

MASTER'S REPORT to the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the New Zealand Company of Master Mariners, held in Auckland on the 7th August, 2019.

It has been my honour, and pleasure, to have served a fourth year as Master of the Company, and I am happy to continue serving for the coming year. This, of course, presumes that the position of Master is not challenged and carried between time of writing and the submission of this report.

- **Membership**

Membership numbers, including losses and gains, and the reasons thereof, are dealt with in other reports, and in particular in the General Secretary's report.

However, I am very pleased to note that we now have a husband and wife team on the Auckland membership list, which must be a first. These are **Captains David and Holly Clayton**. Also worthy of special note is the recruitment of a senior naval officer, **CPT Lisa Hunn RNZN**, of whom more later in this report.

To blame for most of the recruitment to our membership is, of course, **Capt Chris Barradale**, and the position he has held at the Auckland Maritime School. We can't thank him enough.

- **Commemorations**

On behalf of the Company, I had the honour of laying a wreath in commemoration of the **101st Anniversary** of the **Battle of Paschendale**, commemorated at the Auckland War Memorial Museum on Friday 12th October, 2018.

The Christchurch Branch Warden, **Capt Darrell Daish** and I were invited by the Governor General the **Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy** to attend the 179th Anniversary of the signing of the **Treaty of Waitangi**. The event was held in the Bledisloe Garden at Government House, Wellington, on Wednesday 6th February. I had the honour of being briefly presented to Her Excellency.



- **Celebrations**

Although not part of the Master's duties, I have for the past 8 years organised and hosted the **Maritime Societies' Annual Dinner**, ably assisted by **Capt Bob Hawkins**. It is generally held on the first Friday of December each year, venue availability permitting. The celebration this past year was held on Friday 7th December 2018. As the title suggests the guest list is open to all of the maritime professional societies, and to naval serving, reserve and retired officers.

Each year we have a guest of honour, and at this event our guest of honour was **CDR (now CPT) Lisa Hunn**, the first lady to have been given command of one of our frigates, which she recently took on deployment to the South China Sea, and took part in joint exercises with several other nations in which her ship came first in gunnery. Shades of operation Neptune.

At the same event **Capt Chris Barradale**, on behalf of NZCMM, presented membership certificates to a young married couple, **Captains David and Holly Clayton**.





It may be worthy of my repeating that the Chief of Navy has granted ongoing permission to reserve and retired officers to wear uniform mess dress at this annual dinner. I have persuaded a few MN retired officers to do the same, myself included. It's summer mess dress, and not hard to arrange.



I wanted a picture of our Gen Sec **CDR Larry Robbins OBE** who was our MC (dining president) at the Maritime Dinner, with his magnificent cummerbund.

He is standing with my affable bro-in-law Phil Fry who always supports this event. As it happens, he and Larry attended the same school in Kent, which explains why they ~~know~~ ~~everything~~ are both so well informed.

On a humorous note, I was invited by the Commanding Officer of **HMS MONTROSE** to attend a reception on board, alongside at HMNZS PHILOMEL, on 15th January. I had no idea why I had received the invitation. It came through the British High Commission. To my surprise, I came face to face with **Capt John Frankland**. Both of us - “Why are you here?” “I don’t know”. Neither of us brave enough to pre-warn the other in case he hadn’t been invited, and thus be offended.

It was a very enjoyable reception where we met the Commanding Officer and officers of the ship, senior officers of the RNZN, and the British High Commissioner, **Her Excellency Laura Clarke**. We were also present for “beating the retreat”. Always an honour to witness.



- **Publications**

I have not touched upon the state of the shipping industry. Obviously this is a matter of great importance to mariners. However I note that such matters are more than adequately covered in the recent issues of newsletters output by **Capt Gavin Dennison, Tauranga, Seaviews**, and **Capt Gerry Wright, Auckland, Newsletter**, both of which Captains I thank for their dedication in outputting quality content.

- ***The Merchant Navy***

Efforts to have the status of the Merchant Navy in New Zealand recognised as a “service” by the Royal NZ Returned and Services Association, alongside that of the armed services, is ongoing.

As a recap, RSA offers “Returned” membership (the highest grade) to those MN personnel who have served during major conflicts and have the service medals to prove it, or “Associate” membership (the lowest grade, open to anyone) to those who have not. For the latter, we are seeking “Service” membership, in line with armed forces personnel who have not served in areas of conflict.

I attended the Annual Conference of RSA in Wellington at the end of October last year, representing Affiliate Member NZCMM, and after 2 days of remits and other business, managed to get my argument heard as the last item before the close of the conference. I had a lengthy paper to present, but was only given 3 minutes, and so I had to hastily pull up a brief argument from my head, **which I have reconstructed, and have attached to this report as an appendage**. It was received with acclamation by those present, but no promises were made.

In this regard **Capt Eric Good**, as the delegate for NZCMM, repeated the call at a recent meeting of Affiliate Members of RSA in Wellington. The responses there were encouraging, and he received an assurance that our proposal would be seriously considered.

- **Council**

In finishing, I would like to thank the Wardens and Committees of the 4 Branches for their enthusiasm and work in keeping the ship afloat.

In particular, I would like express my appreciation to our now retired General Secretary, **Capt Cor van Kesteren**, and to wish him well in his life after many years of carrying the weight of this duty, which he did so well. His successor to the office of General Secretary is **CDR Larry Robbins, OBE**, member of the Auckland Branch.

- **A Sad Note**

By the time that this report is presented we will have acknowledged and paid our respects to those members who have crossed the bar in the past year. I have attended all three commemorations that have taken place in Auckland, including that of Capt Max Deane, Auckland Branch’s long serving newsletter editor, where his service to the Merchant Navy was displayed with pride. See appended photograph.

Edward E Ewbank, FRINA

Master

New Zealand Company of Master Mariners

6th August 2019



RIP CAPTAIN MAX DEANE

Appendage: Submission at RSA Annual Conference, October 2018.

RNZRSA BRIEF ADDRESS

(As Presented , to the best of my recollection, on Wednesday 31st October 2018 at the National Council of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association)

THIS ADDRESS IS TO SUPPORT A REQUEST FROM THE NEW ZEALAND COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS (AFFILIATE MEMBER OF RNZRSA), THAT SERVING OR RETIRED MERCHANT SEAFARERS WHO DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNED MEMBER, NEVERTHELESS BE ADMITTED AS SERVICE MEMBERS.

THERE ARE 4 ENSIGNS (I point to the display behind the Speaker's Rostrum), ARMY, NAVY, AIRFORCE, AND THE RED ENSIGN. ONE, TWO, THREE SERVICES, AND I PRESUME THAT THE RED ENSIGN REPRESENTS THE MERCHANT NAVY, OFTEN, AND SOMETIMES CONDESCENDINGLY, REFERRED TO AS THE FOURTH SERVICE.

THERE IS AN ANOMALY IN THE TERM FOURTH SERVICE, AS THE RSA DOES NOT HAVE MERCHANT NAVY "SERVICE MEMBERS".

THE RED ENSIGN IS THERE ON DISPLAY BECAUSE OF HORRIFIC LOSSES SUSTAINED BY THE MERCHANT NAVY IN TWO WORLD WARS.

IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN THE ATLANTIC - THE SINKING OF 7.8 MILLION TONS OF SHIPPING AND THE LOSS OF 14,600 MERCHANT SEAFARERS, AND IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC, BETWEEN 1939 AND 1943, THE SINKING OF 11.7 MILLION TONS OF SHIPPING AND THE LOSS OF 32,000 MERCHANT SEAFARERS.

OUR LOSSES DURING THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC HAD A HIGHER RATE OF ATTRITION THAN ANY OF THE MILITARY SERVICES. ONE IN THREE FOR MANY CONVOYS, AND THUS THE SEAFARERS WHO MANNED THOSE CONVOYS WERE NICK-NAMED THE 1 IN 3 CLUB.

AFTER WW1 KING GEORGE V INSTALLED HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES AS THE "MASTER OF THE MERCHANT NAVY", WHICH TITLE IS NOW HELD BY THE REIGNING MONARCH DUE TO HRH ABDICATING IN FAVOUR OF MRS SIMPSON.

NOTE THE ADOPTION OF THE NAME “MERCHANT NAVY”, AND NOT
MERCANTILE MARINE, OR OTHER SIMILAR NOMENCLATURE.

IN THE NZ COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS' MEETINGS OUR
LOYAL TOAST TAKES THE FORM “LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE
MASTER OF THE MERCHANT NAVY, HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN”.

THE MONARCHY ISN'T ASHAMED OF US.

31st October 2018

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