



Russian Convoy Club of New Zealand

Newsletter
September/October 2018

Dear shipmates, families and friends

We welcome the new Russian Ambassador



We extend a warm welcome to the newly appointed Russian Ambassador to New Zealand, His Excellency Mr Georgii Viktorovich Zuev and look forward to the Club's close association with the Embassy.

Mr Zuev graduated from Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR in 1981 and speaks English, Arabic, French and German. He is married and has a son.

He began his diplomatic career in 1981 serving at the Soviet/Russian Embassy in Kuwait (1981-1986), in Libya (1988-1993). This was followed by positions as: Deputy Director, Minister's Secretariat Department 1997-1999; Deputy Director, Secretariat General Department (Deputy Secretary General) 1999-2000; Minister-Counsellor at the Russian Embassy in Libya 2000-2004; and Deputy Director, Human Resources Department, MFA of Russia since 2005

New Kiwi military chiefs appointed

The appointment of new Service Chiefs for the Navy, Army and Air Force have been announced after the completion of a recruitment process led by the State Services Commission.

"I'm delighted to announce that following approval by Cabinet, Commodore David Proctor, Brigadier John Boswell and Air Commodore Andrew Clark have been appointed by the Governor-General to lead their respective Services," says Defence Minister Ron Mark.

Commodore David Proctor (pictured above right) has been appointed to the position of Chief of Navy, for a term of three years from 1 December 2018 to 30 November 2021 and will be promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

"It takes decades of hard work to become a Service Chief. All three are excellent officers and I'm certain they will do an outstanding job. In particular this is a watershed day for the Navy, with Commodore

Proctor being the first logistics officer to be appointed as the Chief of Navy.

"I'd like to thank the outgoing Chiefs of Navy and Army; Rear Admiral John Martin and Major General Peter Kelly, for their outstanding service to New Zealand. You've been a credit to our Defence Force and I wish you well in the next step in your careers.

"I'd also like to congratulate the outgoing Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Tony Davies, whose appointment to the role of Vice Chief of Defence Force was announced earlier in the year.

Commodore Proctor has 32 years of service in the Navy. He has held a variety of roles, particularly in the areas of logistics and supply, earlier in his career as Supply Officer of HMNZS TUI, HMNZS ENDEAVOUR and HMNZS TE MANA, and moving through roles such as Supply Chain Commander and Captain Fleet Support.



Commodore Proctor was also the Senior National Officer/United Nations Chief of Logistics – United Nations Mission in Support of East Timor. More recently he was the Deputy Assistant Chief Capability/Director Capability Portfolio Planning, Commander Logistics (2015 to 2017) and Chief of Defence Strategy and Governance (2017 to February 2018). He was posted to the Deputy Commander Joint Forces New Zealand role in March 2018 and is currently the acting Vice Chief of Defence Force.

Navy to get new hydrographic vessel

The New Zealand Government has approved the purchase of a dive and hydrographic support vessel for the Royal New Zealand Navy.

An 85 metre Norwegian built multi-role offshore support vessel, the MV Edda Fonn, will be purchased to fill an existing capability gap. Following purchase, the Edda Fonn will be outfitted with the dive and hydrographic systems required by the Defence Force, before being delivered to Devonport Naval Base in May 2019.



"The MV Edda Fonn will be a great addition to the Navy," says Defence Minister Ron Mark. "Not only will it meet the Government's needs, it will be in service three years earlier than a newly built ship would have been.

The dive and hydrographic vessel will replace HMNZS Resolution and HMNZS Manawanui. The two vessels were decommissioned from the RNZN in 2012 and 2018 respectively.

The modern design and systems of the dive and hydrographic vessel will provide improved capacity, speed, safety, and capability over the previous vessels. Some of these new and enhanced capabilities include a 100t salvage crane, a remotely operated vehicle and a contemporary dynamic positioning system, which will allow Navy's specialist divers to achieve greater levels of effectiveness and safety, in a greater range of conditions.



The ship is expected to be in service with the Navy by November 2019. The project budget for the purchase, modifications and introduction into service of the dive and hydrographic capability is \$103 million.

Obituaries

We regret to advise the passing of our members:

Matt Clapham
Arctic Convoy service on HMS Nigeria
Passed away at Nelson on 28 July 2018

Wilf Goodier
Arctic Convoy service on HMS Jamaica and HMS Tartar
Passed away at Napier on 25 August 2018

David C Boyes
Arctic Convoy service with Royal Marines on HMS Belfast
Passed away on 18 August 2018

Arctic Convoys remembered in Iceland

On 29 July 2018, Russia's Navy Day, compatriots laid flowers to the Hope for Peace Monument in Reykjavik, Iceland. The monument commemorates the sailors of the Arctic convoys who died during World War II.



Among those praying at the service were parishioners from Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Serbia, Lithuania, Estonia and Iceland.

The Hope for Peace Memorial, created by Russian sculptor, Vladimir Surovtsev, was unveiled in 2005 to mark the 60th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The monument depicts a young woman holding a head scarf in her hand, who is bidding farewell to the sailors going on a long and risky

voyage in the hope of their safe return. The statue is surrounded by the semi-circular granite slabs, inscribed on which are the names of the Soviet, Icelandic, British, American, Norwegian and other vessels and ships that sank while escorting the Arctic convoys. The parishioners sang "Memory Eternal" to all the soldiers buried in the land of Iceland who had laid down their lives for the faith, the homeland and the neighbours, website of St. Nicholas parish in Reykjavik reports.

Veterans' advisory board appointed

'Who should be considered a veteran' will be the main question facing the new appointees to the Veterans' Advisory Board, a statutory body which was established as part of the Veterans' Support Act 2014. The Board's function is to provide advice to the Minister for Veterans on a range of issues impacting veterans, including advice on policies and entitlements.



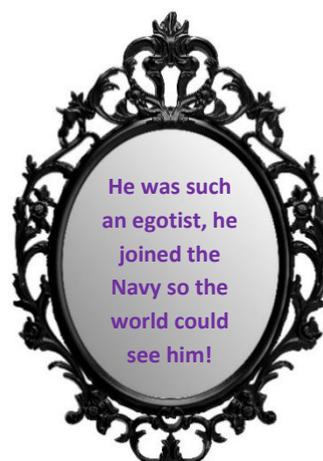
"The recently released report by Professor Ron Paterson analysed the Veterans' Support Act, and identified 63 recommendations which aim to improve it," says Minister for Veterans Ron Mark.

"The Board will be chaired by Leith Comer (pictured right), who has extensive knowledge of the workings of government and leadership experience in the military, private and community sectors. He served in the New Zealand Army for 21 years, and has held senior positions as a public servant, including being the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Maori Development.

For your diary

RCCNZ Christmas Gathering
Thursday 22 November 2018 at Otaki

Pic of the Month



Up Spirits!



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