



THE CLAYMORE

HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

#95 Spring 2017

PRESIDENTS CORNER

A HEART IN LOVE WITH BEAUTY NEVER GROWS OLD

HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION

Greetings All...Well we have a new Government...liken it to a ship with a new Skipper....the Ship will still sail....

the daily routine will continue...and we will wait to see what changes are made and the effect it has on us.

Now we have gone in to Daylight Saving I was hoping that the weather would take a hint and start to warm up.

Again we wait....but it will.....yeah, yeah, I know.....eventually.....

REUNION 2018. Everything is well underway and planned, for what will be another great weekend...a chance to meet up again with “old shipmates” and the emphasis is now getting to be on the “ old” part, so make sure you get your registrations in early.

Don't look back later on and have regrets that you missed out and wish that you “should have come”

DO IT NOW... REGISTER . ATTEND. You'll be glad you did.

FINANCE. The Association is still able to work within its income and able to retain a healthy balance.

MEMBERSHIP. Again, sadly, the Grim Reaper has taken a couple of our members.There are still many, many ex-Otago's out there that should join us, do them a favour, recruit them into the Association.

OTAGO P148. Subject to “the exigencies of the Service” the C.O. Lt Cdr Lorna Gray RNZN and six of her Ship's Company will be our welcome guests at the Reunion..../.The ship has been in Dockyard Hands recently and is now “working up” in preparation to going South into the Ice for the “Fishery Patrols”.

CLAYMORE. As always your “dits” and photos (not Bugis Street please) will be most welcome, if you put on dates and names, where possible it would help considerably.

WEBSITE. How often do YOU “visit” our website, rarely I suspect. There is plenty of interesting “stuff” on there especially photos, plus some news and other info....You could be missing out. Fred is adding to it often.

So ...take care of yourselves. Drive carefully, pay particular attention to the driver of the car behind the one that is immediately in front of you.....he is the most important one to watch.

Every Kind Wish

Jim Blackburn. BEM. Ld’H.

President.

IF YOU LOVE LIFE, LIFE WILL LOVE YOU BACK.

From Lieut. Cmdr Lorna Gray RNZN
HMNZS OTAGO completed Operation Calypso in late August, successfully boarding 26 vessels during the operation in the south west Pacific.



Boarding Training



1st July dawn – who doesn’t remember those mornings
Officer of the Watch – did you check the compass error?



Boarding during Operation Calypso



Remember when we did this in MLs?

A number of the vessels were found to be misreporting their catch or have issues with their documentation. Fortunately the numbers are reducing every year so at least we have an indication that our work is deterring those fishing companies.



Berthing in Honiara, Solomon Islands



Walking down from Bloody Ridge (one of the battle locations during WWII in Solomon Islands) after a memorial service

On our return to Devonport we entered a five week maintenance period which kept the Marine Engineering Department busy. At the same time, we were preparing for Operation Castle, our deployment to the Antarctic Ocean and this requires Ship's Company to complete a number of compulsory courses so that we can be ready to enter the hostile environment. As a result, I am now finally back in date for Work Place First Aid, as are the rest of the crew! We also attended lectures on the Ross Sea Environment and were able to get an understanding of the standard operating procedures used by the fishing vessels down South as a representative from Sanford came and spoke to us. The Patagonian Tooth Fish season is known as the "Olympic Fisheries" because all the vessels go hell for leather to catch as much fish before the quota is reached. As part of the preparations we are currently in the middle of a "Work Up" and getting put through our paces by the Maritime Operational Evaluation Team. There have been plenty of fires, boardings, force protection exercises, collisions and general mayhem to respond to and so far we're doing well.

NEW BOOKS

I have recently published a book about **HMNZS Black Prince**. Shortly I hope to publish **HMNZS Bellona** followed by **HMNZS Royalist**.

A member of Bellona's final crew was LM(E) William 'Bill' Goodwin. During a rugby match at Plymouth, Devon, on 12 March, 1956, he was injured and died. He left a pregnant wife who later gave birth to a son. She named him 'William'.

I am seeking the name of the team that Bellona was playing, at what field, and information about the funeral.

Can anyone help?

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DEAD PENGUINS

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica? Where do they go? Until this week, I didn't know this. Wonder no more!



It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life. If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried. The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

'Freeze a jolly good fellow

Freeze a jolly good fellow'

You really didn't believe I know anything about penguins, did you? Keep smiling,

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