

NAVY TODAY

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SAILOR OF THE YEAR

THE NAVY FAMILY | LITTORAL WARFARE SUPPORT FORCE | NAVY IN COMMAND TIMOR-LESTE



A new year has begun and a busy one lies ahead. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the passing of one of our former shipmates, Chief Petty Officer Steward Ron Sheehan. I attended his funeral early in the New Year and was heartened by the huge show of support. Comradeship was certainly on display. Ron's family and shipmates gave a fitting tribute by celebrating his life.

Another great example of comradeship is the support officers and sailors have been giving Able Electronic Warfare Specialist Ben Revell, who was diagnosed with motor neuron disease last year. He and his wife Malia are looking forward to the arrival of their first child in March.

After his situation became known, officers and sailors rallied together to raise funds in support of Ben and his family. At the time of writing, there is a fund-raising auction and comedy show planned at PHILOMEL. Like most things though, these events involve a number of people working behind the scenes. Special mention goes to Lieutenant Commander Ange Barker, Lieutenant Commander Becs Brierton, Lieutenant Commander Bron Heslop, Lieutenant Ian Bradley and Warrant Officer Marine Mechanic Mick O'Carroll, who have all done a great job in getting these events off the ground.

A Westpac account has been set up to receive donations: RNZN Ben Revell Fundraiser, 03-1514-0408067-000.

For me, these are excellent displays of our core values at work. The support shown for Ben and his family has been outstanding. While 2011 was a challenging year, our core values remain alive and well. They are simply "gold".

Fleet Divisions were held on 20 January 2012 at Ngataranga sports field. The day was particularly special for Leading Chef Brock West, who was named "Sailor of the Year 2011". As the citation states, LCH West "continually maintains and displays all the associated behaviours of the Navy's core values in everything he does. His work ethic and loyalty to the Navy are unquestionable and he is the epitome of what a sailor should be."

Well done Brock! You deserve the recognition.



Leading Chef Brock West named "SAILOR OF THE YEAR 2011"

Brock West, who was Leading Chef of HMNZS ROTOITI until late last year, has been named "Sailor of the Year 2011".

"Leading Chef West continually maintains and displays all the associated behaviours of the Navy's core values in everything he does. His work ethic and loyalty to the Navy are unquestionable and he is the epitome of what a sailor should be," the citation read.

The Sailor of the Year (SOTY) award aims to recognise and foster excellence amongst sailors at the junior rate level.

As the senior catering rating on board Lake-class patrol vessel ROTOITI, LCH West managed the ship's galley to an extremely high standard and was an enthusiastic and dedicated member of its company. During his time on board, he quickly established himself as a competent bowman and was available to the coxswain as a back-up rating-in-charge on the fo'c'sle. His attempts to learn the intricacies of seamanship reflect his desire to constantly expand his areas of knowledge and expertise.

LCH West was the bowman in one of ROTOITI's Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB)

when the patrol vessel evacuated 21 personnel of the cracked cargo ship RENA on 11 October 2011. As the RENA crew were disembarking from the stricken ship, one of the pilot ladders fell about five meters and hit the bowman of patrol vessel TAUPO's RHIB. LCH West lost no time in administering first aid to the injured bowman. He also stepped up and served as the bowman while the RHIB was being recovered. Officers had commended LCH West for demonstrating exceptional knowledge, skill and confidence throughout the incident.

LCH West received the SOTY badge and citation during the Navy Fleet Divisions on 20 January 2012. As part of his award, he will go on an overseas trip designed to provide SOTY awardees an enhanced understanding of the elements that underpin the Navy's core values.

Leading Chef West is currently posted to frigate TE KAHA, which will take part in the Rim of the Pacific exercise later this year. He joined the Navy as an ordinary chef in April 2006 and was promoted to his current position in March 2010.