



HMNZS Otago Association

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THE CLAYMORE

HMNZS Otago Association Newsletter #50 February 2003



**SLACKERS GET FELL IN
AND REGISTER FOR THE
2003 REUNION
BLOODY SHARP LIKE OR
JIM WILL BE AROUND TO
DRINK YOUR TOT**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Shipmates,

Our apologies for the delay with the Christmas newsletter, in mitigation I can only say that it was the old chestnut "due to a situation out of our control" — we put in the effort, were ready on time and spent a couple of days chasing the printer but all for nothing.

In this newsletter are details of our reunion next month. Due to pressure of business on the Secretary we have taken over some of his work load and Dave and I will do what we can. Please note that all reunion correspondence and your cheques should come to my address. The Sec's Otago email address will be diverted to mine as well.

This year we have planned a less formal reunion with a more relaxed get-together mix and mingle atmosphere. There will be no formal speeches, (who could follow last year's Oscar winning performance anyway). There will be a very good buffet meal at a reasonable price and I am sure that somehow there will be some wine on your table as in past years.

Although it may seem a 'quieter' style reunion, it is important that you attend and show your continuing support for the association.

Most of you seem to have been waiting and putting off the decision to attend until next year. Well it is now next year and it is imperative that you let us know before the 15th of March that you are attending. Even if you are not attending a message to that effect is going to help me with the planning.

In any event DO IT NOW PLEASE.

As I was away last week for the departure of FIII HMNZS Te Kaha for the 'Gulf' our Vice President sent a message on our behalf:

The Commanding Officer and Ships Company HMNZS Te Mana.

The President, Committee, and members of the HMNZS Otago Association wish you every success for your deployment and a safe return.

We hope you will find a benign environment up there, but should Murphy's Law intervene, you can count on our F111 tradition to support your every move.

God Speed, Bon Voyage and roll on home-ward bounders.

Humphrey Ewens

Vice President

HMNZS Otago Association.

Terry has advised us that he will not be standing for re-election as Secretary at the AGM. For those of you who are not aware, Terry has left the warm arms of the establishment and is now working 24/7 with Ron Smith at Shore Shuttles. We need a volunteer for a new Sec/Treas to stick their hand up folks.

Terry was not able to attend our regular committee meeting held at sea on Waitangi Day and for that reason we will bring you the minutes of that meeting at a later date.

You can expect developments on our website soon. I speak to Dave regularly and he too has been juggling a heavy workload and commitment to a number of 'voluntary causes' of late. The man is still entitled to some recreation but I was hoping that some colder weather would drive him out of his sailing dinghy but he has informed me that a gaff cutter with comfortable messdeck accommodations has just joined the fleet so we can only live in hope.

He did remind me of two significant events. This is Issue 50 of Claymore. It will not pass without fanfare and we will be posting every one of the newsletters on the website over coming months.

This year is the 25th Anniversary of Mururoa. How we recognise that is yet to be decided. Remember I need your reunion bookings asap. Take care there and see you at the reunion.

Jim Blackburn. BEM.

President.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In accordance with the constitution Rule 3a (ii) be informed that the Annual General Meeting of the HMNZS Otago Association will be held at the RNZN Sports Complex, Ngatarina Bay, Devonport at 1200 hours on Saturday 29th March 2003.

2. Rule 3A(i) Any Remits, Notices of Motion, Nominations etc. must be received by Saturday 22 March.

3. Nominations for the positions of; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee must be signed by the Nominee, Proposer and Seconder.

4. Postal address for all reunion and AGM correspondence is; OTAGO REUNION
PO Box 40 128 Glenfield Auckland 1310

Jim Blackburn. BEM.

President

THE 2003 REUNION

The HMNZS Otago 2003 reunion will be held in the Otago Lounge of the RNZN Sports Complex, Ngatarina Bay at 1930 on Saturday 29th March with a get-together bar and a buffet dinner.

A church service will be held at 0930 on Sunday 30th March in St Christopher's Chapel.

A farewell get-together and complimentary light lunch will take place in the Senior Rates Fleet Mess at 1130 Sunday 30th March

NOTICE OF MOTION

In accordance with the Rule 3 paragraph C (i) of the constitution I hereby propose:

1. That Rule 5 (i) be amended to read;
'Membership fees are due on the 1st day of April each year'.

2. That Rule 3A (iv) be amended to read;
'The Secretary/Treasurer shall submit a financial report, including an audited balance sheet for the Financial Year ending 31st March, and a report on the current state of the Association membership is to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.'

Proposed JF Blackburn President

Seconded H Ewens Vice President

Notes: As our meetings annual general are now being held at the end of March or early April it is prudent that our financial year and payment of subscriptions coincide with the meeting.

It's not easy over there either...

The cost of shipping HMS Nottingham back to the UK on a heavy lift ship was about NZ\$50 million — and, the result of the Board of Inquiry into the grounding will not be made public.

Cut backs resulted in the early retirement of the 30 year old assault ships Fearless and Intrepid before their replacements were ready in the new year.

As a result the RN was forced to borrow a Dutch warship for a major NATO exercise. This meant that the commander of Britain's amphibious contribution in Argonaut 2002 was directing operations from the bridge of HMNMS Rotterdam. Each time the crew and troop board the ship they had to salute the Dutch national flag.

A six part drama series is being made on a Type 23 frigate. The series due for release this year has been created by Ted Childs the man behind Soldier, Soldier, which turned its stars Robson Green and Jerome Flynn into household names.

In order to boost its image the RN is allowing TV movie and pop stars to film on its vessels. Veteran rockers Status Quo filmed the video for their latest single JAM SIDE DOWN on Ark Royal, while the BBC is to make a second series of Rock Face which covers the work of navy search and rescue teams in Scotland.

This is all from the HMS Vigo news by the way.

A man in a bar notices a woman sitting alone at a table and goes over to chat her up.

After talking to her for a while he makes his move. "Stop!" Says the woman as the man tries to kiss her. "I'm sorry but I can't do that, I'm keeping myself pure till I meet the man I truly love."

"Gosh that must be difficult" says our man.

"It's not too bad, replies the woman, " my husbands a little upset about it though."



ASSOCIATION SLOPS

The following items are available.

#	Description	each
1.	Association Plaque large	\$40.00
2.	Large blazer badge	\$12.50
3.	Small badge	\$10.00
4.	Association tie	\$25.00
5.	Old style caps (Baseball)	\$16.00
6.	New style caps (low crown)	\$18.00
7.	Polo shirts (give size required)	\$27.50
8.	Lapel badges	\$5.25
9.	Name badge with crest	\$15.00

(3 week lead time on name badges)
All prices include Packaging and Postage

To order please send list of items required [include size for shirt] with name and delivery address and full payment to:

The Property Officer

HMNZS Otago Association

24 Cranston St, Torbay Auckland 1310





REMEMBER THE OOOOPS?

Rock Hudson queried some of our photo captions: The little known photo of Otago during Shop Window. This could not have been taken during 1962 as it would appear that Otago has radar type 993 fitted not 293 as in 1962 and the funnel has been extended in height and is that band on the funnel that of Captain F11. If either of these are correct the photo must have been taken well after 1962. The same applies to the next photo in the sequence and she no longer seems to have her original fit of 21 inch torpedo tubes fitted and still bears that funnel band. While I do not remember when

If you served on Otago and did not get onto the uppers much there is no higher authority than what follows!
Editor

To The Temporary Acting Local Editor

Dear Dave - no doubt you have had a number of responses to the piece OOOOPS in the December CLAYMORE. But in case you haven't. The two photographs were taken in November 1967 - by an intrepid Iroquois, I think - during OTAGO's post first Long Refit full power trial. Conditions were boisterous, to put it mildly, but there was a huge urge to keep the trials programme on schedule so away we went down sea with a very hard working quartermaster who managed to keep her from broaching.

Rock Hudson is quite right. In that first Long Refit, the mast was plated in (not replaced with a Leander-style mast as in the RN's conversions), the funnel was heightened by six feet and the 293 was replaced by 993, amongst other less obvious mods which included fitting some decent HF radio gear. (640's)

The indescribably awful 691/692/693 UHF gear was still there, how-

these alterations were done it was definitely post 1962.

On perusing the RNZN history site on the Otago it is listed that Seacat was not fitted to Otago until 1963 but most of the photo's you have including the cover clearly show Seacat fitted. It may be a vagary on the pussers site and with their history very possible.

Regards "Rock" Hudson (REM1 Otago 1962). Is also known as the Terror of the Cray Pots, Hunter of Woolly Pigs, Creator of the Loves and Fishes and anything else that could grace the cooking pots of the starving castaways in Lachlan's slave station caravans.

ever, to haunt the life of any decent communicator, as the then PO Tel Bevan Lawes will attest. We had, however, learned to leave it on if it was working, and not let the greenies switch it off to find out why it still was, if you follow me! The 21" torpedo tubes have gone, but the Mk32 tubes are not yet fitted, which in itself must narrow the date as they were present in the TARANAKI by Jan '73 and no doubt in the OTAGO at the same time.

The funnel stripe is a story in itself. There were, at the time, two 4 stripe captains at sea. The senior (WAIKATO) was F11, so Richard Hale in the OTAGO revived the old half-leader's stripe until in due course he became the senior frigate CO and thus, F11; not until some time well in to 1968, I recall. So far as I know, this was the only time since the early days of the six Loch Class frigates which initially comprised the Eleventh Frigate Squadron, that the half-leader's (or divisional leader) stripe was displayed.

Always enjoy the CLAYMORE

Kind regards

Somerford Teagle

OUR WEBSITE www.hmnzsotago.co.nz



For all you Ludites out there we bring you news about our website.

Like the websites of other associations we use the web to provide a complex and easily accessible archive of the ship's history. Gone are the problems of printing newsletters, licking stamps and paying postage (of course you know we still do that for you as well). Many associations now only publish on the web. There have been delays in the achievement

of all of our ideals for the website due to pressures on the volunteers but things are cranking up to speed again.

If you can't bring yourself to get on the net you can have your grandchildren show you how or put your cap on back the front and go into a cyber cafe and have a look at what we are doing. Many public libraries also have facilities for browsing the web and plenty of assistance for the crinklies. Once you have got a couple of hours flying time under your belt you will wonder why you have not done it before.

Some areas of interest are:

Recent editions of Claymore are in colour) and we are putting them all up right from Issue #1.

Committee page

Constitution

Contact Addresses

Links to other websites

Membership list

Noticeboard and news

Our History

President's Page

Question Time

Reunions

Support and assistance

The Secretaries Page

THE BRANCHES [These pages will be posted as information is available]

Communications

Electrical

Engineering

Officers

Seaman Branches and SQ's

Supply and Secretariat

SHIP Photographs

SHIPS COMPANY Photographs

OTHER Photographs

Which brings us to the point of asking if you have any photographs or information that could be added to what is an eternal resource and archive we would appreciate bearing from you.

The webmaster's postal address;

Dave Robertson

North Beach Design

PO Box 33 210

Takapuna.



HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION 2003 REUNION BOOKING

** Payment must accompany your booking*

First Name

Last Name

Address

Phone

Email

Please tick the reunion functions you will be attending

1. Annual General Meeting at 1200 Saturday 29th March Tick
2. Reunion Dinner at 1930 Saturday 29th March cost \$25.00* Tick
- I will be accompanied by [] persons at \$25.00* each Tick

Name(s)

Payment of \$ is attached Tick

3. Reunion Church Service St Christophers 0930 Sunday 30th March Tick

4. The Farewell get-together and complimentary light lunch in the Tick

Senior Ratings Fleet Mess 1130 Sunday 30th March.

Number attending including children []

Note: The numbers being catered for the Sunday Brunch will depend on your bookings, if many attend who have not booked there will be less brunch for those who have. On the other hand if you book and don't arrive, the association will have thrown away your funds.

Please return this form ASAP so that catering arrangements can be confirmed.

'OTAGO REUNION' PO Box 40 128, Glenfield, Auckland 1310

Please make your cheque payable to HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION

Last day for acceptance of reunion bookings is Saturday 15th March.

