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FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we approach the end of the financial year we can reflect on a very busy but successful year at the Museum. The pace at times has been frantic but filled with humour and good spirits. By the end of June we will have welcomed well in excess of 100,000 visitors. I'm pleased to see our exhibitions and programmes growing in confidence and popularity. The Navy Museum is slowly but surely taking its place as a critical part of our nations culture and heritage landscape.

ANZAC Day was very successful with 1,001 people visiting the Museum (compared with 533 for 2011). Story time was a popular activity with the children as was the opportunity to make a poppy to add to the field of poppies in the Remembrance Gallery. It was great to see people of all ages participating and interacting together.

It was especially pleasing to see the large number of Navy Personnel and their families who visited on this important day, made poppies and contributed, by their presence in uniform, to making the day special for the visiting public.

Mates Plates, the April school holiday activity that invited children (and as it turned out adults) to paint a plate to take home, was an enormous success with a total of 444 individuals taking part in the activity. The new *Salty Sea Dogs* activity book was also very popular.



The Museum was lucky enough to have one ex-Wren from each of the decades of service (1940's to 1970's) involved in the exhibition design. Here, they hold up images of themselves in uniform, before the photographs are added to our *Wall of Memories*.

attending. Each Wren was asked to bring a photo of themselves in uniform to form a photographic display. This was an incredible event with the photo display growing over the night and allowing the Wrens to each become part of the exhibition.

The WRNZNS made an enormous contribution to the Navy and to New Zealand and it was a great pleasure for the Museum to work with them to create the display and to host them at the Museum.

At the same time a display was developed to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the US Marine Corps in New Zealand. The first US forces arrived in New Zealand on 12 June 1942.

We have also had a regular turnover of new displays to keep the museum fresh and always give our visitors something new to look at.

In March we hosted an exhibition of New Zealand Seascape paintings by the Artist Michael B White, followed in April by a photographic exhibition titled *Revised: the Gun Emplacements of Devonport*, by well regarded New Zealand photographer Guy Robinson. Both displays held a wide appeal to a broad audience. The artists and the Museum received very favourable visitor feedback about the displays.

To cap off a busy period the WRNZNS 70th Anniversary exhibition, *Breaking down the Barriers*, opened on 1 June. The entire Museum team were involved in setting up the exhibition from building to ironing - it was a huge effort but totally worthwhile.

The Museum hosted an opening function with over 150 ex Wrens and their partners



Field of Poppies growing exhibition in the Remembrance Gallery



Margaret Mitchell, President of the RNZN Women's Association, holds up a grey lisle stocking, a piece of uniform notorious for its itchiness and lack of style.



US Marine Corps Exhibition Opening. (left to right) Maj Gen R.L. Bailey Commanding General, 1st Marine Division; Rear Admiral T. Parr, MVO, RNZN; Lt Gen D.D. Thiessen Commander, US Marine Corps Forces Pacific.

For the next two years there were upwards of 400,000 US troops stationed in New Zealand with up to 50,000 personnel here at any one time.

The bonds of friendship that were forged in those dark days of World War II survive today. The display honours the service of the US Marine Corps to ensuring our country survived.

Both the WRNZNS and USMC exhibitions run until late August so make sure you take the opportunity to view them.

Enough for now. Enjoy this issue of *Te Waka* and I look forward to welcoming you back to your Museum.

David Wright

The Museum would like to extend our gratitude to Lt Tim de Castro, RNZNVR (Rt'd) for completing the oral history for ex-Wren Daphne French, one of the designers of Breaking Down the Barriers.

FROM THE STAFFROOM – THE MEN BEHIND THE SWORDS

Nicola Worthington is a Cataloguer for the Collections Department. She creates records in the Museum's Vernon database for each new object, collating information from correspondence and any research or reference material that's associated with the object, together with detailed descriptions and measurements. She also photographs the objects so there is a visual record attached to each object.

Two of the more glamorous pieces I've worked on recently are two rare swords related to the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers (RNAV) dating to the mid 1800s. The Naval Volunteers was a precursor to the permanent defence forces based in New Zealand.

The first sword belonged to Captain-Commandant Emilius Le Roy. Originally from Guernsey, he emigrated to NZ in 1850 and is one of New Zealand's best known and longest serving volunteer officers. Le Roy was based in Auckland and in 1870 was appointed Captain-Commandant of the entire New Zealand Voluntary Naval

Forces.

The second sword belonged to Captain William Henry Clapham of the Wanganui branch of the Naval Artillery Volunteers. This volunteer branch was formed in 1881 as a response to the events surrounding Parihaka. Clapham was promoted to Captain in 1886 and held command of this corps from 1886 until its disbandment in 1898.

The two swords were both donated by descendants of the respective Captains. Medals, photographs and uniform parts came with each sword and helped to build a picture of who



Le Roy and Clapham swords close up.

these men were. The swords are similar in design; both are silver-plated with a solid half-basket hilt and feature a lions head on the pommel. Captain-Commandant Le Roy's sword has a brass hilt which appears to be fairly rare and Captain Clapham's sword is slightly curved which is also rare. The biggest difference between the two swords is that the Clapham sword had been sent to a sword cutler in England for refurbishment before it was donated to the museum. Consequently this sword looks brand new after being re-plated, re-etched and supplied with a brand new rawhide scabbard. The Le Roy sword and scabbard is in original condition.

These two swords, scabbards and the assorted items donated with them form part of a valuable collection representing the earliest days of naval history in New Zealand.

Nicola Worthington



Le Roy Sword and Scabbard



Clapham Sword and Scabbard

25 June 1950 North Korea invades South Korea.

28 June 1973 HMNZS *Otago* departs Auckland for Mururoa Atoll. She is sent to represent New Zealand's protest to the French nuclear testing.

1 July 1999 The last RNZN message: "Close down this circuit, out" is transmitted in Morse code by Able Radio Operator Fiona Hay, at 1200 hrs at HMNZS *Philomel*.

3 July 1950 Just one day after the start of United Nations Operations in Korea, two RNZN Loch Class frigates, HMNZS *Pukaki* and *Tutira*, depart Auckland for Korea. All six Loch-class frigates will serve over the three years, with two on deployment there at all times.

11 July 1951 HMNZS *Rotoiti* undertakes a landing operation at Sogon Ni Point. Two North Korean prisoners are taken and Able Seaman Edward Button is awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

2 August 1973 HMNZS *Otago* returns to Auckland from Mururoa after being relieved on station by HMNZS Canterbury.

20 August 1896 First wireless Morse transmission is received by HMS *Defiance*.



FROM THE COLLECTIONS ART FROM KOREA

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A clip of five cartridges with a North Korean soldier's cap badge soldered to the front of the clip. Collected by a landing party from HMNZS Rotoiti in Korea. Made by Lt Cdr Neville Peach.

Mr. Peach says about the object, "the red star badge mounted on clip of North Korean military rifle ammunition (rendered safe!) was taken from one of the two North Korean soldiers who were captured in the first Sogon-Ni landing, behind enemy lines on the West Coast of Korea, by Rotoiti's raiding party. Scoles and Button were the captors. Scoles was then a good friend of mine so he shared with me a little of the captured 'booty', including the clip of rifle ammunition and cap badge. I later removed the projectiles from the clip of cartridges, emptied out the propellant and, with the assistance of the Gunner's mate, detonated the 'primers' in one of the captured enemy rifles held in the Gunner's Store."

The cartridges are equivalent in size to a 303.



Torpedo Bay Navy Museum

64 King Edward Pde.

Devonport

Admission is free | www.navymuseum.co.nz



TORPEDO BAY

KIDS KIT HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Date: 30/06 -15/07

Times: 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30

Duration: 45 minutes

Cost: \$5 p/p

"Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag..."

The kit bag is a time honoured tradition in the military. Sailors would head to sea, not knowing what lay ahead of them, with their possessions packed down into a kit bag. Iconic images of sailors with their bags slung over their shoulders and songs sung in honour of the kit bag cement their place in our hearts.

Come to the Torpedo Bay Navy Museum and be issued your own "kit bag" to decorate as you wish.

Whether you create a PT rig bag (for your sports gear), a scrum bag (for your lunch) or simply a book bag, your bag is sure to be as treasured as those the sailors took to sea.