

LONGCAST

9 October 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
16 October 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Glen Eden RSA
21 October 20 – Trafalgar Dinner, Tauranga
7 – 9 November 20 - Armistice in Cambridge
13 November 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
20 November 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Grey Lynn RSA
11 December 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
18 December 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Orakei RSA

Hi Folks

DEATH NOTICE

Bishop Jim White (R1005805), Chaplain to HMNZS Ngapona (1998 – 2006) passed away on 30th September 2020. More lately he was Assistant Bishop of Auckland. Bishop Jim had been unwell for a time.

NGAPONA ASSN – MONTHLY LUNCH

A reminder that now the Covid-19 level is about to go to Level 1 in Auckland our monthly lunches can be held.

Our next lunch is on 16 October at the Glen Eden RSA.

TRAFALGAR DINNER

To commemorate Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar over the combined French and Spanish fleets on 21st October 1805 the Bay of Plenty Officers' Club is organising a dinner.

The venue: Oak Tree Restaurant, 1237 Cameron Road, Tauranga

Price per head: \$68.00

Bookings: graham.oriordan@gmail.com giving number of diners with names. Before Monday 12th October.

Payment to: BNZ 02 0466 0012097 00 (please include name and "Trafalgar" in deposit details)

Contact: Graham O'Riordan, Mobile 0210 273 3500.

MINE STORE RESTORATION

Despite a few delays, the Navy Museum is now on track to open the two new galleries and learning space to the public in November. Check out the image below for a sneak peak of Te Taua Moana Gallery - showcasing the Navy's current fleet. *(Hard to imagine that this was the 'Tamaki Boatyard Paint Store' – Ed)*



RFA FORT VICTORIA REFIT

RFA *Fort Victoria* is currently mid-way through a major refit at Cammell Laird in Birkenhead. The usual maintenance and machinery overhauls are being conducted but she is also being modified to provide solid stores replenishment to the aircraft carriers. Critical to the ability of Queen Elizabeth Class (QEC) aircraft carriers to deploy globally will be the support of auxiliary ships to supply oil and solid stores. The 4 Tide class tankers have been specifically designed to be compatible with the QEC and all 4 ships are expected to be in commission by the time HMS *Queen Elizabeth* conducts her first full operational deployment in 2021. While the supply of Dieso (F76) and aviation fuel (F44) to the carriers at sea is relatively straight forward, the arrangements for the transfer of bulk ammunition, dry stores and food is more complicated. Replenishing the carriers with stores at sea The 3 solid stores ships that remain in service with the RFA are fitted with NATO standard heavy jackstay replenishment rigs designed to transfer loads up to 2 tonnes. Rolls Royce has developed a completely new fast, high-capacity Heavy Replenishment at Sea (HRAS) system that can transfer 25 loads per hour of up to 6 tonnes. A complete land-based HRAS system for trials and training was installed at HMS *Raleigh* and has been in use since 2014. The ability to transfer large loads quickly reduces the window of vulnerability when the carrier is constrained by having to steam at

restricted speed (typically 10-15 knots) parallel to the replenishment ship. HRAS combined with the advanced stores handling facilities of the QEC means large loads can be delivered into the spacious hangar and struck down into the storerooms deep in the ship, quickly and efficiently with minimal manpower.



‘LITTLE SHIP’ RESTORED

One of the legendary Little Ships of Dunkirk, which sailed from Poole to rescue British and French soldiers trapped on the beaches during World War Two, has been restored. The motor yacht RAKES RETREAT, discovered in Ramsgate in a poor state, has been restored to its original glory by owner Anthony Billson. Anthony's brother-in-law Michael Hawkins – who is a member of Poole Maritime Trust – has helped with research into the history of RAKES RETREAT. Michael said: "She was named ESTRELLITA and in 1939 the vessel was then owned by Lewis Clayton a retired canal carrier from the midlands. "Lewis was living aboard and in the 1939 register was moored on Salterns Dock. "In May 1940 ESTRELLITA was summoned with other vessels by the then Senior Royal Naval Officer Poole Commander Cosmo Hastings RN to assist in Operation Dynamo the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) from Dunkirk. "On return from Dunkirk the vessel had the rest of World War II as a harbour patrol vessel in Poole Harbour." Operation Dynamo, which took part between May 26 and June 4, 1940, helped rescue more than 336,000 troops, who had become pinned down on the beaches at Dunkirk by the advancing Germans in the early stages of World War II. The Little Ships consisted of around 850 private boats, which were smaller craft with a shallow draft, enabling them to navigate in the shallow waters off the French coast. They were mainly manned by Royal Navy officers, but some were manned by their owners. The restoration of RAKES RETREAT has taken four years. Michael said: "During the restoration Tony discovered the base plate for the machine gun fitted to the Foc'sle (forecastle). "The flotilla of small ships travelled from around the country and gathered at Ramsgate, from where they set sail for Dunkirk. Among them were fishing boats, lifeboats, pleasure craft, barges, and privately-owned commercial vessel and pleasure steamers.



SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS SOUTHLAND (F104)

The Leander-class frigate was an early 1960s development of the Rothesay and Whitby-class frigates such as the *Otago* and *Taranaki*.

Southland was constructed at the Yarrow & Co shipyard in Glasgow. She was laid down on 2 December 1959, launched on 22 December 1961. She was originally laid down as a Rothesay-class frigate to be named HMS *Hastings* then changed to HMS *Dido* and she was commissioned into the Royal Navy on 18 September 1963. The ship's company that had decommissioned HMNZS *Otago* were transferred to the *Southland*.

In 1975, HMS *Dido* was the ship used to make the television series *Warship*. Her pennant number was changed to F42 and she was named HMS *Hero* for the series. In 1978 she went in for a major refit. The twin gun turret was removed and replaced with the Ikara AS missile system.

On 18 July 1968 HMS *Dido* was transferred to the Royal New Zealand Navy and renamed *Southland*. The next day she was sent to the Vosper Ship Repairers yard at Southampton for a refit before she entered RNZN service. HMNZS *Southland* was commissioned into RNZN service on 21 December 1983. She, along with HMNZS *Wellington*, would replace HMNZS *Otago* and *Taranaki*.

HMNZS *Southland* carried out a work-up with the Home Fleet and departed Southampton on 9 May 1984 sailing to New Zealand via the East Coast of the United States, Panama, Pearl Harbour arriving at Auckland after stopping at Bluff and Wellington on 26 July 1984. 1988 she went into the dock at Devonport for a limited dockyard refit.

Once in service, *Southland* carried out a range of duties including exercises, ceremonials, and maritime rescues. In 1992 *Southland* participated in Operation OCTANUS. This was a joint MAF/Police operation against paua poachers based in Bluff. On 1 March 1995, HMNZS *Southland* was paid off from RNZN service and in November 1995 she was towed to the Philippines to be broken up.



Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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