



Maritime Society  
17.pdf



#### NGAPONA EX MEMBERS ASSN – LONGCAST

8 September 17 – Navy Club Lunch at the Remuera Club  
15 September 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Birkenhead RSA  
17 September 17 - Northland Lunch, Bay of Islands Yacht Club, Waitangi  
24 September 17 – NZ National Armed Forces Day  
6 October 17 – RNZN Communicators 50<sup>th</sup> 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  
8 December 17 – Maritime Societies' Annual Dinner, Northern Club, Auckland  
15 December 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Orakei RSA

Hi Folks

Sorry the weekly email is a little late but we went to the South Island for a few days and did the Trans Alpine Express train trip.

What a fantastic experience, you need to do it if you get the opportunity.

#### **HMS VICTORY**

As part of what contractor BAE Systems described as the most extensive restoration project the 252-year-old HMS Victory underwent following her repair after the Battle of Trafalgar, the world's oldest commissioned warship will receive a new structural support system for the ship. Specialist engineers from BAE Systems are collaborating with the National Museum of the Royal Navy on the unique project to help preserve HMS Victory. Since HMS Victory first docked in Portsmouth Naval Base, she has been supported on 22 steel cradles and a concrete plinth. In order to preserve HMS Victory's wooden hull, the existing cradles, which were installed in 1925, will be replaced with 134 precisely positioned props. The props will evenly distribute the ship's load to recreate the natural stresses experienced on the hull when the ship was supported by water.

Andrew Baines, Project Director at The National Museum of the Royal Navy, said:

"HMS Victory is a unique museum object of international importance. This type of support is a first for any historic ship, and it's essential we get it right.

"The new support system design and the installation process has been painstakingly developed over the past five years. The expertise we have gained, and will continue to gain in the delivery of this project, will not only safeguard Victory's future but help us to support other historic ships around the world."

The work to restore HMS Victory began in 2011, which included removing the masts and booms before work could begin to prevent water damage and reduce rot. The project has also seen the ship's hull repainted and refurbishment of Admiral Lord Nelson's Cabin and the Great Cabin. A new walkway onto the ship provides visitors with easier access to parts of the ship that were previously unseen. The project has also seen the instalment of a new fire detection and suppression system.

HMS Victory is the oldest warship in the Royal Navy's fleet and is the flagship of the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC. She will remain open to the public as a visitor attraction throughout the restoration project which is due to complete in 2018. in the Royal Navy's fleet and is the flagship of the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC. She will remain open to the public as a visitor attraction throughout the restoration project which is due to complete in 2018.

## **HMS OCEAN**

Getting underway from Naval Base Plymouth on Tuesday, helicopter carrier HMS Ocean started her final deployment as a commissioned Royal Navy ship. The fleet flagship – a role that will be taken by the new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth – will be joining NATO's Standing Maritime Group 2 in the Mediterranean as flagship. HMS Ocean and her crew are expected to return home in December.

Currently the Royal Navy's sole helicopter carrier, Ocean is set to be decommissioned next year and her role will be taken up by the HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Commissioned in October 1995, the 202-meter long HMS Ocean replaced HMS Bulwark as fleet flagship in June 2015. In her role as a helicopter carrier and amphibious assault ship, Ocean is designed to deliver troops by helicopter or by landing craft.

After her decommissioning was announced, Brazilian media reports rumoured the HMS Ocean could be sold to the Brazilian Navy for a "reasonable price". The UK defence ministry earlier said that 'a number of options' were still in play regarding the future of HMS Ocean adding that it was too early to talk about specifics.

## **MARITIME SOCIETIES' ANNUAL DINNER**

The Maritime Societies Annual Dinner will be held on 8th December 2017. See attached flyer.

## **CNS #11**

Rear Admiral John O'Connell Ross, C.B., C.B.E. RNZN – CNS October 1965 – June 1969

Royal New Zealand Navy - Chief of Naval Staff & First Naval Member

John Ross was born in Port Chalmers in 1916. As a public servant he joined the Canterbury Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1936 and was commissioned two years later. He was mobilised on the outbreak of the Second World War and sent for extended officer and anti-submarine training before being posted as executive officer to HMS Wakakura in 1941. In 1942, serving as a lieutenant in HMNZS Matai, he took part in the Solomon's Campaign. In 1944 he was sent to the United Kingdom for advanced training before returning to New Zealand in 1946 as a gunnery specialist and being offered a permanent commission in the Royal New Zealand Navy that year. He served on HMNZS Tutira in Korean waters in 1951 and, after several staff positions, he served as executive officer on the cruisers HMNZS' Black Prince, Bellona

and Royalist, which he later commanded. He also served on exchange with the Royal Navy, including attending the Imperial Defence College. Serving three years as Naval Attache in London, he then became Commodore Auckland. From 1965 to 1969 he was Chief of Naval Staff and First Member of the New Zealand Naval Board. He was created a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE), and, after his retirement, a Commander of the Order of the Bath (CB). He was a prolific author on New Zealand maritime issues. His major works include: *The White Ensign in New Zealand*, and *This Stern Coast*. Admiral Ross died in 1983.

*(Another 'Rocky' who made it to the top! – Ed)*

Did you remember to register for the Comms Reunion and the Trafalgar Lunch?

Take care

**Jerry Payne**

021 486 013

President

HMNZS Ngapona Ex Members Assn Inc

*"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."*

(To be removed from this email list please reply to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.)