

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

15 January 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
1 February 21 – Auckland Anniversary Day
8 February 21 – Waitangi Day
12 February 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
19 February 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA
19 March 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

Hi Folks

Sorry this newsletter is very short but I have been away from the computer.

FROM THE SICKBAY – ELAINE PAYNE

It is with sadness that I have to report that Elaine was admitted to Tauranga Hospital last night. Elaine has been in considerable pain since being diagnosed with an aggressive melanoma cancer in April this year. It is hoped that we can get her home for Christmas. For further updates, or to leave a message, please contact me at jerry@payne.kiwi.nz

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

On behalf of the Committee of the HMNZS Ngapona Assn, I would like to wish all our members and friends a very happy Christmas and hope that 2021 will be a far happier year than 2020. Thank you for the camaraderie and support you have shown during the year. Stay safe and enjoy yourselves over the Christmas period.

UNMANNED SURFACE VESSEL FOR AUSTRALIA

The first of the 12-metre SEA-KIT X class unmanned surface vessel (USV) will be delivered to Fugro in Perth, Australia, in Q4 2020.

Specifically, it will feature remotely operated vehicle (ROV) and autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) launch-and-recovery systems and station-keeping capabilities.

The vessel will conduct completely uncrewed ROV pipeline inspections in up to 400 metres water depth on Australia's NW Shelf.



SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS TE KAHA

There were emotional scenes at Devonport's Naval Base on Sunday where crew on board HMNZS *Te Kaha* were reunited with family and friends just before Christmas. HMNZS *Te Kaha* and her crew sailed back in to Auckland after six months under Covid-19 lockdown conditions.

Te Kaha has been in Canada since 2018, receiving upgrades on its missiles, anti-ship missile decoys, sonar and underwater telephone, and torpedo defence system. However, since June, the 140 officers and crew on board have been under lockdown conditions. *Te Kaha* announced its arrival with a rumbling 27-gun salute which was returned by the base to acknowledge the Commander of the ship, CDR Brock Symmons. Brock Symmons has been away from his family for six months and missed out on the birth of his baby girl Maggie, 12 weeks ago. Once berthed, the *Te Kaha* crew performed a haka, before the Commanding Officer's family were first on board. CDR Symmons said he was proud of *Te Kaha's* crew who also underwent training on the upgraded capabilities of the ship as well as conducting sea trials.

They also carried out combined operations with the US Navy, Symmons said. Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Proctor and Minister of Defence Peeni Henare were also welcomed on board to greet the returning crew.

Some have been on board for more than 1000 days while others flew over to Canada in June and have been under lockdown conditions.

The two Anzac class frigates, HMNZS *Te Kaha* and HMNZS *Te Mana* are the main fighting ships of our Navy and play a vital role in protecting New Zealand, its exports, maritime resources and those of our allies. Frigates are the smallest type of warship capable of prolonged independent and sustained operations, including:

Working with our allies in regional and global security

Conducting patrols in Antarctica for vessels engaged in illegal fishing

Participating in joint training exercises with other navies on the tactical levels of warfare

Participating in UN peacekeeping missions

Search and rescue missions

Anzac frigates can combat simultaneous threats from air, surface and sub-surface.

This makes these ships a vital component in maintaining regional security.

The Anzac frigates have a complement of 178 naval personnel.

Te Kaha is part of New Zealand's national security system, and works with other agencies to protect and advance New Zealand's national security interests

The prime contractor in the upgrade of the Frigate was Lockheed Martin Canada. *Te Kaha's* sister ship, the HMNZS *Te Mana*, is also being upgraded and is currently at CFB Esquimalt.



Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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