



NGAPONA EX MEMBERS ASSN – LONGCAST

18 August 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Hobsonville RSA

27 August 17 – HMNZS Ngapona Ex Members Assn AGM at 1500 at Pt Chevalier RSA

15 September 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Birkenhead RSA

6 October 17 – RNZN Communicators 50th Anniversary, Navy Museum

20 October 17 – Trafalgar Day Lunch at Te Atatu RSA

20 October 17 - Old Salts Lunch at New Lynn RSA

17 November 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Titirangi RSA

15 December 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Orakei RSA

Hi Folks

OLD SALTS LUNCH

Only the bold and brave battled the weather and attended our lunch last Friday at the Papatoetoe RSA. Don't worry, we spun some dits on your behalf.

NEW PATROL BOATS FOR THE PACIFIC

Australian shipbuilder Austal announced last week that the detailed design review (DDR) for the A\$306 million pacific patrol boat replacement (PPB-R) project has been completed on time and in accordance with the contracted schedule.

The completion of the DDR marks the end of the design phase and the start of the production phase of the nineteen steel vessel program, awarded to Austal in May 2016. The contract also has an option for two more vessels to be built for a new member of the program, Timor-Leste. Austal would build the vessels at an agreed fixed price should Timor-Leste accept the offer.

The PPB-R Project comprises the design, construction, delivery, training and sustainment of nineteen 40 metre patrol boats – to be gifted by the Commonwealth of Australia – to twelve Pacific Island nations as part of Australia's new Pacific Maritime Security Program.

Construction of the Austal design commenced in Western Australia in April 2017, with deliveries scheduled from 2018 to 2023. Sustainment of the new fleet of vessels will be carried out by Austal from facilities in Cairns, Queensland.

NZ SAR AREA

Governments of New Zealand and the Republic of Chile on Thursday signed a new arrangement enhancing the two nations' coordination on search and rescue missions. With a combined search and rescue (SAR) area of roughly 60 million square kilometers, the new agreement aims to improve the SAR efforts of the two countries.

Maritime New Zealand director Keith Manch signed the arrangement on behalf of the New Zealand government. His counterpart, Aviation General Jorge Gebauer from the Chilean Air Force signed the document on behalf of the Chilean government. Maritime NZ, through the Rescue Coordination Centre NZ (RCCNZ), has the responsibility to provide land, sea and air search and rescue across a 30 million square km area that borders Chile's search and rescue region.

RCCNZ manager Mike Hill says that having the ability to collaborate and share information with Chile is crucial when conducting search and rescues over such a vast area of land and ocean.

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING AT MURUROA

At 6 am on 22 July 1973 NZ TIME (8 am 21st July at Mururoa) the first Nuclear Test was observed by the crew of HMNZS OTAGO. The crews of OTAGO & CANTERBURY who attended the M.N.V.G.'s AGM in Auckland last weekend will remember their shipmates that have Crossed the Bar due to illnesses caused by their exposure at Mururoa.

Lest we forget !

The Royal New Zealand Navy played a significant role in sending a frigate to protest French nuclear testing in the Pacific in 1973. It is a unique act in New Zealand political history. It showed how much the government had changed its views from participation in the 1950s with Operation GRAPPLE to outright opposition.

It was also a unique situation where a warship was sent to operate off a colony not as an act of war or provocation, but as a political protest.

The French Tests

France sought to defend its strategic interests by developing an independent nuclear arsenal. Force de frappe was France's protection against the threat of Soviet invasion. France needed to test its bombs and initial testing was conducted at the Reggane Firing Ground in their colony of Algeria in February 1960. An improved location was needed because of the unfortunate habit nuclear explosions have of sucking up tonnes of debris and then dumping them downwind as radioactive fallout. When Algeria was granted independence in 1962 and banned testing on the site an alternative became essential.

New Pacific Test Site at Mururoa

In 1963 the French government decided to move their atmospheric testing programme to Mururoa Atoll in the Tuamotu Archipelago beginning July 1966 under the control of Direction des Centres d'Experimentation Nucleaires (DIRCEN). A base for the testing administration and stores complex for ships and aircraft was constructed at Hao Atoll, 270 miles northwest of Mururoa. There were two testing sites on the Atoll:

- Area Dinton [Southwest] – site of 21/7/73 test observed by Otago
- Area Denise [Northwest] – site of 28/7/73 test observed by Canterbury

CNS #5

Commodore F.A. BALLANCE, DSO, CB, RN – CNS June 1950 – April 1953
Royal New Zealand Navy - Chief of Naval Staff & First Naval Member

Frank Arthur Ballance DSO, RN

Born 16 Nov 1902

Death 6 February 1978 (Age 75)

Malthouse Cottage, Rogate, Sussex

Ranks

15 Apr 1923

S.Lt.

15 Nov 1924

Lt.

15 Nov 1932 Lt.Cdr.
30 Jun 1939 Cdr.
30 Jun 1943 Capt.
8 Jan 1953 Rear Admiral
Retired: 21 Nov 1956

Decorations

11 Nov 1941 Mentioned in Despatches (MID)
14 Nov 1944 DSO For gallantry, skill, determination and undaunted devotion to duty during the landing of Allied Forces on the coast of Normandy:
1 Jun 1953 CB

Warship Commands

Ship	Rank	Type	From	To
HMS Phoebe (43)	Cdr.	Light cruiser	Sep 1941	11 Mar 1942
HMS Jamaica (44)	Capt.	Light cruiser	Oct 1948	Mar 1950

Marriage Marie Arundell MAITLAND — 21 June 1930 (Age 27)
Marriage Sybil Ernestine LEE — December 1972 (Age 70) Midhurst

Take care

Jerry Payne

021 486 013

President

Ngapona Ex Members Assn

"There are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea."

"But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."

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