



# Commanding Officer HMNZS WELLINGTON



## Lieutenant Commander Matt Kaio, RNZN

Lieutenant Commander Matt Kaio originally joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in September 1995 as a Marine Engineer. He served his first eight years in the Navy aboard HMNZS Ships WAIKATO, MONOWAI, TE KAHA and TE MANA where he gained his Control Room Watch Keeping Certificate which enabled him to take sole charge of an ANZAC Class Frigate Machinery Control Room.

Following his application to commission from the ranks in 2004 Lieutenant Commander Kaio accepted a commission as a GLX officer and graduated from Junior Officer Common Training as a Sub Lieutenant in July 2004.

After several professional courses and bridge watching keeping time onboard HMNZS ENDEAVOUR, Lieutenant Commander Kaio posted to HMNZS TE KAHA January 2006, gaining both his Ocean Navigation Endorsement and Grade 1 Bridge Watch Keeping Certificate. He was promoted to Lieutenant in November 2006.

Lieutenant Commander Kaio then posted to the second of the ANZAC class frigates, HMNZS TE MANA, as a Bridge Watch Keeper where he consolidated his professional skills as a Seaman Officer. In August 2007 Lieutenant Commander Kaio was posted ashore to the Leadership Development Group as Directing Staff for the Junior Officer Common Training Course until January 2009. Remaining shore based LTCDR Kaio taught several leadership courses before graduating the Minor War Vessel Command Course in October 2009.

In October 2009 Lieutenant Commander Kaio posted as the Executive Officer of the OPV delivery crew, which had the responsibility of delivering both HMNZS OTAGO and HMNZS WELLINGTON from BAE Systems in Melbourne, Australia to the Devonport Naval Base. Following the safe delivery of the last of the Project Protector ship's back to the New Zealand Navy, Lieutenant Commander Kaio remained with OTAGO as the Executive Officer. He continued to serve on her and plan her various first-of-class trials until assuming Command of HMNZS HAWEA in September 2010.

After a busy sixteen months in command of HAWEA Lieutenant Commander Kaio had completed numerous multi-agency operations including OP DEEP SEA and OP RENA, LTCDR Kaio handed over command of HAWEA in February 2012 and was posted to the United Kingdom to complete the Royal Navy Principle Warfare Officer Course at HMS COLLINGWOOD.

Following completion of his Principle Warfare Officer Course, Lieutenant Commander Kaio was posted to sea aboard HMNZS TE MANA to consolidate his warfare skills. Whilst posted to HMNZS TE MANA, Lieutenant Commander Kaio conducted two operational work-ups and deployed on OP TIKI VI which involved support to Combined Task Force 151 Counter-piracy operations and NATO's Counter-piracy effort OP OCEAN SHIELD both in the Horn of Africa Region. Following a busy eighteen month posting to HMNZS TE MANA, Lieutenant Commander

Kaio was posted ashore and assumed the role of Officer in Command of the Naval Operations Support Unit and the secondary role of Staff Officer Intelligence attached to the New Zealand Deployable Maritime Battle Staff. Lieutenant Commander Kaio was promoted to Lieutenant Commander April 2014.

August 2014, saw Lieutenant Commander Kaio deployed to Bahrain with the Maritime Battle staff as the Intelligence Officer for OP TIKI VIII, the New Zealand Command of Combined Task Force 151. Returning to New Zealand December 2014 Lieutenant Commander Kaio resumed his role as Officer in Command of the Naval Operations Support Unit until April 2015 when he assumed command of HMNZS ROTOITI a brief period to support navigation training, before resuming his role ashore until December 2015 when he assumed command of HMNZS WELLINGTON.

Matt currently resides in Auckland with his wife, Tessa, and young daughter Mia, his interests did include diving and fishing until Mia decided otherwise. Now Matt is learning to be a dad.