

9. HMNZS CANTERBURY CHARTER

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Public Affairs
Officer responsible:	Marketing Manager
Author:	Julie Battersby, Civic and International Relations Manager, DDI 941-8780

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to consider a recommendation for the adoption of the attached Charter for the new HMNZS *Canterbury* L-421 which has been commissioned by the New Zealand Navy and dedicated to Canterbury.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In February 2007 The Royal New Zealand Navy will commission HMNZS *Canterbury* L-421 to replace the recently de-commissioned HMNZS CANTERBURY F-42. HMNZS *Canterbury* L-421 will make her inaugural visit to Lyttelton early in 2007.
3. Historically the Council has conferred a Charter for the Navy that has allowed them "*Freedom of entry (into the city) with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and Colours Flying*".
4. An individual charter is prepared for each ship, as opposed to each visit, and is held by the ship until such time as the ship is de-commissioned. At that time it is handed back to the city.
5. Commander Rex Edwards, Resident Naval Officer, Christchurch has suggested that Christchurch City may wish the Charter for HMNZS *Canterbury* to also include Ashburton, Selwyn, Waimakariri, Hurunui and Kaikoura District Councils. Informal discussions have been held at the staff level and the indication from each District Council is that they would be delighted to be part of the Charter but would need to place the opportunity before their respective Council.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. No additional financial support is required. Provision to support the hosting of HMNZS CANTERBURY L-421 when she visits the city is already budgeted. It is anticipated that each supporting Council in the surrounding area could contribute a small token of support for the luncheon following the charter parade, which the Council has traditionally co-funded with the Navy.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Confer upon HMNZS *Canterbury* L-421 a Charter for the Mid & North Canterbury regions, pending confirmation by the Ashburton, Selwyn, Waimakariri, Hurunui and Kaikoura District Councils.
- (b) Approve the wording for the Charter for HMNZS *Canterbury* L-421, as set out in this report.

BACKGROUND ON HMNZS CANTERBURY

7. HMNZS CANTERBURY F-42 was affiliated with Canterbury when she was named on 22 October 1971. On 18 December 1972 the Council approved a Charter to be presented to the ship at the time of the first visit to Lyttelton, on 31 January 1973. Subsequent Charter Parades were held in the city in 1984, 1991, 1999, 2001 and 2005. A Charter is considered the highest honour a city can bestow on the Navy or one of Her Majesty's ships.
8. HMNZS CANTERBURY was decommissioned on 31 March 2005 after 33 years of operational service and the Charter for HMNZS CANTERBURY F-42 was handed back to the Mayor during the final visit of the ship in February 2005.
9. The new HMNZS *Canterbury L-421* is a multi-role vessel. She will have a 9,000 tonne displacement, be 131 meters in length and be capable of 19 knots. Accommodation is for a total of 360 personnel; a crew of 53, 10 flight personnel, four government agency officers, a permanent team of seven army personnel, plus provision for 35 trainees and 250 embarked troops. The vessel was built at the Merwede shipyard in Rotterdam during 2005-2006 and was launched on 11 February 2006.