HMNZS PUKAKI is a Protector-class inshore patrol vessel of the Royal New Zealand Navy. It is one of the Navy’s four Inshore Patrol Vessels (IPVs). The ships are designed for maritime surveillance and patrol missions around New Zealand’s 15,000-kilometre coast and out to the 200 nautical mile limit of our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The IPVs’ primary mission is to ensure the security and prosperity of New Zealanders by undertaking maritime security patrols, surveillance, boarding operations and response to search and rescue call-outs.

Conceived as part of Project Protector, the ships were built in Whangarei by BAE Systems Australia (formerly Tenix Shipbuilding).

PUKAKI was delivered to the Ministry of Defence and commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Navy on 6 May 2009. PUKAKI is the third ship of this name to serve in the Royal New Zealand Navy and is named after Lake Pukaki.

The IPVs' have fully automated control and navigations system, powerful engines, modern communications and surveillance systems, active stabilisers and comfortable accommodation. Using their two RHIBs (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats) the IPVs can undertake boarding operations, surveillance and transport personnel. The RHIBs are launched using two automatic davits near the stern of the vessels. The ships are highly manoeuvrable and capable of speeds up to 25 knots (46 kilometres per hour).

The IPVs’ have a complement of 24 naval personnel and four Government agency officers. They also have the capacity to host 10 additional personnel onboard for general naval training or other duties.

The four ships regularly work with government agencies such as Primary Industries (fisheries), Customs, Police and the Department of Conservation and are frequent visitors to ports throughout the country. The ships regularly undertake patrols around New Zealand’s major fishing grounds, including the West Coast of the South Island, Marlborough Sounds, Cook Strait, Northland and the North Island East Coast.

The IPVs' regularly support the operations of other government agencies.
OPERATIONS

- Surveillance and reconnaissance around NZ coastline.
- Counter-terrorism.
- Search and Rescue.
- Interception and boarding.
- Apprehension and escort of vessels.
- Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief.
- Support for other government agencies, including Police, Primary Industries, Customs and Department of Conservation.
- Vertical replenishment by helicopter.
- Pollution patrol.
- Sea training for the Navy.