

# HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

## LONGCAST

16 July 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at New Lynn RSA  
24 July 21 – Ngapona Assn formal Dinner at Birkenhead RSA  
8 August 21 – Ngapona Assn AGM  
15 August 21 - William Sanders, VC Memorial Service, Takapuna  
20 August 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Birkenhead RSA

Hi Folks

### **NGAPONA ASSN – MONTHLY LUNCH**

Our lunch this month is at the New Lynn RSA this Friday. Hope to see you there.

### **NGAPONA ASSN FORMAL DINNER – 24 JULY 2021**

There has been a cancellation and two tickets are now available. If you would like to attend, please **reply to this email**.

The rig is mess dress or civilian equivalent with miniatures.

Muster 1830 for 1900.

### **AUTONOMOUS SAILBOAT**

A remotely controlled sailboat that maps the ocean floor arrived in Honolulu on Thursday afternoon as part of its maiden voyage. The 72-foot “Saildrone Surveyor” was built in San Francisco and made the 2,200 mile journey across the Pacific Ocean to Oahu. The sailboat’s creators said the craft runs on wind and solar energy and is a cheaper and more environmentally friendly alternative compared to typical survey ships. During the 28-day voyage, the autonomous vessel with no crew onboard mapped 6,400 square nautical miles of seafloor. “This is the first time that an autonomous vehicle has travelled the Pacific and pulled into Honolulu,” said Ocean Mapping vice president of Saildrone, Brian Connon. “The ability to do these long endurance missions to go out and map the ocean that is only 20% mapped around the world and to do it in an environmentally friendly way is really something that’s important to us as a company.” The craft will be docked at Honolulu Harbour for the next few days before heading out to map the ocean floor around the islands. The company who created Saildrone said they plan to build an entire fleet of these boats to map the entirety of Earth’s oceans in the next 10 years.

*Source: Hawaii News Now.*



### **LIGHTHOUSE OF THE WEEK – SOMES ISLAND (WELLINGTON)**

Position: 41.15.7S 174.51.8E

Characteristics: LFI W 10s

Range: 7NM

Structure: White tower

Somes Island is the biggest island in Wellington Harbour and it has had a colourful history. Maori were the first to use the 25-hectare island and two pa were built, however they were used mainly as a refuge during inter-tribal wars, and were never permanently occupied.

It was also called *Leper Island* by some as there was once a Chinese man on Somes who was confined to a cave. Sadly, after he died it was found that he did not have leprosy.

After several safety incidents at the entrance of Wellington harbour, the Wellington provincial council built New Zealand's first permanent lighthouse at Pencarrow in 1859. Before too long it became clear that there was a need for another navigational aid within the harbour itself.

The lighthouse at Somes Island (re-named after Joseph Somes, the Deputy Governor of the New Zealand Company) was erected in 1865 along with a 6-room lighthouse keeper's house. The lighthouse was a 14-foot cast iron tower that had been imported from England. The light entered service on 17 February 1866, burning colza (rapeseed) oil and shining a white light down the centre of the channel and a red or green light at either side.

By 1895, there were calls for a stronger light on Somes Island that could be seen further out to sea. A new lighthouse was built and began operation on 21 February 1900. The old tower was removed and taken to Jack's Point, Timaru where it can still be seen today. This new light was considered to be a great improvement, visible for 16 miles into the Cook Strait.

The new light initially used paraffin oil. It wasn't considered to be particularly fuel-efficient and over the years it was replaced by an incandescent burner which vaporised oil under pressure, then improved to use acetone acetylene gas as a fuel. After World War II it was converted to electricity, provided by a generator.

Between 1866 and 1924 lighthouse keepers were employed to watch out for ships in distress. The first keeper, William Lyall, transferred from Pencarrow for the job. He served until his death in 1871. The award for the longest serving lighthouse keeper goes to William Achison who worked on the island from 1871 to 1910 (with a brief three-year gap). Supplies for keepers and their families were landed in the bay below the lighthouse and a tramway was used to haul them up to the lighthouse. The light is still in use today. When the lighthouse became automated in 1924 the buildings of the settlement were removed.





