



# THE CLAYMORE

## HMNZS Otago Association Newsletter #62 May 2007

### HMNZS Otago Association

#### PATRON

Commodore M J Mc Dowell RNZN Rtd

[mcdowell@clear.net.nz](mailto:mcdowell@clear.net.nz)

#### PRESIDENT

J F Blackburn, BEM

[jimblackburn@clear.net.nz](mailto:jimblackburn@clear.net.nz)

#### HON SECRETARY/TREASURER

Noel Davies

8 Awatea Rd Parnell Auckland

09 377 0662 • [noel\\_davies@xtra.co.nz](mailto:noel_davies@xtra.co.nz)

#### COMMITTEE

**Bruce Lineham**

027 322 33709

**Humphrey Ewens**

09 4457714 • [imareauk@xtra.co.nz](mailto:imareauk@xtra.co.nz)

**Dick Scrivener**

09 473 0650 • [scriv@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:scriv@slingshot.co.nz)

**Mike Kirk**

09 445 7197 • [mc.kirky@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mc.kirky@xtra.co.nz)

**Maurice Mitchell**

09 812 8063 • [alarm1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alarm1@xtra.co.nz)

**Fred Wilson**

09 445 8462 • [kf.wilson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kf.wilson@xtra.co.nz)

#### PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATORS

WAIKATO

**Neil Brimblecombe**

07 838 2475 • [neil.b@barclay.co.nz](mailto:neil.b@barclay.co.nz)

TAURANGA

**Taff Te Wheoro**

027 601 6491 • [jdmartin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jdmartin@xtra.co.nz)

CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND

**Dave Hawke**

07 386 6722 • [jdhawke@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jdhawke@xtra.co.nz)

HAWKES BAY

**Reg Corbett**

06 877 1973 • [corbee@xtra.co.nz](mailto:corbee@xtra.co.nz)

Havelock North

WANGANUI

**Tony Cox**

06 343 142 • [theadmiral@clear.net.nz](mailto:theadmiral@clear.net.nz)

WELLINGTON

**Don McMurray**

04 527 7275 • [landon@internet.co.nz](mailto:landon@internet.co.nz)

NELSON BAYS/MARLBOROUGH

**Joe Naughton**

03 548 1309

[wiblin.naughton@netaccess.co.nz](mailto:wiblin.naughton@netaccess.co.nz)

CANTERBURY

**Bread Roll**

03 374 6450 • [grahame@dryiceblasting.co.nz](mailto:grahame@dryiceblasting.co.nz)

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND

**Gary Mowat**

03 455 3574 • [gary.mowat@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gary.mowat@xtra.co.nz)

QUEENSLAND

**Evan Jones**

0061738214510 • [eijones@netsspace.net.au](mailto:eijones@netsspace.net.au)

#### PENSIONS/WELFARE ADVISOR

**John Stables**

06 870 0033 • [welfare@hastingsrsa.org.nz](mailto:welfare@hastingsrsa.org.nz)

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

### Hi Men

Our 2007 Reunion...Once again a very successful occasion, thanks to the enormous amount of work put into it by the Secretary and his good lady wife, but it was not as well attended as it could have been, and although there were those members who regularly support the reunions there were also a few new faces too, some of whom had traveled from afar which we really appreciated.

The visit to the Naval Museum by some of the members was very interesting and enlightening for them and the Ladies trip to Eden Gardens was also really enjoyable. The A G M was followed by Lt Cdr. John Butcher C.O. Designate of the new O P V HMNZS Otago, who gave a talk and video presentation of the ship's capabilities. It was most enlightening to see the standard of accommodation. almost beyond belief of most of our members with even the Junior Rates being 2 to a Cabin with en suite facilities a far cry from the Royalist where in 28 Mess there were 30 Petty Officers in a space about twice the size of a cabin on the new Otago.

On the Sunday we had a really good turnout for the Church Service in St Christopher's during which, your Patron and one of our Widows, Mrs. Pat Wooliams, laid a Wreath in honour of the 137 men, that we know of, who served in Otago and have since Crossed the Bar. We were joined in the Chapel by about 70 Basic Trainees who had been in the Navy only a few days...which took me back about 65 years. After Church, about 38 of us went on a Bus trip up to Warkworth RSA where we were welcomed by the President, himself an ex Otago man, which was followed by an excellent Buffet Luncheon.

Now a word about Subscriptions, again that subject rears its ugly head as there are a number of you reading this that are unfinancial. Are YOU one of them??? If you are the secretary will advise you of this fact so if you are one of the "slack hammock" squad do send off your subs now...the Secretary's job is laborious enough without having to chase up for Subs. Why not consider the \$100 "Lifetime Sub" and you don't have to worry ever again if your sub is up to date.

As regards the Medals situation we still await the release of the findings of the "review of Service in South East Asia" which is due to be released "Mid Year" and there is no further news about the "Medal for Service" or whatever it will be designated. Other than like Christmas "it is coming" Anzac Day has passed and nothing was announced so perhaps we may hear something at the RSA Annual Conference, anyway, don't hold your breath. A New Medal has just been announced to replace the B E M to be awarded to Serving, Territorial and Reserve personnel the first of which will be in this Queens Birthday Honours List.

Now to the 2008 Reunion, which is planned to be held on Bribie Island, just north of Brisbane from about the 18th April through until the 26th April and taking part in their Anzac Day Parades and Commemoration which is on a Friday next year.

As soon as we have firm details of a program, accommodation, venues, times and costs a separate mail out will be made to enable you to Budget, and decide about attending. A very active committee is working on your behalf over in Aussie organising this reunion and it is intended that we will have some "day out" trips during the week to places like the Steve Irwin Zoo. The committee over there will know the best and most interesting places to go.

Well I guess I have cackled on long enough, but take care out there men

Every Kind wish  
Jim Blackburn. BEM  
President

Below: some of the attendees at the Annual General Meeting recently held at the Birkenhead RSA in Auckland



### SUPERCARD

There has been a press release concerning the new Gold Super & Veterans Cards They both should be made available about 1/8/07. The Vets card will be a stand alone card especially for vets. No comment yet on any real commercial benefits of these cards.

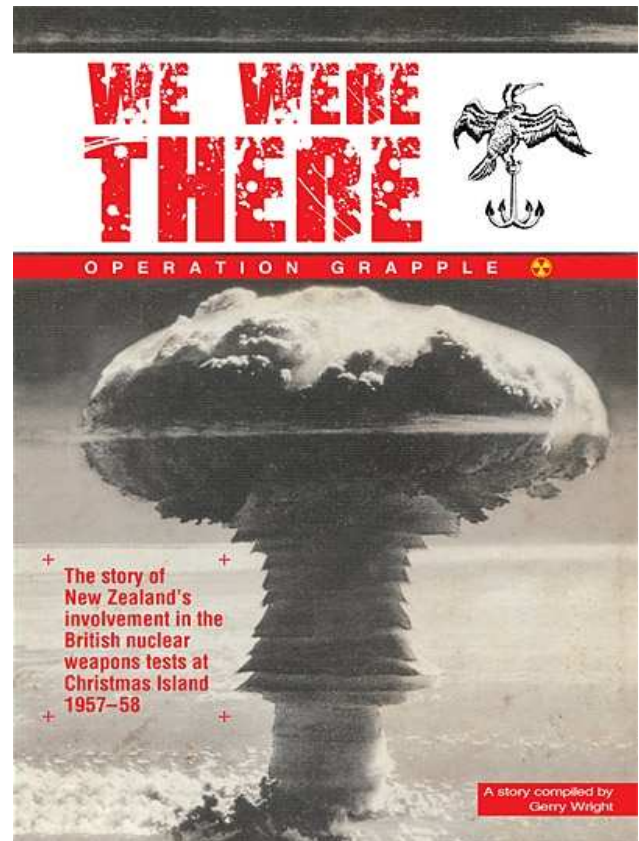
Item reported by John Stables

### OPERATION GRAPPLE

This month (May) I am publishing a book about the RNZN's involvement with the British H-Bomb tests at Christmas Island. My next project is the story of Otago and Canterbury going to Mururoa Atoll.

I have access to the log books and official reports. I've even been ashore there (but that is another story). What I now need are personal stories and access to interesting photos. All of the interesting official photos have been 'lost'. I'd appreciate personal stories by letter or e-mail including the contributor's rank/rating and SQ at the time.

Gerry Wright  
8 Rowan Road, Epsom, Auckland 1023  
[gerrywright@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gerrywright@xtra.co.nz)



### WAIKATO REUNION

A reunion for HMNZS Waikato personnel is being organised (At last some may say!!)  
Date: Labour Weekend 2008 (24,25,& 26 October) Place: Mount Maunganui (Mount Maunganui RSA). Further details/registration etc will be available on the Waikato Website [www.geocities.com/thef55](http://www.geocities.com/thef55) as plans advance.

## HMNZS PAEA (Original number 1184)

This may be of interest to Association members who served on HMNZS PAEA. The PAEA is now berthed alongside in Picton, undergoing restoration by Jack Dodd (a New Zealand Vietnam Veteran – Infantry) who purchased the vessel in 1996. Jack is the holder of the NZDFM – Borneo/Malaysia Peninsula +Bar, ANZAC Medal – Vietnam, PJSM and a US Presidential Unit Citation for service in Vietnam.

One of two vessels built in Sausalito California by Madden and Lewis, ordered in March 1942 and completed in December 1942 (the other being the MAKO). The PAEA was originally named PHILOMEL, but subsequently renamed PAEA in 1955. Both vessels arrived in Wellington early in 1943 then sailed to Auckland to become part of the First Flotilla. PAEA sailed to FIJI during 1944.

On purchasing the vessel Jack found the previous owner, (an exmatelot) had made alterations which changed dramatically the internal structure of the vessel. With enthusiasm to burn Jack has set about restoring the vessel including reinstalling the top bunks for'd and the circular drinks holder around the forestay mast in the main cabin. In addition he had to rebuild the galley wall separating the galley from the mess cabin as this had been removed to make a larger living area. Alas, he also had to reinstall the watertight bulkhead door from the mess area leading up to the chart room. However the benefit of reinstalling these is that they add to the upper deck strength and overall stability.

Along with other deck refurbishing and mechanical upgrading the electrical system has been virtually rebuilt (without the assistance of the original electrical plans – so if anyone has knowledge of such plans Jack would appreciate receiving info on their whereabouts. Currently the electrics are fine but on being sold by the navy all electrical wires were simply cut and there is no way of knowing where the original wiring still intact leads to, or what it operates, such as the Sonar Plates, Scroll Echo Sounder, and the original 24 volt system. So being able to rectify that from the plans would be a great help to achieving originality of restoration.

Whilst the original oil burning stove fitted for cooking has been replaced with modern

technology, Jack would like to get an oil burning stove that was originally fitted.

He has repainted the vessel to the original grey hull and green deck as it was when in service with the RNZN. Built of Oregon timber in triple cross style the vessel is amazingly seaworthy despite its age and experiences.

Holding a coastal masters ticket and having pilotage and other maritime qualifications Jack has made his home on the PAEA for the past 11 years. He has no plans to relocate ashore and is still bubbling with enthusiasm for his ongoing labour of love.

So what does the future hold for this pairing? Perhaps sailing to the original builders in California and return? Whatever it is the future holds, that objective is still beyond the horizon. Until then any person associated with the Navy or not, is welcome to visit Jack for a friendly chat or to lend a hand with restoration, or just enjoy a cup of his special coffee. Jack can be contacted on Mobile Phone 027 6405701 or P.O. Box 15 Picton.



Jack and his trusty Fox Terrier at home on PAEA alongside in Picton (taken May 2007)



HMNZS PAEA departing Devonport Naval Base 1950's – were you onboard?

## **New Honour for military service**

Prime Minister Helen Clark and Defence Minister Phil Goff today announced that the Queen has approved the institution of the New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD).

The DSD will recognise distinguished military service by regular, territorial and reserve members of the New Zealand Defence Force, including command, leadership, and service in an operational environment, or in support of operations, Helen Clark said.

Until 1995 this type of service was recognised by awards of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) and the lower levels of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire. Since the change to a totally New Zealand Honours system in 1996, awards at these levels have not been available," Phil Goff said.

With the high level of operational activity being undertaken by the New Zealand Defence Force, the Distinguished Service Decoration is an important addition to the New Zealand Honours system. It will enjoy precedence comparable to that of The Queens Service Medal (QSM) and the recently instituted New Zealand Antarctic Medal (NZAM)," Mr. Goff said.

"The first awards will be announced in the forthcoming Queens Birthday Honours list on Monday 4 June. Recipients will be entitled to use the initials DSD and will receive their awards at the regular investitures at Government House," Helen Clark said.

"The new Decoration will be made of Sterling Silver. The obverse design is a representation of eight blades of a kotiate (lobed club) in a circle with a Royal Crown in the centre. The front four blades of the kotiate are in frosted silver, and the rear blades are polished silver. The reverse bears the inscription For Distinguished Service in English and Maori. The ribbon is dark blue and red, similar to the colours of the British Distinguished Service Order ribbon, with two narrow yellow stripes that signify achievement," Helen Clark said.

The DSD has been designed by the New Zealand Herald of Arms Extraordinary, Mr. Phillip Shea, CNZM, and LVO.

## **Hello Jim and fellow association members**

My name is Ian Scott (Service number NZ17699) and I served aboard Otago during her second commission under Teddy Thorne.

I joined as a Junior Radio Operator (JRO) fresh out of training in 1964 and was aboard during her collision (or whatever one wants to call an event when we got underway accidentally and rammed several USN destroyers) in Pearl Harbour and then served in Singapore during the early stages of Confrontation. I was also aboard when she made a high speed run down south to the edge of the Antarctic ice in mid-winter to provide SAR and radar navigation support for a USN LC130 rescue mission of a McMurdo winter-party engineer who broke his back when he was blown off an antenna he was trying to repair.

After Otago I was at HMNZS Irirangi then served a commission aboard Taranaki where I was in charge of the Electronic Warfare Department. (Leading Radioman or LRD) and spent some time on fishery protection ML's Paea and Mako.

After leaving the RNZN I became a commercial pilot and flew for Mount Cook Airlines before coming here to the United States to study for my bachelor's and master's degrees. Instead of returning home to teach, as I had intended, I became a professor here in the USA and am now in my last couple of years of teaching at a university before expecting to retire in the not-too-distant future.

I would be happy to communicate with anybody who wants to talk about those days – glad to make contact with any old shipmates.

Cheers from a "ship-mate"  
Ian J. Scott  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
[pennkiwi1@comcast.net](mailto:pennkiwi1@comcast.net)