

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

LONGCAST

8 March 19 - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club
15 March 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA
23 March 19 – Kumeu Militaria Show
6 April 19 - HMNZS Otago Reunion, Birkenhead RSA
18 April 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA (Thursday)
19 – 22 April 19 – Easter Weekend
25 April 19 – ANZAC Day

Hi Folks

NGAPONA ASSOCIATION MONTHLY LUNCH

There was only a small gathering for our lunch at the Titirangi RSA last week but those who attended had an enjoyable afternoon.

Our next lunch will be at the Waiheke RSA on 15 March 19. Our visit to Waiheke has proved to be one of the highlights of the year. Make sure you mark the date in your diary now.

Partners and friends are most welcome.

Ferry timetable will be published next week.



'THE ROCK' REUNION 2020

A reunion is to be held in Auckland 14-16 February 2020 for all those who served in HMNZS Tamaki on Motuihe Island (The Rock). This will be a one-off reunion to bring together those who experienced a unique time in their lives and the history of the RNZN. To have completed your training on that island was a triumph in itself and an experience that will never be forgotten.

The reunion will be open to anyone who served on The Rock, either as a trainee or a member of the Ship's Company. Wives, partners or sweethearts will be welcome to attend.

1. There is just under a year from this reunion that has been 78 years in the making and we don't want anyone to 'miss the boat' on this one. However, before we can be fallen in, to be marched back into our history, we need those who served on 'The Rock' in any capacity to register for the reunion. To date there are 51 who have registered and 74 who have confirmed their attendance. We need the registrations to determine numbers attending and how many to cater for in various events being arranged for the reunion. So, if you are interested in attending, we need you to officially register for the reunion.

2. GUIDANCE ON HOW TO REGISTER:

a. On the Internet go to the RNZN Communicators Association website at www.rnzncomms.org. On the opening page there is a black banner under the photographs. In this banner on the bottom row right hand end there are the words The 'Rock' Reunion. Click on this title.

b. In the subsequent drop-down list there is included the title Registration Form. Again, click on this title. (The other titles give you access to other sources of information about the reunion if you are interested. The outline program for the reunion is included in Newsletter #1.)

c. Following the selection of the Registration Form you will be taken to an automated electronic form, which will ask for such details as name, number, contact details etc. Responses to most of the questions are Survivors of The Rock Reunion Newsletter #1 Nov 18 mandatory; that is, you will not be able to submit the form unless you have answered them.

d. Once you have answered all required questions click on the 'Submit' button. You will then get a message on the screen saying that submission of your registration is acknowledged.

e. A confirmation email will then automatically be sent to the email address you gave in the Registration Form, so make sure that you give the right details. If you don't get the email within a few hours, check your Junk or Spam mailbox. If still nothing, try re-registering.

f. The confirmation email you receive will give all the details that you entered on registering for you to double check. It will also give you the bank account number for you to pay the Registration Fee of \$25 per person into. This email also serves as your receipt to retain for your records.

g. If you have any further queries just email me: gijackd@yahoo.com Hope you can make it.

Jack Donnelly
The Rock Reunion committee.

THE MATELOT'S - "NELSONS BLOOD"

"UP SPIRITS!".....Was the most important 'pipe' that many matelots so looked forward to hearing. It meant that their daily ritual of rum issue was just 30 minutes away. It was always carefully prepared and overseen by the OOD, Duty PO and the "tanky" who at times may well have had to "test it for salt"

For some, this very ancient Naval tradition was the highlight of their day, a social gathering to "chew the fat" solve the problems of not only the Navy but the world and at times the opportunity to celebrate someone's birthday.

To share or give away your tot required the cunningness of a 'shit-house rat' but the matelots were right up to the challenge. Gathering around the giver and receiver or distracting the OOD. The 'nectar of the Gods' was swallowed slowly and methodically to ensure that every drop of its taste could be savoured.

The Tot was a very powerful and priceless commodity to have, and for the kiwi sailor it commanded a high price, many a senior rates mess was refurbished, American P jackets traded, RN Seamans knife & spike obtained, engine room parts acquired and Christ knows what else.

Here are a few questions that will create discussion and comments from matelots;

1. Who can still remember their Tot number?
2. Who was the most vigilant OOD that you ever encountered at Tot time
3. Most number of "Tots" you witnessed being consumed by one matelot
4. What is the most valuable thing you ever exchanged for "pussers" rum
5. Why did "Rum Bums" NEVER wash out their Tot vessels?
6. Who was the Governor General who enjoyed "Splicing the mainbrace"
7. Definition of "Queens" "Sippers and "Gulpers"
8. Who was the AB (Gunner) on Royalist who you NEVER made eye contact with before "Up Spirits" His favourite greeting was "All right for today mate?" His interpretation ...All right for your Tot today mate"

Today, this ancient naval tradition is no longer in existence. However, in the homes, pubs, clubs and at reunions, funerals, and at gatherings, sailors still go through this ceremonial procedure although with a different brand of rum. And long may this custom be continued amongst Lord Nelsons disciples...THE SAILOR.

"THE QUEEN GOD BLESS HER"

By Jack Donnelly (WOGI Rtd)



DID YOU KNOW?

On 23rd February 1914, the King approved the grant of the title 'Royal' to the New Zealand Naval Reserve.

Take care

Jerry Payne

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Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn Inc

"There are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea."

"But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."

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