



## LONGCAST

10 November 23 - Navy Club

11 November 23 - Armistice Day

18 November 23 - Ngapona Christmas Lunch at Birkenhead RSA (Saturday)

8 December 23 – Navy Club

15 December 23 - Ngapona Lunch at Grey Lynn RSA

### Hi Folks

#### **NGAPONA ASSN – CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

This year our Christmas Lunch will be held on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, at the Birkenhead RSA.

It is most important that we have numbers as soon as possible for catering purposes.

**Please reply to this email with your name and number attending.**

There will be the usual festivities, raffle for a picnic hamper, 'Up Spirits' etc.

Menu and costs will be advised shortly.

#### **PICKLE NIGHT**

The SRFM is again holding PICKLE NIGHT on Saturday 4 Nov 1830 – for 1900 – see attached flyer.



**SENIOR RATINGS FLEET MESS**

**PICKLE NIGHT**

**WHEN: Saturday 4 November 23**

**TIME: 1830 for 1900 Start**

**COST: \$20pp (Limit 60 Pers)**

**RIG: 2C (Red Sea Rig) OR Civilian Equivalent**

Online payments to:  
RNZN Senior Ratings Fleet Mess  
03-0275-0301769-17  
Reference: 4 Nov  
Particulars: Your Rank and Surname

### **ARMISTICE IN CAMBRIDGE 10 - 12 NOV 23**

HMNZS Ngaona will again be participating in “Armistice in Cambridge” over the weekend of 10-12 Nov at Lake Karapiro. Personnel from Ngaona will be crewing a J3 RHIB, running a children’s activity and liaising with the public. On the Sunday an Armistice Day Memorial Service will be held at the Cenotaph in Cambridge. This year’s event at Lake Karapiro is being held in conjunction with another event, The Great Summertime Festival. Final details and timings of the joint event are coming together, and it is promising to be a great weekend.

### **MARITIME SOCIETIES ANNUAL DINNER**

The 13th Maritime Societies Annual Dinner will be held at the Northern Club. 1830, Friday 1 Dec 23, Rig: Mess Dress. POC CDR Ken Hogan RNZNR [ken@epinz.co.nz](mailto:ken@epinz.co.nz).

### **DEVONPORT RSA**

The Devonport RSA is holding a CLUB NIGHT on Fri 3 Nov 1600-2100.

Bar refreshments and finger food available Come along and enjoy a game of pool or darts or just a catch up with ex serving and serving personnel.

## **NEW NAVAL BASE IN MAURITIUS**

The international focus on China's expanding presence in Africa has overshadowed another significant development – India's strategic investment in the region. Quietly, but assertively, India has been building a naval base on the remote Agaléga islands of Mauritius. The Agaléga islands of Mauritius have remained a pristine sanctuary, untouched by tourism and industry. Home to around 300 residents, these islands have largely sustained themselves through traditional practices, relying on coconuts and fish. Yet, beneath this tranquil façade, a seismic transformation has taken place. India's Strategic Makeover In a region that houses some of the world's busiest shipping lanes, India has unveiled a significant upgrade to its facility in the small island. Previously, the islands possessed a single dock for fishing boats and a small airfield. However, this changed in 2021 when India constructed a substantial airstrip and jetty on Agaléga's larger northern island. The Indian Navy will send at least 50 officers and guards to staff the new airstrip, which can handle Boeing P-8I surveillance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft of the Indian Armed Forces. This development signifies India's ambition to extend its influence in the southwest Indian Ocean, solidifying its maritime presence.

## **AUSTRALIAN NAVY HAS WATER PROBLEMS**

Sailors serving on board two new overseas-built Australian warships are being forced to drink bottled water as the navy works to urgently fix a contamination problem linked to plumbing. Water supplies on both vessels are currently unsuitable for human consumption. Defence does not believe the water contamination problems would prevent the tankers from being deployed on operations HMAS Supply and her sister ship HMAS Stalwart were commissioned in 2021 after being constructed by Spanish state-owned company Navantia at its Ferrol shipyard. Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy says the government was recently informed that water supplies on both Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment vessels were unsuitable for human consumption. "Poor quality manufacture has led to pipes being contaminated, drinking water being contaminated and our sailors not being able to access safe drinking water," he told the ABC.

## **AUCKLAND ROCKIES**

In 1995 Lt Cdr John McEwan produced a 400-page book on the history of the Naval Reserves in New Zealand. This well researched book gave the history of the founding of Ngapona and its activities up to 1995. John has started researching the period 1995 to 2020. He needs help with any historical material, including photographs and medallic recognition for that period. If you are able to assist, please contact John; [john.mcewan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.mcewan@xtra.co.nz) The intent is to have the book complete and ready for sale for the Ngapona Centenary in October next year.

Your help is need **NOW!**

Regards

**Jerry Payne**

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

021 486 013

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