

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

9 August 20 – Ngapona Assn AGM at Birkenhead RSA
15 August 20 – Navy Club AGM – Remuera Club
16 August 20 – Sanders VC Memorial Ceremony, Takapuna
21 August 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Birkenhead RSA
6 September 20 - Merchant Navy Day
11 September 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
18 September 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Mt Maunganui RSA

Hi Folks

BREAKING NEWS

Our monthly lunch for September will be held at the Mt Maunganui RSA.
The date is 18 September and we are arranging transport.
Please advise by return email if you require transport.

NGAPONA ASSN – AGM

The HMNZS Ngapona Assn will hold the 2020 AGM on Sunday, 9th August, at 1500hrs at the Birkenhead RSA.
A door prize and free drink is on offer. Nominations have been received for all positions on the committee so you won't be asked to stand!

TAURANGA NAVY LEAGUE

Please see attached the newsletter from the Tauranga Navy League.

BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Ngapona Assn has been offered a number of maritime related books by the late Jim Paltridge for disposal.

If you are interest, please email your bid by return email giving the title and your \$ bid. Bids close on 7th August 20.

The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Books will be available for collection at the AGM on 9th August at the Birkenhead RSA. Otherwise post and packaging will be your care.



TITLE	LATEST BID
Warships –	
Royal Navy –	
Ships at War –	
The Great War –	
Warships –	
Salty Dits –	
21 st Century Warships –	\$30
Warships 20 –	
The Endurance –	
Shipwrecks –	
Royal Navy Falklands –	
WW2 at Sea –	
Seapower –	
NZ Naval Vessels –	
Destroyers at War –	
Blue Water Kiwis –	
Speed and Power –	
Battleship, Cruiser, Destroyer –	\$20
How We Saw The War –	
RNZN –	
The Rockies -	\$20

TE KIWI MĀIA (THE COURAGEOUS KIWI)

News from Te Kiwi Māia (The Courageous Kiwi) - a new charitable trust, established by RNZN personnel.

TKM's purpose is to provide rehabilitation, respite and recovery for NZ Defence Force personnel and first responders, who have sustained physical or psychological injuries as a result of their role in safeguarding and caring for New Zealanders.

Our goal is to secure a facility where we can provide the support that is so desperately needed by the organisations listed below.

To create brand awareness and raise funds, we have had a T-shirt designed by the very talented Royal NZ Air Force **Corporal, Renee Thyne (@artbyreneethyne)**.

"My idea for the design was to promote mental wellness. The helmets represent the heads of our responders and the heart not only represents the health of those personnel but the support of the person wearing the shirt." - Renee Thyne

All Profits go to Te Kiwi Māia - to support NZDF and first responder organisations.

T-shirts available in black or white.

Toddler through to adult sizing.

Female and male styles.

\$30-\$35 each.

To purchase one (or more!) of our T-shirts, visit www.tekiwimaia.co.nz/shop. Email rebecca@rebeccanelson.co.nz for your orders and account details.

(Please note, this is a pre-sale, so delivery of t-shirts will begin in August).

Or, if you'd like to make a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz/org/te-kiwi-maia-1

Lastly, if funds are not an option, then simply following us on Facebook and Instagram, or sharing our cause with your friends would be greatly appreciated!

www.facebook.com/tekiwimaia

Te Kiwi Māia - currently supporting:

NZDF

NZ Police

Fire and Emergency NZ

St John NZ

Wellington Free Ambulance Service

Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust

NZ Coast Guard

Surf Lifesaving NZ

HMY BRITANNIA

The photo below, provided by John Holms, shows a visit to Auckland by HMY Britannia in 1974 with MLs, port and starboard. On the port side was Olphert's ML before it went back south to Wellington and a month or so later it had to be beached somewhere on the South Island because of the pounding it took attempting to get to Waitangi after the Commonwealth Games. Three reservists from Ngapona were on Olphert's ML it at the time, including yours truly and also a reservist who went on to

become a Radio New Zealand broadcaster on Tongan affairs as well as radio broadcaster for Tongan Radio at the First Rugby World Cup in 1987. Who remembers Henry Te'hua?



NEW AIRCRAFT CARRIERS FOR CHINA

China is expected to launch its next-generation aircraft carrier within a year and construction on a sister ship for the new giant vessel has been hastened, two sources close to the projects said.

The Type 002 aircraft carrier – the country's third carrier and the second to be domestically developed – has started the final assembly process, two independent sources told the *South China Morning Post*.



SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS PHILOMEL

HMS *Philomel* was laid down on 9 May 1889 at HM Naval Dockyard in Devonport, Plymouth. Her name is derived from Philomela, in Greek mythology the daughter of Pandion I, King of Athens, and was the fifth ship to be so named.

The ship had an overall length of 278 feet (84.7 m), a beam of 41 feet (12.5 m) and a draught of 17 feet 6 inches (5.3 m). She displaced 2,575 long tons (2,616 t). Propulsion was through 3-cylinder triple-expansion steam engines, driving two shafts, which produced a total of 7,500 indicated horsepower (5,600 kW) and gave a maximum speed of 19 knots (35 km/h; 22 mph). She was also rigged for sail and when installing the foremast, workmen noticed it was stamped "Devonport Dockyard 1757".

In 1913 the Admiralty agreed to lend *Philomel* to New Zealand as a seagoing training cruiser to form the nucleus of the newly established New Zealand Naval Forces, which was a new division of the Royal Navy. This was in response to the desire of the New Zealand Minister of Defence at the time, James Allen, who wanted to establish a local naval force which would co-operate with the fledgling Royal Australian Navy.

Philomel was recommissioned in October 1913 in Singapore and later sailed for New Zealand to join HMAS *Psyche* and HMAS *Pyramus*, both Pelorus-class cruisers serving in New Zealand waters. *Philomel* was commissioned for New Zealand service on 15 July 1914.

In March 1921, on the creation of the New Zealand Division of the Royal Navy, *Philomel* was recommissioned as a training base. She steamed from her berth at Wellington to the dockyard at the Devonport Naval Base in Auckland. Moored alongside the training jetty, she was operated as a training facility for new recruits to the naval service. Training armament was installed and in 1925, her boilers and engines were removed to create more accommodation space. Further accommodation, in the form of wooden cabins, was later constructed on her deck. In

October 1941, on the creation of the Royal New Zealand Navy, *Philomel* was recommissioned as the training base HMNZS *Philomel*.

Philomel was paid off and decommissioned on 17 January 1947 and her name transferred to the Devonport Naval Shore Establishment. On the day of her decommissioning, the New Zealand Naval Board sent a signal to *Philomel* which stated:

"...their regret at the passing from the service of the first of His Majesty's New Zealand Ships, a ship that has meant so much to all who served in her. She goes as many good ships have gone before her, but when HMNZS *Philomel's* colours are hauled down at sunset this evening, the tradition which she has established during her long career will live on in the depot to which she has given her name."

The hulk of *Philomel* was sold to the Strongman Shipping Company, based in Coromandel. She was towed and deliberately ran aground in Coromandel harbour, near the wharf. After her fittings and parts were removed, she was towed out to sea and sunk near Cuvier Island on 6 August 1949. Much of the teak timber and some fittings went into a newly built coaster named *Coromel*, an amalgamation of Coromandel and *Philomel*. Her crest is mounted to the gate of the Devonport Naval Base.





Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

021 486 013

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