

Pattern: Bathurst Class Corvettes/ Ocean Minesweepers; Introduced in to NZ Service: 1952; Withdrawn: 1976

Name	Builder	Completed	NZ Service
Echucu (M252)	HMA Dockyard, Williamstown, Melbourne	7/9/42	7/6/52 to 4/53
Stawell (M348)	ditto	23/8/43	8/5/52 to 4/7/59
Inverell (M233)	Mort's Dock & Eng Co, Balmain, Sydney	22/9/42	5/4/52 to 31/8/76
Kiama (M353)	Evans, Deakin & Co, Brisbane	10/43	24/4/52 to 31/5 74

Tonnage: 790 std; Dimensions: 186.2 x 162 x 31 x 8.5 ft (56.7 x 49.4 x 9.5 x 2.6 m).

Machinery: 2 shaft, oil fired reciprocating triple expansion, 1800 ihp; Speed: 15 knots.

Armament: Guns – M348, M353 1 x 12 Pdr, 1 x 40mm, M252 1 x 4 in, 1 x 20 mm, M233 2 x 40mm.

Complement: 71.



HMNZS Kiama



HMNZS Inverell

NZ Service

These four ships were provided to New Zealand as gifts by the Australian government in 1952 and for that reason retained their Australian names. They were all reclassified as Ocean Minesweepers in 1954 and each underwent modernisation and spent long periods in reserve.

Stawell recommissioned after partial modernisation in mid 1955 and undertook training duties with the 4 Volunteer Reserve Divisions for four years around New Zealand, paying off into reserve in July 1959.

Inverell was modernised in reserve 1957-59 and in 1965 was refitted as a training ship with additional accommodation aft. She served in this role and on fisheries protection with occasional visits to Australia and Fiji and was decommissioned in August 1976.

Kiama was partly modernised in reserve in 1955-56 and brought into service in 1965-66 for training and fisheries protection, with occasional visits to Australia she operated around New Zealand coast until 1974.

Echucu did not go to sea again and her modernisation was never completed.

All four ships were scrapped at Auckland by Pacific Scrap Ltd. Echucu 1967, Stawell 1968, Kiama 1978 and Inverwell 1978.

Acknowledgements: New Zealand Naval Vessels by RJ McDougall.