



Commanding Officer HMNZS MATATAUA



Commander Layamon Bakewell, DSD, RNZN

Commander (CDR) Layamon Bakewell was born in Palmerston North New Zealand. Educated at Palmerston North Boy's High School, he joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in 2002 as a General List Executive Officer.

On completion of his Junior Officer Common Training CDR Bakewell was awarded the Grade 3 watch-keeping certificate prior to attending university under the Tangaroa Scheme run by the Navy. He completed his business studies degree, majoring in management at the end of 2004.

Following his success on the Officer of the Watch (Advanced) course he was rewarded with the opportunity to serve on exchange with the Royal Navy in the Type 42 destroyer HMS NOTTINGHAM. He joined NOTTINGHAM in September 2005 and returned to Auckland in May 2007. He was awarded his Bridge Watch-Keeping certificate in June 2006.

He took command of the Inshore Patrol Craft HMNZS WAKAKURA in May 2007. WAKAKURA's primary role was to provide support to other Government agencies, including the then Ministry of Fisheries (now part of the Ministry of Primary Industries) and the New Zealand Customs Service. WAKAKURA was decommissioned in December 2007 to make way for the new class of inshore patrol vessels commissioned as part of Project Protector.

CDR Bakewell completed the ship's command course in February 2008 and joined HMNZS TE MANA (TEM) as a Bridge Watch-Keeper for her work-up and subsequent deployment to the Arabian Gulf. On TEM's return from the Gulf he took up the role of Executive Officer of HMNZS RESOLUTION, prior to being appointed as the Commissioning Executive Officer of the Offshore Patrol Vessel HMNZS WELLINGTON. During his time as Executive Officer, WELLINGTON deployed to the Ross Sea; the first time an RNZN vessel had done so in over 40 years.

CDR Bakewell took command of the Inshore Patrol Vessel HMNZS ROTOITI on 23 June 2011, relinquishing command on 1 August 2012. He was awarded the New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration in the Queens Birthday Honours List 2012 for the role that ROTOITI played in the evacuation of personnel off the MV RENA in 2011.

CDR Bakewell completed his Master of Business Studies (Hons) at the end of 2012, and was promoted to LT CDR in January 2013 when he posted to Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force Capability Branch, as the Deputy Director Seamanship and Warfare Standards. Following 18 months in Capability Branch CDR Bakewell undertook the Royal Navy's Principal Warfare Officers Course at HMS COLLINGWOOD from June 2014 to June 2015. He was subsequently appointed as a Principle Warfare Officer on HMNZS TE KAHA (TEK), and in Sep 2015 appointed as the Operations Officer of TEK, a position he held until January 2017.

Following 12 months ashore as the Operations Training Officer, CDR Bakewell was appointed as

the Executive Officer of HMNZS TE MANA in January 2018; a role he held until December 2018. During 2018 he successfully led TEM as second in command to complete a Work Up and subsequent five month deployment to the Asia Pacific Region.

CDR Bakewell was promoted and appointed the Commanding Officer of HMNZS MATATAUA on the 12th of December 2018.