command Defence Areas.

I'm responsible for safety and security of Defence Areas which includes DNB, Kauri Point, Tamaki Leadership Centre, Narrowneck, Great Barrier range, Defence Housing Areas. Commanding officer Philomel personnel and other units.

02

Date Joined RNZN:

7 February 1989.

03

First ship posted to:

HMNZS MONOWAI.

04

Best deployment and why:

HMNZS ENDEAVOUR's Far East deployment in 1991. As a young sailor at the time it was the excitement of travel and new places. Equally HMNZS MONOWAI for the Queens Birthday 1994 Island deployment but diverted to assist a yacht race that encountered a storm. While it was the worst nightmare for the sailors on the yachts with a number having to abandon their yachts during the rescue ops and devastating for the family of one yacht with three crew that was never found, for the crew of MONOWAI it was challenging but rewarding time to be involved in the rescues (also memorable as roughers on MONOWAI was not pleasant!)

05

Hometown:

Feilding, Manawatu.

06

High School:

Feilding Agricultural High School (now known as Feilding High).

07

Favourite book:

The Art of Looking Sideways, Alan Fletcher. There is a copy in my office coffee table, take a look if you stop by. It's a book to encourage you to look at things from different perspectives.

08

Favourite movie:

All the classics – *Ghost*, *Hunt for Red October*, *Last of the Mohicans*, *Titanic*.

09

Favourite album:

Communicate by the Feelers.

10

Favourite song:

Kiss from a Rose – Seal.

11

Favourite holiday destination:

Otago.

12

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

More than just one thing I enjoy! – Art, gardening, going to markets, golf.

13

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

I like rock music and Op shops.

14

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

To understand what success looks like for you, you first need to accept it doesn't need to look the same as other people (from a Professor on the Masters of Leadership programme I completed).

15

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

Organisation with clear purpose, environment full of opportunities and choices.

CONDUCT AFTER CAPTURE INSTRUCTOR SELECTION

Conduct After Capture is a niche NZDF wide capability that provides training to individuals who are prone to capture, prone to interrogation and prone to exploitation whilst deployed.

CAC are after highly motivated individuals from the NZDF to instruct in captivity survival/CAC training. Becoming an instructor is a challenging but rewarding experience that can provide various opportunities. Open to RF and TF personnel.

**03-09
AUGUST
2024**

CAC.RECRUITING@nzdf.mil.nz