

Our hearts go out to our friends at the Air Force Museum at Wigram, Christchurch, and all those affected by the Canterbury Earthquake.



The Rating Bears have been more popular than the Officers.



Junior Officer Attestations were held in the new Navy Museum.

INTRODUCTION

I am very pleased to be able to reintroduce to you Te Waka the Navy Museum Online Newsletter.

I am sure most of you are aware the new Navy Museum was formally opened by the Prime Minister of New Zealand on 8 Oct 2010. Leading up to the opening the Museum team was setting a frenetic pace to make sure every last detail was in place. All the self help work played huge dividends with us finally being able to complete the Museum within budget. A special thanks to Cliff Heywood for building the ABCderium (yes it is a word) - he saved us many thousands of dollars through his hard work.

Since that time the Museum has experienced huge success. We all thought once we opened things might slow down a bit. This has not proven to be that case and indeed we are busier than we thought possible.

Since opening we have welcomed over 37,000 visitors to Torpedo Bay, which is well in excess of our projections. Our average weekly visitor numbers are well over 2,000 with our record day being 752 visitors. Our visitors make the Museum vibrant and alive and I am pleased to report the feedback from them has been overwhelmingly positive.

Torpedo Bay Café has also hit the ground running and is proving to be a favourite with locals and visitors. With the fine spring and summer weather, café patrons have been sitting out on the patio and soaking up the views over the Waitemata Harbour while enjoying outstanding coffee and great food.

The Museum shop has also been very successful, turning over upwards of \$50,000 since opening. The sailor and officer teddy bears have been a real hit. If you haven't got yours yet be quick – they are selling fast.

Our new Educator Anna Hodson has also leapt straight out of the blocks continuing the development of some fantastic activities and education programmes for kids and schools. (See the Education update on p.2)

In other news, the Collections Store is in the process of relocating. The relocation is a huge job, being ably managed by our Collections Manager Claire Freeman and her team. The new store should see the collections being stored in even better conditions than we currently have.

It is great to get Te Waka back on track so we can keep you informed of what we are up to and how things are going. We truly appreciate the enormous amount of support we have received from our Museum community. I hope you get a chance to visit us again soon.

Commander David Wright, Director

SOME HIGHLIGHTS SINCE OPENING

Torpedo Bay hosted the breakfast show weather segment with Tamati.

The Governor General visited the Museum in January and was given a first class guided tour by Guide Host Craig Emslie.

There have been 14 functions held at Torpedo Bay since opening. A big well done to our Events Coordinator Ann Martin-Stacy for pulling all the threads together to make these events truly successful and memorable.

The BCT Movie Night at the Museum was a great success with the trainees getting an opportunity to relax, enjoy their Museum, eat popcorn, watch a movie and do some Christmas shopping in the Museum shop.

New entry attestations are now being held in the Museum. The first time this was done some of the visitors actually fell in with the soon to be attested young officers. We thought we might have a bunch of new recruits no one was expecting.



EDUCATION

The 10th of March will be a special day for Torpedo Bay when our first school group boards the new Navy Museum classroom.

The classroom, located in one of the 19th Century Loading Stores, is currently being transformed into a ship. Named after the Castle Class training ship, the WAKAKURA is to be the vessel where school groups come to learn about New Zealand's proud naval history, naval practices and the Torpedo Bay site itself.

The three 2011 programmes for primary and intermediate schools will cover navigation, signalling and the history of the Torpedo Bay site. All of the 2011 programmes are hands-on experiences, posing authentic challenges and activities. Secondary schools will be able to request special focus for their visits.

We are greatly looking forward to seeing the hundreds of students that will walk across the WAKAKURA gangway.

Anna Hodson, Educator

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

From March 15, 2011, the Navy Museum at Torpedo Bay presents

Through the Lens: Selections from the Commodore Richard Hale Collection of Photographs

Highlighting the unique vision of Richard T. Hale, this show offers an intimate and informal view of Navy life in the mid-twentieth century. Characterized by a high degree of access to important historical events, these images also demonstrate the warm relationships that enlisted personnel had to the people they encountered in war and in peace. With images of raising the flag at Cook Islands, to naval engagements in Korea, and back home again, this show highlights the human side of life at sea with exceptional artistry.

The show will be installed in the temporary exhibition space at the new museum, with an online exhibition going live on our website the same day. www.navymuseum.mil.nz

This show marks the end of a six month long project by Ms. Emily McKibbin. Thank you Emily, for your work in digitising the (approx) 1700 images of the Hale Collection.

SUBSCRIPTION

We would like to keep you informed of our programmes and activities at the Navy Museum. If you wish to receive notification of this online newsletter by email, please email navymuseumenquiries@nzdf.mil.nz or phone 09 445 5186. To unsubscribe, type 'unsubscribe' in the subject.

Pages 3 and 4... **PHOTO ESSAY: NAVY MUSEUM MOVES TO TORPEDO BAY**





August 2007. The Torpedo Bay Boatyard was officially handed over to the Navy in 1958. Since then it has been a training ground for sailors learning to rig and sail, practice rooms for the Navy Band and meeting place for the Sea Cadets.



October 2009. Excavations revealed the rail lines from the 19th Century submarine mining station. Sea mines were transported around the site and hooked onto electronic cables before they were strung across the harbour to Bastion Point.



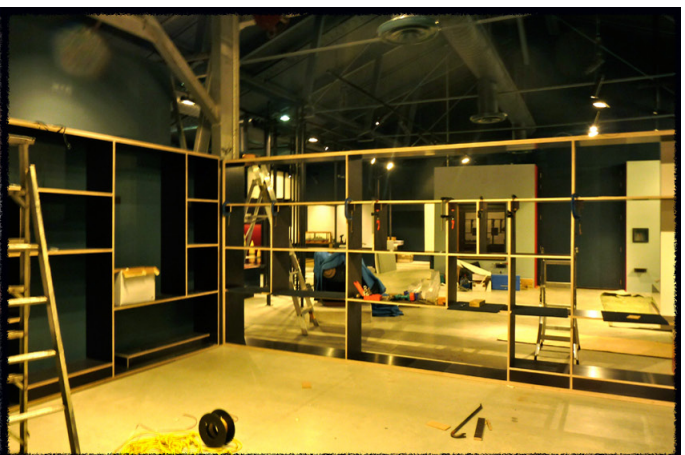
November 2009. The framing and exteriors of the buildings are preserved, while the interiors are gutted and fitted with new floors, walls and ceilings to provide temperature and humidity controlled spaces for the exhibition.



March 2010. The original pier head is exposed, studied and documented. This pier existed prior to the land reclamation which formed most of the present-day site. The sea wall originally reached the cliff face on the East of the site and to the modern-day administrative block, to the West.



April 2010. The largest object in the exhibition is the gun from the Japanese submarine, I-1, which was sunk in WWII by the minesweepers, HMNZ Ships KIWI and MOA. Because of its size, the gun was the first object to be placed in the museum – before the walls were fully built.



June 2010. The ABCderium was constructed by Navy Museum staff.



September 2010. The model of Captain Cook's Endeavour was one of the last objects to be moved into the museum. Here, it sits in a foam support to ensure its safe journey.

October 7th, 2010. The glass cases are polished and the floors vacuumed in preparation for opening events.



October 8th, 2010, 5 a.m. The Mauri, or Life Essence, is brought from the old museum at Spring St. to Torpedo Bay in a pre-dawn ceremony.



October 8th, 2010, 8 p.m. On Opening Night, the Navy Band plays to a crowd of special guests including the Prime Minister John Key, Defence Minister Wayne Mapp, Chief of Navy Rear Admiral Tony Parr and many retired and currently serving Defence personnel.



October 9th, 2010, 8 a.m. Director of the Navy Museum Commander David Wright and Chief Olivia Stacy (Cadet Force), raise the New Zealand White Ensign on public open day.

The Navy Museum at Torpedo Bay