



# THE CLAYMORE

HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

#94 Spring 2017

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

*The seeking of one thing will find another*

Hi to you all,

Well the weather is still so changeable that it is a worry. I was thinking back and cannot remember it being so cold and damp as it is nowadays...or is it old age creeping on????

Whatever...hopefully this finds you well and coping with it. If you know, or hear of any of our members that are Sick or a bit under the weather please keep me, or your area Rep informed.

**VETERANS SUPPORT ACT**. Just a reminder.. Written submissions to the Review of this Act must be in by 1700 Friday 15 September 2017 If you think the Act is not working well or could be improved, or you would like to see changes, (e.g. What and/or Who is a Veteran), or have concerns about how the principles have been practiced, then now is your chance to have your say. It is no good dripping and whinging amongst yourselves, put your points to the proper authorities direct.

**REUNION 2018**. As you know, this is planned for the 13/15 April so include it in your planning now please and do come along and support YOUR Association. At this stage I am unable to give you any details of the program but it will follow on the lines of the successful reunions of the past.

**FINANCE**. It is always pleasing to tell you that our finances "are in a very healthy state". This is due to the prudence exercised in the running of the Association.

**MEMBERSHIP**. The good news is that we have gained two new members, (well done Fred). But there are still a few of you non "life sub" members dragging the chain with your annual subs.

**OTAGO P148**. Presently they are doing a masterful job of Patrol and Fishery Protection etc up in the Islands....very efficiently and effectively too.

**CLAYMORE**. It is no easy task trying to put together a Newsletter, it's a "Dockyard Job".

Yet again, a plea for Photos, articles and/or "dits", they don't have to be typed or all "P C" Just send what you think will be of interest to other members...Bougis Street. Hotel Street, the GUT, and Olongapo??.. well...send them and let the Editor decide if they can be published...Yeah Right.

**WEBSITE**. It is proving quite a task and a long job, but the changes are now starting to show...so yet again I say , some input from YOU members would be a big help. Please,don't leave it to "Someone else"...YOU should BE that someone.

How often do you visit the website [www.hmnzsotago.org](http://www.hmnzsotago.org) or visit Otago Association Facebook [www.facebook.com/HmnzsOtagoAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/HmnzsOtagoAssociation)

So do take care of your selves, keep warm, Spring is just around the corner and Summer is coming. and as Doctor Jim Frew used to say .... "take plenty of salt in your porridge Laddie"....

Every kind wish

Jim Blackburn. BEM. Ld'H.

President.

*If at first you don't succeed, do it like your mother told you.*

## OTAGO REPORT (1)

By CO, Lt Cdr Lorna Gray 13.7.17

We have actually arrived in Noumea today, berthing at 1000. Quite a tight entrance into the harbour and the coral reefs at close proximity with the waves crashing make it quite an interesting pilotage. I have just done my official calls and the ship has ditched gash and is still refuelling, we managed to get through quite a chunk of fuel after 17 days at sea.

Tomorrow is Bastille Day in France, which of course they are celebrating here also. The ship will be marching with the French during the morning, fortunately I get the grandstand with the VIPs! The RAAF will be leading the way with bag pipers for the marchers so there will be quite the ANZAC influence.

### 2018 REUNION

The Reunion Committee has agreed to change the venue for next year's reunion to the Poenamo Hotel.

- Dates: 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2018
- Venue: Poenamo Hotel
- Address: 31 Northcote Road, Takapuna, Auckland
- Rooms: Below are the rates and room layout for the hotel. We have secured all the rooms and any one booking needs to let Roz (The Booking lady) know that they from the Otago Association and they need to quote F111 to secure a room and to get a 20% discount.

A registration form will be developed once the programme has been finalized (Next Claymore).

Rooms	Rate	Guest	Bed Configuration
Deluxe Poolside Kitchen Studio	\$210	5 Guest	1 King+ 3 Singles
Poolside Kitchen Studio	\$170	2 Guest	1 King + 1 Single
Double Studio	\$145	2 Guest	1 Queen
Twin Studio	\$145	2 Guest	1 Queen + 1 Single
Poolside Kitchen Studio	\$190	3 Guest	3 Singles

### Booking are made on the rule of 'first in, best dressed.'

Motor Home parking no problem for reunion attendees, just have to inform the Back Yard Bar staff there vehicle registration number. Parking up top in the Cul-de-Sac, at owner's risk. The signage around the place is clear – "Lock it or lose it".

Golf, for those who wish to partake, it would be advisable to book online at Golf.co.nz. Thirty two (\$32.00) dollars for 18 holes and twenty five (\$25.00) dollars for 9 holes, payable at the Pro Shop. These are to current prices, which may change next year.

In the immediate vicinity of the Poenamo:

Sports Bar – Pats Garage, Hell Pizza, Bushman's Grill (open 17:30, 7 days BYO), Mr India – Indian Cuisine, Northcote Kebab, The Back Yard Bar and Poenamo Hotel.

### Secondary/standby Accommodation:

#### North Shore Motel and Holiday Park

52 Northcote Road, Northcote

Ph: 09 4811200

#### Ocean Inn Motel

27 Ocean View Road, Northcote

09 4198080

The above are only suggestions, pricing available on their websites.

## NAVY LEAGUE CONFERENCE

In 2016 Navy League Wellington celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Royal New Zealand Navy with two conferences during which many aspects of the history of the Navy in New Zealand were considered.

While history was the focus of the 2016 studies, this year's focus will be on the future of the Navy and with the support of Rear Admiral A J O Martin ONZM, Chief of Navy and the Deputy Chief of Navy, Commodore D A Gibbs RNZN, Commander A C Law RNZN (Director of Strategic Engagement) has developed a programme of presentations that considers many aspects of the future Navy. All of the presenters are senior members of the RNZN who will give us their perceptions of the future composition of the fleet, the strategic goals of the Navy, the future sailor, the future engineer, the future naval base and Navy real estate, joint operations and the future Naval Reserve.

It promises to be a comprehensive overview of our Navy and an insight into a Service that continues to be the maritime extension of government policy both in the immediate New Zealand region and further afield.

Attached are the details of the conference which will be held at TS Amokura (Wellington Combined Cadet Centre) 393 Evans Bay Parade on Saturday 16 September 2017 from 8.30am until 4.00pm. There will be eight presentations and morning tea, luncheon and afternoon tea will be provided.

The cost for the conference is \$35 and registrations can be made either by email or by detaching and sending the attached registration slip.

Please note that registrations close on Friday 8 September.



## NAVY LEAGUE WELLINGTON

**Secretary:** Commander R J Martin VRD RNZN (Rtd)  
P O Box 9272, Marion Square Post Office, Wellington  
Tel: 04 3883620 Email: [robmartinnz@gmail.com](mailto:robmartinnz@gmail.com)

## BUILDING THE FUTURE NAVY

### A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE EXPLORING THE RNZN TO 2025 AND BEYOND

Navy League Wellington celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Royal New Zealand Navy with two conferences during which many aspects of the history of the Navy in New Zealand were considered.

While history was the focus of the 2016 studies, this year's focus will be on the future of the Navy and with the support of Rear Admiral A J O Martin ONZM, Chief of Navy and the Deputy Chief of Navy, Commodore D A Gibbs RNZN, Commander A C Law RNZN (Director of Strategic Engagement) has developed a programme of presentations that considers many aspects of the future Navy. All of the presenters are senior members of the RNZN who will give us their perceptions of the future composition of the fleet, the strategic goals of the Navy, the future sailor, the future engineer, the future naval base and Navy real estate, joint operations and the future Naval Reserve.

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**THE FUTURE FLEET -  
NEW SHIPS FOR THE RNZN**

Commander Murray Tuffle RNZN (Maritime Lead, Capability Branch)

**THE FUTURE ENGINEER –THE REGENERATION OF  
NAVAL ENGINEERING**

Commander Phil Bradshaw RNZN (Deputy Chief Naval Engineer)

**THE FUTURE NAVAL BASE :REAL ESTATE  
REGENERATION PLAN & IMPLICATIONS FOR  
DEVONPORT NAVAL BASE**

Mr Rob Skinner (Deputy Director, Strategic Planning, Defence Estate & Infrastructure)

**THE JOINT EFFECT  
OPERATIONS IN A JOINT ENVIRONMENT**

Commander Rodger Ward RNZN (J33 Commander Current Operations, HQJFNZ)

**THE FUTURE OF THE NAVAL RESERVE  
A NEW FOCUS**

Captain Phil O'Connell RNZNVR (Director, Naval Reserves)

**CONFERENCE FEE**

**\$35 per person (Student Concession \$20 per person)**

**THE VENUE**

The conference will be held at TS *Amokura* (Wellington Combined Cadet Centre) 393 Evans Bay Parade on Saturday 16 September 2017 from 8.30am until 4.00pm. There will be eight presentations and morning tea, luncheon and afternoon tea will be provided.

Navy League Wellington is grateful to Lieutenant Commander Stephen Worth NZCF, Commanding Officer of TS *Amokura* for the opportunity to hold the conference in the Cadet Centre

**PROGRAMME**

**THE NAVY AFTER NEXT:  
DEVELOPING THE NAVY FOR THE FUTURE**

Captain Karl Woodhead MZNM RNZN, (Assistant Chief of Navy Strategy and Engagement)



**RNZN 2025  
STRATEGIC GOALS FOR THE FUTURE**

Commander Brendon Oakley RNZN (Director of Naval Strategy)

**THE FUTURE SAILOR - RECRUITING, TRAINING,  
ACKNOWLEDGING DIVERSITY**

Captain Richard Walker RNZN (Assistant Chief of Navy Personnel and Training)

**BUILDING THE FUTURE NAVY**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name:.....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Tel: (Home/Mobile:.....

Tel (Bus) .....

Email:.....

I enclose a cheque made out to The Navy League of New Zealand Wellington Branch Inc

I have paid by direct credit to BNZ Wellington / 77 No 02 0500 0120105 00





## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF OF NAVY



### CHIEF OF NAVY

*Te Rangatira o Te Taua Moana*

Rear Admiral A.J.O. MARTIN, ONZM  
Royal New Zealand Navy

– WITH ALL DESPATCH –

Issue 11-17

31 July 2017

#### NEW NAVY VISION

As we look to the future and refresh both the NZDF and RNZN strategy, we have revised our Navy vision to ensure it suits the next Navy, and positions us for the Navy after Next. The new vision is one that complements the Navy's Mission to 'advance New Zealand's interests from the sea' and better represents the roles of our Navy.

Our new Navy vision is:

**To be a world-class Navy for a large maritime nation**

The term 'world-class' is included within the vision statement because as a Navy we strive to be among the best in the world at all activities we undertake.

Although New Zealand has a relatively small land mass, the country has a large maritime area of responsibility, including a significant EEZ, extended continental shelf, and Search and Rescue area. As 96% of New Zealand's land is underwater, we are very much a large maritime nation. Furthermore, our maritime interests extend far beyond these boundaries, and include assisting our South Pacific neighbours and ensuring safety and security of global trade routes, highlighting the importance of the Navy's role.

The next step is the release of the new RNZN plan, aligned with the refreshed NZDF 2025 strategy, and sharing the strategic goals and plans that will lead to achieving the vision.

As we look to the future, we are focussed on strengthening the NZDF and New Zealand through the application of our expertise in the maritime domain. Our new vision helps us to define our intent and what we need to achieve.

*Yours aye*  
*AJ.O. Martin*

## OTAGO REPORT #2

# Do the Mahi, Reap the Rewards

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Give a Man a Fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will be boarded by the Royal New Zealand Navy. This slight alteration to the well-known saying was the goal of HMNZS OTAGO as they commenced the first inspections of Operation Calypso 2017, aiming to board a number of fishing vessels around the South Pacific to provide assistance to island nations against the growing threat of over-fishing in some of the most diverse ecosystems the world has to offer. OTAGO hit the ground running in late June, departing Devonport Naval Base on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and heading north towards the Pacific Islands. To provide support to the Operation, four Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) Officers were embarked and it wasn't long before OTAGO hunted down her first target, working like a well-oiled machine to intercept and board her with the MPI Officers. Before commencing the deployment's first port visit in New Caledonia, OTAGO worked tirelessly to track down and board a further 11 vessels, battling through fatigue, rough seas and engine failures to ensure the mission was executed to the highest standard.

Staying true to the ANZAC spirit, OTAGO met up with Australian Defence Vessel (ADV) Cape Fourcroy before coming alongside in Noumea. Five lucky members of the ship's company had the opportunity to switch places with their Aussie counterparts for the day, and give the RAN a few tips on how the RNZN lives up to its name 'Warriors of the Sea'. The friendly rivalry didn't stop when the OTAGO's crew returned though. Screenplay throughout the night gave the Officers of the Watch on board a chance to show how deadly accurate they could be with a range finder and pelorus. As the saying goes on the bridge of OTAGO, 'In God we trust, all others we track'.

Even though boarding operations are the focus of Op Calypso, OTAGO maintained the rage in any quiet moments to make the most of the tropical weather and calm seas, training the ship's company in damage control, seamanship, and fitness. The MPI Officers and New Zealand Army personnel on board soon found out that life is never boring on-board an RNZN vessel. The moment you think it's going to be a quiet day, suddenly there's an exercise to train for main machinery space fires, or toxic gas incidents. The exercises didn't just include damage control though, the inaugural seamanship challenge was held on board to test the Seaman Combat Specialist Junior Rates to the limit in ceremonial drill, rope-work and line handling, teamwork, and leadership. When a quiet moment was found in the programme OTAGO ship's company mustered to award LMT(P) Sanft with both his Control Room Watchkeeping Certificate and the Sailor of the Quarter commendation. If this wasn't enough to tire out even the most enthusiastic Midshipman, the Honorary Physical Training Instructors (PTI) on board, POSCS Jack Walters and LMP Carla Marsh held PT sessions at the end of each day to make sure the crew of OTAGO were the fittest and hardest in the fleet (and didn't feel bad when the chefs made duff irresistible). For some of the more self-disciplined on board, the PT sessions combined with a strict diet to create some fierce competition towards becoming HMNZS OTAGO's biggest loser, the ship's weight loss challenge over the course of the deployment. Thanks to our Honorary PTI's for putting all the mahi into organising the PT sessions!

During the port visit to Noumea a group of 15 of OTAGO's finest had the opportunity to represent the RNZN and New Zealand in the Bastille Day Celebrations, honouring the storming of Bastille in the 1700s. The skies were clear and the heat was blistering, but even dressed fully in white, the New Zealand platoon showed no sign of surrender under the French sun.

As the first stage of Operation Calypso came to an end, OTAGO headed back out to sea towards Port Vila and the next exciting stage of Op Calypso. When asked about the success of the initial deployment, the Commanding Officer of HMNZS OTAGO, LTCDR Lorna Gray replied "The last couple of weeks have been challenging, but ultimately successful in our mission to enhance New Zealand's reputation as a valued international partner. OTAGO ship's company and other attached personnel worked efficiently as a team, and the remainder of Operation Calypso looks very promising".



Port Watch conduct a firing pin change of G2 during the seamanship excellence challenge





Port Watch conduct a march past on the flight deck for the reviewing officer SLT Mara, RNZN while onlookers enjoy the shade in the hangar.



Port Watch race to be the first to report “ready to receive seaboard” as part of the seamanship excellence challenge.





15 man platoon led by SLT Boyle, RNZN take part in the Bastille Day celebrations in Noumea, New Caledonia

## **OTAGO REPORT #3**

### **GUADALCANAL 75<sup>TH</sup> COMMEMORATIONS**

A wise man, George Santayana once said *“Those who do not remember history, are doomed to repeat it”*. The Royal New Zealand Navy and Foreign navies around the world know this to be true, and have a deeper connection with history than some would suspect. So it was with a great sense of pride that HMNZS OTAGO participated in the Guadalcanal 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations in the Solomon Islands during Operation Calypso 02/17.

The ship’s company had the opportunity to remember the deeds of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen in the battles of Guadalcanal during WWII, where the U.S, Australians, Kiwi’s, and the Coastwatchers’ of the Solomon Islands fought to maintain control of the Solomon Islands from the Japanese. Not only did this prevent Japan from gaining a military foothold in the South West Pacific, but allowed the Allied Nations to gain a strategic victory and continue operations in the South Pacific, ultimately leading to the turning point of the war in the Pacific.

OTAGO represented New Zealand at a number of ceremonial remembrance events, in company with the crew of HMAS SUCCESS, USS BARRY, and RSIPV AUKI. Having the chance to take part in a parade through Honiara central, a memorial church service, the unveiling of a new war memorial honouring the battle of Bloody Ridge, and finally the laying of a wreath in tribute to the wreck of HMAS Canberra.

For some on board, this was their first overseas trip. For some, it was their 20<sup>th</sup>. For everyone though, they showed the audiences of admirals, commodores, old veterans, fresh sailors, and everyone in between what it truly meant to respect and remember those who have gone, fought and sacrificed before them. What it truly meant to be part of the RNZN, a navy forged by history and tradition.



When OTAGO sailed in company with HMAS SUCCESS, USS BARRY and RSIPV AUKI, the upper decks of the four ships were lined with sailors dressed all in white. A wreath was laid in memory of HMAS Canberra and a final salute given to both the ships present and the wreck below before the final signal for the weekend was executed, signalling for each ship to detach and proceed home. As OTAGO sailed towards New Zealand, and the island of Guadalcanal sank over the horizon, the Commanding Officer of HMNZS OTAGO, LTCDR Lorna Gray was asked for her thoughts about the commemorations. She replied “Occasions such as this are not only a chance to acknowledge the past and the sacrifices made, but to also look ahead to the future. It was an honour to be part of such a significant commemoration and to do so in company with partner navies”.

## **A CALL FROM THE USA**

In 1980 the *Otago* visited San Francisco and Portland. I’m travelling to New Zealand this fall (America’s Autumn) and would like to contact some of the crew I met then. The Chief Mess Officer, Pete Elborn or “Doc”.

Signed Lynn Wells

<[lwells\\_1215@msn.com](mailto:lwells_1215@msn.com)>

Ed: Lyn has since said she hopes to be here soon after 19 November, 2017. If you remember Lynn, please feel free to send her a message of greetings.

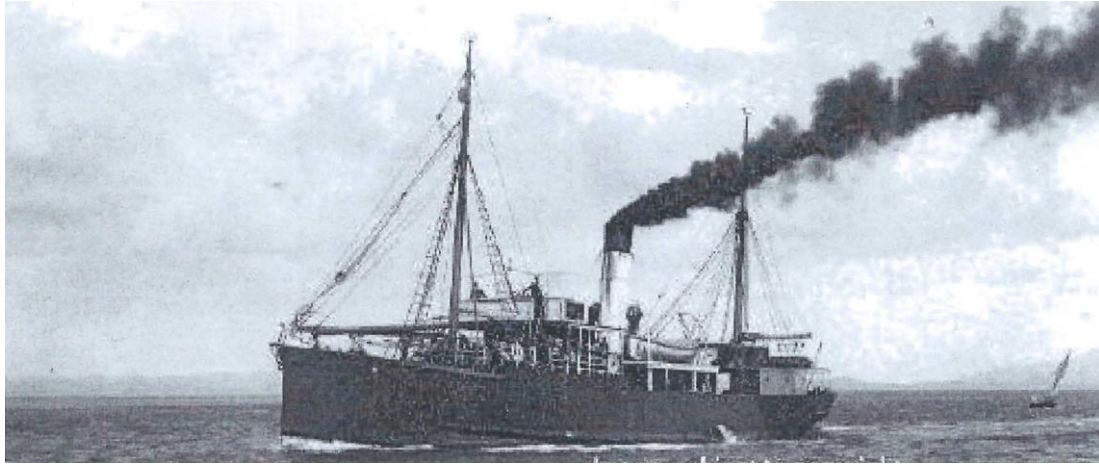
## **HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE SHIP HMNZS CLAYMORE?**

The *Claymore* was built in 1902 as a 260 ton steamer by Murdoch & Murray, Glasgow, Scotland, for the Settlers S.S. Co. of Auckland. The ship was sailed as a brigantine to Auckland. The ship operated around the New Zealand coast. Two years later, being unprofitable, she was sold to William J. Parker and Jas Smith of Auckland.

A year later she was on sold to the Northern Shipping Co. which had her cut in half and lengthened. On the evening of 23 December, 1905, she collided with the wooden steamed

*Kapanui* off the Devonport wharf. The *Kapanui* sank with the loss of five lives. The *Kapanui*'s Master was found to be at fault.

After 18 years' service *Claymore* was worn out and laid up in Shoal Bay, Auckland.



S S Claymore

When the liner SS *Niagara* was sunk outside Auckland on 19 June, 1940, by one of the German raider *Orion*'s mines, she was carrying £5,000,000 worth of gold bullion.

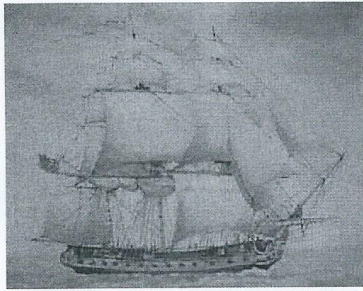
The *Claymore* was then bought by the Government from the Northern Steamship Co. on 20 August, 1940, to strip her of her engine for one of the new minesweepers being built in New Zealand. However, on inspection, the engine was worn out.

Captain R J Johnston was contracted to salvage the *Niagara* gold which was in deeper water than ever dived before. His first problem was to find a ship to operate from. But ships were in short supply as the Navy had gathered many for conversion to minesweepers. Then he found the worn out, 40 year old *Claymore* rotting away in Shoal Bay. He got the old dunger going and after several months work salvaged much of the *Niagara* gold. When that operation ended *Claymore* was again laid up until September, 1942.

After several months overhaul by Mason Bros. in Auckland during which her engine was removed, *Claymore* was commissioned on 1 October, 1943, as **HMNZS Claymore**. She was employed as the static boom gate vessel in the harbour defence net that had been installed from Bastion Point to North Head.

The *Claymore* finally left the boom gate station on 12 September, 1945, and was again laid up in the Dockyard. In October, 1949, The Dockyard recommended that the *Claymore* be disposed of. In February, 1952, it was proposed that *Claymore* be loaded with 100 tons of old explosives and towed to sea and sunk by the Cruiser *Black Prince* during her post refit trials. However, following protest from the shipping industry *Claymore* was offered for sale by tender. On 20 April, 1953, she was sold for £125 and broken up (or 'recycled' in today's terms).





TE ATATU

PO Box 45022  
Te Atatu Peninsula  
09 834 3698  
office@teatatura.co.nz

### TRAFALGAR DAY LUNCHEON 2017

To all matelots past & present, who have served under any of the White Ensigns.  
The President and Quarterdeck Division of the Te Atatu Memorial RSA are again hosting a Luncheon on Friday 20th October 2017 to celebrate in true Navy fashion the 212<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and you are invited to attend.

It will also be an opportunity to catch up with shipmates old and new.

Pre-lunch drinks will be served from 1100 with lunch at 1200.

Our guest speaker is Deputy Chief of Navy Designate Captain Matt Williams, RNZN

DRESS: (Men) Jacket, Tie and Medals. Ladies as appropriate with medals.

Seating is limited to 100 attendees at \$ 40.00 per person. First in, first served.  
Wives/Husbands/Boyfriends/girlfriends or partners of those attending are most welcome to Join us in the club after 1430.

Applications close on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Please return the section below with Payment to confirm your attendance. **DON'T MISS OUT!!!**



Send to: **"Te Atatu RSA Trafalgar Function"**  
PO Box 45 022 Te Atatu Peninsula 0651

I wish to attend the Trafalgar Day luncheon on Friday 20th October 2017.

Name:.....

Contact phone:.....

Mobile phone:.....

Email:.....

Cash/Cheque enclosed: \$.....

Or Internet banking credit to: "Trafalgar Function" Please include reference name

ASB Bank Account No. 12 – 3038 – 0423424 – 00

Enquires to Secretary/Manager Stephen Enger 834 3698 email [tatrsa@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tatrsa@xtra.co.nz)



## **PRESIDENT**

J F Blackburn BEM

09 444.4091 [jimblackburn@clear.net.nz](mailto:jimblackburn@clear.net.nz)

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Terry Whimp

09 473.8854 [whimps@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:whimps@vodafone.co.nz)

## **HON SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Noel Davies

PO Box 128.143 Remuera, Auckland, 1641

09 377.0662 – [noel@daviesgroup.nz](mailto:noel@daviesgroup.nz)

---

## **COMMITTEE**

Humphrey Ewens

09 817.3949 – [imarest.ak@xtra.co.nz](mailto:imarest.ak@xtra.co.nz)

John Bass

09 483.5790 – [John.C.bass@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:John.C.bass@slingshot.co.nz)

Bruce Lineham

027 322.4470

Fred Wilson

09 445.8462 – [kf.wilson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kf.wilson@xtra.co.nz)

Dick Scivener

09 473.0650 – [scriv@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:scriv@slingshot.co.nz)

Maurice Mitchell

09 523.4442 – [alarm1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alarm1@xtra.co.nz)

Banjo Patterson

09 837.2134 – [banjo.s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:banjo.s@xtra.co.nz)

---

## **PROVINCIAL COORDINATORS**

### **WAIKATO**

Neil Brimblecombe

021 831 872 – [neil@kiwibrims.nz](mailto:neil@kiwibrims.nz)

### **CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND**

Dave Hawke

07 386.6722 – [davidhawke3@gmail.com](mailto:davidhawke3@gmail.com)

### **WANGANUI**

Tony Cox

06 343.1142 – [tonyveronicacox@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tonyveronicacox@xtra.co.nz)

### **NELSON BAYS/MARLBOROUGH**

Joe Naughton

03 548.1309

[Wilbin.naughton@netaccessco.nz](mailto:Wilbin.naughton@netaccessco.nz)

### **OTAGO/SOUTHLAND**

Gary Mowat

03 455.3574 – [gary.mowat@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gary.mowat@xtra.co.nz)

### **TAURANGA**

Taff (Henry) Te Wheoro

027 202.6050 – [j.d.martin@kinect.co.nz](mailto:j.d.martin@kinect.co.nz)

### **HAWKES BAY (Havelock North)**

Reg Corbett

06 871.0286 – [corbee@ihug.co.nz](mailto:corbee@ihug.co.nz)

### **WELLINGTON**

Don McMurray

04 527.7275 – [donmcmurray17@gmail.com](mailto:donmcmurray17@gmail.com)

### **CANTERBURY**

Bread Roll

03 374.6450 – [grahame.roll@xtra.co.nz](mailto:grahame.roll@xtra.co.nz)

### **QUEENSLAND**

Even Jones

0061 428 115 411 – [ejones@netspace.net.au](mailto:ejones@netspace.net.au)

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## **PENSIONS/WELFARE ADVISOR**

Banjo Patterson

09 837. 2134 – [banjo.s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:banjo.s@xtra.co.nz)

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## **EDITOR**

Gerry Wright

09 624.3969 – [gerrywright@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gerrywright@xtra.co.nz)