

## 08 OUR PEOPLE

### Piloting a new seasick remedy

The latest device onboard LPC's pilot boat is a See-LEVEL headset, a remarkable local invention that has the ability to relieve seasickness in minutes. Pilot Chris Coleman shares his experience with the device and explains why it's become an essential part of the kit.

**Tell us about See-LEVEL – what exactly is it?**

It's a virtual reality headset that helps relieve seasickness. If you start to feel sick, you put it on and it gives the wearer a 3D image of a lake scene with a fixed horizon to focus on. That helps your brain sort out all the mixed messages it's getting from the motions of the boat and stops you from getting seasick.

**Is seasickness a problem in your role as a pilot?**

It certainly can be, especially if we have to wait off the heads in rough seas. I don't get nauseous but I get headachy and start overheating in all the heavy PPE gear. But there's no time for a lie down in my job! As soon as I climb the ladder and step into the bridge, it's showtime. I've got to be in top form, take control and drive the ship down the channel meet the tug boats and berth safely alongside.

**How does the headset help in that situation?**

If I start feeling unwell, I put the headset on and after a few minutes I feel absolutely fine again. Everyone on the pilot boat has had a go. It's especially helpful for relieving crew. If the weather's not particularly nice, they're the ones who are most likely to get seasick.

**Sounds pretty extraordinary! Where did you first encounter it?**

I was invited to take part in a product trial. They took us out past the heads in a small runabout with a smelly outboard, on a particularly nasty day. After making us feel as sick as possible they gave us a headset to put on and I started to feel better immediately. I was genuinely amazed! I asked LPC to purchase one and was very pleased when they did.

**See-LEVEL was developed by a Lyttelton local, how does it feel to support homegrown innovation?**

It's great. The inventor, Dudley Jackson, who lives in Lyttelton, can easily upgrade our set and seek opinions before sending new software to his clients worldwide.

**Any words of advice for others dealing with seasickness?**

Get a See-LEVEL! I think it's a brilliant invention and removes the need to take seasick tablets. It should seriously be considered for all sorts of seafarers, from boaties to engineers servicing offshore windfarms to fishing fleets and cruise ships. Whether it's for yourself, or your crew, it can make a massive difference to productivity, safety and confidence.



◀ Launch crew John Thompson tries on a See-Level device on board the Awaroa.



◀ LPC's pilot vessel the Awaroa, transporting pilots ready to board incoming vessels.

