

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

8 July 22 – Navy Club

15 July 22 - Ngapona Assn Platinum Lunch at the Bays Club, Browns Bay

7 August 22 – Ngapona Assn AGM at Birkenhead RSA at 1500

12 August 22 – Navy Club

19 August 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Avondale RSA

Hi Folks

NGAPONA ASSN PLATINUM LUNCH

Our next lunch is at the Bay's Club in Brown's Bay on 15 July. Every second year we hold a formal event and the alternate years hold something a bit different and more informal. This year it is our 'Platinum Lunch' at the Bay's Club, Browns Bay, which is going to be quite special. The Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Proctor, has ordered a 'Splice the Mainbrace' in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, so there will be an 'Up Spirits'. So that we can get the catering just right we need an indication of numbers attending.

Please reply to this email advising your intention to attend this special event (numbers required).

PROTESTERS' TARGET NAVY SHIP IN ŌPUA

A Navy vessel was pelted with eggs and road cones in Ōpua yesterday by protesters who tried to cut through the ship's mooring ropes with a chainsaw. They tried to storm the vessel three times, using pallets and skip bins to protect themselves from the high-pressure fire hoses directed against them by the ship's personnel. The crew eventually had to resort to rifles, causing a number of casualties among the protesters. Fortunately, it was all just an exercise and the shots fired were only blanks — though there was nothing fake about the fire hoses. The aim was to prepare the crew in case they ever become embroiled in civil strife during deployments around the Pacific. The "protesters" — led by a very convincing Henry Matangi, a Navy base operations warrant officer from Whangārei — were members of the ship's crew playing the part of locals from the fictional country of Avalon, where New Zealanders are apparently not welcome. The HMNZS *Wellington*, an 85m offshore patrol vessel with up to 80 crew, was on its second visit to Ōpua during its current four-week training voyage.

Source: NZHerald



TIGHT SWEETZ



Passenger liner passing the Welland Canal, Canada

The Welland Canal is a ship canal in Ontario, Canada, connecting Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. It forms a key section of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes Waterway.

Traversing the Niagara Peninsula from Port Weller in St. Catharines to Port Colborne, it enables ships to ascend and descend the Niagara Escarpment and bypass Niagara Falls. It is the fourth canal connecting these waterways; three smaller predecessors also bore the same name.

The Welland Canal passes about 3,000 ships which transport about 40,000,000 tonnes of cargo a year. It was a major factor in the growth of the city of Toronto, Ontario.

Before the digging of the Welland Canal, shipping traffic between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie used a portage road between Chippawa, Ontario,

and Queenston, Ontario, which are both located on the Niagara River—above and below Niagara Falls, respectively.

Construction on the current canal began in 1913, but work was put on hold from 1916 to 1919 due to a shortage of men and workers during World War I (1914–18) and was completed and officially opened on August 6, 1932. Dredging to the planned 7.6 m depth was not completed until 1935. The difference in height between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie is 175 m. The canal includes eight 24.4 metre-wide ship locks.



THIRD AIRCRAFT CARRIER FOR CHINA

China has commissioned its third aircraft carrier. Amid tensions with the United States over China's claims in Taiwan and the South China Sea, FUJIAN launched on Friday, state media reports said. Tensions with the United States over Taiwan are growing. Designed by the People's Republic, the ship has an air catapult system.



RUSSIAN NAVAL TUGBOAT HIT

Ukraine said its forces hit a Russian naval tugboat with two Harpoon missiles in the Black Sea on Friday, the first time it has claimed to have struck a Russian vessel with Western-supplied anti-ship weapons. The tugboat, identified as the VASILY BEKH by Odesa region's governor, had been transporting soldiers, weapons and ammunition to the Russian occupied Zmiinyi (Snake) Island in the Black Sea, the Ukrainian navy said. The Russian Defence Ministry did not immediately respond to a written request for comment. The Ukrainian military published a video of what it said were two Harpoon missiles hitting the vessel.

Source: Reuters



AUSTRALIAN APCs LEAVE FOR UKRAINE

In mid-June, the first four of 14 APCs bound for Ukraine left RAAF Base Amberley onboard a Ukrainian Antonov AN-124.

The delivery forms part of Australia's \$285 million package to support Ukraine, which the Commonwealth has confirmed also includes Bushmaster PMVs, M777 howitzers, anti-armour weapons, ammunition, unmanned aerial systems and personal equipment.



Image credit: Department of Defence

RAAF Base Amberley, Australia

This week I begin a new series which looks at the Victoria Cross winners of New Zealand. I hope you will enjoy learning about some of our New Zealanders who have been decorated for valour. But first a little history.....

HISTORY OF THE VICTORIA CROSS

In 1854, after 39 years of peace, Britain found itself fighting a major war against Russia. The Crimean War was one of the first wars with modern reporting, and the dispatches of William Howard Russell described many acts of bravery and valour by British servicemen that went unrewarded.

Queen Victoria instructed the War Office to strike a new medal that would not recognise birth or class. The medal was meant to be a simple decoration that would be highly prized and eagerly sought after by those in the military services.

A total of 1,358 Victoria Crosses have been awarded since 1856 to 1,355 men.

A single company of jewellers, Hancocks & Co, has been responsible for the production of every VC awarded since its inception.

The decoration is a bronze cross pattée, 41 mm high, 36 mm wide, bearing the crown of Saint Edward surmounted by a lion, and the inscription "for valour". The decoration, suspension bar, and link weigh about 27 g.

The cross is suspended by a ring from a serifed "V" to a bar ornamented with laurel leaves, through which the ribbon passes. The reverse of the suspension bar is engraved with the recipient's name, rank, number and unit. On the reverse of the medal is a circular panel on which the date of the act for which it was awarded is engraved in the centre. The ribbon is crimson, 38 mm wide. The current source of metal for the British Victoria Cross is understood to be a cascabel—the round protrusion at the back of a cannon used to secure recoil cables—which is stored under secure conditions at a Ministry of Defence depot in Donnington, England. The

remaining portion of the only remaining cascabel, weighing 358 oz (10 kg), is stored in a vault maintained by 15 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps at MoD Donnington and may only be removed under armed guard. It is estimated that approximately 80 to 85 more VCs could be cast from this source.

As the highest award for valour of the United Kingdom, the Victoria Cross is always the first award to be presented at an investiture, even before knighthoods. Owing to its status, the VC is always the first decoration worn in a row of medals and it is the first set of post-nominal letters used to indicate any decoration or order. Similar acts of extreme valour that do not take place in the face of the enemy are honoured with the George Cross (GC), which has equal precedence but is awarded second because the GC is newer.

The Victoria Cross was extended to colonial troops in 1867. The extension was made following a recommendation for gallantry regarding colonial soldier Major Charles Heaphy for action in the New Zealand Wars in 1864.

Australia was the first Commonwealth realm to create its own VC, on 15 January 1991. Although it is a separate award, its appearance is identical to its British counterpart. Canada followed suit when in 1993 Queen Elizabeth signed Letters Patent creating the Canadian VC. New Zealand was the third country to adapt the VC into its own honours system. While the New Zealand and Australian VCs are technically separate awards, the decoration is identical to the British design, including being cast from the same gunmetal as the British VC. The Canadian Victoria Cross also includes metal from the same cannon, along with copper and other metals from all regions of Canada.



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.)