



# THE CLAYMORE

HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



#97 Summer 2018

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hi to you all...Well at last after weeks of heat the weather is cooling: the nights are pulling in and autumn is on its way. Let us hope that winter is not too vicious as nature balances things out.

**REUNION 2018** It is only a matter of a few weeks to the reunion and there is still time for you to register and attend. Come on, support YOUR Association. Details of the program can be found elsewhere in this Claymore of a very interesting enjoyable weekend. Miss it and you will regret it.

I would like to point out a couple of things, the ladders on Otago are much steeper than on the 'old' Otago, and for the ladies who intend to visit may I respectfully suggest they wear flat shoes and slacks, oh and bring your 'sea sickness' pills to the simulator...only kidding...Yeah Right.

**FINANCE** Again I am pleased to tell you that we are still just able to cover the outgoings from the income, this is due to some judicious work and cost saving on the Claymore.

**MEMBERSHIP** In spite of several 'bites' over the last few weeks we have not landed any new members and sadly we have lost a few to the Grim Reaper, so again I ask YOU...take every opportunity you can to recruit a new member.

**OTAGO P148** Our 'little sister' was on its way to Napier for the annual Art Deco Weekend but was recalled to Auckland due to the devastation wreaked to Tonga by the typhoon. It is planned that the CO Lt Cdr Lorna Gray RNZN and five of the ship's company will, as usual, be guests at our reunion. Come and meet them, they are amazingly interesting people.

**CLAYMORE** The editor always needs and welcomes your dits and photos. There is a multitude available judging by what is appearing on many of the Facebook pages, so send us some please.

Kind regards to you all, see you at the Poe for the reunion.

Jim Blackburn BEM. Ld'H.  
President

*A mistake that makes you humble is better than an achievement that makes you arrogant.*

## REUNION PROGRAMME

Poename Hotel

31 Northcote Rd, Hillcrest

- Friday 13 April 1 800 Register & Meet and greet (books for sale)
- Saturday 14 April 0930 Otago AGM  
1030 Visit HMNZS Otago (bring a photo ID for the gate.  
Wear flat shoes)  
1200 Lunch  
1300 Visit the Navy Bridge Simulator (take seasick pill  
before)  
1830 Assemble for formal dinner (Uniform/jacket and tie  
and miniature medals)  
1900 Dinner (Guest Speaker Captain Andy Watts RNZN)
- Sunday 15 April 1100 Church service at Poename Hotel.

### A NEW YEAR POEM FROM NOEL DAVIES

Another year has passed  
And we're all a little older.  
Last summer felt hotter  
And winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago  
When life was quite a blast.  
Now I fully understand  
About 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to weddings,  
Football games and lunches..  
Now we go to funeral homes  
And after-funeral brunches.

We used to have hangovers,  
From parties that were gay.  
Now we suffer body aches  
And while the night away.

We used to go out dining,  
And couldn't get our fill.  
Now we ask for doggie bags,  
Come home and take a pill.

We used to often travel  
To places near and far.  
Now we get sore arses  
From riding in the car.

We used to go to cabarets  
And drink a little booze.  
Now we stay home at night  
And watch the evening news.

That, my friend is how life is,  
And now my tale is told.  
So, enjoy each day and live it up...  
Before you're too damned old!

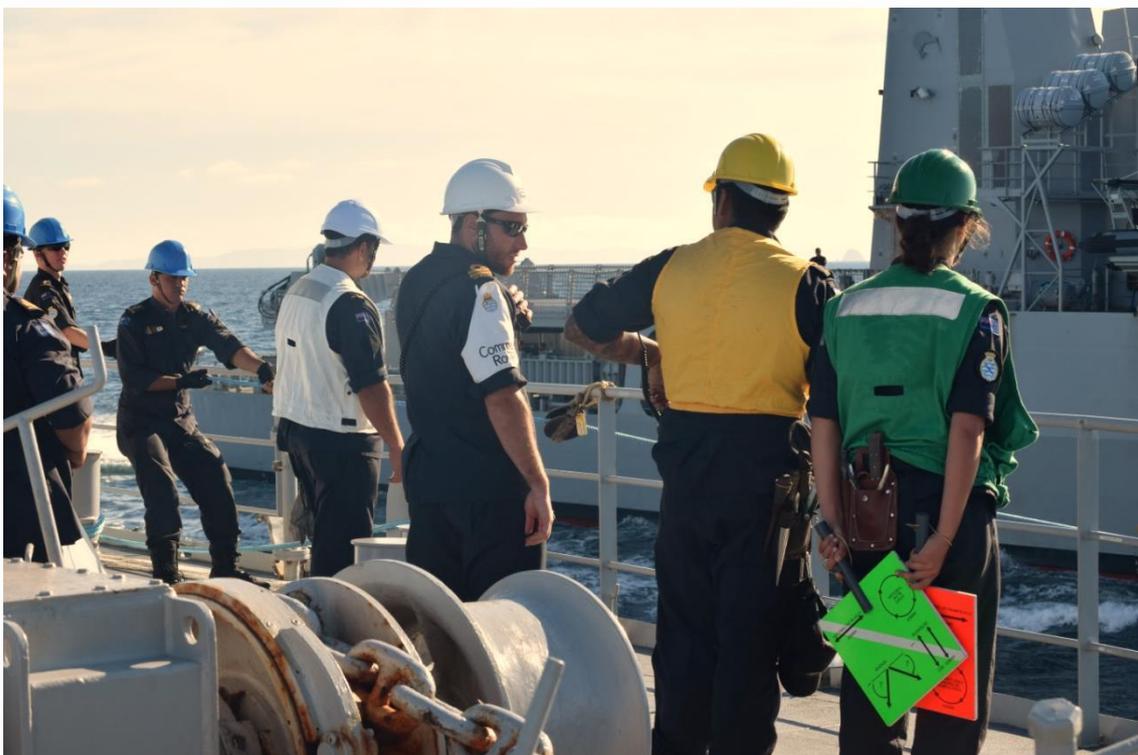
## HMNZS OTAGO

Otago's travels since 2017

It's often said, that sometimes you've got to take a step back and smell the roses; otherwise life will fly by too fast. That's a bit harder to do when you're working on a naval ship though... especially for HMNZS Otago. 2017 was undoubtedly a hugely busy year for her and her ship's company, being the last ship to return home to DNB after Operation Castle, and the very first ship to leave for Fleet Shakedown week in 2018.

Otago has been - in many aspects - the face of the navy for the last few months, not only with the completion and return from Op Castle, but also a number of high publicity events scheduled for the ship in early 2018. The ship's company hit the ground running with Fleet shakedown week, after only a short period of leave over summer, and soon after sailed north to support the RNZN's commitments to Waitangi weekend. Waitangi weekend would prove to be both challenging but highly rewarding for the ship's company, as they participated in the number of ceremonial and high-profile events held throughout the weekend. Who would've guessed that the sailors and officers in Otago could scrub up so nicely? The most prominent event for Otago during Waitangi weekend was arguably the Chief of Navy hosted Cocktail party held on board, attended by a number of VIP guests from around the country, including the Governor General, Deputy Chief of Navy, and a number of regional and national leaders from various professions and positions. The Bay of Islands put on the good weather (as per usual) and the ship's co put on their freshly ironed whites, the guests arrived, and the good times started flowing.

The second high-profile port visit was planned for Napier, to celebrate Art Deco Weekend and support the RNZN's commitment to Napier, spanning all the way back



to the Napier earthquake in 1931. Murphy's Law got the better of Otago though, and before she even made it to Hawkes Bay she was ordered to about turn and return to Auckland. This was a sudden change in plans, but it was necessary in order to be ready to assist the cyclone-torn South Pacific Islands and so the turn north was welcomed by the ship's co.

As Otago returned to Auckland, word still hadn't been confirmed as to whether she would actually make the trip to the Pacific, so the ship's co waited with bated breath to see if they would help out their oppos in the islands. CDF gave the order to stand down a few days later, and so the routine for Otago quickly switched from a sea focus, to looking ahead and planning for their upcoming maintenance period.

### HMNZS ENDEAVOUR

*Endeavour* was the venue for peace talks on Bougainville in July/August 1990. On 23 February 2017, it was announced by NZDF that the New Zealand Operations Service Medal (NZOSM) had been awarded to personnel who were in Bougainville for the Operation BIGTALK peace talks. In December 1997 Endeavour deployed to Bougainville as part of Operation Belisi, the multinational peace-keeping operation following 10 years of civil war in Bougainville. She stayed on station until late January 1998, providing logistic support to ground and air forces ashore.

*Endeavour* was deployed to [East Timor](#) as part of the Australian-led [INTERFET](#) peacekeeping taskforce from 21 to 24 September 1999, and from 28 January to 23 February 2000.

In January 2010, *Endeavour* was awarded the [Chatham Rosebowl](#), the award for the best performing ship in the RNZN. As a result, for all of 2011 she flew the 'E' Pennant for efficiency.



*Endeavour* berthed at Devonport

In 2012 *Endeavour* attended [Exercise RIMPAC](#).

*Endeavour* saw service during [Exercise Talisman Sabre](#) 2015, refuelling [USNS Tippecanoe](#).

*Endeavour* was due to be decommissioned in 2013, but was retained after an 18-month refit to make the ship meet standards for [double-hulled tankers](#). In March 2015, a request for tender for a replacement vessel was released by the New Zealand Ministry of Defence.

The ship was decommissioned on 15 December 2017. It is expected that she will sail on 9<sup>th</sup> March with a foreign crew for an overseas demolition site.

## ENDEAVOUR REPLACEMENT

Tender requirements for the replacement replenishment vessel included a propulsion system built around two diesel engines to provide a range of 6,400 nautical miles (11,900 km; 7,400 mi) at 16 knots (30 km/h; 18 mph), armament equivalent to two [Mini Typhoon](#) mounts and a [Phalanx CIWS](#), facilities to operate a helicopter, and a container deck capacity of at least 12 [TEU](#) shipping containers.

On 18 July 2016 the Minister of Defence announced that Hyundai Heavy Industries will construct *Endeavour's* replacement, at a cost of NZ\$493,000,000, with an estimated in service date of 2020. The new vessel will have enhanced capabilities in Antarctica,<sup>[2]</sup> the ability to carry and refuel helicopters, as well as replenish with both fuel and fresh water. It will feature a [LEADGE bow](#) as part of the "Enviroship" design. Rolls-Royce is supplying the propulsion that includes a Combined Diesel Electric and Diesel (CODLAD) propulsion plant based on twin Bergen main engines. These will each drive, via reduction gears, a controllable pitch propeller. Electrical power will be from four MTU generator sets.

On 10 April 2017 it was announced *Endeavour's* replacement would be named [HMNZS Aotearoa](#).

## HMNZS MANAWANUI

After 30 years of service, the Royal New Zealand Navy's operational dive support ship Manawanui is set to be decommissioned.

The ship's primary role has been supporting the navy dive team. It's equipped with a decompression chamber, a wet diving bell, and a 15-tonne crane.

The Manawanui even may be sunk as a scuba diving attraction. Manawanui has returned to its home port of Whitianga to celebrate three decades of service and its relationship with the small Coromandel town.

The ship is due for mechanical maintenance checks at the end of February. The Manawanui has been in navy service for 30 years. However, with this likely to throw up major repairs including engine rebuilds costing as much as 14 million dollars, Lieutenant Commander Muzz Kenneth says it "makes more sense to put that towards the new ship".

Muzz Kenneth said the ship's fate is unclear, but the first step is to put it up for sale. Both international and local parties have been quick to express their interest in buying Manawanui.

"We've already had a guy from Singapore come and have a look, and he wants to take it up to Malaysia and moor it permanently as an accommodation and dive support vessel for dive training."

"I also know the Mayor of Thames-Coromandel is very keen to get her hands on the ship and sink it as a dive attraction somewhere out in the Hahei reserve", said Kenneth.



A replacement ship is expected to be commissioned by the end of 2018 and will takeover the name Manawanui, which translates to 'Big Heart'. In the ship's absence, the dive team will be deployed from various other, smaller navy vessels.

Navy diver Arana Te Patu said there had been many memorable missions aboard Manawanui. "It's a good ship, we've done most of our training on here as divers, training in the decompression chamber. It's sad to see her go, but her time's up. If we keep her around any longer we'll just be overworking her", he explained.

### **BOOKS FOR SALE**

**(signed copies of these books will be available  
for sale on Friday 13 April)**

#### **HMNZS BLACK PRINCE**

An A5 paperback of 250 pages selling for \$30.00.

#### **HMNZS BELLONA**

An A5 paperback of 400 pages selling for \$35.00

#### **HMNZS ROYALIST**

An A4 book of 460 pages printed in landscape.

Paperback selling for \$45.00

Limited edition, Hardback selling for \$60.00

#### **HMAS AE1's KIWI SAILOR**

The story of the first Kiwi to die on operations in WW1. John Reardon, from Kaikoura, died in the Australian submarine AE 1 which disappeared off German New Guinea on 14 September, 1914. The submarine was found on 20 December, 2017.

**OTAGO ASSOCIATION ORGANISATION**

**PRESIDENT**

J F Blackburn BEM

09 444.4091 [jjimblackburnbem@gmail.com](mailto:jjimblackburnbem@gmail.com)

VICE PRESIDENT HON SECRETARY/TREASURER

Terry Whimp

Noel Davies

09 473.8854 [terry.whimp@gmail.com](mailto:terry.whimp@gmail.com)

PO Box 128.143 Remuera, Auckland, 1641

09 377.0662 – [noel@daviesgroup.nz](mailto:noel@daviesgroup.nz)

**COMMITTEE**

Humphrey Ewens

Dick Scivener

09 817.3949 – [imarest.ak@xtra.co.nz](mailto:imarest.ak@xtra.co.nz)

09 473.0650 – [scriv@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:scriv@slingshot.co.nz)

John Bass

Maurice Mitchell

09 483.5790 – [John.C.bass@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:John.C.bass@slingshot.co.nz)

09 523.4442 – [alarm1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alarm1@xtra.co.nz)

Bruce Lineham

Banjo Patterson

027 322.4470

09 837.2134 – [banjo.s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:banjo.s@xtra.co.nz)

Fred Wilson

09 445.8462 – [kf.wilson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kf.wilson@xtra.co.nz)

---

**PROVINCIAL COORDINATORS**

WAIKATO

TAURANGA

Neil Brimblecombe

Taff (Henry) Te Wheoro

07 838.2457 – [neil@kiwibrims.com](mailto:neil@kiwibrims.com)

027 202.6050 – [j.d.martin@kinect.co.nz](mailto:j.d.martin@kinect.co.nz)

CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

HAWKES BAY (Havelock North)

Dave Hawke

Reg Corbett

07 386.6722 – [jdhawke@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jdhawke@xtra.co.nz)

06 871.0286 – [corbee37@gmail.com](mailto:corbee37@gmail.com)

WANGANUI

WELLINGTON

Tony Cox

Don McMurray

06 343.1142 – [tonyveronicacox@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tonyveronicacox@xtra.co.nz)

04527.7275 [donmcmurray17@gmail.com](mailto:donmcmurray17@gmail.com)

NELSON BAYS/MARLBOROUGH

CANTERBURY

Joe McNaughton

Bread Roll

03 548.1309

03 374.6450 – [grahame.roll@xtra.co.nz](mailto:grahame.roll@xtra.co.nz)

[Wilbin.naughton@netaccess.co.nz](mailto:Wilbin.naughton@netaccess.co.nz)

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND

QUEENSLAND

Gary Mowat

Even Jones

03 455.3574 – [gary.moeat@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gary.moeat@xtra.co.nz)

0061 428 115 411 – [ejones@netspace.net.au](mailto:ejones@netspace.net.au)

**PENSIONS/WELFARE ADVISOR**

Banjo Patterson

09 837. 2134 – [banjo.s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:banjo.s@xtra.co.nz)

**EDITOR**

Gerry Wright

09 624.3969 – [gerrywright@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gerrywright@xtra.co.nz)