

Help

We need numbers for catering purposes Please reply to this email

The monthly lunch for the Association will be held at the Bays Club, Brown's Bay, on Friday, 21st July 23.

This is one of our major events of the year and has been a tremendous success in the past.

To ensure the continued success of the event we need to know numbers attending for catering purposes. Please reply to this email jerry1848@gmail.com with numbers to ensure we reserve a place for you.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE NUCLEAR TEST MEDAL

The Nuclear Test Medal is awarded to UK Service and civilian personnel, and individuals from other nations, who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967 inclusive.

This includes the following named tests:

- (1) Operation HURRICANE
- (2) Operation TOTEM
- (3) Operation MOSAIC
- (4) Operation BUFFALO
- (5) Operation GRAPPLE
- (6) Operation ANTLER

The Medal is also awarded to UK personnel who served at locations where American atmospheric nuclear tests took place in 1962 under Operation DOMINIC.

Operational Areas

The operational areas for the medal will be defined as the territories, waters, and airspace of the following locations where the tests were conducted:

- (1) Christmas Island
- (2) Emu Field, Australia
- (3) Malden Island, Kiribati
- (4) Maralinga, Australia
- (5) Montebello Islands, Australia
- (6) South Australia
- (7) Western Australia

Qualifying Service

The Medal is awarded for service of any length.

Eligible Personnel

Eligible personnel are defined as follows:

- (1) UK Service and civilian personnel, and individuals from other

nations, who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967.

(2) UK Service and civilian personnel who served at the locations where American atmospheric nuclear tests took place in 1962 under Operation DOMINIC.

(3) Foreign nationals who served at the locations where the UK atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, between 1952 and 1967.

(4) The medal can be awarded posthumously to the legal next of kin of eligible individuals who have since died.

For further information, go to:

NZDF.PAM@NZDF.MIL.NZ

POLISH TRAINING SHIP

The ship was designed by Polish naval architect Zygmunt Choreń, named in honour of the early to mid-19th century Polish composer Fryderyk Chopin, and launched in 1992 in the Dora Shipyard, Gdynia, Poland. She was chartered for a year by West Island College (Class Afloat) in Nova Scotia to expand their Tall Ship educational program. After that, she was operated by the European School of Law and Administration, a private university in Poland.

On 29 October 2010 the vessel was reported as in distress 100 miles off the Isles of Scilly having lost both masts in gale force winds and heavy seas. She was on a three-and-a-half-month cruise from the Netherlands to the Caribbean with 47 crew aboard including 36 trainees aged 14 years. Although there was an engine the ship's master was unwilling to use it for fear of trailing debris snagging on the propeller.

There were no reported injuries. The ship was towed into the sheltered waters of Falmouth Bay after 100 miles and three days on tow by a small fishing trawler *Nova Spero*; whose Captain, Shaun Edwards answered the Mayday call.

Since 2011, the ship is operated by 3Oceans, a Polish private ship operator. She serves as the ship of The Blue School; a sail training project ran by STS Fryderyk Chopin foundation.

Under the new owner the vessel won many important races and titles: The Tall Ships Races in 2012, 2015 and 2019 as well as Boston Teapot Trophy in 2019 and 2021.



GOING FOR A HOLIDAY IN FIJI?

Captain Cook Cruises Fiji is introducing the CALEDONIAN SKY to its fleet. Acquired from APT Cruises earlier this year, the 114-guest expedition ship will debut for the Fiji-based brand in November 2023. According to a statement available on the Captain Cook's website, the 1991-built vessel will replace the REEF ENDEAVOUR, ushering a "new era of high-end cruise experiences never seen before in Fiji." Currently the company's sole vessel, the 168-guest REEF ENDEAVOUR has been in service for the company since 1996.

The arrival of the Caledonian Sky “elevates and expands the pioneering expeditions” that its original ship has undertaken since entering service, the company added. Described as a “luxury expedition small ship,” the CALEDONIAN SKY will sail to destinations that are otherwise unreachable, Captain Cook said, including the most remote parts of Fiji, Tonga and Samoa. The program includes different three- to 14-night expeditions, all accompanied by a team of Marine Biologists and cultural experts. The schedule also includes new itineraries for the 2024-25 season, such as a seven-night cruise to Southern Lau and Kadavu. Sailing from Port Denarau, the expedition explores the remote southern Lau and Kadavu island groups, and allows guests to witness the great sea reef, while visiting islands including Dravuni, Moala, Fulaga, Mutuku, Beqa and Vatulele. Also new is the 14-night Southern Lau and Tonga Whale Migration Cruise. According to Captain Cook, the itinerary sails to the southern portion of the Lau group of islands before embarking on an expedition to the outer islands of Tonga during the whale migration period. Originally built for Renaissance Cruises, the Caledonian Sky has sailed for several operators during its three-decade cruising career, including Noble Caledonia and Star Cruises. According to Captain Cook, the vessel is “tailor made” for the “adventurous sophisticated traveller” and offers “spacious boutique comfort” with just 57 ocean-view staterooms. The ship also carries a fleet of ten zodiacs, the company said, in addition to a team of 70 crew members.

source: cruiseindustrynews



PACIFIC COMPETITION

China is sending the navy's "PEACE ARK" hospital ship on a tour of the South Pacific at a time of growing competition with the United States and its allies for influence in the region. The 14,300-metric-tonne ship will call at Kiribati, Tonga, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and East Timor, providing medical assistance to Chinese citizens as well as residents, the defence ministry said in a statement late on Sunday. The ship, painted white with red crosses on its sides, employs more than 100 medical staff in 16 different clinical and auxiliary departments, and can handle as many as 1,000 patients at any one time. There are multiple operating rooms and nursing stations, as well as a blood bank, according to the state-run China Daily. Beijing has been building closer ties with countries in the Pacific in recent years, some of which once had formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan, causing concern in the US, Australia and New Zealand, but also within some of the countries themselves. China signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands last year and hopes to build similar ties with other Pacific countries. Its foreign minister has said relations with the Solomon Islands can serve as a model. China's overtures have led the US to step up its activities with the region. Last year, US President Joe Biden invited Pacific leaders to an unprecedented summit at the White House, pledging to triple funding for the region. It also reopened its embassy in the Solomon Islands in February after a 30-year absence. In May, it opened an embassy in Tonga and is also planning one in Vanuatu. The PEACE ARK, the largest hospital ship of the People's Liberation Army Navy, has previously toured countries in the Pacific and joined relief efforts following natural disasters, including Typhoon Haiyan, which hit the Philippines in 2013. Commissioned in 2008, PEACE ARK has provided medical services for roughly 250,000 people from 43 countries, according to state media.

source: Al Jazeera



HMS BRONINGTON

Once commanded by the King – may find a new home at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard if the 70- year-old warship can be salvaged and restored. The vessel, also known as the 'King's own warship', is a minesweeping ship that has been offered a spot at the historic dockyard. She was commanded by Prince Charles in 1976 during his time in the Navy. However, she is currently in need of repairs and restoration as she was partially sunk at her mooring in Birkenhead. The HMS Bronington Trust has launched a charity fundraiser to restore the ship and turn her into a museum, at an estimated cost of £1m. A five-stage plan has been drawn up to restore the vintage minehunter with the intention of getting Bronington out of the water, moving her to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and creating a special steel cradle to support her. Mike McBride, trustee director, said the response to date from so many people offering money, time and support to raise the Bronington had been "humbling", with the King himself showing keen interest in the progress. He said: "Everything is in place to rescue HMS BRONINGTON and return her to her final squadron base port of Portsmouth – if we can get funding. "She would look good next to HMS WARRIOR and would complement the HMS Vernon-Mine Warfare Memorial up the road at Gunwharf Quays." HMS BRONINGTON is one of nearly 120 warships built in the 1950s. She served with distinction from the 1980s into the 1990s. She carried the nickname of the 'King's own warship' after she was commanded by the King, then Prince Charles, who was at the time a lieutenant commander in the Royal Navy. Source: Forces

