



THE CLAYMORE

HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

#103 Winter 2019

Chairman's Corner

Oh! If only closed minds came with a closed mouth

Greetings All Hopefully you have managed to “Batten Down” and keep warm and dry in the wintery weather. Be of good cheer ... “summer is a commin”

Reunion 2020

What you have been waiting for, the Rego Form is included in this Claymore. It is going to be a “Big One” and we already have some Registrations and Payments. So don't drag the chain. Fill in and send your Rego Form, with payment of course ... very soon.

The Chief of Navy cannot attend due to other commitments so our Guest Speaker will be the Maritime Commander, Commodore Tony Millar, RNZN. The Association asked if Otago could be in Tauranga for the Reunion, but sadly, her programme “due to the exigencies of the service” prevents this.... But, it is hoped that the C.O. and some of her Ship's Company will be able to join us as they have done in the previous years.

Finance

Our funds are still strong and the earnings just manage to cover our running costs, but with the latest fall in Interest Rates we may have to dip into the funds a littlewe shall see.

Membership

This remains fairly steady. Again the Secretary has had to remove some members who, in spite of several reminders, have not paid their Subs for a few years.

OTAGO P145

You will see that our “little Sister” has been very busy taking the Prime Minister Island hopping. Having completed that, they are now doing Fishery Protection Patrol Work.

Take care of each other Keep well

Every kind wish

Jim Blackburn BEM. Ld'H.

President

Not the fastest horse can catch a word spoken in anger

OTAGO Report

On Sunday, 28 July, Otago was at Apia, Samoa. Our Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, and her team joined for the passage to the Tokelau Islands. The passage north met a three metre easterly swell and 25 knot winds. In the evening Ms Ardern and Minister Kris Faafoi dined with the Junior Rates. The chef surprised the Jacinda Ardern with a cake to celebrate her birthday two days before.



The PM celebrates her birthday with ACH Sand Wood and POCH Kerrie Dais.

Early on Monday Otago closed the norther atoll, Atafu. A Beach Master, Comms Rating and local Tokelauan Party were landed at dawn. The ship's boats landed 30 personnel consisting of 17 delegates and 13 Maori Concert Group personnel. The local Islanders gave a stirring challenge to the Prime Minister commencing with an emotive welcome which included a flag raising ceremony. The delegation was then invited to the Central Meeting House to meet the Tapuenga (male elders), Fatepaipai (female leadership) and working age males in separate groups. The meetings went well with NZ's contribution critical for Tokelau's survival. Key issues raised included women's health (cervical services), Material medicine, power and an airfield for Tokelau. The issue of climate change with its effects was repeatedly emphasised and discussed. Atafu high point is only four metres above sea level. Storm surges, rising sea level and coral algal blooms have taken their toll on the islanders' ability to grow food and catch fish. The delegation then toured the school, health clinic and other points of interest before a farewell ceremony in the meeting house. The ship's Maori Concert Group contributed several lusty waiata and haka before the delegation left late in the afternoon.

Otago then headed for the middle atoll, Nukunonu. There similar ceremonies took place and the same issues were raised. At 1000, after the MCG waiata marked the end of the Prime Minister's speech, Otago's Sprite Helicopter flew low overhead before landing at the school where a carnival like atmosphere developed. Prime Minister Adern then flew back to the ship.



Nukunonu school kids enjoying the novelty of the helicopter landing at their school with the PM and Minister Faafoi.

The same programme was followed at the final Atoll, Fakaofu.

The ship then returned to Apia where the Prime Minister and her party were landed. Otago is now on patrol in the South Pacific.

Otago FIII History

The Otago story manuscript is progressing well. Because of its size it will be published in two volumes; 1960 to August, 1973, and August 1973-to 1983. Sadly, five years of the Commanding Officers' monthly reports, on which the story is based, are missing so it has been a major task to search the Deck Logs and various Navy files to gather her actual movements and actions. The manuscript now needs personal stories to give the manuscript more life. To add your story, please identify when and where it took place. CO's name or a port will help identify where your story fits in the story. Send your stories to gerrywright@xtra.co.nz or by post to Gerry Wright, 8 Rowan Road, Epsom, Auckland, 1023.

Reunion 2020

June 2020 will be the 60th anniversary of Otago first Commissioning. The reunion will be held at Tauranga on Queen's Birthday weekend. Reunion Registration forms are attached. Otago's books will be available there. When you make your hotel booking do say that you are attending the Otago 2020 Reunion for the best deals.

Manure. An interesting 'fact'

In the 16th and 17th centuries everything for export in Britain had to be transported by ship. Before the invention of commercial fertilizer large shipments of manure were common. It was shipped dry because it was lighter. However, when it got wet at sea, not only did it get heavier but the process of fermentation began of which a by-product is methane. Stowed below decks, when it got wet methane began building up below decks and when someone went below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in that manner before it was determined what was happening. After that the bags of manure were stamped with the instruction 'Stow High In Transit' so that when water got into the hold the manure would remain dry and not explode.

Thus evolved the term 'S.H.I.T.' (Stow High In Transit). So it's not really a swear word which has come down through the ages and is still in use to this very day.

| HMNZS OTAGO 2020 REUNION, to be held at the Armitage Hotel, 9 Willow Street Tauranga, 3110 on Queens Birthday Weekend 2020 | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| REGISTRATION FORM | | | | | | | |
| Your details | | Name | Spouse/Partner | Address | Email or Phone | Are you a member? Yes / No | |
| Accommodation | | Preferential booking at the Armitage Hotel is available. \$229- Bed and Breakfast for 2 in King or Double room. \$214 for one pers. Contact the hotel to book at 07 578-9119 or www.hotelarmitage.co.nz/index.html . | | | | | |
| Date | Time | Place | Event | | Cost pp | Number Attending | You pay |
| Friday 29 May | 1600 | | Registration opens. Members \$10 pp Non-Members \$35 pp or per couple. | | \$10 or \$35 | | |
| | 1600-2100 | | Mix & mingle | | User Pays | | |
| | 1800-1830 | Washington Room | Otago Association AGM | | No | | |
| | 1830-1900 | | Presentation by CO Otago or, if not available, another speaker. | | Charge (NC) | | |
| | 1900 | | Finger food buffet (or restaurant at own cost) | | \$15 pp | | |
| | 2000-2100 | | | Singalong | | | |
| Saturday 30 May | 1000 | Washington Room | Scavenger Hunt briefing. This is a fun event where you have to visit local landmarks and find a piece of information or obtain an item. Those without transport will be allocated to spare seats in other vehicles. Winner receives a prize valued at \$100. | | NC | | |
| | 1030 | | Hunt commences. Alternatives, free time or visit local markets, Lion & Tusk Museum, Te Papa Tauranga, etc. | | | | |
| | 1200-1400 | Mount RSA | Restaurant open for lunch at own cost. | | User Pays | | |
| | 1530-1600 | | Hunt check-in | | | | |
| | 1600-1900 | Washington Room | Mix & Mingle | | NC | | |
| 1830 | | | Scavenger Hunt prize-giving, Raffle Painting and 2 Photographs | | | | |
| 1900 | | | Formal dinner. Keynote speaker is Commodore Tony Millar MNZM, Maritime Component Commander. | | \$45 pp | | |

**HMNZS OTAGO 2020 REUNION, to be held at the Armitage Hotel, 9 Willow Street
Tauranga, 3110 on Queens Birthday Weekend 2020**

REGISTRATION FORM

| Date | Time | Place | Event | Cost pp | Number Attending | You pay |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Sunday 31 May | 1000 | Baptist Church | Church service | | | |
| | 1115 | Carpark | Free bus departs for Waihi Beach RSA. The bus to Waihi Beach is limited to the first 48 persons who register. (Please book a seat if busing). | Nil | | |
| | 1200-1400 | Waihi Beach RSA | Restaurant open for lunch at own cost. Buffet is \$15. If you don't want the Buffet, you can pay individually for what you want. | \$15 pp | | |
| Monday 1 June | 1500 | | Bus returns | | | |
| | 1600-1900 | | Mix & Mingle | | | |
| | 1730-1830 | Washington Room | Otago Anniversary Quiz. Form your own team from messdecks or specialisations. Winning team's prize to the value of \$50. | NC | | |
| | 1900 | | Finger food buffet (or restaurant at own cost) | \$15 pp | | |
| | 2000-2100 | | Singalong | | | |
| | | | Breakfast, Farewell & Depart | | | \$ |
| Add up your total charges to pay and insert here | | | | | | |

See over

Please calculate total charges and send the form and remittance for the total charges to:
 Noel Davies, Treasurer HMNZS Otago Association,
 PO Box 128143, Remuera, Auckland 1541,
 or email to Noel@davesgroup.co.nz
 Pay by Direct Credit charges into ASB Account **12-3050-0291196-00** (and don't forget to Enter Your Name)

- Notes:
- To be sure of obtaining the preferential room rate, you will need to book before 1 April 2020 and quote the code "Otago 2020".
 - Breakfast is included in the Room Rate.
 - There is free parking in the hotel carpark but specifically not for campervans.

2019 MASTER

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