



THE CLAYMORE

HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



#66 October 2008

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PRESIDENTS CORNER

"Don't cross the stream to find water"

By the time you read this, hopefully this changeable weather will have settled down into warmer sunny days and all the "100 day coughs" will have gone from you.

The Association continues on its steady day to day progress, keeping us 'ex Otago's' in touch with your Committee meeting to deal with routine matters, however most of the work falls on the Secretary, who does a wonderful job for us.

2009 Reunion

Our 2009 Reunion is going to be held in Rotorua and planning is just about finalized. We have negotiated a really good deal from the Management of the Four Canoes Motel in Rotorua (Our preferred accommodation and conference venue), including some generous discounts as well as exclusive use of some parts of the Motel complex for our reunion activities.

A room rate of NZ\$99.00 per night for a Twin Bedroom or Double Queen size bedroom, including a full cooked breakfast. There are also some units for 3 people with a double bed and single bed at a slightly higher cost per night.

Basically the weekend format will be as our previous the programme is as follows:

Friday 15th May

PM Registrations, Meet and Greet. We have exclusive use of the bar with special prices.

www.hmnzsotago.org

Saturday 16th May

0630-0930 Breakfast in the Dining Room

1000-1200 Registrations and Get - together in the Upstairs Lounge

1000-1230 Ladies will go off on a 'Trip' - more details on this later.

1200-1245 Annual General Meeting

1230- Ladies should return

1300 Finger Food Lunch

"Then Free time"

1900 - Association Dinner

There is a really extensive Buffet Menu and we have negotiated a "special rate".

As is our usual practice the Association will provide some wine on the tables for the usual 'Toasts' . It is hoped we will have a Guest Speaker, to give a "short after dinner" speech.

Sunday 17th May

0630-0930 - Breakfast in the Dining Room

1000-1100 - Our Church Service, which will be held in a little Church "Wharenui" which is part of the Motel Complex. Joining in with their usual Church Service, It is hoped we will be able to lay our Otago Wreath.

1400 - Liberty Men Fall In

Member should book early direct to the Four Canoes Motel.

Tell them you are "Otago" when you book, and if you have difficulty climbing the stairs ask for a ground floor unit. First in best dressed. If you wish to arrive before the Friday or to stay on after the Sunday they have agreed to keep the room rate and include the Breakfast.

A Four Canoes Brochure will be included with this copy of Claymore and also a registration form and though it is still several months away if you can make a decision now to attend please fill it in and return it to the Secretary with the requisite cheque.

On the Subject of Medals

I would draw your attention to pages 12 and 13 of the October issue of the RNZRSA "Review" which shows the various Political Parties answer to Question 7 on Medals.

The latest information to hand is that the Report on Review of Service in South East Asia has been completed and is now being processed through the NZDF hierarchy for submission to the Minister of Defence. With the Election looming it is difficult to assess a likely timetable of the process thereon. For the Review of Non-Operational Service, the Draft Terms of Reference for a Committee to conduct this are also being processed as above. The intention is to complete The Review of SE Asia Service first then use the same Review Committee. The Otago Association is apolitical, but it has been pointed out that the National party Veterans Affairs policy states that a National lead Government would immediately proceed with a medal for non-operational service.

Finally – your attention is drawn to the following article on Review of the War Pensions, this of significant importance to all ex service personnel.
"The word once uttered returns not"
Yours Aye
Jim Blackburn BEM

Review of the War Pensions Act 1954

The Law Commission is carrying out a review of the War Pensions Act 1954 and have publicised a 285 page booklet covering the Act. The commission has asked for submissions on this document. Copies of the booklet are held by the RSA's.

Following are a few notes to help you make submissions if you consider they are relevant:-

- 1) They should be typed, this is because they have to be scanned and copied for distribution to people reading and analyzing them and it makes their job easier.
- 2) If you cannot do it yourself get a friend or organisation to do it for you.
- 3) Use short sentences. Long convoluted sentences are difficult to read and often lack clarity of meaning.
- 4) Use sub paragraphs for listing points.
- 5) Put a space between paragraphs and sub paragraphs.
- 6) Keep your submissions to the issues raised in the review.
- 7) Ensure that the points you raise are referenced to the appropriate paragraphs in the review.
- 8) Remember you are looking ahead to the future not regulating the past. There is no need to make criticisms of the present situation. The Law Commission has done that very effectively in the Review.
- 9) Give priority to areas that affect your organisation or yourself.
- 10) Use personal experience where this can provide reasons why you support or do not support a particular option or proposal in the Review.
- 11) Often people focus on the things they don't like and tend to ignore what they do like, it is important that Key areas like the "reverse onus of proof" receive good support.
- 12) It does not have to be long or detailed, nor is there any expectation that every question has to be covered. A single statement such as "I agree with paragraphs" can make an adequate submission. Don't Forget – Numbers count so encourage your mates and other ex-service personnel, and caregivers to those with disabilities and surviving spouse, to also make submissions...The more, the better. This Review can be downloaded in two parts at, www.lawcom.govt.nz under the heading, 'Publications'.
www.hmnzsotago.org

HMNZS OTAGO - P148

Otago's sister ship Wellington has recently completed sea trials and both vessels are currently alongside in Melbourne awaiting final certification until they are **ready** for the RNZN to accept.

The Acceptance into Naval Service of these two vessels will provide a significant capability for the NZDF in the Maritime Domain.

We can expect to see a fine product, and the Commanding Officer is looking forward to showing us, "Old Otagos" over his new ship. It **will** be worth the wait.

HMNZS OTAGO Association Website

In the last few weeks we have had several complaint's that people have been unable to bring up the website (including me) after taking this up with the Webmaster here is his reply.

"The web site has not been down so the only conclusion that I can draw is that somewhere in the computer it keeps remembering the old web address. I have just entered the old address and, there aren't any diverts to the new address. Please ensure that you are using <http://www.hmnzsotago.org> in the first instance. (Please note that there is no NZ in the address) If they are still having problems then do the following 1. Open Internet Explorer

2. Select Tools from the menu
3. Select Internet Options from the menu

4. Move to the Temporary Internet Files Section and then, hit the DELETE FILES Button

5. You will be asked if you want to delete the files select YES

6. Then move to the History Section, and click on the CLEAR HISTORY button. This will clear any old links which may be sitting in the computer directing you to the old web address. Remember also the website is being regularly updated so to ensure that you are viewing the latest and greatest hit eh F5 button which is the refresh button and this will ensure the latest screen dump is displayed."

Terry Whim – an interview with Fred Wilson



Terry joined the Navy in 1975 as a Writer and left the service in 2000 as a Warrant Officer. His nickname was "Skin" then but now his wife calls him other things!! Otago was Terry's first sea-going ship in 1977, mostly as the Ship's Office Writer and later in the Management Office. He recalls, without modesty that soon after he joined the ship it was dispatched on a SAR mission. Without any sea legs, he was violently sea sick until the Chief Cook, Lex Theyers took pity on him and forced him to eat dry toast and told him to stand on the bridge wing until he felt better, which he soon did.

The Gang of Four in control of his life in Otago were; Tony Lewis (CO), Warren Devin (XO), Doug Kerr (SO) and Wayne Taylor his Divisional Officer. At he time sea billets for Writers were hard to come by. Terry recalls being disconsolate about most of his BCT Class heading off overseas soon after completing their Basic Branch Training, while he was consigned to the rigours of the Philomel Pay Office.

So bad in fact that he told his mother that perhaps he should buy his way out, but like all food mothers she told him to harden up.

I suggested that he must have paid someone to get him into 3P mess in 1977, (probably Winston Peters), but he denied that. No better demonstration of that he recalls was the professionalism of everyone when two personnel (including his best run-ashore mate Charlie Lyons) were washed overboard during a night RAS off Hawaii.

His best memory of being aboard Otago was the rapidity of the life raft stations procedure made a deep and lasting impression on him.

OTAGO'S trip that year included Rimpac and a visit to Canada. While the ship was in Vancouver he experienced his worst nightmare – he had signed up to go skiing for the weekend at Grouse Mountain, just north of the city, but just as he was getting on the bus he was hauled off to type up a Torpedo Firing Order. I asked if he rang his mother, but he politely refused to answer, with a knowing grin. I suspect his biggest complaint was because it was TAS Department thing he was typing.

After shucked off his uniform, he worked for two years as a civilian in the Naval Information Bureau. At that time he was also the Secretary/Treasurer of the OTAGO Association before handing over to Jock Duff in 2003.

Terry now works happily at Shore Shuttles where he and Dee are the fellow Partners and Directors with Ron Smith (the Stoker) and his wife Mavis. With 15 vehicles and over 20 drivers in the team he keeps busy and active, but still manages to drive about 2000 km per week himself. He says that if you like driving and engaging with other people it's a great life – a bit like Pussers really.



Terry today – write that number down folks.

ist's impression of the USS ZUMWALT DDG 1000T

This is the first of a new class of 14,500 Tonne Guided Missile Destroyer. Presently being built, by Bath Iron works. It has a "wave piercing" streamlined "tumblehome" "stealth" hull and the sides slope inwards from above the waterline, with a composite material "deckhouse" with apertures where antennas are mounted flush with apertures for "stealth" purposes. There does not appear to be any masts or funnel Length 600 ft. Beam 24.6 ft, Draft 27.6 ft A top speed of 30.5 Kts. Complement 142. It is powered by 78 MW from 2 Rolls Royce MT30 Gas Turbines with emergency Diesel generators. Advanced Induction Electric drive system of propulsion is the same as the New UK Darings. Main Armament is 2 x 155mm fully automatic guns, with 920 rounds of Ballistic ammo at 20 rounds per minute, and can also fire 70-100 long range guided 155mm Guided Missiles to a range out to 585 Kms.

These Guns depress and merge into the "stealth" line when not in use. She also has 2 x BAE 57mm CIWS Guns with a rate of fire of 220 R P M out to a range of 9 miles this is the same gun as fitted in the new UK Darings. She also has an 80 cell VLS missile silo for Tomahawk... Standard SM- Evolved Sea Sparrow and Asroc missiles. She, also has 2 x SH60 Helicopters and 3 x MQ8 VTUAV. She also has "Automated Damage Control" and is designed to have a 50 fold reduction in Radar cross-section, compared to present DDG 51 destroyers and minimal Infrared, Acoustics and Magnetic Signatures.

The Cost, God only knows - The mind boggles.

Dreadnought for the 21st century



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HMNZS OTAGO – F111 Approaching Portland Oregon USA 2ND August 1980

Humour Corner

The former Soviet navy regarded the Black Sea as a private lake and disliked naval intrusions. In the early 1960s a British destroyer flotilla entered the Black Sea and the Russians rushed some cruisers out at high speed and closed in...

Russian cruisers signaled urgently: "What are you doing in the Black Sea?"
Reply: "Twenty-one knots"

Senior officer to training submarine in apparent difficulties: "What are you doing?"
Reply: "Learning a lot".

Senior officer to junior ships after he carried out a pre-announced inspection:
"Standing orders provide for overalls being worn for dirty work on board in which category I do not include an inspection by me".

REMINDER

Review of War Pensions Act

Your attention is drawn to the article regarding this review. It is important that we make submissions on this. It will have far reaching effects on the future of War and Disablement Pensions