

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

10 July 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
17 July 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at New Lynn RSA
22 July 20 – Navy Club – Bus trip to Wellsford
9 August 20 – Ngapona Assn AGM
15 August 20 – Navy Club AGM
21 August 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Birkenhead RSA

Hi Folks

JIM PALTRIDGE

There was a great muster of ex Ngapona personnel to farewell Jim last Friday.



Part of the Guard of Honour

LUNCH AT HOWICK LAST FRIDAY

Our monthly lunch at Howick last Friday was well attended.

'Up Spirits' rum was supplied by Howick RSA and the rum barrel was on loan from Peter Goodwin.

The 'Rum Bosun', Kieth Ingram, did an excellent job.



“And your service number is.....?”



Up Spirits

WELCOME AOTEAROA

Our newest and largest-ever ship *Aotearoa* will sail into Auckland on Friday 26 June. We'd like you to join us in welcoming *Aotearoa* home to New Zealand.

JOIN THE FLOTILLA

We'd like you to be on the water with us – so join the flotilla in your yacht or boat and help escort her in.

Best viewing points:

- North Head
- Anywhere along King Edward Parade in Devonport
- Bastion Point
- Anywhere along Tamaki Drive

Key timings:

- 0930 – *Aotearoa* commences Harbour Entry
- 1040 – Flypast by the Royal New Zealand Air Force
- 1100 – *Aotearoa* berths at Devonport Naval Base



BERTH ON KUPARU

Scott Perry, owner of ex HMNZS *Kuparu* is planning to greet *Aotearoa* on her arrival in Auckland. If you would like a berth on *Kuparu*, contact Scott at perryz@xtra.co.nz

ML NEWS

The following was posted today in 'Nelson Snippets'

“Police are looking for this ex-navy boat - now painted dark green. The man on board has breached his bail conditions address in the sounds and is currently AWOL. he is wanted on serious charges and due to appear in court on the 29th of June relating to these. He should not be approached, instead please phone police or coastguard with

location. He is of slim build around 170-cm tall and caucasian. He is dangerous and is not allowed in the Wellington or Nelson regions.”



Ex HMNZS *Parore*

I visited Kopu, near Thames today and checked on the three MLs on the hard at Kopu Marine Ltd. *Alert* is still under-going her refit, *Tamure* does not appear to have changed since being slipped in November and *Koura* continues to deteriorate.

Kuparu and *Paea* are still berthed at Whangarei.

OTAGO REUNION

The 2020 Otago Reunion has been rescheduled to 20 - 22 November 2020. Further details in due course.

RNZN MUSEUM

Naval Museum – Hours of Operation

If you are visiting the Naval Museum please check out the hours. There have been some major changes as a result of COVID 19 and civil staff cuts. Currently the Museum is open as follows:

Monday to Friday 1000 – 1630. The museum remains closed over weekends although the cafe is open 7 days per week.

RNZN MUG NIGHT

It is currently intended to hold an RNZN MUG NIGHT at the Birkenhead RSA on Friday, 28th of August 2020. Servicemen and women of All Ranks are invited to attend. The event will commence at 1630 and will complete at 1830. Entry price is \$10.00 which will include a tot of rum and some nibbles. In order that we can be prepared numbers are required. Please contact: Greg Hartley on grehar46@gmail.com or 0279341850 to register for this event

PORTS OF AUCKLAND – ELECTRIC TUG

"In 2019 we announced that we were buying an electric tug, the first in the world, as part of our effort to become zero emission by 2040," says Tony Gibson, CEO of Ports of Auckland. That's a pretty big deal. Before we came knocking, tug builders weren't even thinking about electric tugs – but our persistence and the innovation of Dutch company Damen made it a reality."

"It's a big deal for us, but it's also a big deal for New Zealand that we're leading the way in this innovation. So, we wanted to share that with the country, and that's why we asked Kiwis to come up with a name," he said.

"The most popular name sent in – by a long way – was Sparky. When it came down to the final vote, it was the same: nearly half of the over 8,000 people who voted, picked 'Sparky'."

"We think it's a fitting name. It's fun, full of energy, and memorable – just like our new tug."

"We look forward to welcoming 'Sparky' to Auckland next year," said Mr Gibson. Sparky is being built in Vietnam, by Dutch shipbuilder Damen Shipyards. The steel cutting ceremony was held last week, and the keel is expected to be laid down in July. The tug will take around a year to build and after testing will be delivered to Auckland in late 2021.

The name idea "Sparky" was nominated by Ngapona's current USO, LT John Hilario – I'm sure he's delighted.



'SPARKY' – artist impression

HINAU

Seaworks has successfully completed installation works on a new fibre optic cable across Cook Strait and recovery of four redundant cables. Vessels 'Seaworker', 'Seasurveyor' and 'Star Keys' were all heavily involved as was our work-class ROV 'Quasar 6' and beach teams on this high profile project.

The Seaworks group of companies provides the offshore, subsea and marine industries with a comprehensive range of specialist support vessels, ROV's, marine equipment and services. Seaworks consists of Seaworks Ltd based in New Zealand and operating in the Asia-Pacific region, our local subsidiary Western Work Boats, and a vessel and ROV operation in the Middle East region.

Seapatroller (formerly the inshore patrol vessel HMNZS Hinau), operated by Seaworks doing her job in Island Bay, Wellington. (Supplied by Tony Lucie-Smith)



Seapatroller

USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)

The guided-missile destroyer USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62) prepares to depart Huntington Ingalls Industries, Ingalls Shipbuilding division's Pascagoula shipyard June 13 to return to her homeport in San Diego. The sail away reflects more than two years' worth of effort in restoring and modernizing one of the Navy's most capable warships after it was damaged during a collision in 2017 that claimed the lives of seven Sailors.



SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS OLPHERT

OLPHERT is the only Reserve Division named after a person, Captain Wybrants Olphert, the Division's first Commanding Officer. The ship's badge depicts a bird's claw holding an arrow above the waves.

Ship's Motto: 'Strength in Adversity'

The Wellington Division of the RNVR (NZ) was formed on 12 March 1928.

Commander Wybrants Olphert was posted as its first commanding officer. The new unit comprised of two officers and 120 ratings divided into two companies.

Commander Olphert remained as commanding officer until 1938 when Captain F.E. Taylor replaced him.

Post WWII the Division was reformed in 1946 and the commanding officer was

Captain F.E. Taylor who had been in command of the old RNVR formation in 1939.

One of the most significant officers to come from the Wellington Division was

Lieutenant Commander G.J. Macdonald. He had joined the RNVR (NZ) in 1938 and went overseas as an Able Seaman to the United Kingdom as part of the Scheme B recruitment scheme.

He was commissioned into service with the Coastal Forces

and commanded an MTB and finished the war in command of a flotilla of MTBs. For

his services he was awarded a DSO and a DSC with two Bars. He is the most decorated New Zealand naval officer.

Lieutenant Peter Phipps joined the Canterbury Division but transferred to Wellington in 1939. He along with a number of RNVR (NZ) officers were sent to the United Kingdom to command

An HDML P3562 (*Parore*) that had served during the Second World War based at Shelly Bay was attached to *Olphert*. This vessel remained in service for over 24 years and was at sea an average of 100 days per year.

P3562 was replaced by the SDML HMNZS *Manga* (P3567). Once a year the SDMLs from the RNZNVR Divisions would participate in a joint exercise that formed a valuable part of seamanship training for ratings and officers. In 1968 *Manga* was involved in the rescue effort after the sinking of the *Wahine*. The fleet of SDMLs was rotated between the divisions and HMNZS *Kuparu* was the last SDML to serve with the Division and was decommissioned in 1984.

In 1985 four inshore patrol craft were commissioned into RNZN service. HMNZS *Wakakura* was assigned to *Olphert*.

The usefulness of the vessel was demonstrated when *Wakakura* helped co-ordinate the rescue operation when the Russian cruise liner Mikhail Lermontov sank.

Today the all RNZNVR units are without a dedicated vessel attached to the unit.

The first home of the division was the top floor of the National Dairy Association building on Thorndon Quay. In 1931 when the division expanded to nineteen officers and 180 ratings a new base was located at the first floor of the Public Works Department workshop building on Hinemoa Street.

The base at Hinemoa Street remained in operation until 1969. In 1970 the Ministry of Defence took over a lease of a Cadbury's warehouse in Ghuznee Street. This was only a temporary home as costs lead the RNZN to seek alternative quarters. The reorganisation of the NZ Army left the Home Command Building in Buckle Street vacant and the decision was made to relocate HMNZS *Olphert* to this building. The shift took place in 1978. Until 1986 the building was shared with the Defence Services Transport Pool.. HMNZS *Olphert* had to vacate this building in 2015 as it was deemed an earthquake risk. After several temporary homes they are now located at 34 Waione Street, Petone

The current CO is Lieutenant Commander Kerry Moloney, RNZNVR.



HMNZS *Ophert* ship's company 2019

Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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