



# Commanding Officer HMNZS HAWEA



## Lieutenant Brock West, RNZN

Lieutenant Brock West joined the RNZN in April 2006 as an Ordinary Chef. Before joining, Lieutenant West attended Paraparaumu College.

On completion of his Basic and Branch Training, where he achieved DUX of his Chef course, he completed his Taskbook ashore prior to posting to HMNZS TE KAHA at the start of 2007 for a sea acquaint and on the job training for three months. Lieutenant West then posted to HMNZS ENDEAVOUR where he was promoted to Able Chef; he served there until mid 2008.

Lieutenant West was selected to be part of OPERATION "CRIB 13" serving six months in Afghanistan as part of the NZDF Primary Reconstruction Team. He returned in April 2009 and was awarded the New Zealand General Service Medal (Afghanistan), the Operational Service medal, and the NATO ISAF Medal for this operation.

After professional development, achieving DUX of his course and promotion to Leading Chef, Lieutenant West posted to HMNZS ROTOITI at the start of 2010 until the end of 2011, during this time he also did short attachments to HMNZS CANTERBURY and HMNZS TE MANA. In 2011 during the MV RENA disaster Lieutenant West played a key role in the evacuation of the salvage crew, taking the lead on a medical incident that occurred during this evacuation. For his efforts, leadership, medical ability and whole ship knowledge Lieutenant West was given a Commanding Officer's Commendation and later that year was awarded the Sailor of the Year award. This was an immense honor.

In 2012, Lieutenant West returned to HMNZS TE KAHA for EXERCISE "RIMPAC" in the Hawaiian Islands. It was during this time that he began the process to commission from the ranks.

Lieutenant West commenced Junior Officer training as a Midshipman in the General List Seaman Officer Branch, January 2013. On completion Junior Officer training he completed the Officer of the Watch Bravo, achieving DUX before spending four months on HMNZS OTAGO in Antarctica for OPERATION "CASTLE" he then posted ashore in March 2014.

Lieutenant West was awarded DUX of the Officer of the Watch Alpha & Whiskey Course, and posted to HMNZS TE KAHA February 2015. During 2015 he achieved both his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificates and took part in the ANZAC 100th year commemorations at Gallipoli and Anti-narcotics Operation in the Indian Ocean and was awarded the New Zealand General Service Medal (Indian Ocean). While the Ship was in maintenance Lieutenant West completed the Minor War Vessel Navigators Course and fulfilled the role as Officer of the Watch One for the 2016 work up and deployment to EXERCISE "RIMPAC" in the Hawaiian Islands.

Lieutenant West completed the Major Fleet Unit Command Course early 2017 prior to taking Command of HMNZS TAUPO in March 17.

Lieutenant West lives in Hobsonville with his wife Olivia and Daughter Aria. When he gets the chance he enjoys playing rugby, hunting, and going fishing.