

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

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
21 November 20 – HMNZS Ngapona (Tauranga sub-unit) Mess Dinner
11 December 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
18 December 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Orakei RSA
20 December 20 - HMS Neptune Commemoration Service, St Christopher's Chapel, DNB

Hi Folks

DEATH NOTICE

CPO Writer Michael George (Nobby) Clark RNZN 933284, passed away on Wednesday, 4th November 20.

His Tangi/funeral was held at Orakei Marae on Saturday 7th November 20.

Nobby was the Caretaker/Instructor at HMNZS *Ngapona* in the early 1980s. (He was known for a signal that was sent from *Ngapona* to COMAUUCK.)

SHIP VISIT TO HMNZS AOTEAROA

The Ngapona Assn accepted the kind offer made by the CO of HMNZS *Aotearoa*, Capt Simon Rooke, to visit the ship last Wednesday.

Twenty-five of our members visited the ship and were most impressed, not only with the size, but also the complexity with the latest addition to the RNZN fleet.

Her many capabilities include the ability to carry up to 22 x twenty foot shipping containers, high capacity fresh water generation plants (enough to produce 100,000 litres per day), self-defence systems, aviation and marine fuel cargo tanks, dual all-electric replenishment at sea rigs, a SH-2G(NZ) Seasprite or NH90 medium utility helicopter, integrated communications and bridge systems, an integrated platform management system and winterisation features such as some upper deck trace heating and an ice-strengthened hull and underwater fittings.

Many thanks to the CO for the invitation, and to the ship's staff for the tour of the ship.

For those who were unavailable last week a visit has been arranged by the HMNZS Otago Association to visit HMNZS *Aotearoa* on Saturday 14th November at 14:00. Contact: Noel Davies, noel@daviesgroup.nz for further details.



MESS DINNER TO FAREWELL WOSCS REECE GOLDING

HMNZS *Ngapona* (Tauranga Sub-unit) is hosting a Mess Dinner to farewell WOSCS REECE GOLDING on Saturday, 21 November 2020.

Numbers are limited to 70 pers, it is on a 'first come, first served' basis so RSVP now. See attached invitation.

REMINDER

Our lunch for November is at the Grey Lynn RSA on Friday 20th November, hope to see you there.

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN – XMAS LUNCH

Our final lunch for the year is at the Orakei RSA on 18 December. Mark this in your diary now. The Xmas lunch is one of the highlights of the year. The Orakei RSA has new caterers and the meal will again be served by Navy Cadets from TS Achilles. There will be a door prize and of course 'Up Spirits'.

The cost will be \$25.00 per head, to be paid to the RSA on the day.

We require an indication of numbers for the caterer so **please reply to this email if you intend joining us. Please do it now!**

NGAPONA ASSN – LAPEL BADGES

We have placed an order for HMNZS Ngapona Assn lapel badges and expect to have them on sale at our Xmas lunch in December. Cost will be \$10.00 each.

There will also be a selection of books for sale, so make sure you bring some cash!

WEB SITE UPGRADE

I would like to thank those who have donated to the upgrade – we are now almost there, 15 people have donated so far. - President

The HMNZS Ngapona Association website has been up and running for over two years now and is in need of an upgrade.

Bruce Gordon, (Assn member) of NZ Websites, who designed our website recommends the following to enhance the Google rating of our target market:

- i) Create a video welcome, under 30 seconds, welcoming visitors and inviting interested parties to join the group – if the video is provided he will set this up on the website at no cost to the Association.
- ii) Purchase 3 new domains that are derived from search-words – i.e. nzrockies.co.nz. Only .co.nz domains are accepted by Google for this option.
- iii) These domains are \$40 each per registration, and \$40 every year on the anniversary of purchase. NZ Websites must be the registrar used to obtain these, as they need to be pointed at their server for the next stage to succeed.
- iii) This work involves setting up landing pages for each of the above 3 domains, creating redirects from the domain to the landing page, and generating a full search optimisation for all 3 domains with Google.

Bruce has generously offered to carry out this work at a much reduced cost of \$620.00

Now comes the crunch – The Association is looking for donations to cover the cost of the upgrade. Other organisations would normally fund this through annual subscriptions but our Assn has decided not to charge a yearly sub.

So come on members – open your wallets and help us fund this much needed upgrade.

DIRECT CREDIT TO:

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN INC

ASB 12-3287-0184065-00

(Use surname as reference)

EX HMNZS KUPARU - HAULOUT

Request for help from Scott Perry, owner of *Kuparu*.

Kuparu is coming out of the water for 7 to 10 days for a big birthday in just over a week. I would love some support from Tuesday 17th November if you can. Any half day appreciated. She is a big piece of history for one man to look after.

Please either message me, text or phone if you can help.

She will be in the Marsden Cove Marina haul-out. This is a gated area. So access needs to be called ahead.

Any help appreciated.

Thanks

Scott Perry

Ph 027 278 2542

email p3563.kuparu@xtra.co.nz.



Kuparu - 2016



Kuparu - 2020

DEATH NOTICE

CONNERY, Thomas Sean – ABSEA Gunner, Ex Royal Navy (RN)

August 25, 1930 – October 31, 2020 aged 90.

From Schoolboy (left at 13), to Bricklayer, to Coffin Polisher, to Milkman to Matelot (at 16 left at 19) to Footballer (Bonnyrig Rose), (Matt Busby offered him £25.00 week to join Manchester United, he turned them down) deciding to become an actor, to James Bond Dr No 1962 to Knighthood in 2000. In 1946, at the age of 16, Connery joined the Royal Navy, during which time he acquired two tattoos, of which his official website says "unlike many tattoos, his were not frivolous—his tattoos reflect two of his lifelong commitments: his family and Scotland. One tattoo is a tribute to his parents and reads 'Mum and Dad,' and the other is self-explanatory, 'Scotland Forever.'" He trained in Portsmouth at the Naval Gunnery school and in an anti-aircraft crew. He was later assigned as an Able Seaman on HMS FORMIDABLE. Connery was later discharged from the navy age 19 on medical grounds because of a duodenal ulcer, a condition that affected most of the males in previous generations of his family.



SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS TARAPUNGA P3566 (1943)

HDMLs Q1187 & Q1188 were shipped as deck cargo from Vancouver aboard SS *Kootenay Park* and arrived at Wellington on 30 April 1943. There they were unloaded by floating crane and underwent full commissioning trials.

Q1187, after commissioning, joined the 124th Motor Launch Flotilla in Auckland and carried out routine patrols through to 1945. As the war came to an end in 1945 the launches were concentrated at Auckland to pay off. Q1187 arrived on 30 June 1945. After paying off they were laid up at Pine Island in the Upper Waitemata. In July 1946 ownership passed to the Marine Department who was selling off war surplus. Once the Lend-Lease agreements were concluded the government put them up for sale. However, during the sale process the government realised their value and in February 1947 Q1188 was withdrawn from sale.

In 1949 the RNZN purchased the frigate *Lachlan* for use as the first survey vessel in RNZN commission. It was decided that two smaller vessels would be needed to assist her in the survey task which HDMLs would be suitable. Q1188 had been cannibalised for parts to keep the other HDMLs that were in service so she had to be rebuilt. This was completed in February 1950 and she was commissioned as SML 1188 and was sent to Wellington in March. After arriving in Wellington, she began a survey of Cook Strait. In April she was given the pennant number P3556.

A second launch was required for survey duty so that Auckland Coastguard's *Cutter No. 1*, formerly Q1187 reverted to the RNZN on 29 May 1950 and was given the pennant number P3566 in October 1950. She was converted to SML in March 1951 and commissioned as a survey vessel on 21 March 1951. In April she proceeded to Wellington to carry out surveys of the Cook Strait. From then until 1979 both vessels carried out surveys right across the New Zealand coastline mostly by themselves or as a pair. They would also work with HMNZS *Lachlan* & *Monowai*.

In 1948 the Admiralty re-classed HDMLs as Seaward Defence Motor Launches [SDMLs]. The RNZN changed the classification in August 1949. The similar pennant numbers caused some confusion in signalling and the keeping of records. There is still today some uncertainty about which vessel is being referred to due to errors in recording the correct number. To try and solve the problem for the signallers from May 1951 P3556 had [A] added and P3566 [B]. These were added to the hulls in 1953. The next change was to assign names to the SDMLs that were in service with the RNZN. Those SDMLs that were assigned to fisheries protection were assigned Maori names for fish while other vessels were given Maori names for sea-birds. On 21 July 1955 P3556A was renamed *Philomel*, P3566B was renamed *Maori* from the shore establishments. As per NO 14/56 of 19 January 1956 *Philomel* was renamed *Takapu* [Gannet] from October 1955. *Maori* was renamed *Tarapunga* [Black-backed Gull] also from October 1955. They would serve as survey vessels under these names until they were released from survey duty in 1979.

In November 1979 *Takapu* arrived at Auckland for paying off and was decommissioned in December. At this time the IPC vessels marked for survey duty were under construction at Whangarei and had been assigned the names *Takapu* & *Tarapunga*. Both SDMLs were repainted to the standard colour scheme and refitted for use by the RNZNVR. *Takapu* was renamed *Kahawai II* and was sent to HMNZS *Toroa* in August 1980. *Tarapunga* was renamed *Mako II* and sent to HMNZS *Olphert* in November 1980. In August 1982 *Kahawai II* left Otago and was dismantled for disposal. *Mako II* left Wellington in August 1983 for dismantling. Both vessels were sold by the RNZN in 1984 ending some 40 years of service with the RNZN which was well beyond their expected life in 1943.

When *Mako II* was sold she renamed *Tarapunga* again and underwent an extensive refit. During the next thirty years she cruised extensively around New Zealand.

In 2015, shortly after leaving Nelson for a passage to Auckland, she caught fire and sank.

(Her crest depicts a Red Billed gull)



