

[View this email in your browser](#)



LONGCAST

- 14 April 23 – Navy Club
- 21 April 23 – Poppy Day
- 21 April 23 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Avondale RSA
- 25 April 23 – ANZAC Day
- 12 May 23 – Navy Club

Hi Folks

ANZAC DAY AT HMNZS PHILOMEL

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 the following information for entry to Devonport Naval Base.

FIRST NAME:

LAST NAME:

ORGANISATION: Ngapona Assn

CHILDREN NAMES:

VEHICLE DETAILS (Make/Model/Reg):



Muster at HMNZS Ngapona

Fall In - 0730

Step Off - 1745

HMNZS PEGASUS 95TH ANNIVERSARY DINE & DANCE

The HMNZS PEGASUS Ships Fund intends to hold a Dine & Dance at the Redwood Hotel, Main North Road, Christchurch on Sat 10 June 23 to commemorate their 95th Anniversary. Tickets are \$50.00 per person and include a 3-course meal, band, and a drink on entry. Tables are available for larger groups (10 or 6 seats) and it is open to members of the NZDF, and their partners and friends as well as ex RNZN/Naval Reserve personnel. The Redwood Hotel has accommodation attached (\$120.00 -\$140.00 per night) plus a bar and restaurant. Rig – Formal/Semi Formal (Mess Kit can be worn + fancy dresses). It is also planned to have a silent auction available. Pegasus advise they have already had some good prizes provided. Tickets will be available from 1 May. Register your interest with numbers to Dianne.Fowler@nzdf.mil.nz ASAP and you will receive information regarding payment in due course.

NZ COVENANT/KAWENATA

You will be aware of the work undertaken by the Veterans Advisory Board [VAB] before 2020 and the resultant survey of a cross-section of New Zealanders who answered the VAB questionnaire – **How do the Public of New Zealand wish to recognise their military personnel?**

Well, 2020 is a lifetime away and we have been waiting with bated breath for the Minister for Veterans to establish a New Zealand Covenant/Kawenata. In fact, we all thought the VAB were charged with assessing/reviewing other Five Eyes Nations' Covenants to develop a Covenant/Kawenata which would meet New Zealand's Military needs.

How wrong we were! Today the RNZN Comms Assn received a letter from the Minister of Veterans Affairs which is copied below for your information. This is a debacle. Three years have passed, and we are still no closer to a Covenant/Kawenata. I would urge you to start a conversation with your Members of Parliament of any political persuasion to raise this matter and to get the Government off their backside and do something for New Zealand Veterans.

Hon Meka Whaitiri

MP for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti
Minister of Customs
Minister for Food Safety
Minister for Veterans
Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare)
Associate Minister of Statistics



- 4 APR 2023

Neal Catley
neal.catley@yahoo.com

Tēnā koe Mr Catley

Thank you for your enquiry of 27 March regarding work done in 2020 to explore the possibility of a Military Kawenata. You sought comment on its progress and asked when I may be able to take it forward.

The national conversation, which the Veterans' Advisory Board organised in 2020, was a very useful starting point and established that New Zealanders appear to be supportive of some such action. I'm sure you will appreciate that what is being proposed goes beyond the area covered by my Veterans portfolio.

The proposed Kawenata would apply to all who have served, and their families and whānau, and because of this, the Minister of Defence also needs to be involved in any work required to take it forward.

I am planning to discuss the matter with my colleague, the new Minister of Defence, Hon Andrew Little. Once he has been briefed on the work that has been done to date, we will jointly decide what the next step should be.

Thank you, again, for getting in touch with me about this.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meka'.

Hon Meka Whaitiri
Minister for Veterans

GOODBYE TO TWO IPCs

The Republic of Ireland's Department of Defence is set to take delivery of two decommissioned inshore patrol vessels sold by the Royal New Zealand Navy for NZ\$42 million (\$26.3 million). While New Zealand's needs evolved for vessels with a broader capability, Ireland reports that the ships' specialized inshore capability meets its evolving security needs.

The NZ Navy announced that the two Lake-class vessels, *Rotoiti* and *Pukaki*, will be craned on board a large sealift vessel at Auckland's Captain Cook Wharf in readiness for their voyage to Ireland after undergoing a refit and mobilization to ensure that they met operational seaworthiness standards. While purchasing the ships in March last year, Ireland made a condition of the transaction that the NZ Navy must ensure they are seaworthy. At the time, the NZ Navy estimated the works would cost about NZ\$16-\$19 million (\$10-\$12 million) and would be carried out in the country's major commercial shipyards.

The NZ Navy said that more than 15 businesses in the country spent last year bringing the vessels back to a seagoing state, with the project generating NZ\$26 million (\$16.3 million) in an economic boost for all the local maritime contractors and sub-contractors involved.

While at the shipyards, the vessels underwent an overhaul of all major machinery including the main engines, generators, drive shafts, propellers, stabilizers, and boat davits. They also had a number of system upgrades installed including a new integrated platform management system, maritime communications suite, and CCTV system.

Source: The Maritime Executive



OUR NAVY IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH STAFF SHORTAGES!

The Republic of Ireland's Department of Defence is planning to send a vessel to Libya. How will they man two extra IPCs? The *Lé William Butler Yeats* is due to be sent to Libya for June and July. Questions have been raised over the decision to send a naval vessel to patrol Libya's coast at a time when the navy's ability to protect Irish waters is severely hampered by a staffing crisis. The navy's four remaining ships have been tied up in Cork Harbour since the weekend due to personnel shortages. As a result, no patrols to identify illegal fishing or drug importation have been conducted off the coast.

Source: *irishexaminer*



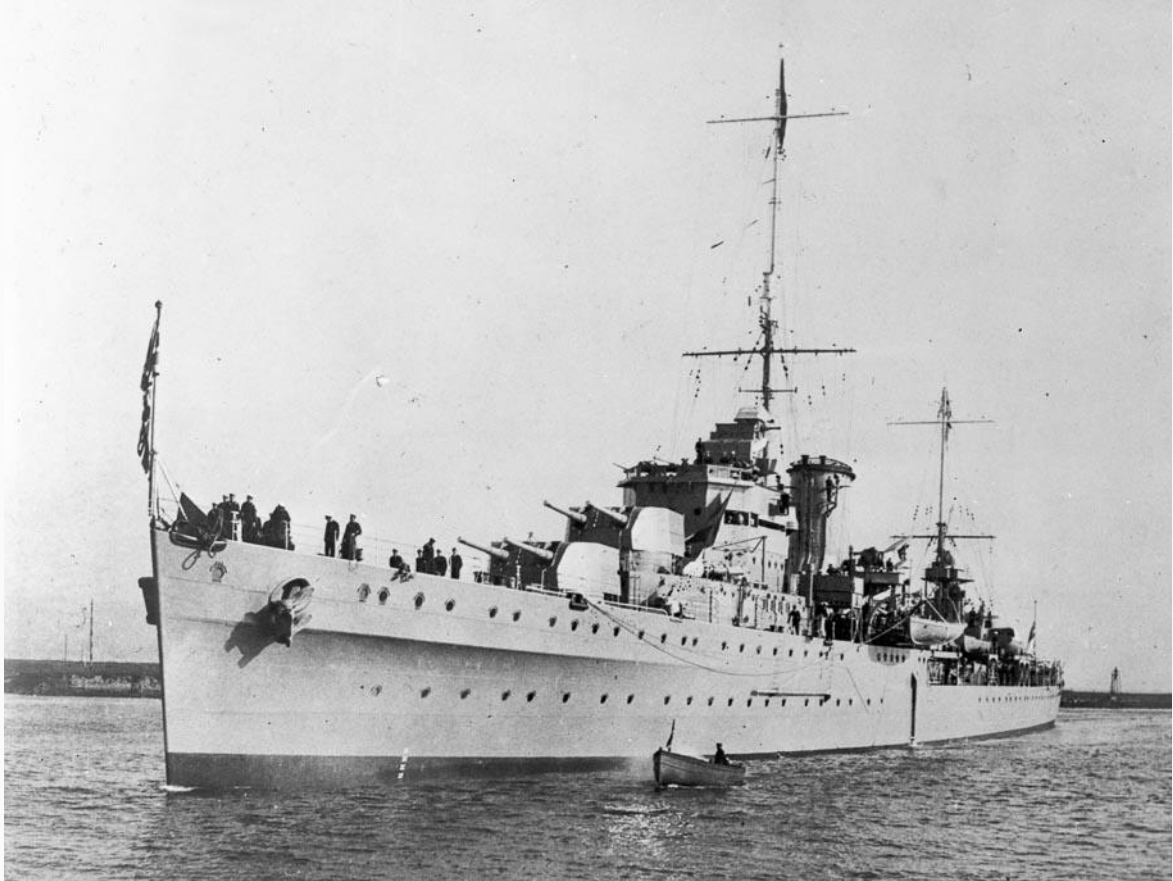
DEVONPORT RSA – THE BATTLE OF RIVER PLATE MOVIE SCREENING

Devonport Library Associates is pleased to recognise the Borough's long association with the Navy ("RNZN"). In conjunction with the Devonport RSA, we present the 1956 classic movie "The Battle of the River Plate" (see poster) on Wednesday 26th April at 6.00pm.

Prior to the movie you are invited to attend the RSA at 4.45pm to hear naval historian Michael Wynd on the formation of the RNZN and the part HMS Achilles played in this historic battle. There will be a cash bar and finger food available.

The link below will take you to the Victoria Theatre Website, by clicking on the 6.00pm icon at the bottom of the page you can book your ticket or purchase direct from the theatre. Tickets are \$15.

<https://www.thevic.co.nz/movie/the-battle-of-the-river-plate>



APRIL FOOL

Submarine programme

No, France Is Not Joining AUKUS and there will be no FUKUS, we hope :).

ROYAL NAVY SHIPS IN NEW ZEALAND

HMS NIGER

A Niger class vessel launched 18 Nov 1846.

Armament: As built: 2 56pdr guns, 4 8Inch 68 pdr guns, 2 32 pdr guns.

From 1850: 14 32 pdr guns

From 1856: 14 32 pdr guns, 1 68pdr gun

Propulsion: Sail

Complement: 160

Length: 170 ft 11.5 inches

Beam: 34ft 4 inches.

Propulsion: Sail/steam

First Commission. Commissioned at Portsmouth 9 July 1850 – Commander Leopold G Heath and was sent to the West Coast of Africa. Then transferred to the Mediterranean and in 1854 to the Black Sea for the Russian War. 2 Feb 1855, command shifted to Commander Henry W Hire. *Niger* paid off at Woolwich on 31 Jan 1856.

Second Commission. Commissioned 14 May 1856 – Captain Arthur Cochran and saw service in the East Indies and China Station. Involved in the second Anglo-Chinese war. Cochran relieved by Captain Peter Cracroft 8 Sept 1858. 1860, *Niger* transferred to the Australian Station.

28 Mar 1860 Captain Cracroft with 60 marines and sailors landed at Waireka to reinforce an engagement that was occurring there. The Kaipopo pa was stormed. Cox'n William Odgers won the first VC in New Zealand by breaking through the pailisades and pulling down the Maori ensigns flying within the pa.

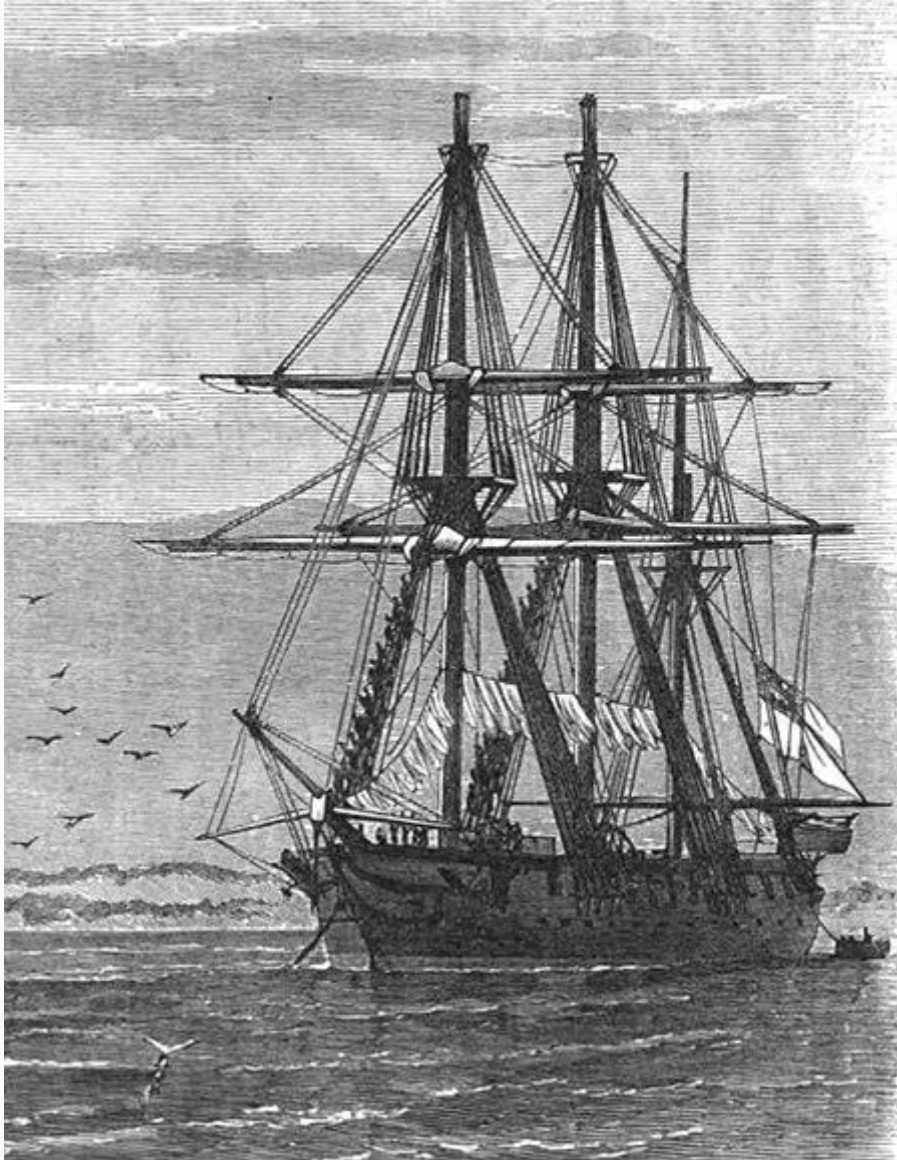
30 March 1860, *Niger* flies the three captured Maori flags and steams down the coast to Warea to shell Maori positions. Her crew also participated in the storming of the Omata stockade. Later in 1860, a detachment of marines from *Niger* were stationed on a hill overlooking the New Plymouth suburb of East End forming what was known as the 'Sailor's Redoub't. The hill, which is now a reserve, bears the name Niger Hill.

Niger returned to England paying off at Woolwich 13 Sept 1861.

Third Commission. 3 Feb 1865 – Captain John C Byng. Commissioned for service on the North America and West Indies Station. However, she ran aground on 3 Mar 1865 in the river Thames at Greenhithe. She was re-floated and repaired at Chatham. Captain James Bruce took command from Byng 9 Oct 1865 returning to England late 1868 (so she must have reached the America and West Indies Station).

Niger paid off at Woolwich 9 December 1868 and was broken up 2 Dec 1869.

Note: Waireka is approximately 5 miles south west of New Plymouth. The engagement there proved the fighting capacity of the newly trained New Plymouth volunteers and militia and saved the town from direct attack by the united strength of the southern tribes. This engagement was the first time a British Volunteer Corps fought an enemy on the battlefield.



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.)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**