



Original 'HMNZS Otago' crest for new ship

By Debbie Porteous

Melbourne: 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 the ships' badges of two frigates being built in the United Kingdom.

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 blue and white 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 (1961) Sir Bernard Fergusson, whose father had been the

governor-general and who 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 centre-pieces of its badge, suitably mounted, for the remainder of its life.



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