



# Commanding Officer HMNZS OTAGO



## Lieutenant Commander Andrew Sorensen, RNZN

Lieutenant Commander Andrew Sorensen, RNZN, was raised in the Awatere Valley, Marlborough, and attended Nelson College prior to joining the RNZN in 2000. Beginning his career as an Electronics Technician, he commissioned from the ranks in 2002. On completion of Junior Officer Common Training he served in Her Majesty's New Zealand Ships CANTERBURY, ENDEAVOUR and TE KAHA gaining his Bridge Watch Keeping certificate in 2003

His first complement sea post was in ENDEAVOUR, this was followed by a watch keeping role in TE MANA with two deployments to Asia, including the RNZN's first deployment to Russia.

During 2007 he was part of the Commissioning crew of CANTERBURY where he achieved qualification as a Helicopter Approach Controller.

In August 2008 he was selected to deploy to Sudan for six months as a military observer for the United Nations. His role involved the monitoring and verification of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Lieutenant Commander Sorensen then attended the Principal Warfare Officer course at HMS Collingwood, returning to New Zealand in mid 2011 to be promoted and take up the role of Operations Officer in TE KAHA. The highlight of this posting was the RNZN's first involvement in exercise RIMPAC, in Hawaii, for over 20 years.

He moved ashore at the end of 2012 to the newly established Naval Warfare Development Group and assumed the role of Staff Officer Above Water Warfare. After 12 months he was then appointed as the Operations Training Officer which saw him in charge of all Operations Branch schools and Ship Command courses.

In August 2015 he was appointed as the Commanding Officer of the Offshore Patrol Vessel, HMNZS Otago.

Lieutenant Commander Sorensen and his wife Nadia live in Takapuna, with their two young boys.