



HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

21 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
18 March 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

Hi Folks

Although we have had to cancel several of our lunches recently, the Christmas Lunch at the Birkenhead RSA last Friday was a great success. Excellent food and great comradery.

Many thanks to Terry Creagh for organising the change of venue at short notice. And particular thanks to the caterers at the RSA for putting on a great meal. Photos can be seen at our web site: www.ngapona.org

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to wish all our members and friends a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

COMMAND APPOINTMENTS

From Chief of Navy

There have been some updates to the planned Command appointments over 2022. On behalf of Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa, I would like to congratulate the following Officers on their Command appointments:

HMNZS TE KAHA Commanding Officer from February 2022 – Lieutenant Commander Kane Sutherland, RNZN (Commander on appointment) Commanding Officer from September 2022 - Commander John McQueen, RNZN Executive Officer from April 2022 – Lieutenant Commander Nicholas Foster, RNZN

HMNZS TE MANA Executive Officer from June 2022 – Lieutenant Commander Darcy Topp, RNZN

HMNZS AOTEAROA Commanding Officer from March 2022 – Commander Dave Barr, RNZN

HMNZS CANTERBURY Commanding Officer from March 2022 – Commander Bronwyn Heslop, RNZN

HMNZS MANAWANUI Executive Officer from December 2021 – Lieutenant Commander Daniel Wierenga, RNZN Executive Officer from April 2022 – Lieutenant Teina Hullena, RNZN (Lieutenant Commander on appointment)

HMNZS WELLINGTON Executive Officer from April 2022 – Lieutenant Matt Pfahlert, RNZN.

Sea Command is the pinnacle of a GLX Officer's career. It takes years of training and experience to demonstrate the skill set and characteristics necessary to keep our ships and people safe at sea during peace and in conflict. On behalf of iwi heramana I thank the current incumbents of these commands for their efforts and dedication.

(Particular congratulations to Cdr Bronwyn Heslop. Bronwyn is the wife of the current CO of HMNZS Ngapona, Nigel Heslop, and a member of the Ngapona Assn. BZ Bronwyn)

2023 ANZAC TOUR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In conjunction with the Navy Club, the Ngapona Assn is calling for expressions of interest to participate in a proposed Old Salts tour to Western Australia for ANZAC 2023.

Proposed itinerary:

Friday 21 April – Monday 1st May 2023

10 days tour, flying Air NZ direct and staying in the centrally located Perth Quay hotel.

Fellow shipmates now living in Perth have formed a Sub-Committee to host our proposed visit and the must do's. Including a 'Meet and Greet' ANZAC Day, participation (including Wreath Laying) at the Dawn Service in Kings Park (this is traditionally (pre-Covid) Australia's largest gathering), Gunfire Breakfast, March in the Civic Parade and adjourn to the City of Belmont RSL for fellowship.

The potential activities list is huge with likely options being:

- a visit to the Henderson Dockyard and Fleet Base West
- a wine tour to the Swan Valley
- Fremantle Maritime Museum, and market place
- Direct Factory Outlets
- Rottnest Island
- The Perth Mint, all Gold and Silver mined in Western Australia is refined there and there is a shop where items can be purchased
- Plus, the team are talking to the WA Government Tourism Department for more what's to do and passes.
- An official dinner.
- Plus, plenty of time to roam free.

The tour will be restricted to 70 including partners with an indicative cost of \$4,500 pp.

Interested? Please contact Jerry Payne on: editor@ngapona.org.nz Mob: 021 486 013

TENSIONS BUILD WITH CHINA

On Nov. 27, the Philippines said it would not remove a warship, the BRP *Sierra Madre*, that was purposely run aground on a disputed shoal in the South China Sea. This is no small matter. China has systematically built structures in the South China Sea, including airstrips, to gain control of strategic tiny atolls and shoals. China's navy is operating further from home, near Australia and in joint drills with Russia and Iran. The U.S. is concerned about a potential challenge from China as predictions see China possessing 460 ships in the next decade. This is a huge challenge for America after a century of being a dominant global naval power.

Source: the Hill



NEW RAN OPV LAUNCHED

Arafura class offshore patrol vessel (OPV), NUSHIP ARAFURA, was launched today at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia – the first in a fleet of 12 OPVs being built for the Royal Australian Navy to replace the Armidale and Cape class patrol boats. Minister for Defence the Hon Peter Dutton MP said the launch of NUSHIP Arafura was a step forward in protecting Australian borders and offshore interests, providing increased maritime patrol and response capability and interoperability with Australian vessels and regional partners. “The Arafura class OPVs represent the future of Australia’s border protection and will be the primary asset for maritime patrol and response duties,” Minister Dutton said. “Our commitment to a secure, stable and prosperous region will be bolstered by the introduction of these vessels, with state-of-the-art sensors and command and communications systems. “The build of the Arafura class OPVs is a cornerstone of the Australian Government’s Naval Shipbuilding Plan, which will employ 15,000 workers across the country by 2030.”



UK CSG21 RETURNS HOME

After more than 7 months away, the carrier strike group has returned to the UK. Away for around 244 days, the group travelled about 50,000 nautical miles, made visits to 42 nations and 3 territories, representing 47% of the world's population and 53% of the UK's trading partners. 18 set-piece naval and flying exercises were conducted involving 17 other nations. There was media coverage of the group's activities in 99 countries and in 252 languages. The group hosted 66 government ministers, 106 ambassadors and around 500 senior officers of foreign militaries. Crucially the MoD says the 3,700 personnel deployed consumed 25.5 tonnes of sausages, 190,000 potatoes and 2.01 million eggs. (HMS *Defender* alone got through 55,000 sausages, while HMS *Kent* consumed just 13,000). Such details may seem frivolous but do give an insight into the considerable logistical challenges of sustaining naval forces at distance. The tailored air group embarked on the carrier flew a combined total of 4,723 hours of which 3,433 were by day & 1,290 by night covering a total of around 100,000 miles. The 18 F-35 jets of VMFA-211 and 617 Squadron flew 1,278 sorties, totalling more than 2,200 hours in the air. Exercises were conducted with over 60 other types of aircraft and 44 combat missions were flown in support of Operation Shader/Inherent Resolve over Iraq.



LIGHT HOUSE OF THE WEEK – MANUKAU SOUTH HEAD

Position: 37.03.2S 174.32.7E

Characteristics: Oc W 6s

Range: 12NM

Structure: White wooden structure

The Manukau harbour was named Mānuka (implanted post) in Te Arawa traditions, after the ancestor Īhenga, who put a stake there and claimed ownership of the waters. Tainui traditions name the harbour Te Mānukanuka-a-Hoturoa (the troublesome waters of Hoturoa) because of the sandbanks and quick-moving tides.

More generally the harbour is known as the Manukau (wading birds), because birds



such as the godwit and southern oystercatcher migrate there each summer.

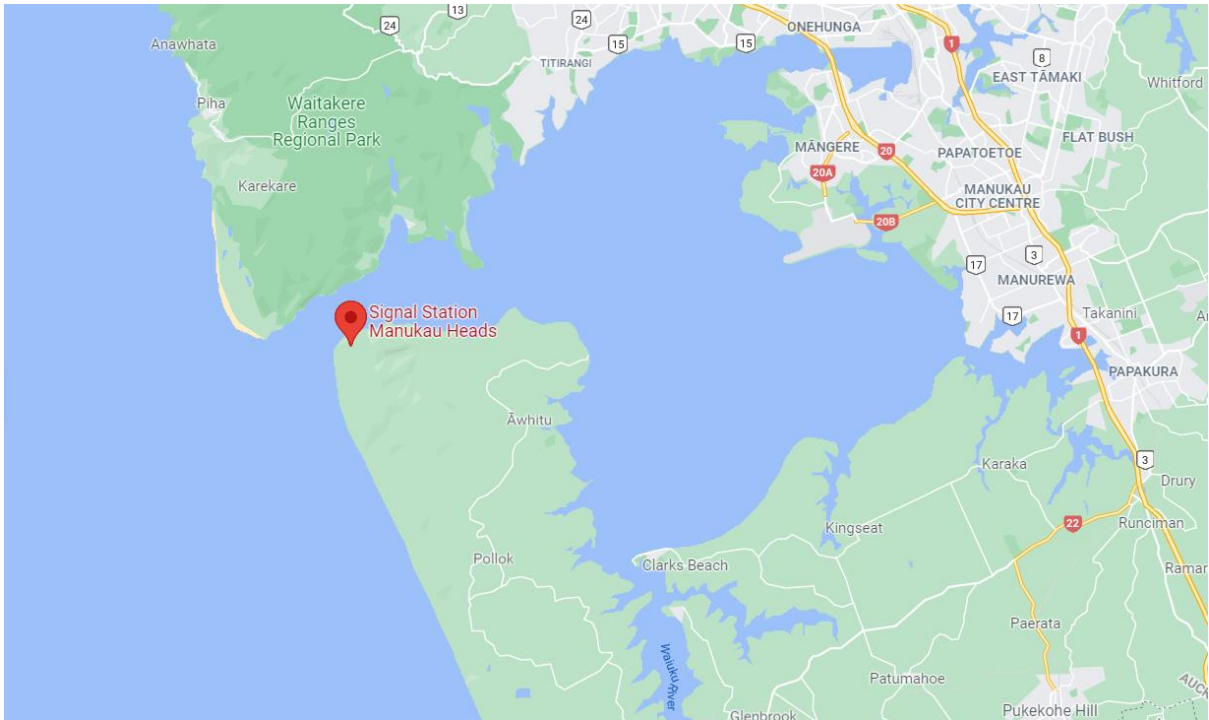
The **Manukau Heads** is the name given to the two promontories that form the entrance to the Manukau Harbour. The southern head, at the northern tip of Āwhitu Peninsula, is simply termed "The South Head", whereas the

northern head is named "Burnett Head" (the term North Head is used to indicate a promontory in the nearby Waitematā Harbour). There is a pronounced sand bar across the harbour mouth which has limited shipping into the harbour since European vessels arrived in the area which had enough draught to be affected by such shallows. This limitation (which ensured an effective maximum ship size of about 1,000 tons in pre-modern times), was no barrier to early success of shipping to local ports in the harbour – but eventually meant that the Waitematā Harbour overtook the Manukau Harbour in prominence as a port location.

The worst shipwreck disaster in New Zealand history happened on 7 February 1863. On a fine summer's day, the HMS Orpheus approached Manukau Harbour. The onshore signalman seeing the ship was off course to cross the bar, signalled to change direction but the warning was too late. Of the 259 people on board 189 perished.

Set in a spectacular location on the South Head of the Manukau Harbour, this lighthouse was finally erected in 1874 to safeguard shipping to Auckland. The old lighthouse was abandoned to the elements in 1986, but nearby is one of the few manned signal stations still in operation. Many families lived out here. Indeed, by 1895, the school roll recorded 21 children.

A local trust has recently built a faithful replica of the original 1874 wooden tower. It's not a working model, but is open to the public. Climb up the spiral staircase, past the gigantic lens and admire some stunning 360-degree views from the balcony: across to Destruction Gully and the Waitakere Ranges and down to the black sands of Whatipu, Ninepin with its smaller light, and Paratutai Island, site of the original signal station.



Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

021 486 013

(To be removed from this email list please reply to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.)