



LONGCAST

- 20 January 23 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Te Atatu 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

Hi Folks

“DO YOU HEAR THERE”!!

Ngapona Assn Monthly Lunch - Change of venue, January 2023

Due to the Titirangi RSA restaurant being closed for lunches we have changed the venue to the **Te Atatu RSA**. This Friday at 1200. See you there.

BRITISH NUCLEAR TESTING MEDAL TO BE AWARDED

On 21 November the Prime Minister of UK, Rishi Sunak, announced that all servicemen and civilians who are veterans of the British Nuclear Bomb testing would be awarded a Medal. Those veterans of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Kiribati (Xmas Island) were also entitled to that medal. Our government will apply on New Zealand’s veteran’s behalf. The RNZAF and Army are also in that list. Do you qualify?

Gerry Wright would like to hear from you. Email: gerrywright@xtra.co.nz

FOURTH LUXURY SHIP BANNED FROM NEW ZEALAND'S WATERS

After their dream retirement cruise on the QUEEN MARY 2 from London to New York was lost to COVID in 2020, Sharon and Peter Clarke instead booked a voyage, with eight friends, to New Zealand's stunning Fiordland on the QUEEN ELIZABETH. But just 48 hours before their due departure on Saturday, January 7, they were told by Cunard that the ship would no longer be sailing anywhere near either Fiordland or Dunedin – the two highlights of the cruise – because of another case of "dirty hull syndrome". "We are heartbroken," said Sharon Clarke, 72, a retired university lecturer. "That's exactly why we all booked this cruise, to see those two places. But when we asked if we could postpone until the problem was sorted out, Cunard wouldn't hear of it. "We've paid thousands of dollars for this cruise but, as compensation, they've insulted us further by offering just US\$100 per person to be spent on board while 'enjoying two more sea days'. They must have known about this dirty hull syndrome problem for some time but to have given us such short notice." The QUEEN ELIZABETH is the fourth ship to have been hit in the past two weeks with clean-up orders by New Zealand authorities around biofouling – high-risk organisms like mussels, oysters, foliose algae, hydroids, tunicates, sponges, crabs and starfish stuck onto the hull - which accounts for 90 per cent of marine pests arriving in their waters. Recently, the snail-encrusted Coral Princess was cleaned 77 kilometres off the coast of Tauranga and then was allowed to visit New Zealand, whereas the Viking Origin and Seven Seas Explorer were only allowed to stop at approved ports. Now the Queen Elizabeth has also been hit by the same order. Biosecurity New Zealand environmental health manager Paul Hallett said the QUEEN ELIZABETH had visited approved ports in December, but was instructed to have biofouling removed before subsequent voyages back.

Source: Traveller

NEW FERRY FOR AUCKLAND

Auckland's first electric hybrid fast ferry is on its way with construction of Incat Crowther 32 progressing for Fullers360 throughout 2023. The new electric ferry with hybrid capabilities will be capable of transporting up to 300 passengers and will help Fullers360 reduce carbon emissions by 750,000kg per year on their Hauraki Gulf ferry network. We've designed electric and hybrid ferries for high volume passenger routes in New Zealand, the US, Australia, Singapore and we expect demand for electric and hybrid ferries to continue as the world heads toward net zero.



RUSSIAN SHIP MOVEMENT IN BLACK SEA

Ukrainian forces will be monitoring a sudden movement of Russian warships and submarines out of their base of Novorossiysk. The naval base, near the Kerch Bridge, is further from Ukrainian controlled coast than the famous base at Sevastopol. Yet the unusual movement may be important. Russian Navy ships and submarines left their base at Novorossiysk, in the Black Sea, en-masse. This is highly unusual and may indicate ongoing operations. Sources seen by Naval News confirm the exodus. The group included the Project 11711 Ivan

Gren class landing ship, *Pyotr Morgunov*, the largest amphibious ship in the Black Sea. It also contained all three Project 636.3 Improved-Kilo class submarines which were present at the base. Analysis suggests that other warships were also sailing, leaving only a few warships and support vessels in the port. It is likely to be the most empty that Novorossiysk has been in many months. One explanation which will be on analysis minds is some form of amphibious landing. This may target southwestern Ukraine to establish a land bridge to Transnistria. This Russian-supported unrecognized state is part of Moldova and borders Ukraine. It has always been understood that it is within Russia's wider war aims to join up with it. The submarines would be involved in broader intelligence or covering missions surrounding the amphibious ships.

Source: Naval News



ROYAL NAVY SHIPS IN NEW ZEALAND

HMS COROMANDEL

Built as an East Indiaman *Cuvera*, Taken up by the RN in 1804 as HMS *Malabar* a 56-gun fourth rate. Converted to a storeship in 1806. Renamed HMS *Coromandel* as a convict ship and transported convicts to NSW in 1819. May 1820, rendezvous with HMS *Dromedary* in the Bay of Islands. Leaving *Dromedary*, *Coromandel* sails to a harbour on a peninsula south of Auckland. The harbour and peninsula now bear her name. Wooding parties were landed on a daily basis in the search for suitable timber for spars. These

parties were protected by armed guards. It took about a year for the *Coromandel* to be fully loaded for the return voyage to England arriving in Portsmouth in 1821.

Eventually employed as a receiving ship for convicts in Bermuda and was broken up in 1853.

Note: Rear Admiral Sir William Symonds RN, Surveyor for the RN 1832 – 1847 was particularly in favour of using spars cut from NZ kauri in RN ships. His son, Captain William Symonds RN was commissioned by Governor Hobson to negotiate for the acquisition of Auckland. Symond's Street is named after him.

HMS Vernon, launched in 1832 had all of her topmasts made of NZ kauri which lasted 14 years.

Eventually, the time it took for RN ships companies to fell, shape and load suitable timber for spars was felt by the Admiralty to be too prolonged. In 1827 they took to contracting civilian sawmillers such as Ranulph Dacre to provide the timber for them which he did from his timber station on the Hokianga harbour and at Mercury Bay.



Regards

[Jerry Payne](#)

Editor

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