

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

8 August 21 – Ngapona Assn AGM at 1500, Birkenhead RSA
14 August 21 – Navy Club AGM at 1130, followed by Lunch
15 August 21 - William Sanders, VC Memorial Service, Takapuna
20 August 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Birkenhead RSA
10 September 21 – Navy Club Lunch
17 September 21 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Te Atatu RSA

Hi Folks

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN – NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Ngapona Assn will be held on Sunday 8 August 2021, at 1500, at the Birkenhead RSA.

See attached notice.

This year we have a substantial door prize and afternoon tea will be provided, along with the traditional ‘President’s Shout’.

This is your opportunity to have a say in how your Association should be run. I encourage you to make an effort to attend – it will be a good social gathering.

NGAPONA ASSOCIATION – AUGUST LUNCH

The August lunch will be held at the Birkenhead RSA on 20th August at 1200. There will be a guest speaker, Teresa Cousins, who will speak about Veterans Affairs and your entitlements. This is an important topic and there will be plenty of opportunities for questions.

NGAPONA ASSOCIATION – SEPTEMBER LUNCH

The Committee has decided to reschedule the September monthly lunch. It will now be held at the Te Atatu RSA on Friday 17th September at 1200. Please note your diaries now.

NEW MEMBERS

The following have joined the HMNZS Ngapona Association:

Paul Monk
Alyson Douglas
Chris Stevens
Andy Francis
David Proctor

Welcome aboard shipmates, we look forward to seeing you at some of our activities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY PROMOTED CDR

John Gresson was promoted to Commander at the Ngapona Assn dinner last week. He will be taking over as CMTO from LTCDR Geoff Andrew; and LT Simon Aimer will be taking over as HMNZS NGAPONA Executive Officer. From the Ngapona Assn we wish you both well in your next positions and well done on your promotion CDR.



A SELECTION OF PHOTOS FROM OUR DINNER



LTCDR WILLIAM SANDERS, VC, DSO, RNR

The William Sanders VC Memorial Service will be held at 0800 on Sunday 15 August 2021, at Sanders Memorial, corner of Lake Rd and Sanders Ave, Takapuna.

Rig: 1 or suit and medals.

William Sanders remains the only New Zealander to receive our highest military decoration – the Victoria Cross – in a naval action. Born and raised in Takapuna, perhaps it's no surprise that this legend was a reservist! In April 1917 Sanders was in command of HMS PRIZE when she took on the German submarine U-93.

Following that battle Sanders was awarded the VC for his 'conspicuous gallantry, consummate coolness, and skill in command'. In August the same year, Sanders and his crew were killed in action when HMS PRIZE was sunk by the submarine UB-48.



TESTING THE WATERS

China has warned the UK's Carrier Strike Group, led by the aircraft carrier HMS *Queen Elizabeth* not to carry out any "improper acts" as it enters the contested South China Sea. 'The People's Liberation Army Navy is at a high state of combat readiness' says the pro-government Global Times, seen as a mouthpiece for the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

China has been closely monitoring the progress eastward of the Carrier Strike Group, which is currently sailing through the South China Sea en route to Japan, while accusing Britain of "still living in its colonial days". The Royal Navy has been carrying out exercises with the Singaporean navy and Britain's Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has made no secret of the intention to conduct a so-called "Freedom of Navigation" exercise through the South China Sea. Contrary to a 2016 international court ruling, China claims much of that sea as its own and has been busy building artificial reefs and runways, some of them close to the territorial waters of neighbouring states.

China has been holding extensive military exercises in the region this week, practising beach assaults in a move that has worried some analysts it is preparing to eventually invade Taiwan. The PLA Navy will use the UK's Carrier Strike Group's presence in the South China Sea "as a chance for practice and for studying the UK's latest warships up close", says the Global Times.

LIGHT HOUSE OF THE WEEK – CAPE CAMPBELL

Position: 41.43.8S 174.16.5E

Characteristics: FIW 15s

Range: 19NM

Structure: White metal tower, black bands

The Cape has contributed to the wrecking of many ships. It was after the wreck of the *Alexander* in 1858, in which one person was drowned, that Cape Campbell was chosen as a suitable site for a lighthouse. It was another 10 years before one was built however. The light was finally lit on 1 August 1870.

Two years after it was first built, faults were found in the tower's original wooden construction. It was wedged up and the timbers were refastened throughout. In 1898 the hardwood was found to be decaying, and it was decided to replace the wooden tower with a new one made of cast iron.

In October 1905 the light began operating from its new site. The old tower situated alongside, was demolished shortly afterwards.

To make the lighthouse stand out from the white hills behind it, the tower was painted with black and white stripes, rather than the standard plain white. There are only three other lighthouses in New Zealand with stripes: Dog Island Lighthouse which looks similar to Cape Campbell, Cape Palliser Lighthouse and Rangitoto Lighthouse which have red and white stripes.

The light was originally powered with a Colza oil-burning incandescent lamp.

In July 1938 the light was converted to an electric light. The electricity was initially supplied by diesel generators. It was converted to mains electricity in the 1960s.

In 1986 the light was automated and the last keeper was withdrawn that same year.

The original light mechanism was removed and replaced in November 2003 with a modern rotating beacon, illuminated by a 50-watt tungsten halogen bulb.

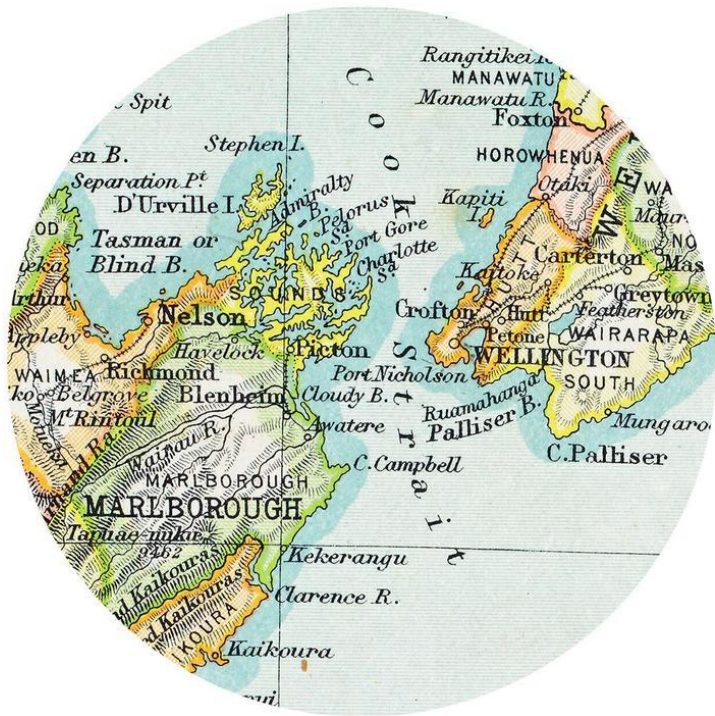
The new light is powered by mains electricity and backed up by battery in the event of power failure.

The light is monitored remotely from Maritime New Zealand's Wellington office.

Life at Cape Campbell light station changed very little for the keepers and their families over the years.

Despite the station's proximity to Blenheim, about 50 kilometres away, domestic life at the station was reasonably self-sufficient. Until the 1960s, cows were kept to supply fresh milk, and bread was baked at the station each day. The keepers also took advantage of the access to plentiful supplies of seafood, including crayfish and paua in their diet.

Lighthouse owner-operator Maritime New Zealand carried out routine maintenance of the 116-year-old structure this year, which included painting and corrosion and rust removal. Scaffold Marlborough started erecting 20 tonnes of scaffolding around the lighthouse at the start of February.



Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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