

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

11 December 21 - Navy Club Lunch (**Saturday**) (Vaccination and masks required)

17 December 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Orakei RSA (**Vaccination and masks required**)

15 January 22 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA

31 January 22 – Auckland Anniversary Day

7 February 22 – Waitangi Day

18 February 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA

Hi Folks

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN – XMAS LUNCH

We will be holding our Christmas lunch this year at the Orakei RSA on Friday, 17 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 substantial door prize and of course 'Up Spirits'.

The cost will be \$29.90 per head, to be paid to the RSA on the day.

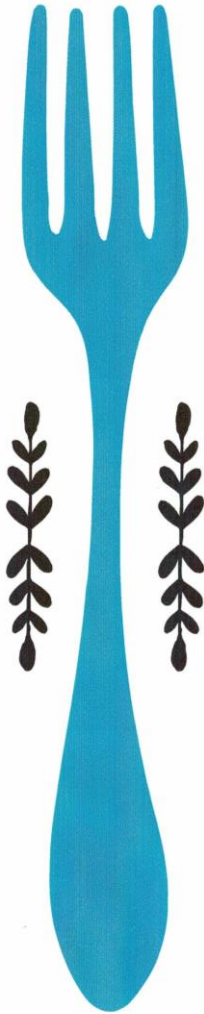
There are limited places but filling fast. We need to know numbers for catering.

Please advise, just reply to this email and put 'Yes' in the subject line.

You will need proof of vaccination and your mask.

We require an indication of numbers for the caterer and also any special dietary

requirements. **Please reply to this email if you intend joining us. Please do it now!**



MENU

Main

1. *Slow roasted rump Steak with rosemary and garlic crust*
2. *Roast Ham with an apricot glaze*

(All mains come with roasted seasonal vegetables, homemade stuffing and cauliflower smothered in cheese sauce)

Dessert

Burnt sugar steamed pudding with custard and ice cream

Snacks

Assorted cheese and crackers

VETERANS AFFAIRS

A support program is available to all of us from Veterans Affairs due to our having Qualifying Routine Service because we served in the NZ Armed Forces before 1 April 1974 — either in New Zealand or overseas.

Qualifying Routine Service recognises that before 1 April 1974 service members were not covered for work-related injuries or illnesses. Because of this, Veterans Affairs provide support to all those that served in the NZ Armed Forces during this time.

Qualifying Routine Service stopped on 1 April 1974 with the introduction of ACC. Since that date, ACC provides support for all New Zealanders who suffer work-related injuries or illnesses. This coverage extends to members of the NZ Defence Force or NZ Armed Forces.

There are a range of services available from Veteran Affairs which could include, Home help, House and section maintenance, Medical alarm, Podiatry.

Phone 0800 483 8372 for further information.

KORERO WITH VETERANS 2021

If you have Qualifying Operational Service, join Veterans' Affairs on 8 December to talk with Veterans' Affairs staff and other veteran support organisations to understand the support that is available to you.

All via Zoom, the 'Korero with veterans 2021' is on 8 December between 11am and 1pm. If you're interested in the korero [register here](#).

Once registered you'll be emailed an e-ticket which will include Zoom links for the korero on 8 December. For more information about the Korero with veterans 2021 or to register please visit [our website](#)

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Attention all serving and ex Ngapona personnel. Here is a great idea for a Christmas gift. Why not get a family member or friend to give you the joining fee for the HMNZS Ngapona Association, only \$40 and there is no annual subscription. Just email the attached form and get someone to pay the fee. Nothing could be easier - Xmas sorted!

HMS NEPTUNE 80th ANNIVERSARY & EOY FUNCTION

On 19 December 21 This is the 80th anniversary of one of the biggest events in RNZN history, so is receiving a high level including CN attendance, so it's a good time to make the effort to turn up. Stand-by reserves, those on STRFE and those who have been unable to participate lately are all welcome. Rig 1BW, muster in front of NGA nlt 0910 Sunday 19 December 2, and leave time to clear any vaccination checks at the front gate. Subject to confirmation in light of prevailing anti Covid 19 provisions, on completion of the service ship's company and guests will repair to the senior rates fleet mess for refreshments and to mark the end of the year. Assume all personnel entering DNB will require proof of Covid 19 vaccination, although we are looking into suitable arrangements to allow children to attend.



POSTPONEMENT OF THE TAMAKI-FORT CAUTLEY REUNION IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Tena Koutou Katoa,

After much consideration, your Reunion Committee has decided to postpone the Tamaki/Fort Cautley reunion by 12 months, with a revised date of 12-14 May 2023.

The main reason for this is the current Covid environment, and the uncertainty that remains, especially for the Auckland area.

Covid has impacted all of us, and our Navy has been stretched to respond. Delaying the reunion for a year hopefully gives everyone a chance to rebalance, and for the Navy to settle back into 'business as usual', so they can support the Reunion better. It is also hoped that those from overseas will find it easier to join us.

2023 is also the year that commemorates many occasions:

2023 commemorates the 120th year of the start of the Royal Navy Squadron for "training" in NZ

2023 commemorates the 110th year of the Establishment of NZ Naval Forces.

2023 commemorates 60 years from initial opening of the HMNZS TAMAKI Fort Cautley

2023 commemorates 60 years from the Establishment of the Ministry of Defence

2023 commemorates 30 years since the move from Fort Cautley site to North Yard DNB.

The Committee remain steadfast and committed to bringing you the best reunion experience possible. We just believe it will better serve all concerned by waiting 12 months to do it.

Nga mihi,

CDRE John Campbell MNZM, RNZN (Rtd)

- Spread the word! The postponement of the Tamaki-Fort Cautley reunion must be given the widest circulation among our matelots who are NOT ON FACEBOOK. Whenever you gather together in pubs, clubs, RSA/RSLs, at tangi, reunions or just meet sailors who are not on Facebook please inform them of this decision, the reasons why and the new dates.

NEW FRIGATES FOR RAN

In June 2018, the Commonwealth government announced BAE Systems Australia as the successful tender for the \$35 billion SEA 5000 Future Frigate program.

The nine Hunter class frigates will be based on the BAE Systems Type 26 Global Combat Ship currently under construction for the Royal Navy and will replace the eight Anzac class frigates when they enter service beginning in the late 2020s.

The Hunter class is billed as an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) centric vessel delivering an advanced ASW capability to the Royal Australian Navy at a time when 50 percent of the world's submarines will be operating in the Indo-Pacific region.

The \$35 billion program sees ASC Shipbuilding become a subsidiary of BAE Systems throughout the build process beginning in 2020 at the Osborne Shipyard in South Australia, creating more than 4,000 jobs.

RRS SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Britain's new polar research ship, the RRS SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH, departed November 16th for its maiden voyage to Antarctica. It left Harwich with 66 crew and personnel on board, for a short stop at Portsmouth to take on fuel before departing the UK by 18 November. Its first point of call will be Stanley, Falkland Islands, three-and-a-half-weeks later. From there, the RRS Sir David Attenborough will continue its voyage to Antarctica.

During its first mission 'south' the state-of-the-art research vessel will transfer station teams, food, cargo and fuel to British Antarctic Survey's five research stations. Robotic instruments that drift with the Southern Ocean currents (Argo floats) will be deployed as part of an international oceanography programme. This new research platform will transform how ship-borne science is conducted in the Polar Regions. It is part of a major Government polar infrastructure investment programme designed to keep Britain at the forefront of world-leading research in Antarctica and the Arctic. The RRS SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH will return to the UK in June 2022 at the end of the Antarctic season.



LIGHT HOUSE OF THE WEEK – STEPHENS ISLAND

Position: 40.40.1S 174.00.0E

Characteristics: Fl W 6s

Range: 18 NM

Structure: White metal tower

Stephens Island is not very large, being somewhat over one mile by one half mile. It is high, rising over 900 feet and therefore easily recognised at great distances. It lies about two miles north east of D'Urville Island, between Admiralty Bay and the Tasman Sea, and is generally taken to mark the western end of Cook Strait.

There are steep cliff faces on all sides, but at higher altitudes the bare rock gives way to easier grass, and some patches of scraggy bush.

The Stephens Island that the Maori called Takaporewa, that Tasman and Cook sailed by, was noted for many wonders—its forests included the kohekohe or native mahogany tree; its birdlife—tuis, bellbirds, saddle back, native crow, kaka, parakeets, and the very famous semi-nocturnal Stephens Island wren; its sea birds—shearwaters, gulls, shags, the fairy prions or "doveys"; its tuataras; even a rare frog, discovered in 1918; paryphanta or land snails; and a unique weta.

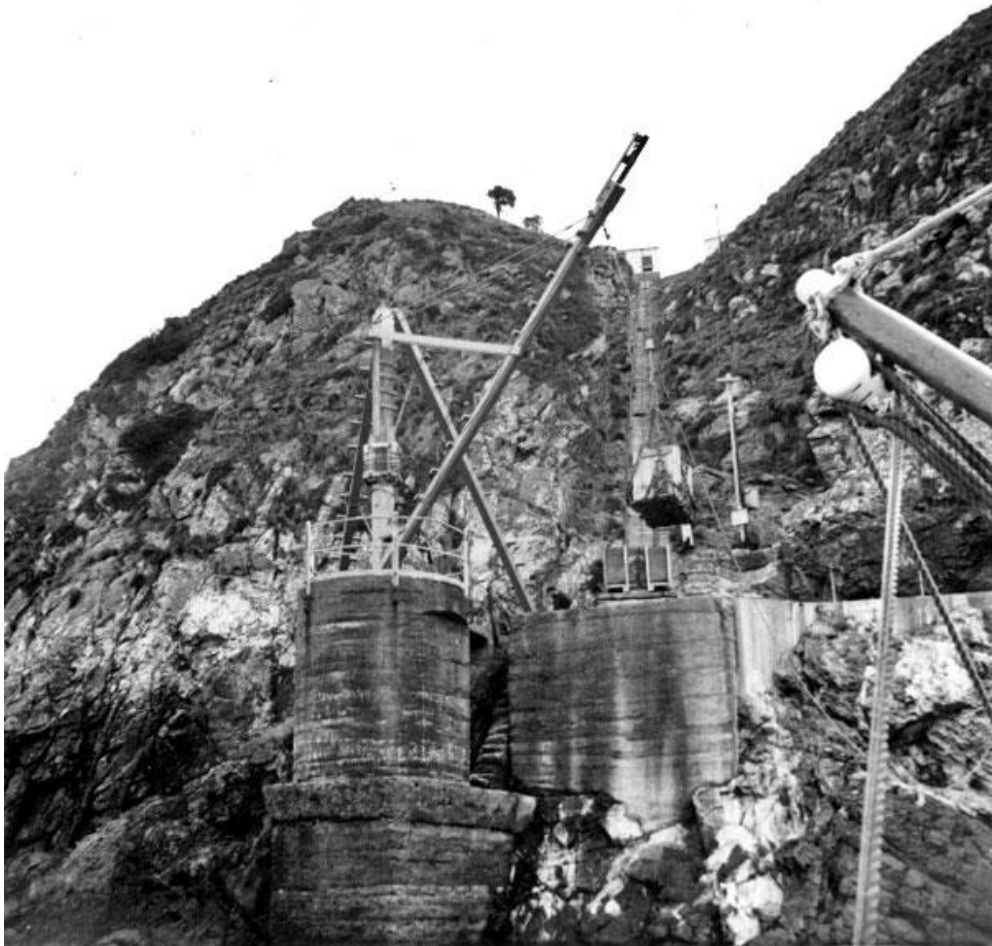
The Stephens Island Lighthouse was built at the highest elevation above sea level of all New Zealand's lighthouses. The original light was also the most powerful. At a total cost of £9,349, the lighthouse cost twice that of many other lights in New Zealand.

The light was first lit in 1894. Oil was initially used to power the illumination. In 1938 the light was converted to electric power, supplied by diesel generators. The Stephens Island station was one of the last to be automated. The last keepers were withdrawn in 1989. In 2000 the original light was removed and replaced with a new rotating beacon, located within the original tower. The new light is fitted with a 50-watt tungsten halogen bulb powered by battery banks charged by solar panels. The light is monitored remotely from Maritime New Zealand's Wellington office.

Access to Stephens Island was extremely difficult. Keepers first had to journey from Wellington over the turbulent seas of Cook Strait. Then upon reaching Stephens Island, the way ashore was via a basket swung on the end of the station's crane. Passengers and goods were winched from the deck of the servicing ship onto the shore. Keepers and their families then had a long walk up the 180-metre-high hill to their homes. The introduction of helicopters, used to service the lighthouse, greatly improved access to the Stephens Island light station.

On Stephens Island the keepers were also honorary wildlife rangers. They kept a watchful eye on the tuataras and the dove petrels which also inhabited the island. Keepers were often paid an honorarium by the Wildlife Service to keep a check on visitors, maintain fences and provide reports on wildlife matters. Stephens Island station was a lonely and difficult post. Right up until its automation in 1989, the only communication with the mainland was by means of a radio telephone. This was only supposed to be used for lighthouse duties. It was this seclusion however that was often the attraction to those living on light stations like Stephens Island.





Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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