



OIA-2019-3439

// March 2019

Mr Simon Ewing-Jarvie

fyi-request-9622-516b247d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Ewing-Jarvie

I refer to your email of 18 February 2019 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA): *a list of the names, dates and citations/justifications of all honorary commissions granted by the Governor-General of New Zealand since 2008.*

Appointment of anyone as the holder of an honorary commission (in the case of the Royal New Zealand Navy, an Honorary Captain) is made by one of the Chiefs of Service. These appointments are not made by Her Excellency the Governor-General. Honorary appointments recognise people who have had a distinct association with one of the Services in the political, commercial or academic fields, or who have otherwise provided exceptional support. Honorary appointments, however, confer no authority or power of command, nor are the appointments remunerated.

Those appointed as Honorary Captains in the Royal New Zealand Navy since 2008 are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointed</u>
Mr R.C. Croker, QSO, FCIS, CA	15 October 2010
Sir R.A. Harvey, KNZM, QSO	1 October 2010
Mr F.E.A. Declerck, MNZM	1 October 2015
Mrs S. Campbell	1 October 2015
Captain A Leechman (now deceased)	21 June 2017

Enclosures 1 to 4 are the invitation letters for the current serving Honorary Captains that include reference to their particular contribution and support to the RNZN.

Redactions have been made to all four of these letters under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of the individuals to whom the letters were sent. The letter to Mr Croker has a second redaction made under section 9(2)(k), to avoid making staff information available that could, if too broadly disseminated, be used inappropriately or maliciously, for activities such as phishing, "scams" or the generation of unsolicited advertising. I do not consider that there is a public interest that outweighs the desirability of withholding this information.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) also appoints individuals from time to time as honorary commissioned officers. The "citations" for four of those appointed by the Chief of Air Force are contained in three letters from the Chief of Air Force to

those to be appointed, and a "CAFGRAM" notifying members of the Air Force of the most recent appointment. The letter to Mr McCaw and the CAFGRAM have been redacted under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(k) for the same reasons as given above.

The fifth appointment, of Mr Brendan Deere, was because of his long association with the RNZAF, including his strong support for the RNZAF Historic Flight. He is well-known for the participation of a Spitfire from his aircraft collection in ANZAC Day and Battle of Britain commemorations, many graduation flypasts and 485 Squadron reunions held at Whenuapai. These activities have been undertaken at Mr Deere's personal expense. Because of Mr Deere's strong family ties with the New Zealand military (among other ties, Mr Deere's uncle was Air Commodore Al Deere, DFC) he has an innate understanding of the RNZAF's history, culture and values.

The names of those appointed to honorary ranks in the RNZAF the dates of their appointments are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointed</u>
(Group Captain) Richard Westlake	18 December 2008
(Group Captain) Craig Walker	18 December 2008
(Wing Commander) Brendan Deere	29 September 2015
(Wing Commander) Richie McCaw	29 September 2015
(Wing Commander) Michelle Dickinson	15 February 2019

The New Zealand Army did not make any appointments to honorary rank between 2008 and the present.

I trust that this fully satisfies your request for official information but you retain a right, pursuant to section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response.

Yours sincerely



A.J. WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosures:

1. Chief of Navy letter to Robert (Bob) Campbell Crocker QSO, FCIS, CA
2. Chief of Navy letter to Sir Bob Harvey, KNZM, QSO
3. Chief of Navy letter to Mr F.E.A. Declerck, MNZM
4. Chief of Navy letter to Mrs Shelley Campbell
5. Chief of Air Force letter to Mr Richard Westlake
6. Chief of Air Force letter to Mr Craig Walker
7. Chief of Air Force letter to Mr Richie McCaw
8. A CAFGRAM to members of the RNZAF announcing the appointment of Dr Michelle Dickinson as an Honorary Wing Commander



CHIEF OF NAVY Rear Admiral A.J. PARR, MVO
TE RANGATIRI O TE TALA MOANA

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NAVAL STAFF, HQ NZDF, PRIVATE BAG, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

5647-0001
NHQ 5025-0047

15 October 2010

Robert (Bob) Campbell Croker QSO, FCIS, CA

s.9(2)(a)

AUCKLAND

Dear Bob,

In 1999, a predecessor of mine reintroduced the once traditional conferral of honorary naval rank to a small range of prominent New Zealanders who have had a particular affiliation with the RNZN throughout New Zealand.

This appointment carries no obligation, no uniform and no reward - it is designed simply to recognise individuals, in a very personal way, who have supported the Navy. The Honorary Captains include people in the commercial, academic, political, community service areas and many other fields. I am grateful that you have accepted an appointment as an Honorary Captain in the Royal New Zealand Navy.

The outcome of the appointment for you will be that:

- you will be invited to significant naval parades, functions and events in your area
- your name will be included The Navy List - an annual publication listing all serving Naval Officers
- you will receive personal copies of our bi-monthly magazine, Navy Today and briefing material on maritime defence issues from time to time
- you will be invited to participate in any sea-days conducted by RNZN units in your area

I hope you will consider this position as a tangible means of recognising the support you have given to the RNZN in its journey to achieving world class excellence. I think you will also find the new strength that the appointment brings to our association to be enjoyable and worthwhile.

If you have questions about any other part of this role as Honorary Captain, please contact my Flag Lieutenant, ss. ss. 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(k)

ss. 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(k)

Yours aise,
Tony Parr



CHIEF OF NAVY

Te Rangatira o Te Taua Moana

Rear Admiral J.R. Steer, ONZM

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Defence House F +64 (0)4 496 0462
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Wellington 6011 E jack.steer@nzdf.mil.nz
New Zealand www.navy.mil.nz

NHQ 1045-0001

27 July 2015

Sir Bob Harvey, KNZM QSO

s.9(2)(a)

AUCKLAND

Dear Sir Bob,

Each year the Royal New Zealand Navy celebrates Navy Week in the period encompassing the month of October, to recognise the anniversary of our formal establishment by King George VI in 1941. In 1999 my predecessor reintroduced the once traditional conferral of honorary naval rank to a small range of prominent New Zealanders who have has a particular affiliation with the RNZN throughout New Zealand.

The appointment carries no obligation, no uniform, and no reward – it is designed simply to recognise individuals, in a very personal way, who have supported the RNZN. The Honorary Captains include people in commercial, academic, political, community service areas and many other fields. I would be grateful if you would consider an appointment as an Honorary Captain in the RNZN.

The outcome of the appointment for you would be that:

A simple presentation ceremony would be arranged for publicity purposes;

A small memento as a personal keepsake of the appointment would be presented;

You would be invited to significant naval parade, functions and events in your area;

Your name would be included in The Navy List – an annual publication listing all serving Naval Officers;

You would received personal copies of our regular mail out information including the Navy Today; and

You would be invited to participate in any sea days conducted by RNZN units in your area.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

I hope you will consider the proposition favourably as a tangible means of recognising your contribution and support to the RNZN, in particular our upcoming 75th anniversary celebrations in 2016.

If I can provide any further background for you, please do not hesitate to contact me. In due course, if you agree, I would be grateful for your acknowledgement so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Yours sincerely
Julian

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

15-001294

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CHIEF OF NAVY
Te Rangatira o Te Taua Moana
Rear Admiral J.R. Steer, ONZM

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New Zealand www.navy.mil.nz

NHQ 1045-0001

27 July 2015

Mr Freddy Declerck, MNZM
s.9(2)(a)

BELGIUM

Dear Freddy,

Each year the Royal New Zealand Navy celebrates Navy Week in the period encompassing the month of October, to recognise the anniversary of our formal establishment by King George VI in 1941. In 1999 my predecessor reintroduced the once traditional conferral of honorary naval rank to a small range of prominent New Zealanders who have has a particular affiliation with the RNZN throughout New Zealand.

The appointment carries no obligation, no uniform, and no reward – it is designed simply to recognise individuals, in a very personal way, who have supported the RNZN. The Honorary Captains include people in commercial, academic, political, community service areas and many other fields. I would be grateful if you would consider an appointment as an Honorary Captain in the RNZN.

The outcome of the appointment for you would be that:

A simple presentation ceremony would be arranged for publicity purposes;

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You would be invited to significant naval parade, functions and events in your area;

Your name would be included in The Navy List – an annual publication listing all serving Naval Officers;

You would received personal copies of our regular mail out information including the Navy Today; and

You would be invited to participate in any sea days conducted by RNZN units in your area.

I hope you will consider the proposition favourably as a tangible means of recognising your contribution and support to the RNZN, in particular the

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dedication and service you willingly provide to New Zealanders and those visiting Belgium.

If I can provide any further background for you, please do not hesitate to contact me. In due course, if you agree, I would be grateful for your acknowledgement so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Yours sincerely
J. J. J. J.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



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New Zealand www.navy.mil.nz

NHQ 1045-0001

07 August 2015

Mrs Shelley Campbell

s.9(2)(a)

AUCKLAND 1010

Dear Shelley,

Each year the Royal New Zealand Navy celebrates Navy Week in the period encompassing the month of October, to recognise the anniversary of our formal establishment by King George VI in 1941. In 1999 my predecessor reintroduced the once traditional conferral of honorary naval rank to a small range of prominent New Zealanders who have had a particular affiliation with the RNZN throughout New Zealand.

The appointment carries no obligation, no uniform, and no reward – it is designed simply to recognise individuals, in a very personal way, who have supported the RNZN. The Honorary Captains include people in commercial, academic, political, community service areas and many other fields. I would be grateful if you would consider an appointment as an Honorary Captain in the RNZN.

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Your name would be included in The Navy List – an annual publication listing all serving Naval Officers;

You would receive personal copies of our regular mail out information including the Navy Today; and

You would be invited to participate in any sea days conducted by RNZN units in your area.

I hope you will consider the proposition favourably as a tangible means of recognising your contribution and support to the RNZN; in particular your

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

motivation, resilience and development of personnel through the Sir Peter Blake Trust and its relationship with our Navy.

If I can provide any further background for you, please do not hesitate to contact me. In due course, if you agree, I would be grateful for your acknowledgement so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Yours sincerely
John

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE
Te Hokowhitu o Kahurangi

Office of the Chief of the Air Force
 Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force, Wellington, New Zealand
 Telephone: +64 4 496 0500, Facsimile: +64 4 496 0462



AIR 5030/1

21 October 2008

Richard Westlake

Dear Richard,

OFFER OF HONORARY COMMISSION

It is with pleasure that I offer you an Honorary Commission in the Royal New Zealand Air Force in the rank of Group Captain.

The Honorary Commission recognises your association with the RNZAF, in particular the commitment to your advisory position on the Air Force Leadership Board. Through your leadership and guidance we have further developed our Strategic Plan and thinking, enabling us to have strategies robust enough to be tested against commercial practices.

Should you wish to accept this Honorary Commission it will be effective upon promulgation within our Air Force Orders and will cease on 31 December 2011. It is requested that you advise in writing your acceptance of this Honorary Commission.

I thank you for your contribution to the RNZAF to date and am hopeful that this gesture consolidates our affiliation.

*Yours sincerely,
 G. B. Lintott*

G.B. LINTOTT
 Air Vice-Marshal
 Chief of Air Force

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ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE
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Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force, Wellington, New Zealand
Telephone: +64 4 496 0500, Facsimile: +64 4 496 0500

File

AIR 5030/1

21 October 2008

Craig Walker

Dear Craig,

OFFER OF HONORARY COMMISSION

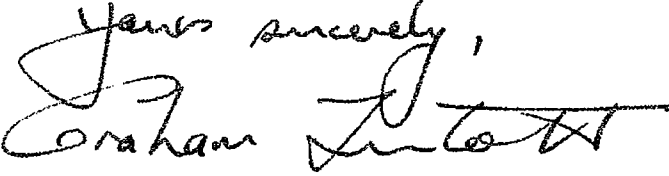
It is with pleasure that I offer you an Honorary Commission in the Royal New Zealand Air Force in the rank of Wing Commander.

The Honorary Commission recognises your enduring association with the RNZAF. Although the association was initially through your father, a previous Base Commander at Hobsonville, you have continued actively supporting the RNZAF interests and our military lifestyle. Your involvement as a longstanding Honorary Member of the RNZAF Auckland Officers' Mess has ensured the RNZAF continues to have links with society and remains relevant in our thinking and contribution to society.

Most recently your philanthropic gestures regarding buildings and infrastructure support have been most welcome. The Air Cadet Corps serves as a formative grounding for subsequent service in the RNZAF and I know they are benefiting from your goodwill. Your donation of a building to serve as a Sports Lounge for RNZAF Base Auckland is also a huge contribution for which we are most grateful. Sports play a pivotal part in engendering elements of leadership, camaraderie, and teamwork; these are the foundations of our military culture and so accordingly your assistance has enabled us to ensure future generations of RNZAF personnel have the facilities that enable this to occur.

Should you wish to accept this Honorary Commission it will be effective upon promulgation within our Air Force Orders and cease on 31 December 2011. It is requested that you advise in writing your acceptance of this Honorary Commission.

I thank you for your contribution to the RNZAF to date and am hopeful that this gesture consolidates our affiliation.

Yours sincerely,


G.B. LINTOTT
Air Vice-Marshal
Chief of Air Force



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE

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AIR 5030/1

21 October 2008

Richie McCaw

Dear Richie,

OFFER OF HONORARY COMMISSION

It is with pleasure that I offer you an Honorary Commission in the Royal New Zealand Air Force in the rank of Squadron Leader.

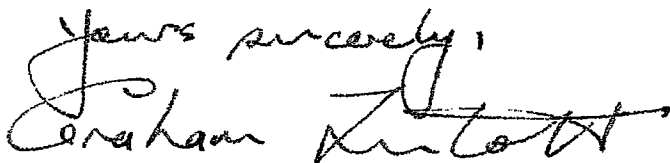
The Honorary Commission recognises your association with the RNZAF, your passion for aviation, and the efforts you have undertaken in moulding future generations of New Zealanders, particularly those who subsequently find themselves serving in the RNZAF.

It is not surprising that we wish to consolidate the affiliation you currently have. The RNZAF is founded on high performance individuals operating as part of a high performance team. This approach is similar to that which operates at the elite sports level. Additionally, the RNZAF actively support sports as a platform from which leadership, camaraderie, and teamwork can be founded and practiced. In this context your affiliation with the RNZAF is a natural fit and the Honorary Commission recognition of your efforts in this respect.

Let me assure you that acceptance of the Honorary Commission does not confer an acceptance of any additional commitments to the RNZAF. Both Squadron Leaders ss. 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(k) have reinforced that your participation is on a basis that fits in with your requirements and desires. The RNZAF has no intention of having our association being onerous or arduous to you. We wish to ensure that your association remains a positive experience through which you can enjoy the rapport of fellow aviators but at the same time expound the virtues of leadership to an audience of junior Air Force personnel. In continuing our association in this manner we are confident that we can continue to also fuel the passion you clearly have for aviation. In turn, we will continue to make every effort to ensure that your visits to RNZAF Bases are kept low-key and without media involvement unless you advise otherwise.

Should you wish to accept this Honorary Commission it will be effective upon promulgation within our Air Force Orders and will cease on 31 December 2011. It is requested that you advise in writing your acceptance of this Honorary Commission.

I thank you for your efforts in the past in motivating our recruits and presenting yourself as a leadership role model. All the feedback I have received regarding your association with the RNZAF has been enormously positive and we are thrilled to be able to offer you this Honorary Commission.

Yours sincerely,


G.B. LINTOTT
Air Vice-Marshal
Chief of Air Force

From: ss. 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(k) SQNLDR
Sent: Tuesday, 19 February 2019 1:15 p.m.
To: ss. 9(2)(a) and 9(2) , SQNLDR
Subject: FW: CAFGRAM - Honorary Wing Commander Dr Michelle Dickinson (MNZM)

From: Clark Andrew, AVM
Sent: Monday, 18 February 2019 4:13 p.m.
To: @AIR.AIR FORCE.ALL <AIR.AIRFORCE.ALL@NZDF.mil.nz>
Subject: CAFGRAM - Honorary Wing Commander Dr Michelle Dickinson (MNZM)



I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Michelle Dickinson (MNZM) to Honorary Wing Commander in the RNZAF.

Dr Dickinson has a history with the Air Force having grown up on various bases around the United Kingdom and during her acceptance speech on Friday evening, suggested this led her into the world of engineering and science from a young age. Known around the world as 'Nanogirl' Michelle is passionate about making Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) accessible to all children and a topic of conversation in every household. Michelle is an advocate of the RNZAF School to Skies and School to Skies: On the Road (otherwise known as Project Tangata Kanorau) programmes contributing as an instructor, a role model and mentor. Sharing similar values to those of the RNZAF, the collaborative relationship was a natural fit for both parties.

WGCDR Dickinson was appointed as an acknowledgement of the significant support she provides to the RNZAF STEM orientated youth outreach programmes and in recognition of collaborative activity planned for the future.

CAF

