



THE CLAYMORE

HMNZS Otago Association Newsletter #60 December 2006

HMNZS Otago Association

PATRON

Commodore M J Mc Dowell RNZN Rtd

mcdowell@clear.net.nz

PRESIDENT

J F Blackburn, BEM

jimblackburn@clear.net.nz

HON SECRETARY/TREASURER

Noel Davies

8 Awatea Rd Parnell Auckland

09 377 0662 • noel_davies@xtra.co.nz

COMMITTEE

Bruce Lineham

027 322 33709

Humphrey Ewens

09 4457714 • imareauck@xtra.co.nz

Dick Scrivener

09 473 0650 • scriv@slingshot.co.nz

Mike Kirk

09 445 7197 • mc.kirky@atrix.co.nz

Maurice Mitchell

09 812 8063 • alarm1@xtra.co.nz

Fred Wilson

09 445 8462 • kf.wilson@xtra.co.nz

PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATORS

WAIKATO

Neil Brimblecombe

07 838 2475 • neil.b@barclay.co.nz

TAURANGA

Taff Te Wheoro

027 601 6491

CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

Dave Hawke

07 386 6722

HAWKES BAY

Reg Corbett

06 877 1973 • corbee@xtra.co.nz

Havelock North

WANGANUI

Tony Cox

06 343 142 • theadmiral@clear.net.nz

WELLINGTON

Don McMurray

04 527 7275 • landon@internet.co.nz

NELSON BAYS/MARLBOROUGH

Joe Naughton

03 548 1309

wiblin.naughton@netaccess.co.nz

CANTERBURY

Bread Roll

03 374 6450 • graeme@dryiceblasting.co.nz

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND

Gary Mowat

03 455 3574 • gary.mowat@xtra.co.nz

QUEENSLAND

Evan Jones

0061738214510 • ejones@netsspace.net.au

PENSIONS/WELFARE ADVISOR

John Stables

06 870 0033 • thestables@clear.net.nz

Publicity Officer/Editor - Murray Pope

092382366 • murray.pope@xtra.co.nz

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hi Men. This is the first edition of the Claymore from our "new Editor" and I trust you will find it interesting as he has endeavoured to include topical items and some humour. The new website has been up and running for a few months now and many favourable comments have been received. It is an ongoing task and will slowly be expanded. One of the new pages is the Roll of Honour of the names of the men who served in Otago and have since "Crossed the Bar". Please let us have the names of any that you know of which are not shown on the Roll of Honour.

Again I ask you to dig into your ditty box and memory and send us any photos, with names, dates and places if possible, and any dits and stories, to either the Secretary or the President. They will be treated carefully and returned.

THE "Year of the Veteran"... what can we say about that? Apart from the very spectacular Military Pageant in Wellington and the impressive grandeur and dignity of the Dedication of the NZ War Memorial in London there is also going to be a review and modernization of the War Pensions Legislation, and "Veterans Card" version of the card that will be issued to all those over 65 next August 2007...as yet I have been unable to ascertain, what?... if any differences there will be between the 2 cards and of any preference for veterans. On the subject of Medals, there is little or nothing to report as it seems nothing is happening. The expected announcement by the Prime Minister at the RNZRSA National Conference of the much touted "veterans" or "service" Medal (or whatever it will be called), did not eventuate, in fact it appears that Medallion issues are on the back burner presently.

I think it is appropriate here to quote something said by Sir Winston Churchill on 22 August 1944 – "a Medal glitters, but it also casts a shadow. The task of drawing up regulations for such awards is one which does not admit of a perfect solution. It is impossible to satisfy everybody without running the risk of satisfying nobody. All that is possible is to give the greatest satisfaction to the greatest number and to hurt the feelings of the fewest". These sentiments are as valid today as they were in 1944.

Subscriptions: There are still a few of you dragging the chain and if you are one of these, please end it off to the Secretary a bit sharpish.

The new patrol vessel HMNZS OTAGO P148 has been launched and should be commissioned mid 2007. The first Commanding Officer has been appointed and is keen to have a close relationship with our Association.

The new F111 profile is shown on the slops page and is now available for purchase so send your orders to "Jack Dusty".. Mike Kirk, please.

Planning for the 2007 Reunion is just about finalised, we have tried to keep the cost as low as possible for you. A full weekend of activities is planned, and it is now up to you to give your support and attend as many events as you can.

As we head into the crazy Christmas season I implore you to please take care in your travels and remember that the driver you watch most carefully is the one directly behind the one in front of you. We don't want your name on the Roll of Honour.

On behalf of your Patron and Committee and their ladies I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy year 2007.

Jim Blackburn BEM
President

An 'OTAGO' home-coming

The Commanding Officer of HMNZS OTAGO which was launched in Melbourne on Saturday 18th November 2006 is no stranger to the provinces with which his new ship is affiliated.

Lieutenant-COMMANDER John Butcher (37) was born in Dunedin and grew up in Invercargill and attended the University of Otago before joining the RNZN in 1989.

He said he was delighted to be appointed the first commanding office (CO) of Otago. "I recall the day I received the appointment" Lt-commander Butcher said. 'I quietly mused will she be named after the 'Otago' or "Southland"? Of course I am very much looking forward to taking her home into both Dunedin and Bluff to show the people of Otago and Southland their ship.

Looking up at Otago on Saturday 18/11/06, Lt-cdr Butcher said it was important for COs to try to get involved with the ship early, right from the building stage. "There will come the day when we have to use her and we need to get to know the beast as soon as possible"

Although a date for commissioning the vessel was not known, he and most of the 35 crew would start training on the ship in Melbourne for a significant time before making the first voyage to New Zealand. "I am elated. It is an honour to be the CO of Otago and honour to be the CO of the first of a new class of ships and the one that will be the lead ship of the new patrol boats".

Rapidly climbing the navy ladder, Lt-cdr Butcher has served on most of the navy's ships and was appointed navigation training officer and fleet navigation officer in 2003. In 2005 he was Executive Officer of HMNZS Te Kaha. He was appointed a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit, (MNZM) in 2006 New Year's honours for his work as navigation training officer.

Earlier this year, he attended the United States Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, graduating from the naval staff college. Lt-cdr Butcher and his wife Susan live in Devonport Auckland.



New Command – The Commanding Officer of *HMNZS Otago*, Dunedin born, Lt-cdr John Butcher stands in front of his new ship before its launch in Melbourne.

Original 'HMNZS Otago' Crest for new ship

The crest of the original HMNZS Otago will take pride of place on board the new Otago when it is commissioned next year.

The crest was designed in 1958 by Otago secondary school pupil Ernest Pope, from the Roxburgh hydro village, as part of a competition for the designs of two frigates being built in the UK.

The pupil submitting the chosen design received a prize of books to the value of £5 and a replica of the approved badge.

Ernest Pope's winning design of a blue circle with the hilt of a Scottish broadsword and the upper part of a shepherd's crook surrounded by wavy lines to represent the sea, adapted by the College of Heralds, was approved in 1961.

In an interesting aside, soon after Otago was commissioned that year (1960) Sir Bernard Fergusson, whose father had been the governor-general and was later to become the governor-general himself, presented the ship with a Scottish shepherd's crook.

Then while the ship was in Colombo en route to New Zealand, a Mr. J.A. Hepworth heard about the crook and presented a Scottish broadsword to the captain. The ship carried the centerpieces of its badge, suitably mounted, for the remainder of its life.

[Above articles reprinted by courtesy of Otago Daily Times](#)

You won't go to jail

A man who had been caught embezzling millions from his employer went to a lawyer seeking defense. He didn't want to go to jail. But his lawyer told him, "Don't worry. You'll never have to go to jail with all that money. And the lawyer was right. When the man was sent to prison, he didn't have a dime.

Wearing of Decorations and Medals by Next of Kin and Family Members

The insignia of any order, decoration or medal, including miniatures, lapel badges and ribbons may **only** be worn by the person to whom they were awarded.

There is convention that is widely understood that the next of kin and other relatives may wear, on the right side only, on ANZAC and similar days of remembrance, the service medals of deceased military personnel. The convention is a matter of personal discretion, **is limited to days of remembrance** and applies only to service medals and decorations mounted on a medal bar (full size of miniature) and not neck badges, sashes and badges or breast stars.

VETERANS BADGE

Re: termination date of 30th November 2006 for applications for the Veterans badge.

This is to advise that the Veterans Badge will be ongoing and that anyone who qualifies either by retrospective decisions or future qualifying service will be entitled to receive it. We have been informed of this by Veterans Affairs and the NZDF.



Crossed the Bar Roll of Honour

There is now a page on the website as "Roll of Honour" on which we will list those who served in "Otago" and have since "Crossed the Bar". To do this we need your help... please email or write to the Secretary or president with a list of those whom you know have "Crossed the Bar" and help us to make the list, as complete as we can, and so keep their names alive. Don't leave it and think "someone else" will let us know, because, to someone else YOU, are that 'someone else'. At present we have about 70 names but we think there are many more that we are unaware of, so please enlighten us.

We would rather have a name sent to us ten times from different sources than not get it at all, so as Chiefie used to say "let's be 'aving yer me lad".

LAPEL BADGES

(Shown below)

Royalist badges are available from: Merv Tyree
41 Tirohunga Drive
Henderson Heights
Auckland Ph: 835 4390

Punjab Jasa Malaysia badges are available from: Banjo Patterson,
4/86 Divich Ave
Te Atatu South
Auckland Ph: 837 2143

Please contact the above direct for your orders.



Well done is better than well said

Commissioning Ceremony HMNZS OTAGO P148

The Association has an invitation for a very limited number of its members to be present at the Commissioning of the new HMNZS Otago P148 which will take place in Melbourne, in July 2007, but the exact date is yet to be confirmed. All costs for travel to and from Melbourne, along with your accommodation, meals etc, will be at your own expense. If you wish to attend, please let the Secretary know by 30th April 2007 so that the requisite documents and security arrangements can be made by the Navy.



Displacement	340 tonnes
L.O.A	85 mtrs
Beam	14 mtrs
Speed	22 knots
Range	6,000nm
Ships Company	35
Flight Personnel	10
Government Agencies	4
Additional Personnel	30
Total	79

The above is an artist's impression of the new craft at speed.

Special Service Medal Erebus Bar

Anyone involved in Operation Overdue who wishes to apply for the above medal can do so through: Asst. Director Medals Policy, Personnel Branch, HQ, NZDF Private Bag, Wellington

'OTAGO' Shows true colours at launching

With a flash of blue and gold, the New Zealand navy's newest warship, HMNZS Otago, slipped into the Melbourne Port for the first time.

A tribute to the ship's home port a blue and gold sock covered the traditional bottle of champagne as launch lady; Dame Silvia Cartwright did the honours before a crowd of Royal New Zealand navy and civilian dignitaries, including Defence Minister Phil Goff, at shipbuilder Tenix's Williamstown shipyard at about noon.

A huge crowd of well-wishers cheered, the crew of the navy's new multi role vessel HMNZS Canterbury, which is also berthed at the shipyard, performed a haka and planes from the Australian Airforce Museum completed a fly past, as the 85m vessel slipped into the sea.

Official proceedings began with a fanfare from the Royal Australian naval Band, followed by speeches from the CEO of Tenix, Robert Alteri, Victorian, Minister for Manufacturing and Export Andre Haermeyer, the New Zealand Chief of Navy, Rear-admiral David Ledson and Mr. Goff. In a brief speech R-adm Ledson said he took great pride in the launching of the ship. The occasion was a tribute to the many individuals who put aside self-interest and distractions to come together to form and shape the inanimate bits of steel that made Otago, he said.

Those included people from Tenix, the New Zealand Defence Force, the Ministry of Defence and the navy, who had shared a dedication and passion for the project. "It is an immensely memorable day of the ship – because as a sailor, I can't resist giving the ship human qualities – a day on which Otago tentatively kisses the environment that will bear her home for many, many years," Rear-adm Ledson said.

Otago was built by Tenix Shipbuilders in Whangarei and Williamstown. The company built the navy's frigates Te Mana and Te Kaha and has the contract to complete 5 more ships before 2008. The ships cost about \$500 million all together and are part of the project to introduce seven new ships to the New Zealand Defence Force, including Canterbury, Otago and its sister ship Wellington, and four smaller in-shore patrol vessels. All ships will be operated by the navy on behalf of a number of New Zealand Government agencies, including Customs and Fisheries.

All ships will be operated by the navy on behalf of a number of New Zealand Government agencies, including Customs and Fisheries.

Otago shares its name with the Rothesay class frigate HMNZS Otago which served between 1960 and 1983 when it was decommissioned and scrapped in Auckland.

However it is not only Otago people who are looking forward to seeing the new ship when it arrives in the South some time next year. Southland honorary naval officer Lt-cdr Nigel Finnerty said, because the ship would be affiliated with both the Otago and Southland, there was a lot of interest from Southlanders as well. Many people had asked him if the ship would replace the frigate HMNZS Southland. While it would not replace Southland, it was capable of doing almost the same job and would have the same significance for the people in the South, he said.

Otago, as it sits, is only the shell of a ship. It will be fitted out over the next few months and will be commissioned by the New Zealand navy in mid to late 2007. Currently no date has been set for its arrival in Dunedin.

Above reprinted courtesy of Otago Daily Times

MEMBER PROFILE CDRE MAX MCDOWELL

Oamaru born and raised and graduating from Waitaki Boys High School, Max entered the navy in wartime (WWII) as a Special Entry Officer Cadet. On graduation from Dartmouth, Max spent time in cruisers and destroyers to see out the war. Returning to New Zealand and serving his first command in HMNZS Tui as a Lt-Cdr. Specialising in navigation Max attended the Joint Staff College in 1957 after 2 years with the Admiralty in London on Tactics and Weapons policy. Accepting command of HMNZS Otago in 1960 was a lasting highlight of an exciting naval career. A three year stint in Bangkok with SEATO allowed Max and Eleanor to indulge a lifestyle which they found hard to leave behind. However a move to NZDLS in London soon eased the pain of departure from Bangkok before ultimately returning to New Zealand before retiring in 1975. Max and his wife Eleanor are enjoying a peaceful retirement in Auckland currently in Green Bay after 27 years in Devonport.