

Hi Folks

FROM THE SICKBAY

Cliff Hodgman rang me to say Pat is unwell. Our thoughts are with Cliff and Pat at this time.



NGAPONA ASSN MONTHLY LUNCH

Our next lunch will be the final one for the year at the Orakei RSA on 21 December. We will not be holding a Christmas Function this year but instead will make our final lunch something really special.

Orakei RSA is going 'all out' to make this an event to remember. They are going to create a naval theme and have a special menu and the meal will be served at the table. There will also be a door prize provided by the Assn. This event is open to **Partners** and **Friends**.

All you have to do is mark it in your diary, let us know you are coming, and tell your friends.

Serving members of **Ngapona** and members of the **Navy Club** are most welcome.

MENU

Glazed, Baked Ham on the Bone with Mustard Sauce & Cumberland Sauce, Roasted and Steamed Vegetables, Beetroot & Feta Salad with Vinaigrette Pistachios. Dessert offered is Mini Christmas Chocolate Pudding served warm with Hot Brandy Custard and Fresh Cream.

Total Cost is \$25.00 per head. As an alternative meat for those who don't eat Pork, we will have a free range Chicken with Fresh Herb Stuffing. We would like to know of those that require this before the event as well as those who have food allergies such as Gluten Free, Dairy Free.

RSVP required by 17 December. Just reply to this email with **'YES'** in the subject line.



RNZRSA CEREMONIAL GUIDE

Former Gunnery Instructors Warrant Officer Jack Donnelly, BEM, RNZN and Chief Petty Officer Tony Lewis, RNZN have written a Ceremonial Planning, Procedural and Protocol Guide for the RNZRSA.

The first chapter is reproduced below:

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND
RETURNED AND SERVICES ASSOCIATION.
(RNZRSA)



CEREMONIAL PLANNING, PROCEDURAL AND PROTOCOL GUIDE



*"To remember and care for all those impacted
by service for New Zealand on military operations."*

INTRODUCTION/FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I write an introduction to this very helpful Ceremonial Planning, Procedural and Protocol Guide. There are always many questions that arise when an event or parade are being considered, this guide will assist us all.

Firstly, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to former Gunnery Instructors Warrant Officer Jack Donnelly, BEM, RNZN and Chief Petty Officer Tony Lewis, RNZN for their work in developing the concept and creating this valuable asset for the RNZRSA. It is no small feat to pull together the traditions and habits of our three services, and blend them into one guide such as this.

A large part of our work comes under the banner of Remembrance. We undertake this by conducting parades and events, to remember and honour those who have gone before us, and those who still serve in the New Zealand Defence Force today. This initiative will provide us all with a guide to conducting these occasions in a respectful and honourable manner.

I commend this guide to you all and hope that you find it most useful as you plan ceremonial and remembrance events for your RSA and its members.



BJ Clark
National President

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WHY THIS REVIEW?



"I, am a Veteran."

The history of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association (RNZRSA) goes back over one hundred years when it was originally known as the Soldiers Association. Their parades were steeped in military precision, appropriate protocol and meticulous procedures. The reason for this was that the original ANZAC Day services resembled that of a funeral. A time for those soldiers (service personnel) to remember and honour their mates who died in the line of duty. Our living veterans today should be accorded the same respect and status given to those soldiers (service personnel) and next of kin at a funeral.

This means they march as a 'stand-alone' platoon and lead the parade, they are first to lay a wreath, first to be mentioned when introductions are made by speakers, give them the opportunity to speak whether it is to recite the ode, a poem, a prayer or as the guest speaker and the privilege of being first to enter their RSA or where ever the reception is being held. This is simply achieved by printing it in the program, have them march off first, making a verbal announcement or by forming a guard of honour at the entrance-way. Many of their ANZAC Day traditional 'duties' and privileges have been taken from them over the years. Our veterans must never forget who they are, what they represent and take responsibility for their future.

This review, in booklet form is designed to inform, support and encourage our RSA planning committees, veterans and personnel to implement these recommended ceremonial planning, protocol and procedural guidelines in the hope that you can standardize some form of consistency and uniformity going forward. We are confident that this resource will empower all RSA's to reclaim their traditional ceremonial privileges.

"Bringing our veterans together"

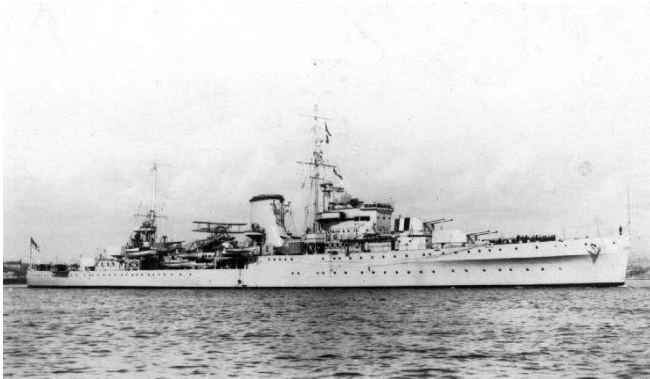
HMS NEPTUNE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The HMS *Neptune* remembrance service will be held at the Devonport Naval Base chapel at 1000 on Sunday 16 Dec 18. This year, the 77th anniversary of the sinking and of NZ 's biggest single day naval loss of life, HMNZS *Ngapona*'s two chaplains, Michael Berry and Helen Gwyn, will be officiating - which is, of course, entirely appropriate given that many of the sailors lost were, in fact volunteer reservists - including 29 from *Ngapona*'s predecessor Auckland Division.

On the night of 19–20 December, *Neptune* struck two mines, part of an Italian minefield laid by an Italian cruiser force in June 1941. The first struck the anti-mine screen, causing no damage. The second struck the bow hull. The other cruisers present, *Aurora* and *Penelope*, also struck mines. While reversing out of the minefield, *Neptune* struck a third mine, which took off her propellers and left her dead in the water. *Aurora* was unable to render assistance as she was already down to 10 knots and needed to turn back to Malta. *Penelope* was also unable to assist.

The destroyers *Kandahar* and *Lively* were sent into the minefield to attempt a tow. The former struck a mine and began drifting. *Neptune* then signalled for *Lively* to keep clear. (*Kandahar* was later evacuated and scuttled with a torpedo by the destroyer *Jaguar*, to prevent her capture.)

Neptune hit a fourth mine and quickly capsized, killing 737 crew members. The other 30 initially survived the sinking but they too died. As a result, only one was still alive when their carley float was picked up five days later by the Italian torpedo boat *Achille Papa*. The sole survivor, Norman Walton, spent 15 months in an Italian prisoner of war camp. In 1991 Walton travelled to Nelson, New Zealand, to unveil a memorial to *Neptune*. Of the 736 that perished, 150 were New Zealand sailors.



MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service for Robert Linton ex Achilles, (died 20th Nov) will be held on Wednesday 5th December at 1100 at the Pt Chevalier RSA. His son Ian (hoskynd@hotmail.co.nz) is arranging the service.