

Pattern: Loch Class Frigates; Introduced in to NZ Service: 1948; Withdrawn: 1965

Name	Builder	Completed	NZ Service
Haweia (F422)	Smiths Dock Co Ltd, South Bank-on-Tees	7/11/44	1/10 48 to 15/2/57
Kaniere (F426)	ditto	1/2/45	28/9/48 to 22/12/60
Pukaki (F424)	Henry Robb Ltd, Leith	11/8/44	13/9/48 to 24/5/65
Rotoiti (F625)	ditto	29/12/44	7/6/49 to 6/8/65
Taupo (F421)	Swan Hunter & Wigham Richardson Ltd, Tyne	10/10/44	13/9/48 to 26/1/53
Tutiran (F517)	ditto	2/8/44	11/4/49 to 31/8/ 51

Tonnage: 1435 std; Dimensions: 307.3 x 286 x 38.6 x 14.2 ft (93.7 x 87.2 x 11.8 x 4.3 m).

Machinery: 2 shaft, oil fired 4 cylinder reciprocating triple expansion, 5500 ihp; Speed: 19.5 knots.

Armament: Guns – 1 x 4 in, 2 x 3 Pdr, 4 x 2 Pdr, 4 x 40 mm, 2 x 20 mm, 2 x 3 barrel Squid AS mortars;

Complement: 114.



HMNZS Hawa



HMNZS Pukaki

### NZ Service

All six ships served as Anti-Submarine escorts in the North Atlantic in the final stages of WW II and several were involved in sinking German U boats. At war's end they were placed in reserve. In 1947 New Zealand sought 7 frigates from the RN, the six named Loch Class were supplied and the seventh was cancelled. All six ships were refitted, modified and commissioned at Naval Dockyards in southern England before sailing to NZ, four in 1948 and the remaining two in 1949.

After arrival the ships were involved in port visits around NZ, exercising, training and showing the flag in the Pacific Islands. At the commencement of the Korean War in 1950 NZ contributed two frigates to the UN Naval Force, *Pukaki* and *Tutira* sailing for the conflict in July. The frigates were employed on escort and blockade patrols along the western side of the Korean Peninsula and later in the war in shore bombardment and occasional raids ashore. All six frigates were eventually employed being rotated to the war zone one at a time, and serving from 6 to 12 months, the last returning to NZ in March 1954. Between September 1953 and June 1962 *Pukaki*, *Kaniere* and *Rotoiti* served on the Far East Station, around Singapore and Hong Kong, each tour for about 12 months. In 1957 and 1958 *Pukaki* (4 x) and *Rotoiti* (2 x) took part in Operation Grapple the British Hydrogen Bomb tests based on Christmas Island, acting as weather ships for the bomb drops, returning to Auckland after each test. Between 1961 and 65 *Pukaki* and *Rotoiti* were employed as weather ships in the southern ocean.

All six ships were sold for scrap and broken up in Hong Kong between 1961 and 1967.

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