

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

8 April 22 - Navy Club Lunch at Remuera
15 – 18 April 22 – Easter
20 April 22 – Navy Club visit to Waihi Beach RSA
22 April 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA
25 April 22 – ANZAC Day
13 May 22 – Navy Club
20 May 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Te Atatu RSA
6 June 22 – Queen’s Birthday

Hi Folks

NEW RNZNCA LIFE MEMBER

At last Thursday’s Annual General Meeting of the Royal New Zealand Navy Communicators’ Association (RNZNCA), Sandy Watson was made a Life Member of the RNZNCA. Sandy is a past member of HMNZS Ngapona and a member of the Ngapona Assn. Sandy has contributed much to the RNZNCA over the years and graciously accepted the award noting that for once she was short of words. Sandy has served on the RNZNCA Committee in several roles and has been instrumental in organising several reunions and functions. During this time Sandy has held the office of: Treasurer, Women’s Representative, and Committee member. One of Sandy’s greatest contributions and commitment has been assisting another Life Member, Jim Blackburn to document his life history from an embryonic stage to the completion of a historical publication, which has now been published.
BZ Sandy



AUSTRALIA TAKES ACTION

Australia has responded to Ukraine's request for Bushmaster vehicles in support of its resistance to Russia's invasion.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has confirmed the government is exploring options to deliver Thales Australia-built Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles to Ukraine following a request from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his [remote address](#) to a joint sitting of federal parliament on Thursday evening (31 March).

According to Minister for Defence Peter Dutton, Bushmaster stocks were reviewed overnight to determine the quantum and logistics of a delivery to Ukraine via a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C-17 Globemaster.

"We'll just see what we can land there by the C-17s and we might only be able to upload three or four Bushmasters on to a C-17 at once," he said.

"But we're just going through that logistics at the moment."

Alternatively, the government is exploring whether it could source Bushmasters from Germany, France or elsewhere in Europe to reduce delivery delays.

The commitment builds on a new \$25 million military assistance package announced by Prime Minister Morrison ahead of Zelenskyy's address to parliament.

Source: Defence Connect



BOOST FOR AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT CAPABILITY

The acceptance of Defence's first evolved Cape-class patrol boat will strengthen Australia's naval capability while providing greater reliability and effectiveness to the RAN's patrol force to keep our borders safe.

Defence Minister Peter Dutton said the acceptance of *Cape Otway* was a significant milestone in the overall contract, under which Austal Ships will deliver five more of the vessels to the Royal Australian Navy.

"The six vessels will boost Navy's current patrol boat capability as we await the introduction into service of the newer and larger Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels," Mr Dutton said.

"The evolved Cape-class patrol boat project is one of three active naval shipbuilding projects underway in WA. Worth approximately \$343 million, it directly supports around 550 Australian jobs.

"The new patrol boats will also be the first vessels to be maintained at Regional Maintenance Centre North East, in Cairns."

To coincide with the acceptance of the first ECCPB, Vice Admiral Mike Noonan revealed the names of the six new vessels.

"Each name continues the lineage of the Cape-class patrol boats, all named after significant capes around Australia," Vice Admiral Noonan said.

"The first boat, Australian Defence Vessel *Cape Otway*, will be home-ported at HMAS *Cairns* by mid-2022.

"Closely based on the in-service CCPB vessel design, Australian Defence Vessel *Cape Otway* will feature a number of enhancements that further extend the capability of the vessel in comparison to her sister Cape-class patrol boat's operated by Australian Border Force and the two vessels operated by Navy."

Commanding Officer of *Cape Otway*, Lieutenant Commander James Thompson, said it was a privilege to be selected as the first commanding officer to introduce a new platform in to service.

“I look forward to the opportunity to make full use of the greater capabilities that the CCPB has to offer,” Lieutenant Commander Thompson said.

“I am extremely proud of the resilience and can-do attitude that my crew has displayed whilst separated from loved ones. There is still a considerable way to go but I am confident in our abilities to get the job done.”

Deploying to WA in late January, *Cape Otway*'s crew have been busy conducting conversion training with Austal staff to enable them to take over the platform. They will remain in WA until conducting mariner skills evaluation in May, after which they will then transit back to *Cairns*, where *Cape Otway* will be based.

The remaining boats are under construction at Henderson shipyard in Western Australia and the final boat is expected to be delivered by May 2023.

Source: *Department of Defence Australia*



Nuship Cape Otway

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Celebrity Equinox



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CAPT BЛИGH R.N.

The *Matilda*

Another facet that may interest readers is of the ship *Matilda*. *Matilda* was a whaler of 450 tons out of England but which was used to transport convicts to Australia. Departing Portsmouth on the 27th March 1791, after having embarked 250 male convicts, she reached Port Jackson August 1. 25 convicts died en-route. Throughout the voyage 19 officers and men of the New South Wales Corps acted as guards.

Following the delivery of the convicts, *Matilda* headed out to hunt whales. Records show she left for India in November 1791. Other records however show she sailed for Peru. In any case, it is supposed that she sailed to the Marquesa Islands which are a group of French volcanic islands in the South Pacific, a popular port of call for whalers at the time. The Marquesa's are 1418 Km from Tahiti (northeastward). On the 25th February, *Matilda* was wrecked on a shoal (subsequently called Matilda Island), near Mururoa Atoll. Mururoa Atoll is about 1,250 Km south east of Tahiti. The crew were able to launch the ship's boats and sailed them to Tahiti. Tahiti must have been a popular place because it was visited by two other vessels besides Bligh's around that time. The '*Jenny*' which took the Captain of the '*Matilda*' and four crewmen to America, and some records say, the '*Brittania*' a whaler. Six of *Matilda*'s crew opted to remain in Tahiti. Three were lost at sea when they attempted to sail a whaling boat to Port Jackson. Bligh was to take 15 of *Matilda*'s crew with him when he subsequently sailed from Tahiti.

At Tahiti, Bligh loaded his breadfruit plants. Around 16 July 1792, *Providence* and *Assistant* sail from Tahiti for the West Indies via the Torres Strait and the Cape of Good Hope. Besides his crew, Bligh has with him 15 *Matilda* survivors, a 22 year old Tahitian, 'Mydidee', whose chief wished to visit England to see and learn what he could of the culture, a stowaway, found 3 days after departure.

(to be continued)



Bligh in Tahiti

Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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