



CHIEF OF NAVY

Te Rangatira o Te Taua Moana

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Mayor Sandra Goudie

Thames Coromandel District Council
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TO
RECEIVED
21 MAR 2018
Thames-Coromandel District Council
ECM No:

Thank you for your recent letters, and best wishes for the decommissioning of HMNZS MANAWANUI. The Royal New Zealand Navy has always appreciated the support of the communities of the Coromandel Peninsula, and Whitianga in particular. Both our ships and regions benefit from the connections of a home port relationship, and I know that HMNZS MANAWANUI's farewell visit to Whitianga was a very special occasion for her Captain and the Ship's Company.

Thank you also for signalling your interest in continuing this relationship with MANAWANUI's replacement, and in sinking the former MANAWANUI in Mercury Bay as a dive wreck.

While the final decision on the ship to replace MANAWANUI is yet to be made, we anticipate that this will be significantly larger than MANAWANUI, and as such would not be able to come alongside in Whitianga. I have asked the Fleet Component Commander to consider options for another ship to pick up the home port relationship with Whitianga, and invite you in the meantime to request naval representation at your ANZAC Day events through HMNZS PHILOMEL.

The final decision regarding the disposal of MANAWANUI is still pending, and will need to be considered by the Minister of Defence. There have been several groups express interest in having her as a dive attraction, and if this is the decision, it will be offered by tender. However, your interest has been noted, and our Programme Director Fleet Disposals is the best point of contact to keep in touch with the status of this decision. He can be contacted via Christopher.Calvert@nzdf.mil.nz

Please accept my personal thanks for your enthusiastic contribution to the relationship, and I look forward to continuing this in future years.