

Hi Folks

WAIHEKE RSA LUNCH

The Ngapona Assn is holding the monthly lunch at Waiheke this Friday, 17th March.

Meet at the Downtown Ferry Buildings at 1030 to catch the 1100 ferry. This ferry goes via Devonport so the northern folk don't have to fight the city traffic.

This is a great day out, so don't miss the boat.

HEADS UP

ANZAC day is looming and HMNZS Ngapona is in the process of getting the ball rolling. The Veterans and Ngapona Assn members as usual are more than welcome to attend and take part.

Padre may need a few readers. If you can assist, please contact Padre Michael Berry on michaelberry@gmail.com

If you wish to attend the parade, contact the Ngapona Coxn, CPOCSS Shane Kennedy, :09 446 1438, with your name and car registration number.

Muster at HMNZS Ngapona

Fall In - 0730

Step Off - 1745

INTER ISLAND FERRY SERVICE

The Interislander's KAITAKI vessel was forced to dock again on Sunday, only one day after it was given the all-clear to sail following an engine failure in January. Interislander has denied shutting down comments on its Facebook page following another ferry breakdown was a PR move. Interislander's largest ferry - the KAITAKI - is out of action again after a gearbox fault, which was identified less than 24 hours after it began sailing again for the first time in five weeks. A technician from the Netherlands is urgently travelling to New Zealand to inspect the gearbox and the ferry is expected to be back up and running on the Cook Strait in two weeks. Pressure mounts on Cook Strait ferry services after breakdown just one day after all-clear to sail. Interislander has moved customers booked on the KAITAKI to the ARATERE and KAIARAHU ferries, which are providing additional sailings to ease the pressure. Interislander has two new rail-enabled ferries that are due to enter service in 2025 and 2026. It said these ferries will be

game changers in terms of reliability. *Source: Newshub*



Kaitaki

RUSSIAN NAVAL ACTIVITY

As Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine continues to rage, United States commanders and military observers are sounding the alarm about the activity of Russia's submarine fleet thousands of miles away, off the U.S. coast. Throughout the war, which began when Putin launched a full-scale invasion of neighbouring Ukraine last February, there has been a build-up of Russian Navy forces in the Black Sea. There has also been an increasing presence of Russian submarines off of U.S. coasts and in the Mediterranean, according to officials. The Russian Navy commands one of the most diverse submarine fleets in the world. Some are capable of carrying ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads, which Moscow considers key to its strategic deterrent. The nation has been working to improve its submarine fleet since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Over the past several years in particular, Moscow produced a series of submarines that have the capability to reach the most critical targets in the U.S. and continental Europe. In December, Putin said his country would be building more nuclear-powered submarines, "which will ensure Russia's security for decades to come." There are indications that "nuclear-powered submarines have been deploying off the coast of the United States and into the Mediterranean and elsewhere along Europe periphery," Michael Peterson, director of the Russia Maritime Studies Institute (RMSI), which conducts research on Russian military and economic issues linked to the world's oceans, told Newsweek.

A FRIGATE, BUT NOT AS WE KNEW IT

Japanese shipbuilder Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Maritime Systems Co., Ltd. held a delivery ceremony and a "self-defence ship flag raising ceremony" for the MIKUMA'. The event means the ship, the fourth Mogami-class FFM, was officially commissioned with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).



JMSDF Mikuma

NEW BUILDINGS FOR SCOTT BASE

Dutch firm Mammoet is doing the heavy lifting in New Zealand's plans to revamp its sole Antarctic research base with three prefabricated buildings in January 2027. Leighs Construction will build the Scott research station as a series of prepacked modules for client Antarctica New Zealand. Logistics company BigLift Shipping will take it 3,720km to Pram Point, Ross Island, located in New Zealand's segment of Antarctica. The modules will be carried on an MC-class vessel, strengthened to deal with ice and designed to operate in remote areas. Mammoet's self-propelled modular transporters (SPMTs) will move the base onto the ship at the port of Timaru and off again in Antarctica. The three interconnected buildings will be separated into eight modules, each weighing about 800 tonnes, and will be sealed and welded onto the vessel for the journey. Reinder de Haan, Mammoet's transport and logistics head, said the installation method was as robust as possible. "The versatile SPMTs have tremendous power, yet can be manoeuvred with millimetre precision so that each section of the new station will be perfectly aligned when we set it down," he said. Jon Ager, Antarctica New Zealand's project director for the new base, said it would safeguard New Zealand's research programme and presence in Antarctica for 50 years. Construction of the modules will begin at PrimePort Timaru in the summer.



Proposed Scott Base

ROYAL NAVY SHIPS IN NEW ZEALAND

HMS CALLIOPE

A 28 gun Andromache class sixth rate built at Sheerness Dockyard. Commissioned 10 Oct 1837.

Armament: 28 32 pounder gunnades

Propulsion: Sail

Length: 130 feet 2 inches

Beam: 35 feet 6 inches.

Complement: 175

HMS *Calliope* served at Canton 1841 – 1842 taking part in the First Opium War. Then under the command of Captain Edward Stanley she joined the Australia Station being swiftly dispatched to New Zealand where she was to serve for two and a half years.

The ship's Royal Marines saw action in the Flagstaff war (also known as Heke's War which occurred as a result of Hone Heke cutting down the flagstaff at Kororareka and which saw many major actions such as the Battle of Kororareka 11 Mar 1845, the Battle of Puketutu 8 May 1845, the Battle of Ohaeawai 23 June 1845 and the Battle at Ruapekapeka Pa, the Bat's Nest, from 27 Dec 1845 to 11 Jan 1846). A Marine was killed during this battle (William Minifie). Two seamen were killed during the Hutt Valley Campaign (an armed conflict between the Maori and settlers over land issues in the Hutt).

HMS *Calliope* operated mainly between Wellington, Whanganui and Nelson. During this period it transported troops between Wellington and Porirua. A ship's boat commanded by Midshipman Henry McKillop patrolled an arm of the Porirua Harbour engaging Maori forces. *Calliope* took Te Rauparaha to Auckland as a prisoner following his capture at Pimmerton in July 1846.

Calliope sailed for England on 3 August 1848 carrying invalids of the 58th Regiment.

HMS *Calliope* was converted to a floating chapel in 1855 and was broken up at Plymouth in 1883. Calliope Dock at the Naval Base is named after HMS *Calliope*.



HMS Calliope as a chapel

Note 1: There is a memorial commemorating six marines and sailors from HMS *Calliope* who died between 1846-1847 in the Bolton Street Cemetery, Wellington.

Note 2: In 2017, Royal Marine William Minifie's body along with other British soldiers who died during the Battle at the Bat's Nest were found during an archeological dig in 2017. They are named on a memorial unveiled at Ruapekapeka in 2021.

Note 3: Leading Seaman William Roberts, Captain of the Mizzenmast, died of wounds received

in action on the the August 1846 during the engagement at Battle Hill above Horokiri 40 Km north-east of Wellington. Today the site is in Battle Hill Farm Forest Park on the Paekakariki Hill Road north of Pauatahanui.



Ruapekapeka Memorial



Monument showing Private William Minifie

Regards
Jerry Payne
President
HMNZS Ngapona Assn
