

Pattern: Leander Class Frigates; Introduced in to NZ Service: 1966; Withdrawn: 2005

Name	Builder	Completed	NZ Service
Canterbury (F421)	Yarrow & Co Ltd, Scotstoun, Glasgow	22/10/71	22/10/71 to 2005
Southland (F104)	Yarrow & Co Ltd, Scotstoun, Glasgow	18/9/63	21/12/83 to 1995
Waikato (F 55)	Harland & Wolff Ltd, Belfast	19/9/66	19/9/66 to 1998
Wellington (F69)	Vickers Armstrong Ltd, Newcastle	17/10/69	1/10/82 to 1999

Tonnage: 2450-2500 std; Dimensions: 372 x 360 x 41 x 18 ft (113.8 x 109.7 x 12.5 x 5.5 m). F421 & F69 beam 43 ft.

Machinery: 2 shaft, oil fired, double reduction geared steam turbine, 30,000 shp; Speed: 30 knots.

Armament: Guns – 2 x 4.5 in, 2 x 40 mm or 2 x 20 mm; 1 x 3 barrel Limbo AS mortar; Torpedo tubes 6 x 12.75 in; 1 x Quad Seacat Launcher; 1 x Westland Wasp helicopter with homing torpedoes. F 104: 4.5 in gun turret removed and replaced by Ikara AS missile system in 1978.

Complement: 243-245.

Early Leanders (F 104 & F 55) were developed from improvements to Rothesay Class; later Leanders (F 421 & F 69) were 2 feet wider in the beam and 2 knots slower.



HMNZS Canterbury



HMNZS Southland (ex Dido)

NZ Service

Waikato and *Canterbury* were ordered in 6/63 and 8/68 to replace *Royalist* and *Loch* Class frigates. Following completion and workup both ships sailed to NZ via Panama arriving in 6/67 and 8/72. *HMS Bacchante* and *Dido* were purchased from the RN in 1981 to replace *Otago* & *Taranaki*, they were renamed *Wellington* and *Southland*. These last two ships arriving in NZ via Panama in 12/82 and 7/84, delivery of *Wellington* being delayed by the Falklands War.

All four frigates undertook exercises, training and port visits around New Zealand. *Canterbury* relieved *Otago* in protesting French nuclear testing at Mururoa in July '73 and took part in the Spithead Silver Jubilee Royal Fleet Naval Review in June '77. *Canterbury* and *Waikato* both served on patrols in the Indian Ocean between 6/82 and 10/83 relieving RN ships to the Falkland War. *Canterbury* attended the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete in 1991 and served in the Persian Gulf in '96 and East Timor in 1999 during INTERFET. Both *Wellington* and *Canterbury* were deployed to Fiji during the first military coup of 1987, in '94 both ships were deployed to Bougainville as part of the peace keeping initiative and in '95 *Wellington* was involved in blockading Iraq in the Persian Gulf. With the exception of *Southland* all the Leanders undertook major mid-life refits and modernisation.

Southland was decommissioned in 1995 and was broken up at Goa, India. *Waikato* was decommissioned in 1998 and sunk as a dive site off Tutakaka, Northland on 18/12/2000. *Wellington* decommissioned in 1999 and sunk as a dive site at Haughton Bay, near Wellington on 13/11/2005. *Canterbury* was decommissioned in 2005 and was scuttled as a dive site at Deepwater Cove, Northland on 3/11/2007.

Acknowledgements: *New Zealand Naval Vessels* by RJ McDougall.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMNZS_Wellington_\(F69\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMNZS_Wellington_(F69)) etc.