



## LONGCAST

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

#### **A MAJOR MILESTONE REACHED FOR NGAPONA ASSN**

This is the **500th** edition of the Ngapona Assn weekly newsletter. The first edition was sent on 14 July 2013, to advise ex Ngapona personnel of the passing of CPO Denis Keane. Since then, it has gone out every Monday night without a miss. It remains the main means of communication for the Ngapona Assn.

#### **AUCKLAND FLOODS**

We extend our condolences to all those in Auckland, and other parts of the North Island, who have suffered in the recent floods. Remember, watchout for your shipmates, give your friends and neighbours a call to ensure they are OK. That's what mates are for. If any Veterans are requiring any urgent assistance, the RNZRSA has put in place emergency funds for any Veteran requiring assistance. This is available through the District Support Managers. Don't hesitate to contact your local RSA.

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## **THE RESULT OF THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE INTERESTING**

The Maritime Union is calling for the investigation into the engine failure of an Interislander ferry to be prioritised - but the agency investigating it says it is at least 18 months away from any conclusions.

The Kaitaki ferry lost its power around 5pm on Saturday with around 800 passengers and 80 crew on board. It eventually got power back and made a slow journey to Wellington, where it arrived after 9pm, followed by tug boats for precaution.

Maritime Union national secretary Craig Harrison commended the crew and captain for their management of the situation – and said an investigation into the cause should be a top priority.

*Source: NZ Herald*



## **BIOSECURITY REQUIREMENTS NOT MET**

Passengers on a cruise around New Zealand have been let down again, after the ship's failure to meet biosecurity requirements meant the cruise skipped three of its intended destinations. Cunard's QUEEN ELIZABETH departed Sydney for a 13-night cruise around New Zealand on January 7. The itinerary included stops in Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Mount Maunganui,

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Auckland, Bay of Islands and a cruise by Fiordland, with five days to be spent at sea. However, two days before the cruise departed, Cunard announced the Fiordland sailing and stop in Dunedin would not go ahead as the hull needed additional underwater cleaning to meet New Zealand's strict biosecurity requirements. It meant passengers would spend seven days at sea. They were compensated with a \$100USD (\$157NZD) voucher, to be spent on board the ship. Following the announcement, Ian Bowie said he and wife Beatrice were disappointed to be spending more than half the cruise on board the ship. Adding to the woes, last Sunday the captain announced that adverse weather meant hull cleaning could not be done safely, meaning the cruise would not visit the Bay of Islands and would instead stay an extra day in Auckland. "As a Kiwi and thinking about inter-ethnic issues and early European settlement issues in Australia, I was sad to have missed Waitangi and Kerikeri," Bowie said. Cunard's failure to understand and observe its biosecurity requirements was "unforgivable", he said. Bowie understood similar issues had occurred with an earlier QUEEN ELIZABETH voyage. He said he wished Cunard had been upfront about the risk their cruise could face similar disruptions. "We would have considered cancelling," he said. "The fact that cleaning was not completed over 24 hours suggests that the QUEEN ELIZABETH problems were more significant than we've been told." It is not yet clear whether passengers will be compensated for the second itinerary change.

*Source: Stuff*

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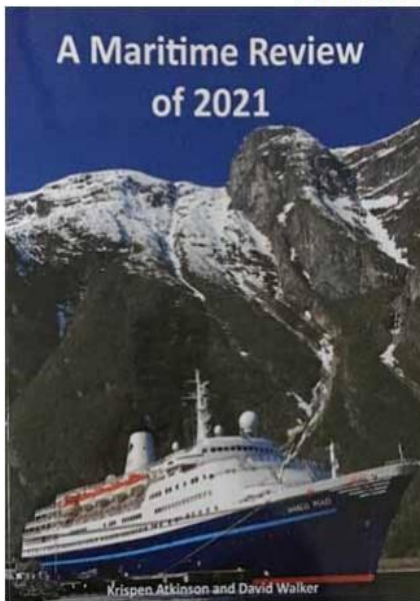
### **NEW US SUBS COULD BE LATE**

The first of the Navy's long-awaited and much-needed Columbia Class ballistic missile submarines could be at risk of not being delivered on time, according to a new report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). The Columbia is the Navy's stated top acquisition priority. The department is planning to spend \$132 billion to build 12 Columbia Class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines—the largest and most complex sub in history. The hope is to have the first one delivered in April 2027. But, the GAO is warning that the schedule could be at risk. "

### **BOOK OF THE MONTH**

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## "A Maritime Review of 2021"



Just as in previous years, at the end of December 2022, the World Ship Society (WSS) published the latest edition of "A Maritime Review of 2021". For this review Krispen Atkinson and David Walker signed as authors. "A Maritime Review of 2021" provides an illustrative snapshot of some of the events which occurred in the shipping industry during 2021. The book is the sixth edition of the "A Maritime Review" series. This year's edition covers a wide range of subjects, from the Ever Given's grounding in the Suez Canal and how other vessels became caught up in the incident, to the sinking of former Royal Navy frigate, HMS Active. The book is available through the World Ship Society, at £12 to WSS members (quoting membership number) or £18 to non-members plus P&P £3.00 (UK), £6.50 (Europe & Rest of the World). Orders can be made by email, to [booksales@worldshipsociety.org](mailto:booksales@worldshipsociety.org) or by post to WSS Book Sales, 49 Mount Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3EZ United Kingdom. Payment may be made by GBP cheque (payable to World Ship Society) or credit card. For the latter, please state whether Visa or Mastercard and quote card number, exact name on card, card expiry date, card validation number and address of the cardholder.

**For all ship lovers or those who are interested in the shipping industry in general, highly recommended!**

### ROYAL NAVY SHIPS IN NEW ZEALAND

#### HMS CURACOA

Tribune class screw frigate. Built at Pembroke Dockyard, UK. Launched April 1854.

Armament: 30 32 pounders, 1 10" pivot gun.

Propulsion: Sail, steam (single screw)

Length: 192 ft.

Beam: 43 ft

Displacement: 1569 tons

Complement: 300

*Curacoa* saw service in the Black Sea during the Crimean war. Served in the Channel Squadron 1857-1859 but visited Pitcairn in 1841 her doctor assisting the sick from an influenza epidemic. In 1858 ran aground on Pelican Reef off Smyrna, part of the Ottoman Empire. Refloated with the assistance of USS *Macedonia*. 4 Feb 1859 collided with British merchant ship *Fieta* in the English Channel. Then served on the North America and West Indies Station from

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1859 until 1862 when she was sent to the Australia Station eventually being used as the flagship. Her armament was reduced to 23 guns in 1863. Curacoa Island off Queensland is named after the ship.

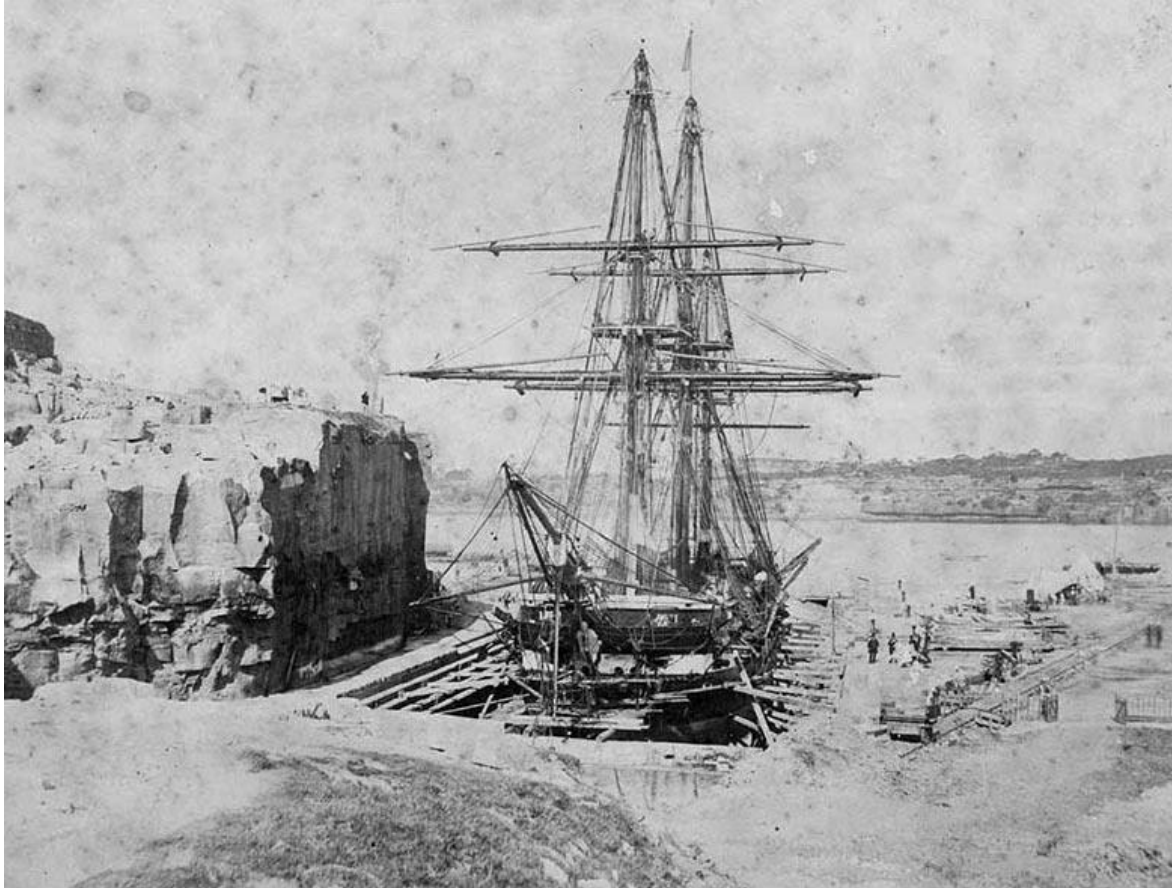
In 1863 *Curacoa* was sent to New Zealand where part of her ship's company became part of the Naval Brigade during the invasion of the Waikato. She sailed from Sydney with a detachment of the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment (16 officers, 240 men) and two 40 pounder field pieces. Many of the Naval Brigade were to be killed and wounded in the invasion and at the battle of Gate Pa including Lieutenant Hill and Ordinary James Harris of *Curacoa*.

*Curacoa* was broken up in the UK on 17 July 1869.

Note 1: It has been reported that in 1864, Commodore Wiseman in *Curacoa* carried a number of animals from Sydney to New Zealand for Governor Grey. These included kangaroos, wallabies, swan, and emu.

Note 2: There is a memorial at Rangiriri to the memory of sailors (1 officer, 5 seamen) from HMS *Curacoa* and HMS *Harrier* who died in the assault on the pa 20 Nov 1863.

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HMS Curacao in Fitzroy Dock, Sydney, in 1865

Regards

[Jerry Payne](#)

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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