



HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

20 January 23 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA
30 January 23 – Auckland Anniversary Day
6 February 23 – Waitangi Day
10 February 23 - Navy Club
17 February 23 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
17 March 23 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and Santa was kind to you. Hope you didn't eat too much.

Our thoughts are with those in other countries who are not as fortunate as us in New Zealand, suffering extreme weather and the hardships of war.

Take care over the new year period and I will catch up with you all in 2023.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Thanks to those who responded to the recent questionnaire regarding the future activities for the Ngapona Assn. There was not a great response and most were happy with what we are doing, so we will not be making any great changes just now. If you do have any suggestions, just reply to this email.

THE ROYAL THAI NAVY SHIP 'SUKHOTHAI' SINKS

Thai naval officials said Tuesday there were not enough life jackets for everyone aboard a warship that sank early Monday in severe weather in the Gulf of Thailand with the loss of at least six lives. Twenty-three people remain missing after the sinking of the corvette HTMS Sukhothai, while 76 people have been rescued, commander-in-chief of the Royal Thai Navy Adm. Cherngchai Chomcherngpat told a news conference. The ship was carrying 105 people at the time of the sinking, 30

more than usual, and there were not enough life jackets for all of them, Chergchai said. The extra officers were aboard because the ship was taking part in a salute to the founder of the Thai navy, the admiral said, adding: "Normally more life jackets must be added for additional officers."



ROYAL NAVY SHIPS IN NEW ZEALAND

HMS PANDORA

Packet brig launched in 1833. Converted to a surveyor in 1845.
319 tons.

Armament: 3 guns (2 32 pounder carronades, 1 32 pounder gun).

Propulsion: Sail

Complement: 50 (later increased to 60).

Length: 90 feet

Beam: 29 feet 3 inches.

Pandora spent time surveying the British Columbia coast between 1845 and 1848 acting as a tender to HMS *Herald*. In 1850 she was to be commanded by Commander Byron Drury and dispatched into the South Pacific for surveying duties. Drury was to retire as a Captain but received flag rank in retirement.

Pandora was to continue with the surveying work which had been started by HMS *Acheron*.

In September of 1851, *Pandora* began her surveying duties by surveying the Hokianga Harbour and in November of 1852 the area in and about the Tauranga harbour. It is of note that the work carried out by the crew of *Pandora* assisted the fleet of RN vessels taking troops, weapons and provisions to Tauranga during the NZ war during the 1860s.

1853 found *Pandora* surveying the Manukau harbour. The channel identified leading into the harbour became known as the 'Pandora Channel'. During the survey, the crew used open boats in which they lived and slept for up to two weeks at a time. Drury creek and the town of Drury are named after Commander Drury. Unfortunately, *Pandora* ran aground in the Manukau harbour on the 8th February but was able to be re-floated and to continue her work. *Pandora* also visited Norfolk Island in this year.

1854 saw the *Pandora* at the top of the South Island surveying in the region of French Pass and Pelorus Sound sailing to Wellington where she was located on the 23rd of January of 1855 at the time a major earthquake struck causing the ship to bottom and to slew at her berth. Known as the Wairarapa earthquake centered in Cook Strait, the shake lasted for 50 seconds and affected an area from Marlborough to the Wairarapa and caused much destruction in Wellington with about 7-9 persons killed throughout the area. The north-western side of the harbour was uplifted, many jetties were rendered unusable. New land appeared and subsequent reclamations led to the establishment of the current central business district in the area and land available to provide a new rail and road route north. New Zealand's largest tsunami was generated by the earthquake. Captain Drury noted that for approximately eight hours following the 'quake, the tide flowed and ebbed about every twenty minutes rising higher and falling lower than during spring tides (up to four feet lower). HMS *Acheron* and HMS *Pandora* were the first vessels to conduct systematic surveys of New Zealand since Cook and which ensured virtually all of the coastline was charted. 250 charts resulted from the surveys. The work led to the publication of the 'New Zealand Pilot'.

Pandora was sold to become a coastguard watch vessel around England in 1862.

