



Here is some information about the speakers:



CDRE Mathew Williams
MNZM, Deputy Chief of Navy

Commodore Williams is Deputy Chief of Navy and will host our event. He joined the Navy in January 1989 and served most of his formative years at sea which culminated in a three-year command of HMNZS TE KAHA from 2008. His roles have subsequently included New Zealand Naval Attaché to the United States, Assistant Chief of Navy (Strategy) and Military Secretary to the Minister of Defence.



CAPT Maxine Lawes

Captain Lawes has 33 years of service in the Navy. She has held the roles of Acting Deputy Chief of Navy, Assistant Chief of Navy (Delivery) and Commanding Officer PHILOMEL in her time with the Navy, as well as a number of overseas postings as Supply Officer, United Nations Peacekeeper and Training Officer. Captain Lawes is also the Chair of the NZDF Women's Development Steering Group.



LTCDR Lorna Gray
CO HMNZS Otago

Lieutenant Commander Gray has been the Commanding Officer of the Naval vessel HMNZS OTAGO since June 2017. LTCDR Gray grew up on the Taieri Plains, in the South Island, to a family with minimal military history and no interest in seafaring. Despite this, LTCDR Gray joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in 2005. She has also served as an Officer in HMNZ Ships WAKAKURA, MANAWANUI, WELLINGTON and TE KAHA, and on exchange with the Royal Australian and has held the position of Staff Officer Above Water Warfare.



Ruth Jost
Deputy Director Change
and Engagement, Defence
Estate and Infrastructure

Ruth Jost joined the NZDF in 2013 as the Auckland based Regional FM Delivery Manager responsible for the performance management of the \$30M facilities maintenance contract for Devonport Naval Base, Whenuapai Air Force Base and Papakura Military Camp. In subsequent years Ruth has moved into a pivotal change leadership role within the Defence Estate and Infrastructure unit to support the organisational. Ruth has over 20 years operational Facilities Management experience, predominantly gained managing large, complex portfolios in the UK