



# THE CLAYMORE

HMNZS Otago Association Newsletter #55 December 2004

## HMNZS Otago Association

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### Presidents Corner.

Dear Shipmates

By the time you receive this newsletter it will be nearly Christmas and no doubt you will be flat out shopping for "pressies" and getting things ready for the "festive days". BUT please either read this now or at least put it somewhere so that you keep "falling over it" and read it over the "restive days" and where necessary take the requisite action re subs or the reunion.

It is with real regret that I have received the resignation of our Secretary/Treasurer effective from after completion of our AGM and "wash-up" in April 2005. Since Jock took over the job in April 2003, he, with the magnificent support from his wife, has managed to get all the details of our members updated and on to a computer program, a huge ongoing task. This with all the other requirements, of keeping the books, the banking, getting the newsletter sent off etc. has been cheerfully done.

I am sure that I speak for all of you when I say that we are extremely grateful to them both. The Secretary/Treasurer is the "heart" of any association - a good strong one makes for an active, lively vibrant association and without one we cannot function and the association will wither and die.

Jock and Gaynor are travelling to the UK from May to November 2005 and in the "Old Navy" you couldn't go on leave until you found a relief, but as Jock is now over 35 and is "Excused Boots and Doubling" that does not apply, be that as it may, it is now up to us to find a "Volunteer" to take over as Secretary/Treasurer. Put your "Request Chit" in ASAP before the AGM men. Once again I have to chide a few of you who are dragging the chain with your subs. If you are not sure if you are "financial", a quick phone call or better still an e-mail to the Sec or myself will get you an answer. You will also be informed in this Newsletter—Don't put off payment until next week... you will forget to do it...

DO IT NOW

Give some thought to paying the "one-off" \$100.00 "Life Subscription" once you have done that then you never have to worry

about Subs. and you receive a very nice certificate for doing so.... More than 30 of our Members have already done this. Why don't YOU??.

Everything is "go" for the 2005 AGM and Reunion Dinner at the Springs Restaurant. You will find a registration form in with this newsletter. It is imperative that you give us some indication that you will be attending because we have to give the restaurant some indication of numbers and, as the association will be assisting with the costs of this reunion we want to be able to budget carefully and not waste our funds. There is no charge for you to attend the AGM, which will be held prior to the Reunion Dinner and there is plenty of parking available at the Springs. The change of time and venue is an endeavour to meet with members suggestions and is a "First" for the association... it is now up to you to come along and support us and join in making it a success

The next Claymore, to be sent out in March 2005 will have a little more detail and that will be your FINAL chance to register your attendance.

On the subject of medals.... the silence from NZDF is deafening... however having said that, I am sure they are well aware of the pressures that are building from the grievances and discontent re "Far East Service" As regards the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal, it is early days yet, but I am told that the NZ Govt has "accepted" the offer from the Malaysian Govt. 2005 is election year, so anything may happen, but don't hold your breath

On behalf of our Patron and Committee may I wish you all a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones and a happy healthy year 2005.. spare a few minutes to phone an old mate.. it might just make the difference from feeling lonely to feeling wanted, and take care out there men, remember, "It's the overtakers that keep the undertakers busy"

Every kind wish

Jim Blackburn. BEM.  
President.

### THE CLAYMORE

The very name brings memories of the hard years, fun days, and memorable incidents during artificer training in Scotland in the Royal Navy. The extra curricular activities including ice skating, Scottish dancing, boat pulling, and visiting the fleshpots of Edinburgh for cultural edification imparted a healthy respect for such as this highland weapon that we have adopted in our crest.

So it was that many years later it fell to my lot to be asked by Mike Saull (the Jimmy), at a reception in Colombo given by J A

Hepworth, to carry this fearsome weapon back to the ship. There the chippy was going to be tasked to mount it together with the shepherd's crook that had previously been presented to Roy McKenzie the Padre by the Ferguson family. [Sir Bernard Governor General that is]

Hobbling stiff legged down Colombo Pier towards the ships liberty boat with this kindly donated Claymore firmly clutched within my right trouser leg, several gins onboard, I was not impressed when Bruce Lineham also 'arrak and toddied up' challenged me with "what's the problem sir?".

Attention to my plight from this source was not welcomed hoping to retain hookers in the first fifteen.

So when I found these incredibly historical artifacts, the crossed Claymore and Shepherds Crook from their former place of honour in the wardroom of HMNZS Otago in the Naval Museum, I could only recall those far off days and the people and places that made such an impression upon so many. Long may such valuable momentos be displayed, protected, and honoured.

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## **HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

5 December 2004 At the residence of Maurice Mitchell

Present: Jim Blackburn, President. Humphrey Ewens, Vice President. Richard Scriviner, Bruce Lineham, Maurice Mitchell, Mike Kirk, Jock Duff: Hon Sec/Treasurer, Fred Wilson

### *1. Opening:*

The President declared the meeting opened at 1110.

### *2. Apologies.*

Dave Robertson, Webmaster

### *3. Previous Minutes:*

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2004 were presented and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Humphrey. Seconded: Mike.

### *4. Matters arising from the Previous Minutes:*

a. Re-siting of the HMNZS Otago Honours Board Naval Sports Complex. Mike Informed all was in hand. The Honours Board was at the signwriters but he was unable to give a date for the completion of the work. This saga is on going but as there is no urgency it is not a problem. Mike will give a SITREP at the next meeting.

Action: Mike

b. Editorial Sub Committee:

The President indicated to the Committee that no material from members had surfaced since the last meeting. In general discussion it was suggested appeals be made in Claymore for readers to participate with their memories or other material they think suitable. The new administration page as suggested by Dick at a previous meeting would be introduced in Claymore 55. The page will contain a reference to unpaid subscriptions, a Slop List with photographs and information on the 2005 Reunion. The form is designed for use when a response is necessary.

c. 2005 AGM and REUNION:

The Venue - Springs Garden Restaurant has been booked and a deposit of \$250 paid.

The Presidents shout - If this event was to be held Maurice had negotiated a special price for some beer ranges at \$4.50 per bottle with soft drinks, spirits and wine at normal bar prices. In general discussion the Committee feeling was a "shout" would be too expensive at city prices and difficult to administer. A limited quantity of expensive wine was already being provided. It was decided the "shout" would take place on Sunday 10 April at the SNRFM.

Live Entertainment - This had been arranged but the entertainer had withdrawn his services. It was decided that apart from music supplied from the restaurant' CD collection. There would now be no live entertainment.

Lunch Speaker - After an exchange of views, given the audience, it was decided to invite the Warrant Officer of the Navy to speak and give the "oldies" a view of the present day navy.

Letters have been written to Navy Today and RSA Review and the RSA has published details and hopefully a notice will appear in the next Navy News.

HMNZS Philomel Facilities

These have been granted, the only item to be arranged is the supply of food to the SNRFM on Sunday 10 April. Fred suggested a company called Spit Roast who had been used by him to cater for a function and performed adequately. Secretary to check on Spit Roast. Ongoing: President/Maurice/Jock.

Manufacture of HMNZS Otago profiles:

The company have not yet been able to supply a sample but expected the cost to equal the current cost of HMNZS Otago plaques. The profiles could be supplied with a rimu backing.

This will be ongoing. Action: President.

### *5. Financial and Membership Report:*

(a) The Association has two Term Deposits of \$5000 earning 6.25% pa. One deposit terminates on 20 January 2005 and the other on

4 April 2005.

(b) The Associations cheque account bank balance stands at \$3261.07. The Committee was invited to view the current bank statement dated 30 November 2004, confirming the above balances.

(c) At 30 November, the Associations membership stood at 260. In accordance with the definition in the Association's Constitution there are 49 non-financial members. The breakdown being 17 whose subscriptions expired on 31 March 2003 and 32 whose subscriptions expired on 31 March 2004.

(d) There are now 25 Life Subscription members.

The Committee discussed and agreed the above report

Fred suggested combining the two deposits and put them a longer-term deposit. This was agreed and the Treasurer directed to take action. Action: Treasurer.

e. Sale of Slops.

Mike Kirk reported slop sales from 1 April to 30 November 2004 were \$707 and he held \$39.55 in Petty Cash. All slops left with Evan Jones from the Currumbin 2004 Reunion have been sold or returned. A list of the slop items (illustrated) will be shown in Claymore 55 and on the website. The value of stock in hand is \$1390.

Mike also mentioned he had, had an offer from the new owner of the English Tie Co for six Otago ties @ \$6.00 each, compared to the previous price of \$19.50. The Committee asked Mike to take up the offer.

Action: Mike.

### *6. Correspondence*

Out

CO HMNZS Philomel - 2005 Reunion Facilities.

Senior Chaplain HMNZS Philomel- 2005 Church Service.

President SNRFM: 2005 Reunion Facilities.

NZ Post application for postage grant.

In.

Auckland Maritime Museum Magazine - Hobsons Choice

CO HMNZS Philomel - Approval for 2005 Reunion facilities.

Senior Chaplain - Approval to hold Church Parade.

Email - Joe Naughton, Provincial Co-ordinator Nelson area about arrangements for the 2006 Reunion.

NZ Post - Rejection of application for postal grant but advising to re-apply in August 2005.

Outward correspondence endorsed, Inwards accepted.

Moved Maurice. Seconded Bruce.

### *7 General Business.*

(a) Changes to Otago website. The President gave members a handout from Dave Robertson regarding what's new since he received a funding grant from Navy to maintain and establish a website that would cover all the Naval Organisations and Associations out with the NAVY. The main changes will be a re-siting of information and reduction in duplication.

(b) Nominations for the Position of Secretary/Treasurer. Mike suggested the position be split e.g.. Secretary and Treasurer. The President said this had been tried before the introduction of the computer and had been unwieldy and did not work. Fred threw in that it was just as difficult to attract two bodies as one to undertake the combined position.

None of the Committee members knew anyone who was seeking the job and asked the Secretary to provide a list of Auckland members that they could canvas.

The Secretary promised to provide details of the position and guidelines for running the accounts that expanded the material in the Association Constitution.

(c) The President was happy to be able to announce the whereabouts of the Associations presentation to HMNZS Te Mana - Petty Officers Mess Recreation area.

### *8. Other Business.*

The President indicated that there might be a rethink on the qualification required for the award of the Operational Service Medal. It was unlikely that the new rules would be promulgated until 2005.

The next Committee meeting would be held on the M V Orano on 13 February 2005.

The Committee expressed their thanks to Maurice for hosting the meeting.

The meeting closed at 1255.

Jock Duff Secretary, Jim Blackburn President

## I WANT COMPENSATION

*With all these claims for Compensation being made, it caused me to wonder if I should forward one for serving in the "Royalist" on the "long commission" in 1957/58, when I was deprived of my home environment, conjugal rites, and family comforts from 20 May 1957 till 4 July 1958.*

During this period I was incarcerated with 30 other Petty Officers in 28 mess, an area of about 7 x 7 square metres of deck space, in which we ate, lived, and most of us slept. I was lucky in that because I was frequently called out during the "silent hours" I was allocated a bunk (albeit in the farthest corner of the Mess) so as not to disturb too many of the others sleeping on the tables and the deck,

The temperature around this bunk when in the warmer climes was between 90 and 110 degrees F, with little or no air circulation for ventilation. (Health Hazard??). At the head of the bunk was an asbestos lagged 8" Pipe which was the exhaust pipe for a diesel generator in the deck space below. There was a continuous cloud and film of dust from this pipe when the ship was at sea.

*(Health Hazard??)*

One of the Mess Members wrote a letter to the SPCA asking for details of the minimum area required to keep to keep pigs in a sty... suffice to say that we had about 1/10th of that per man.

*(Psychological Trauma from overcrowding??)*

In general the food was at best just palatable, at times it was inedible, at worst- revolting. in spite of the dedicated and brilliant efforts of the cooks they could rarely turn out a good appetising meal from inferior victuals. That doyen of the kitchen and 1ZB Dear Aunt Daisy, even organised a shipment of Strawberry Shortcakes from her listeners. So from a well covered frame at 11 stone 4 lbs in May 57 I was a very lean mean 8 stone 7 lbs in August 58 due to those combined debilitating conditions.

*(Physical Deterioration??)*

During this period, whilst in Singapore, my youthful innocence was sorely tested whilst "shopping" in Bugis Street and being accosted by very lovely seductive transvestites, so that to escape their machinations I had to climb on to the tin roof of the urinal at the top of the street, and in to the loving arms of the waiting Naval Shore Patrol (Morally Distressing??)

Then in Saigon, after refereeing a soccer match between the Vietnamese Asian Games team versus the Vietnamese/French Armed Forces team I was forced to drink copious amounts of 333 Biere and Vin Rouge.

*(Gastronomic Torture???)*

In Hong Kong, the Rooftops of Kowloon and the Wanchai Caves although being wondrous to behold, were potential death traps for young players.

*(Mental Stress??)*

Pyong-yang-do was another grave physical danger playing soccer on a frozen solid beach at minus 5 degrees against a team of Korean Marine Maniacs was soul destroying.

*(Severe Orthopedic hazards and damage??)*

The most terrifying experience was in Yokosuka being gently washed and bathed by those crazy naked chicks on the edge of the bath house pool..then when "down in the forest something stirred" and the nether parts showed distinct signs that I was not made of wood...being unceremoniously pushed in to the pool of near to boiling water.

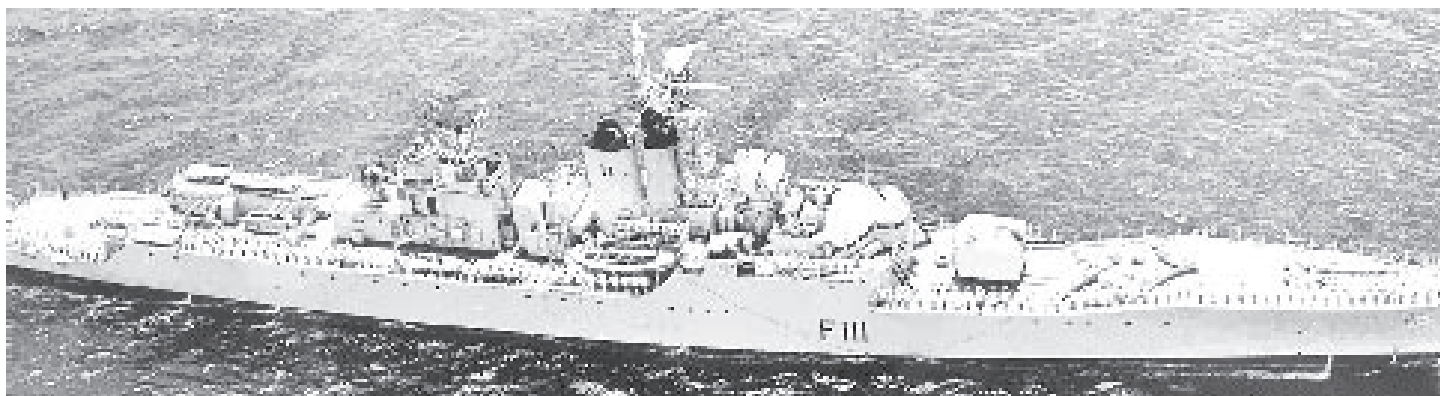
*(Sexual Harassment and Suffering??)*

*So that now I wake up from Psychosomatic Traumas and nightmares where a skinny little me is being chased over frozen rooftops by naked nubile oriental maidens into the arms of transvestites...then there surely must be a case for compensation....even if only a Strawberry Shortcake.*

## HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP

Out of interest we looked up the RNZN website to see how the sizes of ships had changed since Otago. Of course there were variations depending on armament, Jim's rabbits etc. Otago was 370 feet long, 41 feet wide 2150

ton. Incidentally this black and white truncated shot of Otago complete with a split CODAG funnel is the one chosen to represent Otago in the 'Decommissioned Ships' archive on the website. Very sad when the Shop Window photo is without question the greatest ever taken of a RNZN ship.



Te Mana 385 ft long, 46 ft wide, 3543 ton. That's Blackpool's old pennant, F77, Te Kaha has F111. A South African Meko class 'Mendi' has F148.



Canterbury 372 feet long, 41 feet wide, 2450 ton. You will be hard pressed to find another photo without all her frames showing.

## NAVY TODAY

Have you ever received NAVY TODAY? This is a top quality monthly magazine published by Navy and sent to you free of charge. It is available by providing a snail mail address to Mrs Pamela Pearson, Events & Visits Office, HMNZS PHILOMEL, HMNZ Naval Base, Devonport, Auckland or by email [pamela.pearson@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:pamela.pearson@nzdf.mil.nz) its a good read and well worth the effort of subscribing. Now, if you used to receive NAVY TODAY, and for some reason you are scratching your head and wondering why you no longer get it in your mail box. Think. Have I moved house and not told Pam to readdress your magazine. If so again contact her at the above address or by email and she will amend the database and send it to your new address.

## IMPORTANT

John Stables, Welfare Officer and Pensions Adviser can be contacted by phone at (06) 8700033 or on email at: [thestables@clear.net.nz](mailto:thestables@clear.net.nz) He is always willing to assist and give advice. If you contact him you MUST give your phone number so that he can get back to you..as all matters will require discussion with you clarify the situation.

## FE Strategic Reserve

Most Ex RNZN Men served on the Far East Station at sometime and were therefore part of the Far East Strategic Reserve Force FESR Navy Association (Australia)  
Annual General Meeting & Anniversary Reunion 2005 Thursday 30th June - Sunday 3rd July  
Thursday 30th June 2005 Reunion Registration.  
Friday 1st July 2005 FESR Assn (Aust) AGM  
Saturday 2nd July 2005 Choice of several excursions during the day 50th Anniversary Reunion Dinner-Dance  
Sunday 3rd July 2005 Unveiling of FESR Memorial Plaques.  
Reception & Memorial Ceremonial At Government House Melbourne 1430 - 1600 Wind-up Dinner  
A Reunion Registration Fee will be finalised when tentative numbers are known and the Registration Form will provide firm prices for each event  
NEXT STEP. If you have an interest in attending any or all of the events please contact, without any obligation the Secretary John Best. P O Box 2605 North Dandenong, Victoria, Australia 3175 or email [bquinn1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bquinn1@optusnet.com.au) Expressing an interest does not obligate you in any manner whatsoever

## The Consummate Planner

Evan.....I know it is still 8 years away...But...yesterday I raised the 2102 reunion at our Committee Meeting and the fact that it could be held in Aussie. I have researched the dates for 2012... and Easter Sunday is on 8th April and Anzac Day on WEDNESDAY 25TH..The fact that it is Mid Week is ideal as it leaves the possibility of most of the members travelling on the weekends and giving the Monday or Tuesday, Thursday or Friday for a "day out" somewhere. Incidentally in 2011 Easter Sunday is on 24th April, so Anzac Day will also be Easter Monday.....Oops Jim B

## Crossed the Bar

David Charles Hill Chief Shipwright  
Fredrick Leslie Walker CMEA  
Malcolm Berry Chief Cook  
Barry Joseph Cadwallader NZ16011

## The second to last Leander

Recently it was announced that the former HMNZS Wellington [HMS Bacchante] [Bag Shanty] has been sold to a society formed to tow the hulk to a site for sinking as a dive site.  
The former HMNZS Southland [HMS Dido] widely reported as sunk in a similar way, was in fact towed to India for breaking up.

## Keep those cards and letters coming

While we have a considerable resource of historical data about our ship and are in the process of converting this for the website and Claymore we still need more.  
Please remember us when you are cleaning out that cupboard or garage.

## H.M.N.Z.S. OTAGO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Send the following information/payments

SURNAME  
FIRST NAMES  
ADDRESS  
  
WIFE/PARTNER'S NAMES  
TELEPHONE  
E Mail Address  
LAST RANK/RATING  
RNZN SERVICE No  
DOB  
DATES OF SERVICE IN OTAGO

Signature

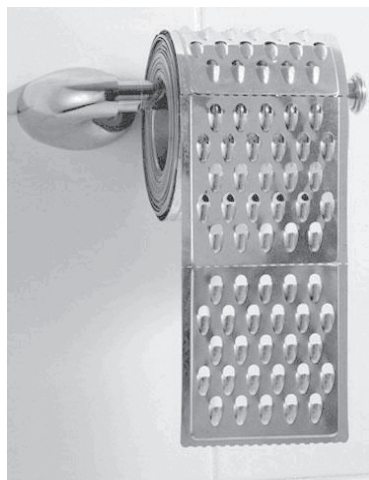
Subscription: \$10.00 Payable 1st April Annually OR

One time \$100 for a Lifetime Subscription  
Mail Form & Cheque to: Ian Duff Hon Sec  
96 Sunrise Ave Murrays Bay Auckland 1310

Please make cheque Payable to:

HMNZS Otago Association GST No 53-968-929

Privacy Act 1993 Information supplied on this form will be used for Association purposes only, and will not be made available for any other purposes such as marketing or solicitations without your express permission.



## NZDFMIL 19800/04

In order to comply with international regulations for the preprocessing of all overboard discharges, the maintenance and provisioning of all shipboard ablution and sanitary facilities is to be transferred from the Supply Branch to the Engineering Branch on 1 Jan 2005.  
Sanitas [polished one side, rough the other] paper and dispensers will be retrofitted as ships are alongside.  
Have a grate day.

## 20 October 2004 - FINAL FAREWELL HMNZS CANTERBURY F421

Lyttelton/Christchurch  
16th - 21st March 2005

This is your chance to farewell your old ship in her home port of Lyttelton and Christchurch before she decommissions mid 2005. All former ships company including Air Force flight crew are most welcome.

This promises to be a grand naval occasion.  
Special guests and RNZN Band will be in attendance.  
Send \$20.00 per person for a registration pack to  
Organiser Canterbury Reunion  
PO Box 3013 Christchurch  
e-mail [sec@rnzna.org.nz](mailto:sec@rnzna.org.nz)

Canterbury is on her final round of New Zealand and Australian port visits at this time

**HMNZS Taranaki Reunion**  
Auckland, Labour Weekend 2005  
October 22-24

Contact Alan Woolston - [Alan@HMNZSTaranaki.org](mailto:Alan@HMNZSTaranaki.org)