



# Commanding Officer HMNZS CANTERBURY



## Commander Martin Walker, RNZN



Born in England, Commander Martin Walker moved with his family to Napier, New Zealand in 1982 and attended Napier Boys High School. He joined the RNZN in 1989 as a Midshipman and undertook common and professional training at HMNZS TAMAKI before posting to sea at the beginning of 1990

From February 1990 until December 1995 he served in a number of RNZN Ships undertaking various roles including Bridge Watch Keeper, Helicopter Aircraft Controller, Signals and Communications Officer and Navigating Officer. At the beginning of 1996 Commander (CDR) Martin was posted to Naval Staff where he undertook the duties of Deputy Director Naval Coordination until May 1997 when he took six months leave without pay to travel.

On his return in October 1997 CDR Martin worked as part of the operations planning staff for the Maritime Commander New Zealand. In March 1998 he was posted as Executive Officer HMNZS MANAWANUI which was working in support of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Truce Monitoring Group in Bougainville. In late 2000 CDR Martin was posted to the RNZN Officer Training School as Directing Staff through until October 2002, which was a very satisfying and rewarding role. From October 2002 until CDR March 2003 he assumed Command of HMNZS KAHU, a highlight of which was support to the America's Cup regatta in Auckland. In March 2003 Martin undertook training in Australia to become a communications and information warfare specialist. On completion of this training he was posted to Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQJFNZ) as a communications planner.

A highlight of CDR Martin's career to date has been his posting as Executive Officer on HMNZS ENDEAVOUR from December 2005 until April 2007. On completion of this posting he attended the NZDF Staff Course graduating in December of the same year. In 2008 CDR Martin was posted back to Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQ JFNZ) in the Joint Planning Branch, responsible for planning maritime and joint operations. In June 2009 CDR Martin was posted to Naval Staff as the Director of Naval Information Systems and promoted to Commander. In October 2010 he assumed the role of Command, Control, Computers, Communications, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) Working Group Lead in the newly formed NZDF Capability Branch. In April 2011 he returned to HQ JFNZ to undertake the role of Inspector General followed by a posting as the Executive Officer to the Maritime Component Commander New Zealand. From December 2016 to February 2019 he was posted as the Capability Integration Lead in the Diving and Hydrographic Vessel project. After completing Ship Command training CDR Martin posted as the Commanding Officer HMNZS CANTERBURY on 3 May 2019.

CDR Martin is a graduate of the NZDF Command and Staff College and he has a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies from Victoria University. Martin lives near Carterton in rural NZ with his wife Susie and a blended family of 5 children. His hobbies include squash, tramping and being a weekend farmer.