



Commanding Officer HMNZS MANAWANUI



Lieutenant Commander Muzz Kennett, RNZN

Lieutenant Commander Muzz Kennett was born in Whangarei and educated at Whangarei Boys High school. He joined the RNZN on the 15th January 1975 as a Junior Weapons Electrical Mechanic, two days after his 16th birthday. On completion of six months basic and initial branch training he was categorised as an Ordinary Radio Mechanic and in June 1976 promoted to Able Radio Mechanic. From 1976 – 1994 he served in a number of RNZN ships and establishments maintaining electronic equipment in the communications, radar and electronic warfare departments and teaching radio and electronic theory to new recruits at the Radio Engineering School. During this period he advanced through the ranks to be promoted to Warrant Officer Electronic Technician in 1993.

Between November 1993 and June 2002 he filled several warrant officer positions both at sea and ashore including the Weapons Electrical Warrant Officer in the Leander Class Frigate HMNZS WELLINGTON, RNZN Sports Officer, New Entry School Training Warrant Officer and Weapon Engineering Career Manager. In June 2002 he commissioned from the ranks as a Sub Lieutenant Administration Officer where he undertook three months of Junior Officer Training at the Officer Training School, HMNZS TAMAKI. He was promoted to Lieutenant and took up his first officer appointment as the Officer in Charge of the newly established Naval Personal Resource Centre (NPRC).

In 2003 during his time at the NPRC he completed the RNZN Grade Three Watch-Keeping Course and in 2004 was posted to sea on the Frigate HMNZS CANTERBURY as a trainee Officer of the Watch (OOW). Having gained his Grade Three OOW endorsement he returned to the Navigation Training School in 2005 to undertake the Grade One and Two OOW and Warfare Course. On completion he posted to HMNZS ENDEAVOUR where during deployments to Australia and South East Asia he consolidated his watch-keeping skills and after two months was awarded his Grade Two watch-keeping qualification. He left ENDEAVOUR in June 2006 to undertake the Major Fleet Unit Command Course where on successful completion he posted to the Dive Ship HMNZS MANAWANUI as the Executive Officer. At this time he also transferred to the GLX branch as a Seamanship Officer.

In November 2008 he was appointed as the Commanding Officer of the Inshore Patrol Craft HMNZS KAHU. During his time in command of KAHU he undertook extensive patrols around the New Zealand coast in support of Fisheries, Customs and Police activities. He also had the privilege of decommissioning KAHU in October 2009.

He was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in October 2009 and posted to the Fleet Personnel & Training Organisation as the Operations Personnel Officer. After only six weeks in the job he received a short notice posting to the Multi-Role Vessel HMNZS CANTERBURY as the Executive Officer. During his year on CANTERBURY he gained experience in amphibious operations including conducting Force Integration Training (FIT) with the Royal Australian Navy and

Australian Army, and participated in HADR Exercises Croix Du Sud and Tropic Twilight.

In November 2010 he posted to the Maritime Operational Evaluation Team in the position of Fleet Seamanship and Executive Officer (FSXO) where he was responsible for the monitoring of seamanship standards and the generation of executive operational capability. From November 2011 to January 2015 he served on HMNZS ENDEAVOUR as the Executive Officer. A highlight of this posting was attending the 2012 RIMPAC Exercise in Hawaii.

In 2015 he completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course (Joint) a nine month residential course held at the NZDF Command and staff College in Trentham, Wellington.