



THE CLAYMORE

HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

#101 Summer 2019

HMNZS Otago Association
Presidents Corner:

No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted

Greetings All ... No doubt you are all enjoying these past weeks of dry hot weather, so please don't drip and winge later on when Mother Nature compensates with a bucket of rain I just wish she would spread it a bit every now and then and not go from one extreme to the other. One thing is certain ... there is nothing we can do about it but grin and bear it.

REUNION 2019 - Well, this is only a few weeks away now and all arrangements are in place for what will be a really good day, one of meeting "old ships", of nattering and getting together. If you haven't already done so, then PLEASE, register now with the Sec/Treasurer and forward the relevant amount of money if you intend having the Buffet Dinner. No Rego, then No Dinner! (See Page 3)

REUNION 2020 - Yes, believe it or not we have already got things underway for this, with a small committee doing some investigative work. It will be the 60th Anniversary of Otago's commissioning and also the 30th Anniversary of the formal founding of the Association.

It is going to be a real "Biggie" so start saving your pennies to attend this one.

FINANCE - As always, prudent management has kept our funds in a very healthy state in spite of steadily rising costs of running the Association, Claymore, Webpage etc.

MEMBERSHIP - Sadly we still lose a few members to the Grim Reaper and despite all our efforts seem unable to recruit new members. So I ask you again, take every chance you can to bring a new member into the fold.

I am looking forward to seeing you that can make it to the reunion on Saturday 6th April at the Birkenhead RSA, Downstairs Area. There is a lift for those who have unreliable legs.

Have you Registered ??????

Don't say "if only": say "Next time"

Every Kind Wish
Jim Blackburn, BEM, Ld'H
President

OTAGO UPDATE - After a good period of leave over December and part of January, approximately half of the Ship's Company returned to work on OTAGO. It was a well-deserved break after the hectic programme of last year. Those that were back to work on Mon 14 January were faced with the unenviable task of initiating ship's systems after their shut down over the RSP. There is normally always some piece of equipment that doesn't want to play ball after being shut down for a few weeks but surprisingly, the startups went without a hitch. This week was also a Support Opportunity for Babcock New Zealand Limited (BNZL) who were provided the opportunity to commence minor tasks prior to the programmed maintenance period. This meant that even in the first week back, things were all go and starting to ramp up again with lots of people coming and going and work starting around the drags.

On Mon 21 January, the remainder of Ship's Company returned to work, appearing slightly disorientated from the 0800 start after their five weeks off. The week held a light schedule, with low level whole ship training evolutions to allow a period of easing back into work. The Support Opportunity continued, permitting further progress on maintenance items that could be conducted within the Ship's notice for sea. Internal training was programmed, and a bit of re-familiarization of ship routines and standard operating procedures was done to get people back into the military way of life after relaxing over the holidays.

Over the next month, OTAGO will finish a maintenance period and rectify a number of operational defects. There is a definite focus being on rust busting on the upper decks. In this line of work, the contractors are being ably helped by a new bunch of Ordinary Ratings who probably never envisaged that their first few weeks on ship would be spent chipping and painting. After the maintenance period, it is likely that OTAGO will be tasked to support MPI with fisheries patrols around NZ. Everyone likes time to rest alongside but after the end of maintenance period, everyone will be itching to get back to sea again!

HMNZS Otago F111 - In the last issue I reported how *Otago*, under the command of Commander Tyrrell, chased and caught the American Nuclear submarine USS *Flasher* (SSN 613) during RIMAC 72. That was not the first time that *Otago* had caught an American nuclear submarine.

In October, 1960, four months after *Otago* commissioned under the command of Commander Max McDowell, with a WW2 standard of crew training, took part in an exercise called RUM TUB in the Irish Sea. During the exercise, designed to test defence of the carrier force, *Otago* and the frigate *Yarmouth* escorted the aircraft carrier *Hermes* at 20-26 knots while all the other ships were employed in a diversionary role some miles away. That was another exhilarating experience and although the high speed of advance reduced the chances an initial detection, detections were made and action joined.

Throughout the exercise *Otago* gained several contacts and made a number of attacks. It appeared from the subsequent washup that *Otago* accounted for the nuclear submarine USS *Scorpion* (SSN-589) twice and one diesel submarine. Despite the successes of the exercise, at the washup Commander McDowell felt that there was a fair amount of American gloom in high places.

On 22 May, 1968, the *Scorpion* was lost with all 99 crew off the Azores.

CHILDREN WRITING ABOUT THE OCEAN

She wrote, "This is a picture of an octopus. It has **eight testicles**". (Kelly, age 6)

HMNZS OTAGO *Hosting* ALL SHIPS REUNION, to Be held Birkenhead RSA Saturday 6th April 2019



REGISTRATION FORM

Names of Those Attending

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Contact Details (Address and Phone.)

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Email:

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Date	Time	Event	Number Attending	Comments
6th April 2019	15:00	Mix and Mingle in the RSA		User Pays
	15:30	Otago Association AGM		
	16:00	Mix and Mingle in the RSA		User Pays
	17:00	Dinner	\$25	Pse pay in advance. Dress smart casual. No medals

Please Send Form to: Noel Davies, Treasurer HMNZS Otago Association, PO Box 128143, Remuera, Auckland 1541, New Zealand or Email to: noel@daviesgroup.nz

Please Send Remittance and Form to: Noel Davies, Treasurer HMNZS Otago Association, PO Box 128143, Remuera, Auckland 1541, New Zealand or Direct Credit into ASB Account 12-3050-0291196-00 (Don't forget to Enter Your Name)

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