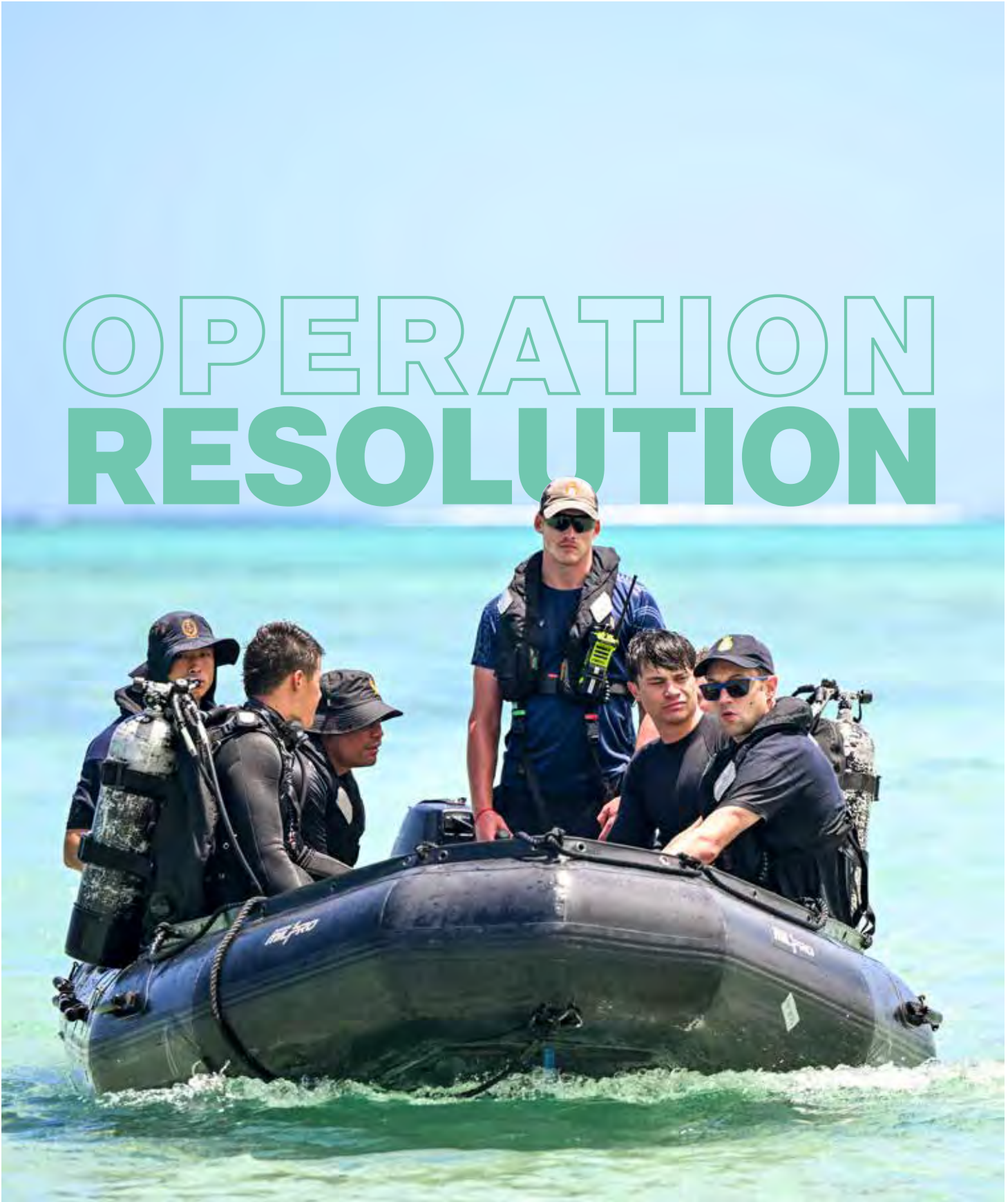


NAVY T O D A Y

MANAWANUI
TIMELINE
AOTEAROA
COMES HOME
SAILOR OF
THE YEAR

OPERATION RESOLUTION



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“No question is a dumb question. University is hard work, but it’s 100% achievable if you put your mind to it.”

– SLT Cody Crump, doing a Bachelor of Aviation Management at Massey University



Changing magazine format

From the editor

Tēnā tātou katoa. I would like to thank you all for taking the time to read *Navy Today* and for your keen interest in the Royal New Zealand Navy. I know many of you are serving personnel, former service people, Navy enthusiasts, whānau of our personnel and young people keen to see what life is like in the Navy.

It has been a great joy of mine for the past eight years to share the Service's stories, to speak with its people and write about how the Navy serves Aotearoa New Zealand and the global community.

In September we published the last hard copy edition, reverting to digital PDF only. From 2025, *Navy Today* will no longer be published in PDF form. This will be the final edition of *Navy Today*.

We will always tell the story of this Service, but the way we will be telling it from next year will look a little different. Instead of our stories being told in a magazine format, they will be separate articles posted to our website. This will enable us to produce the information in a different way with more options to include videos within the piece, graphics and showing our photography in a different way.

We are excited to see how this change will enhance our story-telling.

Many of you receive the *Navy Today* via an email from me, but from next year, I will be regularly sending out emails with website links to our latest Navy stories that you will be able to click on to view, so you can continue to be kept up-to-date with the latest news.

For any reader who would like to receive these emails, please email navytoday@nzdf.mil.nz

I understand change can be unsettling, but I sincerely thank you all for your support over the years.

Andrew Bonallack



navy.mil.nz



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Yours Aye

Warrant Officer of the Navy



A Year of Change, Growth, Resilience, and Unity

As 2024 comes to a close, it's a fitting time to reflect on a year that has tested us, shaped us, and brought us closer as a Navy. It's been a year marked by challenges, growth, and an unwavering commitment to our purpose and people. From the deck plates to the command centres, every member of our team – uniformed and civilian – has contributed to our mission of defending and serving our nation.

This year has been anything but routine. From a change in Government and NZDF Senior Leadership and subsequent appointments, the increasing complexities of global tensions to the ever-present demand for a highly integrated and prepared force, we've stood strong. These challenges remind us why we serve and emphasise the importance of a united and agile Navy.

The loss of HMNZS MANAWANUI was a sobering moment for our Navy. The sinking of this versatile and beloved vessel was a reminder of the inherent risks in our line of work and the importance of safety, adaptability, and teamwork in every operation.

The incident impacted many within our Navy family, and we have taken the time to reflect honour the legacy of MANAWANUI, and acknowledge the incredible work of those who responded to the situation with professionalism and courage. This shared experience has further reinforced our sense of purpose and strengthened our resolve to continue building a safer, more capable force.

Amidst the challenges of a deteriorating global security environment, our purpose has never been clearer. As the maritime arm of our nation's defence, we stand as a critical force for regional peace and stability. We've continued to demonstrate this purpose through our operations, partnerships, and our ability to project strength where it's needed most. We've demonstrated our professionalism and readiness.

Examples of this are; HMNZS CANTERBURY supported Solomon Islands' elections, completed a rigorous training regime, and represented us at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. HMNZS AOTEAROA strengthened international ties at RIMPAC, the Korean Peninsula, and the Indo-Pacific, with a resupply mission to Antarctica planned for next year. HMNZS TE KAHA advanced its capabilities for a 2025 Arabian Sea deployment as part of a multinational task force. HMNZS TAUPO focused on warfare officer training, while HMNZS MATATAUA delivered critical support in explosive ordnance disposal, environmental surveys, and bespoke operations for allied navies. These efforts affirm our expertise in the maritime domain. We are not only prepared to operate in the toughest environments on the planet but also fight in it.

Our Navigation Plan, released last month, is our meaning, our reason, our 'why we serve', and why we do what we do. It is our focus and our ideal. From the 79 sailors and officers who have recently graduated this month to those wearing their third or fourth (or even fifth) clasps, this is us and where we need to be leaning towards in 2025 and beyond.

Our culture remains the bedrock of our Navy. In 2024, we've continued to foster an environment where respect, professionalism, and pride are not just words but values that define our daily actions. Together, we've strengthened the idea that people who are proud are professional—Fit to fight is a standard that underscores our commitment to each other, to our families, and to our service.

As we enter the holiday season, it's a time to pause, reflect, and reconnect with what matters most—our families, friends, and each other. For those on duty or deployed, know that your service is deeply valued, and you and your families are in our thoughts. Let us also remember those who cannot be with their loved ones this season and honour their sacrifices.

To every sailor, civilian, and family member e Te iwi Heramana I want to express my gratitude for your dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to our Navy. It's because of you that we can face the challenges ahead with confidence and purpose.

As 2024 closes, may you find joy and rest during this season, and may the New Year bring continued success and growth. I wish you and your families a safe and Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year. I look forward to catching up with you all next year.

Stand proud. Be professional. We are Navy. He heramana ahau.

Meri Kirihimete ki a koutou katoa – Merry Christmas to you all.

WOCWS Darren Crosby
Warrant Officer of the Navy

An aerial photograph of a small, dark-colored boat with several people on board, moving across a vast expanse of deep blue ocean. The water shows some whitecaps and ripples. In the far distance, a range of green mountains is visible under a clear sky. The overall scene is serene and expansive.

OPERATION RESOLUTION

**FROM ABANDON SHIP TO THE COURT OF ENQUIRY,
WE OUTLINE THE DAY-TO-DAY FOCUS ON
HMNZS MANAWANUI AND THE NEW ZEALAND
DEFENCE FORCE TEAM WORKING HARD IN SAMOA.**



TIMELINE

05 OCT

HMNZS MANAWANUI grounds on a reef near the southern coast of Upolu, Samoa. 75 crew and passengers evacuate into lifeboats and seaboats.

06 OCT

By 6.40am MANAWANUI is listing heavily and on fire. By 9.00am it has capsized and is below the surface. All 75 persons are rescued. A C-130J Hercules flies to Apia with medical and welfare personnel, as well as light clean-up equipment.

07 OCT

The crew of HMNZS MANAWANUI return home on a C-130J Hercules flight, landing at RNZAF Base Auckland and overnighting there. The crew are reunited with families the following day and attend a Whakanoa at Te Tāua Moana marae that afternoon. Whakanoa is a ceremonial process designed to lift tapu, or sacredness that can accumulate following distressing events.



09 OCT

Senior National Representative Commodore Andrew Brown arrives in Samoa, with the number of personnel in Samoa at nearly 50. New Zealand officials meet with the Chief of Poutasi Village, near where the ship is located, to hear concerns.

10 OCT

A Navy team is established to react to any contamination of local beaches and to remove debris that has started to come ashore. An additional 30-person response team in New Zealand is on short notice to move. Overall there are about 50 New Zealand Defence Force personnel in Samoa dedicated to the response. There are also Maritime New Zealand staff and wildlife experts assisting.

The Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) is recovered.

Chief of Navy Rear Admiral Garin Golding announces the details of the New Zealand Defence Force Court of Enquiry into the sinking.

11 OCT

A P-8A Poseidon flight confirms a light slick stretching away from the ship and mainland, covering approximately 365m x 60m before dissipating. Navy divers find a leak from an engine room vent.

14 OCT

Based on the size of the diesel sheen on the surface, significantly less diesel has leaked than initially assessed. The large fuel tanks are believed to be intact.

16 OCT

Divers and NZDF personnel empty one of the three containers on the reef.



17 OCT

HMNZS CANTERBURY arrives in Apia to support the Government of Samoa's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The New Zealand Defence Force Task Group confirms that so far no pollution or deceased wildlife has been found. They can find no evidence of pollution or fuel affecting the shoreline.



19 OCT

Plans are finalised to remove the three 10-foot shipping containers from the reef. Two of the containers are empty and one is carrying 3,000kg of food. The containers move with the tide and pose an environmental risk.

20 OCT

First shipping container removed.

21 OCT

Second shipping container removed.



23 OCT

Local contractor Ark Marine successfully removes all three containers. The three 10 foot containers were floated using float bags, then towed ashore.

24 OCT

Prime Minister Chris Luxon visits Operation Resolution headquarters in Samoa, thanking New Zealand Defence Force personnel for their efforts.



28 OCT

A team of 20 Navy divers from HMNZS MATATAUA continue to monitor MANAWANUI for fuel leaks, as well as checking on fuel tank integrity and retrieval of equipment and debris. A surface team of five, supporting two divers, conduct multiple dives of up to 25 minutes in duration.

30 OCT

HMNZS CANTERBURY departs Samoa with items from MANAWANUI on board, including the three containers removed from the reef.

5 NOV

Due diligence monitoring includes daily drone flights, covering around five kilometres along the coastline and over the water in the vicinity of Manawanui. Multiple drones, with around 20 minutes of flight time each, complete one hour of combined surveillance. At this point around 60 flights have been made.

6 NOV

One month since the sinking of MANAWANUI. Senior National Representative Commodore Andrew Brown thanks the Samoan and New Zealand people for “a big team effort” for Operation Resolution.

7 NOV

A new Royal New Zealand Navy taskforce is rotated into duty in Samoa.



11 NOV

Methodology for the removal of fuel from MANAWANUI shared with Samoan authorities for their endorsement.

13 NOV

Ongoing daily monitoring of the ship and site.

14 NOV

Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Tony Davies presents recognition awards to Samoan officials and members of the public who were involved in the rescue efforts and care of MANAWANUI ship's company and passengers.

Chief of Navy RADM Garin Golding receives the Interim Court of Enquiry report.

18 NOV

New Zealand salvage companies Pacific 7 Limited and Bay Underwater Services NZ Ltd are contracted to remove, recover and safely dispose of the fuel and pollutants on board HMNZS MANAWANUI.

22 NOV

The salvors prepare for the 10-day voyage to Samoa.

29 NOV

The Interim Court of Enquiry report into the sinking is presented to media.

13 DEC

Tug and barge containing fuel recovery equipment arrive in Apia.



AOTEAROA COMPLETES INDO-PACIFIC MISSION

FROM HAWAII
TO THE SOUTH
CHINA SEA, HMNZS
AOTEAROA'S 2024
OPERATION CRUCIBLE
DEPLOYMENT HAS
BEEN A SUCCESSFUL
REAFFIRMATION OF
NEW ZEALAND'S
PARTNERSHIPS ON
THE WATER.





AOTEAROA returned to Devonport on 25 October after 135 days away, with family and friends waiting on Calliope Wharf to welcome the crew home. Navy colleagues greeted the ship's company with a haka, who responded with their own.

For Commanding Officer Commander Rob Welford, his return to Devonport was exactly one year and one day since he took command of AOTEAROA, and the second time he has brought AOTEAROA home from South East Asia. He took command of AOTEAROA in Singapore towards the end of the ship's 2023 deployment.

CDR Welford says he could not be prouder of his ship's company.

“

Our many successes with multiple countries, including some ‘firsts’ for the ship like an eight-hour refueling of USS BOXER, shows how AOTEAROA continues to be the ‘tanker of choice’ in delivering an operational effect for our Defence partners.

In all our engagements and taskings, AOTEAROA’s sailors have had a smile on their face and put 100 per cent effort into everything they have done. I couldn’t ask for more.”

– CDR Welford





Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Major General Rob Krushka, and Maritime Component Commander, Commodore Shane Arndell, were in Devonport to meet and talk with the crew of AOTEAROA.

MAJGEN Krushka and CDRE Arndell wanted to convey the NZDF and the Navy's thanks to the ship's company for a lengthy mission professionally conducted.

CDRE Arndell says AOTEAROA'S accomplishments shows the Royal New Zealand Navy is a highly trained blue-water navy with the personnel and platforms to make a tangible contribution on the world stage, supporting the international rules-based system.

"There will be plenty more of these opportunities for our sailors in coming months allowing them to be at the sharp end of operations, and that's exactly why they joined," he says.

"This has been a long time away for the crew of AOTEAROA but they should be incredibly proud of what they've achieved."

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship JS SAZANAMI sails behind Royal New Zealand Navy ship HMNZS AOTEAROA while conducting a Dual-Replenishment at Sea with HMAS SYDNEY and USS HOWARD during a Maritime Cooperative Activity in the South China Sea.

Photo: Royal Australian Navy

EXERCISE RIMPAC

HMNZS AOTEAROA arrived early to Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2024 (RIMPAC 2024) in Hawaii on June 23, ready to work with four other replenishment ships as part of Combined Task Force 173, RIMPAC's combat logistics task force.

AOTEAROA's early arrival meant it could conduct Replenishment at Sea (RAS) trials with commercial tanker MV ALLIED PACIFIC, both alongside and then at sea. Being able to receive fuel from a commercial tanker while at sea was a brand-new capability for AOTEAROA.

AOTEAROA received a total of 13,386,000 litres of F76 Diesel Fuel and passed a total of 6,384,000 litres of F76 diesel fuel and 460,000 litres of aviation fuel to customer ships both inside and outside the exercise.

AOTEAROA conducted RAS operations with 16 partner ships, including a concurrent RAS with United States destroyer USS STERETT and Canadian frigate HMCS VANCOUVER.

A significant highlight was replenishing USS BOXER, an Amphibious Assault Ship sailing to Asia for its operational deployment.

It meant BOXER had to be stationed 45m off Aotearoa's port beam for 8.5 hours while close to 3 million litres of diesel fuel and 350,000 litres of aviation fuel were pumped across.

It was both the longest replenishment and largest ship ever replenished by AOTEAROA.









KOREAN PENINSULA

AOTEAROA's deployment shifted to Japan and North Korea to contribute to the monitoring of United Nations Security Council Resolutions imposing sanctions against North Korea. During its four-week involvement, AOTEAROA's role was to replenish international navy vessels patrolling the Korean Peninsula.

During the transit AOTEAROA enjoyed the company of VANCOUVER, with both ships conducting a variety of manoeuvres and swapping crew members to experience life on board another nation's vessel.

AOTEAROA conducted port visits to Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan.

MULTILATERAL EXERCISES

AOTEAROA continued its support of partner navies during its passage south to Singapore. It conducted replenishments and manoeuvres with ships from South Korea, Japan, Germany, Australia, the Philippines and the United States, including taking part in a Multilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity international exercise in the South China Sea, designed to strengthen interoperability in the maritime context. It included concurrent replenishments with returning customer USS BOXER and USS COMSTOCK, and with destroyers USS HOWARD and HMAS SYDNEY.

TAIWAN STRAIT TRANSIT

AOTEAROA sailed through the Taiwan Strait with SYDNEY on the afternoon of 25 September, en route to a port visit in Singapore.

Maritime Component Commander CDRE Shane Arndell said this was a routine movement from one point in the Indo-Pacific to another.

"The New Zealand Defence Force conducts all activities in accordance with international law and best practice. This was a routine activity, consistent with international law, including the right of freedom of navigation as guaranteed under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)."

The last previous transit of the Taiwan Strait, en route to Qingdao, China was conducted by HMNZS TE KAHA in 2017.



CANTERBURY AT CHOGM





An RNZAF NH90 touches down on HMNZS CANTERBURY's flight deck as the ship prepares to depart for Samoa.

HMNZS CANTERBURY JOINED NAVAL VESSELS FROM AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM) 2024 IN SAMOA IN OCTOBER.





At the request of the Samoan Government, CANTERBURY, Royal Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel HMS TAMAR and Australian Landing Ship Dock HMAS CHOULES arrived in support, to work alongside Samoan Police, Prisons and Corrections Services (SPPCS).

CANTERBURY arrived with three NH90 helicopters and six Hato Hone St John ambulances, along with equipment and supplies for various other agencies including NZ Police, NZ Fire and Emergency, and NZ medical assistance teams. The St John team were in Samoa to support the Samoan Fire and Emergency Services Authority during CHOGM. According to the Samoan Observer, it was St John's first deployment in Samoa.

The ships conducted rehearsals with SPPCS before undertaking their operational duties around Upolu in support of security measures for CHOGM. After unloading its cargo, CANTERBURY moved to the North

West of Apia to monitor the waterways, while providing a platform for the NH90 helicopters which conducted airborne security cover throughout the meetings

CANTERBURY also hosted the Australian Defence Force's Mass Casualty Team and Aeromedical Evacuation teams, who were on standby in case of a serious incident in Samoa.

In total the New Zealand Defence Force deployed 260 personnel in support of Samoa during CHOGM.

CANTERBURY departed Apia on 30 October, bringing back to New Zealand HMNZS MANAWANUI's three containers, recovered from the reef close to where MANAWANUI sank. The ship also carried MANAWANUI's two Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boats, used to help evacuate the ship, and other equipment.

Poignantly, CANTERBURY also returned with MANAWANUI's Symbol of Command, a ceremonial adze (toki poutangata) recovered by HMNZS MATATAUA divers. It was handed back to the Commanding Officer of MANAWANUI, Commander Yvonne Gray, when CANTERBURY returned to Devonport.

Commodore Andrew Brown, the Senior National Representative for Operation Resolution in Samoa, visited CANTERBURY to thank the ship's company for their contribution to CHOGM and their support to the MANAWANUI response.

CANTERBURY's priority now is preparation for humanitarian aid and disaster relief requirements in the Pacific, with the approach of the high risk weather season.

Above left: CDRE Andrew Brown delivers HMNZS MANAWANUI's recovered symbol of command to CDR Martin Walker, Acting Commanding Officer HMNZS CANTERBURY, for transfer back to New Zealand.



Sailor

O F T H E Y E A R

Sailor Of The Year



2010 USNavy
2011 USNavy
2012 USNavy
2013 USNavy
2014 USNavy
2015 USNavy
2016 USNavy
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2099 USNavy
2100 USNavy



LMT(L)
Joe Mataele

A sailor noted for his professionalism, resilience and unwavering dedication to his Navy environment has been named as Sailor of the Year 2024 and the New Zealand Defence Force Person of the Year.

Leading Marine Technician (Electrical) Joe Mataele is described as a highly motivated and respected engineer who has adapted his leadership style to tackle the rigours of being a Basic Common Training instructor for the Navy's newest aspiring sailors.

Born in Porirua, LMT(L) Mataele grew up in Tonga and attended Tonga High School. On completion, he returned to New Zealand to pursue further education at the University of Auckland, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Double Major in Political Science and Organisational Management.

He joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in July 2015. His sea service has included postings with the Marine Engineering department in HMNZS

CANTERBURY, HMNZS WELLINGTON, HMNZS TE MANA, and HMCS REGINA in Canada while on a Training Exchange in 2017.

He completed his LMT(L) Professional course in December 2020, which included qualifying as an Electrician. He was promoted to Leading Hand in 2022 while in Canada with TE MANA, and has since completed his Petty Officer Development Course, where he was awarded Top Student.

It is his qualities and work ethic as an Instructor at the Leadership Development Group (LDG) that prompted his superiors' nomination for Sailor of the Year. He had already been awarded Sailor of the Quarter for LDG in the first quarter of this year.

"LMT(L) Mataele embodies the qualities of an inspiring leader, positively influencing everyone he interacts with—recruits, peers, and his wider team," says his citation.

"For recruits, he lays a strong foundation in discipline, accountability, and teamwork, ensuring they are prepared to meet the demands of naval service with confidence and resilience. His guidance goes beyond technical skills, fostering a warrior mind-set and deep understanding of the Navy's core values."



His professionalism, resilience, and unwavering dedication sets a very high benchmark for others to follow."

– Citation

OUR PEOPLE

1. Acting Deputy Chief of Navy CDRE Quentin Randall receives his boards from Chief of Navy RADM Garin Golding.

2. Medal recipients at a Chief of Navy medal parade at Devonport Naval Base, 4 October.

3. RADM Garin Golding (right) congratulates CAPT Andy Mahoney on his promotion.

4. Admiring the birthday cake in the Vince McGlone Galley are, from left, OMA Shannan Parker, Linda Maher, LCH Karlee Rance (cakemaker) and Chief of Navy RADM Garin Golding.

5. Leander Division instructor LMT(P) Kerimay Malcolm works through a kit muster with BCT 24/02, while OHS Asharna Owens stands ready to take notes.

6. CDRE Karl Woodhead and MID Andrea Hawke cut the Navy birthday cake at Defence House.

7. WOSCS Ngahiwi Walker with MAJ Tony Brooking at a WAI2500 hearing at Wairaka Marae, Whakatane.

8. Blair Gerritsen is promoted to Commodore, in preparation for his new role as Defence Attaché Washington DC.

9. LCT Lochlainn Bonasich back with friends and family as HMNZS AOTEAROA berths in Auckland.

10. The Ship's Company of HMNZS OLPHERT following its Change of Command ceremony in October.

11. Midshipmen from JOCT 24/02 spend time in Mexican training ship ARM Cuauhtémoc, when the tall ship paid a visit to Auckland.

12. MID Jack Fiddler, JOCT 24/02, receives his Midshipman slides.







NAVY RESERVISTS CONTRIBUTE TO EXERCISE KAKADU





Two Royal New Zealand Navy Reservists joined an international team to ensure uninterrupted passage of commercial vessels during a major naval exercise near Darwin.

Sub Lieutenant Pete Campbell and Petty Officer Maritime Trade Operations (MTO) James Dunlop-Story joined their MTO counterparts from Australia and the Philippines on Exercise Kakadu in Australia in September.

Exercise Kakadu is a Royal Australian Navy-led biennial exercise and their flagship regional international engagement activity. It provides an opportunity for regional partners to undertake multinational maritime activities ranging from constabulary operations to high-end maritime warfare.

This year's iteration took place in the vicinity of Darwin over 9-20 September, involving more than 10 warships and more than 3,000 personnel from 32 countries.

While the warfare exercises are taking place, MTOs advise masters of merchant ships on safe passage through 'contested' waters and provide guidance so shipping can continue while military activity is present.

SLT Campbell spent a day briefing the captains of civilian ships in Darwin Harbour.

"It is a busy port, they have more than 300 movements every month and commercial activities do not halt to accommodate the exercise. Therefore, strong communication is important to ensure our exercise doesn't impact commercial activities," he said.

SLT Campbell is a triathlon coach who runs his own business in his civilian life.

"I am currently on a part-time engagement but managed to log 32 weeks work for the Naval Reserves in the last year. Having a young family, I like the flexibility the Naval Reserves provides to engage with ships and the maritime industry while still managing to spend time at home."

A love for being on the sea meant POMTO Dunlop-Story transferred to the Royal New Zealand Navy Volunteer Reserves after a 16-year full time career in the NZ Army.

"Kakadu was my first international exercise with the Navy, I found the experience very useful and rewarding, learning new skills from the other participants and getting an appreciation of different systems and ways to get the job done."

Officer in Charge of the MTO element, Commander Bruce Christensen, RAN, says deconfliction between military and civilian operations is a key function of MTOs.

"Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines are also all island nations reliant on international trade from the sea, so our team are all acutely aware of the importance of free and open sea lanes and maritime trade protection."



Our people have the experience and knowledge to effectively brief command on the potential impacts of commercial activities on military operations and vice versa."

– Commander Bruce Christensen, Royal Australian Navy

Top left: SLT Campbell briefing the captain of the civilian ship Kokopo Chief.

Top right: POMTO Dunlop-Story hard at work in the office.

Opposite page: SLT Campbell with RAN Lieutenant Suraj Joshi in front of the MV Sapura after briefing the captain on the exercise.

Change of Command for HMNZS OLPHERT

Lieutenant Commander Jonathan Otto RNZNR has had numerous roles at Wellington Reserve Unit HMNZS OLPHERT, and now he's taken the top job.

LTCDR Otto declared "I have the ship" on 30 October, taking command of OLPHERT from outgoing Commanding Officer Lieutenant Commander Robert Shanks RD, RNZNR and accepting OLPHERT's Symbol of Command, a stone mere. Captain Quentin Randall, Acting Deputy Chief of Navy, officiated the ceremony.

He has served at OLPHERT for three years, most recently as Executive Officer. Prior to that LTCDR Otto was in the Regular Force, having joined the Navy as a Marine Engineer Officer in 2013 and going on to specialise in Cyber Defence. He currently works for Waka Kotahi / NZ Transport Agency.

In his speech, LTCDR Otto says he is lucky to be working with a highly talented and committed ship's company, as well as two full-time staff as the threads that keep them all together.

"One of the unique aspects of working with reservists is the volunteer nature of our service," he said.

"Every one of us contributes not because we are required or compelled to do so, but because we truly want to. It's also worth recognising our



regular employers, who are generally supportive of flexibly enabling our reserve employment while realising there is a mutual benefit to both parties."

Reservists bring a diversity of skills and professions to the Reserve Force, bringing new perspectives to challenges.

"Sometimes that's includes a well-reasoned challenge to the status quo, but also new and innovative solutions to problems both old and new.

"I could not be prouder to work with the outstanding people I have come to know throughout my time here at OLPHERT."



LTCDR Jonathan Otto (above) is presented with his Command Directive from Acting Deputy Chief of Navy CAPT Quentin Randall.

LTCDR Jonathan Otto (below) receives HMNZS OLPHERT's Symbol of Command from LTCDR Robert Shanks.

NAVY OFFICER FINDS MARITIME VALUE IN AVIATION DEGREE

An aviation enthusiast and student pilot who became a sailor and then a Warfare Officer is now revisiting aviation through tertiary studies at Massey University.

Sub Lieutenant Cody Crump, from Glenfield, is doing his first year of a Bachelor of Aviation Management, having previously completed one paper while serving at sea.

He applied via the Defence College's Targeted Tertiary Study Scheme (TTSS), open to any member of the RNZN who has served a minimum of three years.

"I joined the Navy in 2016 partway through year-13, aged 17, as a Seamanship Combat Specialist," he says.

"A military life was quite attractive. There were the standard reasons – being paid to travel, that sort of thing, but I liked the idea of a structured work environment.

"I commissioned from the ranks, having conducted JOCT 21/02. I then completed the Officer of the Watch (Basic) course in 2022. I subsequently spent 15 months posted to HMNZS TAUPO as a 'Bravo' watch keeper, and a Boarding Officer. I did one university paper while at sea and then applied for full time study."

TTSS Applicants are required to first research what is required to achieve their qualification, and then submit an application before a board for review.

He has a passion for aviation and had funded himself through Private Pilot Licence training.

"The Bachelor of Aviation Management focuses on some business aspects, diving deep into human factors in aviation, aspects of cognitive ergonomics, and how humans interact with equipment in stressful environments. Ideally, learning outcomes for these courses aim to improve safety in aviation, through the use of theoretical models. A lot of this I can apply to my role as a watch keeper, and I'm hoping to get enough knowledge that I can come back to the Navy and apply this to risk identification and safety management."

It is a three-year degree. His first year is funded but at this point, he doesn't have follow-up funding. He will return to the Navy after semester two, continuing his Warfare Officer training.





RNZN TAKES OUT TOP CHEF PRIZE

Beef carpaccio, salmon rillettes, roasted quail, sous vide lamb rump, fish mosaic and blood orange with chocolate bavarois, are just some of the dishes that were served up at the annual 47th Roy Smith Memorial Trophy Competition recently.

Five teams from the Royal New Zealand Navy, New Zealand Army, Australian Army and Australian Defence Force competed in the two-day fine dining competition at Devonport Naval Base, which aims to foster catering excellence in the New Zealand Defence Force and across the ditch.

The Navy team took out the coveted Roy Smith Trophy. Able Chef Jaimee McGahey says she's "over the moon" to have been part of the winning team.

"I always wanted to be a chef and when I joined the Navy straight from school, I listed chef, chef and chef as my options for what trade I was going to enter," says the 21-year-old from Papamoa.

"I was most excited about my dessert, which was a blood orange and chocolate bavarois. It was my first time making it so I practised for about a week leading up to the competition. The biggest challenge is you have a clock running in background which puts the pressure on while you're competing, but I just thought, it's just a timer, it's not like a bomb is going to go off," she says.

Warrant Officer First Class Manu Ferguson, from the Defence Catering School, is the competition controller and says it's an honour to be part of the historic competition.

"The competition started in 1977, so it's been a long time running. I started off in the catering school when I first joined the Army, so to have started off as a student and now being the chief instructor, is an honour and it feels like coming full circle. For me, it's more than just a cooking competition, it's a way of life. It teaches our people about team work, work ethic, commitment, and it gives our young soldiers and sailors a chance to be a part of history," he says.

Each team is made up of two chefs, a front of house steward, a coach and a manager. Over the two days, the front of house is tested on stewarding, serving, setting tables, making cocktails and mocktails and their communication skills between themselves and the chefs.

"There's a round that focuses on kitchen work, including health and safety of food preparation, team work in the kitchen and the service of plating up meals. And the competition culminates with an eight-course meal, blind-judged by Defence Force Catering School instructors and also served to diners," he says.

Above: Chefs in action at the Roy Smith Memorial Trophy Competition, held at Devonport Naval Base.



From top to bottom: Chefs plating up dishes.

The Royal New Zealand Navy team won the coveted Roy Smith Trophy - Able Chef Jaimee McGahey (Centre).

From left, LHS Andre'a Falchi, ACH Joshua Radford, ACH Jaimee McGahey, POCH Henry Longstaff.



The following teams participated in the 2024 competition:

- Royal New Zealand Navy team
- 2nd Combat Service Support Battalion, New Zealand Army, Linton Military Camp
- 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion, New Zealand Army, Burnham Military Camp
- Australian Army 17th Sustainment Brigade team
- Australian Defence Force Combined team

The category winners for 2024 were:

- 1st year Chef – PTE Taygon Jean-Louise
- 2nd Year Chef – LCPL Emily Chamberlin
- Quizzene Cup – RNZN
- Murray Ross – 2CSSB
- Harvey Bourne – 17th Sustainment Brigade – Australian Army
- Dave Murray – LHS Andre'a Falchi
- Fretwell Downing – RNZN
- Roy Smith – RNZN
- Te Ope Katua O Aotearoa – 17th Sustainment Brigade – Australian Army





HMINZS NGAPONA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Reservists, colleagues and sailors past and present celebrated the centenary of Auckland-based reserve unit HMINZS NGAPONA over November 22-24.

Events included a pōwhiri at Te Taua Moana Marae, base tours, a Beat the Retreat ceremony and reception at the Navy Museum, and a memorial service at St Christopher's Chapel.

NGAPONA's Commanding Officer Lieutenant Commander Chetan Sawyer said it was an "awesome" weekend, following on from NGAPONA's public-facing highlights of the Whangārei Maritime Festival in October (see page 34).

"The whole weekend was amazing, but the combined service and 'end of year function' was a real highlight of the weekend," he said. "Everyone was in a really good mood and there was some fantastic humour."

A particular source of nostalgia was a visit to ex-RNZN Harbour Defence Motor Launch (HDML) PAEA, now in private ownership. NGAPONA's divisional coxswain Chief Petty Officer Combat System Specialist Shane Kennedy and relief coxswain Petty Officer Naval Policeman Mike 'Buck' Taylor helped crew the boat from Whangārei to a mooring in Bayswater, North Shore where it was made available for viewing.

According to the Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy, the New Zealand Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve was established in October 1924, based in Auckland. It was renamed the Auckland Division in 1928, in keeping with the creation of Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin Divisions.

In October 1941 all Divisions were renamed as Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve. At this point the Divisions were not active; all personnel were mobilised as part of the war effort.



Above: LTCDR Chetan Sawyer RZNZR addresses the centenary attendees.

In November 1951, the Division was commissioned as a Ship: HMINZS NGAPONA. The Ship's name is taken from a Māori proverb relating to the three peaks of Rangitoto. The Ship's badge denotes the Kaka, a native bird that was originally found on Rangitoto. The Ship's motto is 'ka mahi tatou - we serve together'.

NGAPONA moved from its long-time position in St Mary's Bay in 2007 and is now located in the Palmer Building within Devonport Naval Base.

A popular souvenir for the centenary was NGAPONA's Centenary challenge coin. NGAPONA's own Lieutenant Graeme 'Frosty' Frost designed the coin based on the ship's crest. It quickly sold out.

LT Frost was awarded NGAPONA's Wadham Plate in part for his efforts supporting the centenary, and the following day enlisted in the Regular Force as an Information Warfare officer, following a popular trend of Reserves personnel transferring to the Regular Force.

NGAPONA Trials Whangārei Sub-Unit



Crowds flock past one of the Navy's Littoral Manoeuvr Craft during the Whangārei Maritime Festival.

Reserve Force Unit HMNZS NGAPONA is trialing a Northland Sub-Unit (NSU) in Whangārei for the betterment of Navy representation north of Auckland.

The NSU officially opened on 12 October, with the launch and announcement taking place at the Whangārei Maritime Festival. The Navy arrived with some punch, with HMNZS MATATAUA bringing up two Littoral Manoeuvr Craft to give Festival attendees something to look at.

Based at RNZIR 3/6 Battalion in Whangārei, the creation of the NSU for a year-long trial aligns with NGAPONA's Freedom of the City charter with Whangārei.

NGAPONA's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Chetan Sawyer, says the Navy was well received during the festival, with Whangārei Mayor Vince Cocurullo and Member of Parliament for Whangārei Dr Shane Reti expressing their support for the new initiative and appreciation for the Navy's presence in the region.

"The warm response we received at the festival, from both the public and local leaders, reflects the importance of local engagement and building these connections."

He said supporting the Festival, one of the largest public events in Northland, will become an annual activity for the NSU if the trial proves successful.

The Administration Instruction notes a considerable number of Reserve Force personnel, mostly former Regular Force, reside in Northland. Some are very engaged, travelling to Auckland and further on Navy business, but for the majority, the distance in Auckland prevents them from staying connected.

It was also noted that during Cyclone Gabrielle flooding in Northland last year, the Navy were technically responsible for Operation Awhina duties, but due to being already present in Northland, the Army's RNZIR 3/6 reservists performed much of the 'heavy lifting'.

NGAPONA has another sub-unit in Tauranga, which has been successful in delivering key outputs such as Maritime Trade Operations, domestic engagements and ceremonial duties.

The Officer in Charge of NSU, Lieutenant Commander Damian Gibbs, says the establishment of the NSU enhances the Navy's relationship with the Northland community, offering more

opportunities for residents to learn about naval operations and join the Reserves.

"The Northland sub-unit fills a critical gap for our reservists," he said. "This launch is a commitment to our people in Northland."

"Although there has long been a significant number of Naval Reserve personnel in the Northland region, we've lacked the infrastructure to support them effectively. This new unit provides the resources necessary for them to grow and contribute to the Navy's mission."

It is envisaged that personnel would muster every two months at the sub-unit, thereby keeping connections and momentum, but not causing undue expense in the fiscally constrained environment.

Captain James Burt, Assistant Chief of Navy (Reserves), says the concept has been mooted for the last two years.

"We have pockets of personnel around the country who want to contribute," he says. "There's still that desire by ex-Regular Force members for, and the benefit of, keeping connected to the Navy. We see that, when people have been out of the Regular Force for a few years, they miss that connection with like-minded people."



Cadet

O F T H E Y E A R

WOCDT
Oliver Evans

Life skills and friendships are big pluses of being in the New Zealand Cadet Forces, says Warrant Officer Cadet Oliver Evans.

Sea Cadet Corps' WOCDT Evans, 18, has been named Cadet of the Year 2024 for his "outstanding year" of personal growth as a leader and his contribution to the growth of Sea Cadet Corps unit TS WAIKATO, according to his citation.

He joined the Cadet Forces in February 2019, initially as a member of the Hamilton City Cadet Unit (HCCU).

"My dad is a Unit Commander and my brother was already in it, so it was something I was most likely to do," he says. "I was looking for something outside of school and a way to meet new people."

Through his time within the unit, he worked his way up the ranks to his current position as unit Company Sergeant Major/Ship's Coxswain.

WOCDT Evans has successfully completed several NZCF courses such as Junior Non-Commissioned Officers', Senior Non-Commissioned Officers' and Shooting Coaches Course. He has also staffed SNCO's and two Northern Area Cadet Corps Skills competition, one while an Army cadet and more recently as a Navy cadet.

He was a member of the HCCU skills team which won Northern Area Cadet Corps Skills competition in 2022 and placed third in the National Skills competition.

In 2023 and 2024 CDTWO Evans was a member of the HCCU training team for skills, in which HCCU were national winners in 2023, and the Northern Area winners in 2024.

At the recent Northern Area Cadet Corps Skills competition, CDTWO Evans' actions of supporting and encouraging less-experienced teams was noticed, as he provided motivation before the competition stands began, then congratulated teams on their performance afterwards.

"Cadet Forces has given me a lot of life skills," he says. "It's being able to take orders, and using your initiative."

He likes how his Cadet Force experience and leadership has changed and grown every year.

"The best thing has been leading people. I don't have a strict leadership style; I like to use humour in my leadership. The cadets enjoy their time with us, they're all friends with each other and everyone knows each other. When you coach people, you see them go from low scores to badges, you see a smile on their faces and you feel really good about it."

He spotted an opportunity this year to transfer from HCCU to TS WAIKATO. The Sea Cadets had no Senior Cadet as leader, and if he moved over, it would allow WAIKATO to evolve and gel as a team.

WOCDT Evans knew the two Cadet Navy Officers were of an age that they may retire soon, and he would look to move into the Officer Cadet role when he turned 19 next year. This would then lead to an Officer Cadet role when he turned 19 and ultimately commissioning as a Sea Cadet Corps officer – another asset for WAIKATO.

Next year he hopes to lead a TS Waikato team in next year's Sea Cadet Corps Regional Regatta, the first time in some years WAIKATO have been involved.

WOCDT Evans is a former Hamilton Boys' High School student and is now studying automotive engineering at WinTech.

The salvage of the hydrographic survey ship HMS Cook in 1963

■ By CDR (rtd) Rob Brown QSM

The unfortunate sinking of HMNZS MANAWANUI off Samoa has reminded me of the last time a hydrographic survey ship struck a reef in our area when HMS COOK, a converted Loch Class frigate, hit a coral head in 1963 while surveying in the Lau group in Fiji. With good damage control and seamanship HMS COOK managed to limp back about 150 miles to Suva with one compartment completely flooded.

This is long forgotten but I recall it well. At the time I was serving in HMNZS LACHLAN, the RNZN survey ship, as a young hydrographic surveyor and was also the ship's diving officer. We were heading out of Auckland Harbour for our survey area between Cape Brett in the Bay of Islands and Bream Head, Whangarei when a signal lamp flashed something like "proceed to Suva at best speed and render whatever assistance necessary". COOK, in the best tradition of the service, requested only that LACHLAN finish her survey and a loan of the diving officer so I was left in Suva in charge of COOK's ship's divers. From memory I had only about nine hours of underwater experience.

COOK was sitting in Suva Harbour, and an assessment of the damage had been undertaken by divers from HMNZS TARANAKI which was



H M S C O O K



enroute to Pearl Harbor. While the expert Royal Navy Clearance Divers in Singapore and the RNZN Clearance Divers in Auckland argued the toss over who would do the salvage diving, we surveyed the damage with our ship's divers.

We established the damage comprised cracks and gashes in the hull, some six feet long, but concluded that the damage was less than reported by TARANAKI. I reported to the CO that the diving team could fix it, and we started diving the next morning. We would surface and signal the shape of hard wood wedge or soft wood plug. On the jetty, a team of Fijians with machetes would chop them to shape, and we hammered the wedges into the cracks. In the gaps between wedges, we poked in sisal soaked in tallow with our diving knives and after diving for a day and half, seven and a half hours on the first day, we had plugged the ship's bottom so that then the ship's pumps could be started.

The smell of 30 tons of decaying meat from the ship's refrigerators attracted sharks. They were small and were swimming in the effluent at the surface 20 feet above us but made us a bit nervous.

The very capable bosun then 'fothered' the fo'c'sle awning, just like Captain Cook did in ENDEAVOUR in 1770 when he hit a reef on the Great Barrier Reef.

How it worked was it was passed beneath the ship, heaved taut with blocks and tackle, so that it covered the hull damage. The pumps were started, and after working hard for just two days the ship was watertight and the flooded compartment free of water.

Slipping the ship on Suva's 1000-ton slip was the next challenge. It was agreed that it could be overloaded to a maximum of 1250 tons. The ship had been completely destored, a huge job for the ship's company, but with the water pumped out was still 600 tons too heavy for the dock. With careful calculation the ship was hauled out leaving the stern in the sea so that there was always at least 600 tons of upthrust at the lowest state of the tide.

But then some bad news came. A tsunami warning was received which would bring abnormal tides. The CO ordered us to close all watertight doors, and we took to the hills. We even managed to shut the bosun in the ship in our haste to clear out. When we returned, the tsunami had affected the height of the tide but only the last keel block had been crushed and the cradle was intact. If it had collapsed COOK would have been an immovable feature on the Suva shoreline for some time, but the ship was repaired and sailed for Singapore a few months later.

Such was my first and only salvage operation.

Left: HMS COOK bow on slip; Right: HMS COOK's stern supported in the sea.

Opposite page: Inspecting the damage to the hull while HMS COOK is slipped. The wedges used by the divers underwater can be seen.

STEWARD NAME CHANGE

With effect from 10 September 2024 the trade name for the Steward Branch is renamed to Hospitality Specialist (HS).

It was determined that the name 'Steward' did not accurately reflect the role, training and competencies of modern Stewards within the Navy, and needed to be aligned with the roles and outputs of the Royal New Zealand Navy and wider Defence Force.

The Hospitality Specialist title aligns to the strategic goals of the NZDF and RNZN and is comparable to civilian sectors, aiding with recruiting and updating current business practices. It further highlights the role and contribution that Hospitality Specialists make to outputs within the NZDF.

There is no change to the branch badge at this time; however the trade is currently developing a replacement branch badge to be submitted to the RNZN Clothing Board in the near future.



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Updated to 15 November 2024

CDRE Shane ARNDELL
LTCDR Rowan BAGOT
LWT Robert BARKER
A/CAPT Dave BARR
LT Taylor BELL-BOOTH
POHST Karin BURLING
CPOCH Chris BUTCHER
AMT(P) Adedas CAMPBELL
AET Hamish CATTO
LET Justin COLES
LMT(L) Kaitlyn COLLINS
ACSS Mitchell DEANE
ASCS Simon DMITRENKO
CAPT Andy DOWLING
ACSS William EADE
LDR Jared ELLMERS
LTCDR Megan ENGLEBACK
A/CPOLSS Kelli FAULKNER
AET Sean FOLLEY
LMT(L) Natalie FOWKE
LMT(P) Lukas GEORGE
CDRE Blair GERRITSEN
POWT David GILVRAV

LTCDR Lance GRAHAM
LCSS Oceeyy GRAY
LWT Cael HANLON
WOLSS Dean HAPI
ASCS Erik HARREWIJN
ASCS Thomas HART
ASCS Caleb HARTY
LMT(L) Brad HUMPHREY
AMT(P) Daniel HOLT PEDERSEN
A/LCWS Keisha IHIMAERA
POMT(L) William IKENASIO
A/LSCS Joel JACKSON
LSCS Andy JACOBS
AET Kobe KAISER
AMT(L) Logan KEMPTHORNE
POCSS Matt KRUGER
AMT(L) Jacob MALONI
ALSS Laela MAEDA
CAPT Andy MAHONEY
LWT Fynn MARTIN
CPOCT James MARTIN
POMT(P) Steven MAYNARD
CPOSCS Jordan MCHUGH
LT Damien MOANA
A/LT Daniel MOORE
LTCDR Sam MURRAY
AMT(L) Anahera PEITA
AMT(L) Jesse PIKAAHU
ALSS Shea POWNALL

ENS Robert PRATT
ACH Emily PRETORIUS
LTCDR Quinn QUINLAN
A/CDRE Quentin RANDALL
A/CDR Jonathan ROWE
WOWTR Nicholas RZEPECKY
ASCS Zachary SALMON
ALSS Jakob SANSON
A/LTCDR Sam SHAW
LT Nic SHEARER
LLSS Amra SIMEK
AMEDIC Manvir SINGH
ACSS Naaera TEREKIA
AMT(L) Chloe TEARIKI MANA
AMT(P) LJ TETONGA-GUDSELL
LCSS Keiran THOMAS
LMEDIC Celynia THOMPSON
SLT Riley THURLOW
LMT(L) Jordan TRAILL
LT Ashley UJDUR
A/CDRE Rodger WARD
ASCS Alexander WATKINS
CPOSCS Melvin WIKI
AMT(L) Brodie WILLIAMSON
AMT(P) Kobe WILTON
LT Maraea WITANA
AMT(L) Brandon YOUNG
AMEDIC Leon YOUNG

15 ROUNDS

CAPTAIN TONY MASTERS



01 Job Title and description:
DNS – Director Naval Strategy currently
A/ACN(S&E) – acting Assistant Chief of Navy
(Strategy and Engagement)

02 Date Joined RNZN:
January 1996

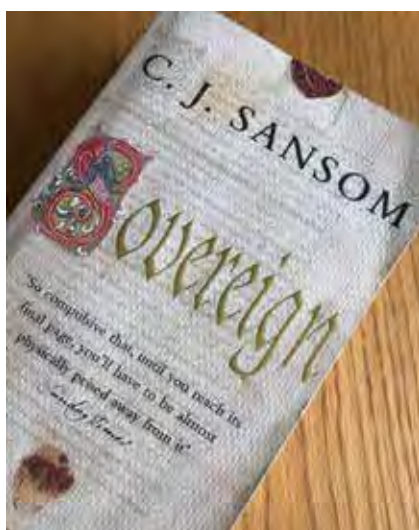
03 First ship posted to:
HMS GLOUCESTER

04 Best deployment and why:
Operation Enduring Freedom, because of the
comradeship and colleagues and the shared
operational experience including Christmas in the
Gulf of Oman.

05 Hometown:
Kaitia

06 High School:
Kaitia College

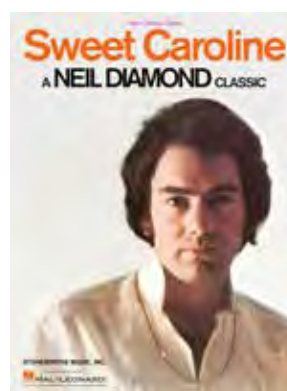
07 Favourite book:
Currently it's *Sovereign* by CJ Sanson



08 Favourite movie:
Watership Down

09 Favourite album:
Sorry too many to choose (That's not an album
title – I really have too many to choose from)

10 Favourite song:
Sweet Caroline by Neil Diamond



11 Favourite holiday destination:
Dubrovnik, Croatia

**12 Outside of work, what's the one thing
you enjoy doing?**
I enjoy diving and fishing

**13 What's something about you that not many
people know?**
I enjoy waterskiing and have been waterskiing
since I was five.

**14 A person that taught you a valuable life/Navy
lesson... and the lesson was?**
Persistence and hard work usually equal a great
outcome.

**15 How would you describe the Navy in
10 words or less?**
A life of opportunities, friendship and experiences.

