

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

12 March 21 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club, Guest Speaker, Professor Stephen Hoadley

19 March 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

26 – 28 March 21 – Comms Reunion

9 April 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club

9 – 11 April 21 – Cooks and Stewards Reunion

16 April 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA

14 May 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club

14 – 15 May 21 - OP Grapple Reunion, contact Gerry Wright
gerrywright@xtra.co.nz

16 May 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at the Bays Club, Browns Bay

21 May 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Pt Chevalier RSA

Hi Folks

WARNING ORDER – NGAPONA ASSN FORMAL DINNER

The Ngapona Association is holding a formal dinner on Saturday 24 July 2021 at the Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead, Auckland. The guest speaker will be the Chief of Navy Rear Admiral David Proctor RNZN.

An invitation to attend the function is extended to all NGA Association members, all past and present members of NGAPONA and their partners/spouses. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The cost of this function is \$50.00 per head. A cash bar will operate. There will be a buffet type meal of three courses. It is expected that Able Musician Rebecca Nelson will provide a brief performance during the evening. It is also expected that a rum issue will be held. As this is a formal occasion, appropriate dress with miniatures is expected.

For planning purposes, please advise Expressions of Interest to Mr. Jerry Payne by email 'president@ngapona.org.nz' giving the names of attendees and a contact phone number.

RESERVE UNITS TRAINING NIGHTS OPEN TO ALL

Contrary to popular belief, anyone who has transitioned from RF to Reserve and is able to pass the medical and fitness test is welcome and encouraged to attend parade/training nights at your local Reserve Unit. Your participation will be paid, and your hours count towards annual efficiency. Each unit conducts training (AWQ, First-Aid etc.), as well as other activities, expeds, functions and much more. Each unit also has dedicated full time staff who can help with queries and any administrative requirements, there are also DIXS computers for use. Give it a go, you may be surprised.

CURRENT CO HMNZS WAKEFIELD

Update on last newsletter. Cdr Al Howieson is CO WAKEFIELD. Al joined the RNZNVR as an Ordinary Shipping Controller pre the rise of MTO, was later commissioned as an Ensign in the RNZNVR (MTO specialisation) before transferring to the RNZN.

OP GRAPPLE REUNION

A reunion will be held in Auckland on 14-15 May for veterans and their wives/partner/support person of Operation Grapple.

Friday 14 – Lunch with the Navy Club at the Remuera Club, 27 Ohinerau St, Remuera.

As temporary Members, veterans will be entitled to a free bar and ½ price lunch (\$15.00)

Saturday 15 – 1100 Bus tour of the Devonport Naval Base for 20 veterans followed by lunch in the Philomel dining hall.

Saturday 15 – 1800 Formal dinner at the Birkenhead RSA.

Contact Gerry Wright at gerrywright@xtra.co.nz

SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS WELLINGTON F69

HMNZS *Wellington* was a *Leander*-class frigate of the Royal Navy (RN) and the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN). Originally commissioned in 1969 for the Royal Navy as HMS *Bacchante*, she joined the RNZN in 1982.

On arrival in New Zealand, *Wellington* was decommissioned and entered an extended refit which ended in 1986. The limited modernization proved difficult and took an unexpected 4 years. When inspected prior to purchase in 1981, she was in the condition expected for an RN frigate after a dozen years' service. However, in 1982 the frigate conducted a four-month winter patrol in the post-war Falklands exclusion zone with the other four RN unmodernised *Leanders*. Sea conditions in the Falkland exclusion zone meant more expensive hull repair was needed.

Like her sister-ship HMNZS *Canterbury*, *Wellington* was stood to during the First Coup in Fiji in 1987 to evacuate New Zealand and other foreign nationals should the need have arisen.

In 1988, *Wellington* accompanied HMNZ Ships *Canterbury*, *Endeavour* and *Waikato* to Sydney, Australia to participate in the Bicentennial Salute to mark the 200th Anniversary of the settlement of Europeans in that country. In

1994, *Wellington* contributed to the international Peace Keeping initiative in Bougainville along with *Canterbury*.

In 1995/1996, *Wellington* deployed to the Persian Gulf on the first of the RNZN deployments supporting the MIF (Multinational Interception Force) enforcing UN sanctions on Iraqi trade through the Gulf. *Wellington* successfully detained a number of vessels exporting dates from and attempting to import prohibited cargoes to Iraq.

The frigate attended peace talks at Bougainville in July and August 1990. On 23

February 2017, it was announced by NZDF that the *New Zealand Operations Service Medal* (NZOSM) had been awarded to personnel who were in Bougainville for the Operation BIGTALK peace talks.

HMNZS *Wellington* was deliberately sunk off the south coast of Wellington, New Zealand, in Houghton Bay, just east of Island Bay, Wellington.

Although the ship was due to be sunk at 3pm on 12 November 2005, this was delayed for 24 hours due to weather. The next day, the sinking was delayed by another 30 minutes due to the entanglement of a detonation cable under the frigate.

At 3:30pm on 13 November, the ship was scuttled and took a minute and 55 seconds to sink. During a storm in February 2006, the ship broke up and is now lying in two sections on the seabed close to where it was sunk.

