



# Commanding Officer HMNZS TE KAHA



## Commander Brock Symmons, RNZN

Commander Brock Symmons was born in Dinefwr, Wales on 20 March 1980 with his family immigrating to New Zealand in 1982. He joined the Royal New Zealand Navy on 12 January 1998 in the rank of Midshipman on the General List of Officers in the Seaman specialisation. Having successfully completed Junior Officer Common Training, Brock began his specialist Seaman Officer training. Between April 1999 and March 2001 he trained at sea in HMNZ Ships WELLINGTON, ENDEAVOUR and TE KAHA before qualifying as a Bridge Watchkeeping Officer. Highlights of this period were operational deployments to East Timor, the Arabian Gulf and the Solomon Islands.

In 2001 Brock undertook the Intermediate Navigation Course in Australia and conducted a two year exchange as the Navigating Officer of HMAS WOLLONGONG. This exchange saw Brock conduct extended operations targeting illegal immigration and fisheries in Australian waters and a further operational deployment to the Solomon Islands which he rates as a career highlight.

On return to New Zealand in 2003, Brock was appointed as Navigating Officer in HMNZS TE MANA. In 2004 he successfully completed a Principal Warfare Officers Course in Australia before taking up the position of Gunnery and Operations Officer in HMNZS CANTERBURY. After her decommissioning in March 2005 Brock was posted to HMNZS TE KAHA and TE MANA as the Gunnery Officer and Operations Officer for a busy period which included multiple deployments to South East Asia and the Middle East.

In September 2008 Brock was posted to Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand as the Fleet Operations Officer. In July 2009 Brock successfully completed the Royal Navy Air Warfare Officers Course before posting into Naval Staff as the Deputy Director of Naval Warfare. In 2010 Brock undertook further operations training with the Royal Air Force achieving the Air Battle Staff Qualification. In October 2010 he took up the position as JS02 Exercise and Activity Planner (Maritime) until December 2011 when he was appointed as the Executive Officer of HMNZS TE KAHA.

After laying up TE KAHA for an extended maintenance period in late 2012, Brock undertook various staff roles at HQJFNZ and HQNZDF Capability Branch prior to undertaking the Advanced Command and Staff Course. On graduation from Advanced Command and Staff Course Brock took up the appointment of Naval Officers Career Manager (Operations). In December 2015 Brock was promoted to Commander and appointed as the Inspector General (Maritime) with the Naval Staff. He held this appointment until November 2016 when he posted as Executive Officer to the Maritime Component Commander, a role which he undertook until April 2018 when he commenced further command training prior to assuming the role of Commanding Officer of HMNZS TE KAHA in August 2018.

Brock holds a Masters in International Security and when not at work enjoys spending time with his wife and son and undertaking his sporting hobbies of hunting and fishing.