



Russian Convoy Club of New Zealand

Newsletter
July/August 2017

Dear shipmates, families and friends

Wreathes laid at Wellington Waterfront



Russia's Victory Day 9 May, which commemorates victory in the Great Patriotic War, saw a large gathering at our 13th annual wreath laying ceremony at the Russian Convoy Memorial plaque on the Wellington waterfront.

Tributes were laid by H.E. Valery Tereshchenko on behalf of the Russian Federation, Ms. Catherine Allum on behalf of the British High Commission, Commander Andrew Law on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Navy, Chris Turver representing the Returned & Services Association of New Zealand, members of the Wellington Russian Club and Chris King, Syd Wells and Stan Welch on behalf of the Russian Convoy Club of New Zealand.

A convivial lunch was enjoyed at a nearby restaurant afterwards.

Veterans starting to seek out services

There has been a 33 per cent increase in uptake of Veterans Independence Programmes (VIP) over the past year, Veterans' Affairs Minister David Bennett (pictured below) says.



The VIP enables New Zealand veterans to live independently in their homes. It can help with the cost of house and window cleaning, lawn mowing and garden maintenance, home care, medical alarms, podiatry and home alterations.

"Veterans fought for New Zealand's independence and now the country can assist in providing for their independence," Mr Bennett says. "It is a positive step forward that the veterans, who sacrificed so much for our country, are now being assisted by Veterans' Affairs," Mr Bennett says.

Almost 3,500 veterans and spouses were receiving VIP services at the end of April 2017.

"That's an increase of 33 per cent more veterans accessing 7,000 individual services over 12 months," Mr Bennett says.

Veterans and their families who wish to know more about what services they are entitled to, can find out more information here: www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/support/treatment-independence/vip/

Professor to oversee review of Veteran's Support Act

Professor Ron Paterson has been appointed to lead an independent review of the operation of the Veterans' Support Act 2014, Minister of Veterans' Affairs David Bennett has announced.

"This review will ensure an external and impartial perspective on how the Act is working", says Mr Bennett.

"I am pleased that somebody of Professor Paterson's calibre has agreed to lead this important review".

Professor Paterson (right) is a respected Professor of Law at Auckland University, and a former Health and Disability Commissioner and Ombudsman. He has law degrees from Auckland and Oxford Universities, and has held Fulbright and Harkness Fellowships. Prof. Paterson was awarded an ONZM for services to health in 2011.



"The Veterans' Support Act 2014 is very different from the Act it replaced - the War Pensions Act 1954.

"It is important to ensure the Act is operating as intended and to consider if any amendments are necessary or desirable. The findings will be reported back to Government," Mr Bennett says.

The review will look at whether it is meeting its purpose of providing rehabilitation and support to veterans who have been injured or become ill as a result of being placed in harm's way in the service of New Zealand.

"The Government is committed to ensuring veterans receive the care they need, when they need it," Mr Bennett says.

Details of the submissions process are on the New Zealand Defence Force website <http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/corporate-documents/vsa/default.htm> including when and where public forums will be held. You can email the Review at review.vsa@nzdf.mil.nz

Club meetings and events

Please mark your diaries for the following club meeting dates:

24 August 2017 at 11:00am at Lower Hutt Memorial RSA
23 November 2017 at 11:00am at Otaki

New member

Welcome to new associate member Adam Holt whose father Peter W. Holt commenced his career in the Royal Navy as a Boy 2nd class in 1941 promoted to Sub Lieutenant in 1945 and retired as a Commander in 1967.

Commander Lisa Hunn captains HMNZS Te Mana

Commander Lisa Hunn, the first female commanding officer of an RNZN frigate, is originally from Wellington and is now based in St Heliers in Auckland.

HMNZS Te Mana will be her second command; she was the last officer in command of HMNZS Takapu before it was decommissioned.

Commander Hunn joined the RNZN in 1990, serving on numerous ships between 1993 and 2007. She was awarded the New Zealand General Service Medal for Maritime Interception Operations and was commended for her efforts as a Defence Liaison Officer during a state visit by China in 1999.

As the principal warfare officer on HMNZS Te Kaha, then operations officer, she was awarded a second New Zealand General Service Medal for her work during Operation Enduring Freedom in the Gulf of Oman.

She has been the executive officer on HMNZS Te Mana and at HMNZS Philomel (Devonport Naval Base), chairwoman of the RNZN Women's Steering Group and director of Naval Safety, and was chief of staff for a combined task force during Exercise Rim of the Pacific in Hawaii.



Kiwis invited to design badge for new Navy ship

New Zealanders are being invited to submit a badge design for the Royal New Zealand Navy's newest and largest-ever ship, HMNZS Aotearoa.

A Navy ship's badge reflects the name of a ship and the role it performs. It needs to be simple yet striking. The competition is open from today and closes on 1 December.

The winning design will be selected by the Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral John Martin, and announced on Waitangi Day next year.

The winner will be presented with the finished and mounted badge of Aotearoa and will also get a tour of the Devonport Naval Base and have a sea ride around the harbour on a Navy ship.

Once the Navy takes delivery of Aotearoa, the winner will also spend a night on the ship on a leg of her New Zealand sea trials. Details on how to enter the competition are at aotearoa.mil.nz

Pic of the month

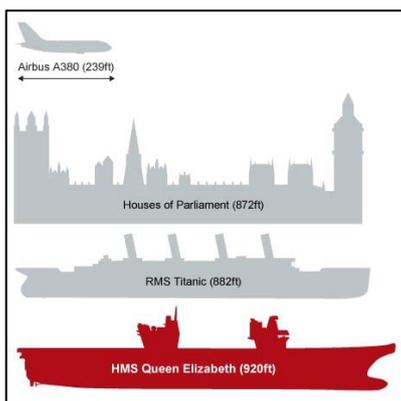


Milestone for Rosyth-built carrier as crew move aboard



The company of HMS Queen Elizabeth has taken up residence on board the Royal Navy's future flagship.

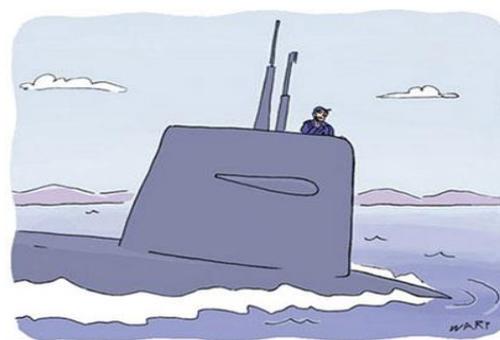
Over the last couple of months, the 700-strong ship's company has been getting to know the ship which has been assembled in Rosyth as part of a GBP6 billion programme to deliver the two largest ever warships for the Royal Navy.



The ship includes a flight deck which is 70 metres wide and 280 metres long – a space as big as three football pitches.

Living on board the 65,000 tonne aircraft carrier marks an important step in the process of bringing the Royal Navy's newest aircraft carrier to life.

And remember ...



"Hey, it's been great talking to you, Mom, but I really have to go."

Up Spirits!



Derek Whitwam
President
Russian Convoy Club of New Zealand
(04) 971 4636
derekw@paradise.net.nz www.russianconvoyclub.org.nz