



## HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

### LONGCAST

6 April 19 - HMNZS Otago Reunion, Birkenhead RSA. See [www.hmnzsotago.org](http://www.hmnzsotago.org)

18 April 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA (Thursday)

19 – 22 April 19 – Easter Weekend

25 April 19 – ANZAC Day

3-5 May 19 - Radar Plotters' Reunion, Taupo. Contact [pearcegc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pearcegc@xtra.co.nz)

10 May - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club

17 May - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Pt Chevalier RSA

25 May 19 - Artificer Apprentices Assn, Ngataringa. Contact [andy.francis@xtra.co.nz](mailto:andy.francis@xtra.co.nz)

1-3 June – Queen's Birthday Weekend

1-3 June – RNZN Antarctic Veterans Reunion, Rangiora RSA Contact [bill.lochrie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bill.lochrie@xtra.co.nz)

Hi Folks

### **DAYLIGHT SAVING**

Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, and get an extra hour's sleep

### **HMNZS OTAGO REUNION**

Have you registered for the Otago and All Ship's Reunion? See [www.hmnzsotago.org](http://www.hmnzsotago.org)

## **NEW MEMBERS**

I would like to welcome three new members to the HMNZS Ngapona Association.

**Graham Milne (100357)**  
**Colin Ross (F18313)**  
**Robert McKillop (H106198)**

Welcome aboard, thank you for supporting the Assn.

To all those other past members of Ngapona who receive the weekly newsletter, we encourage you to join the Assn. There is a once only joining fee of \$40.00 with no annual subscription.

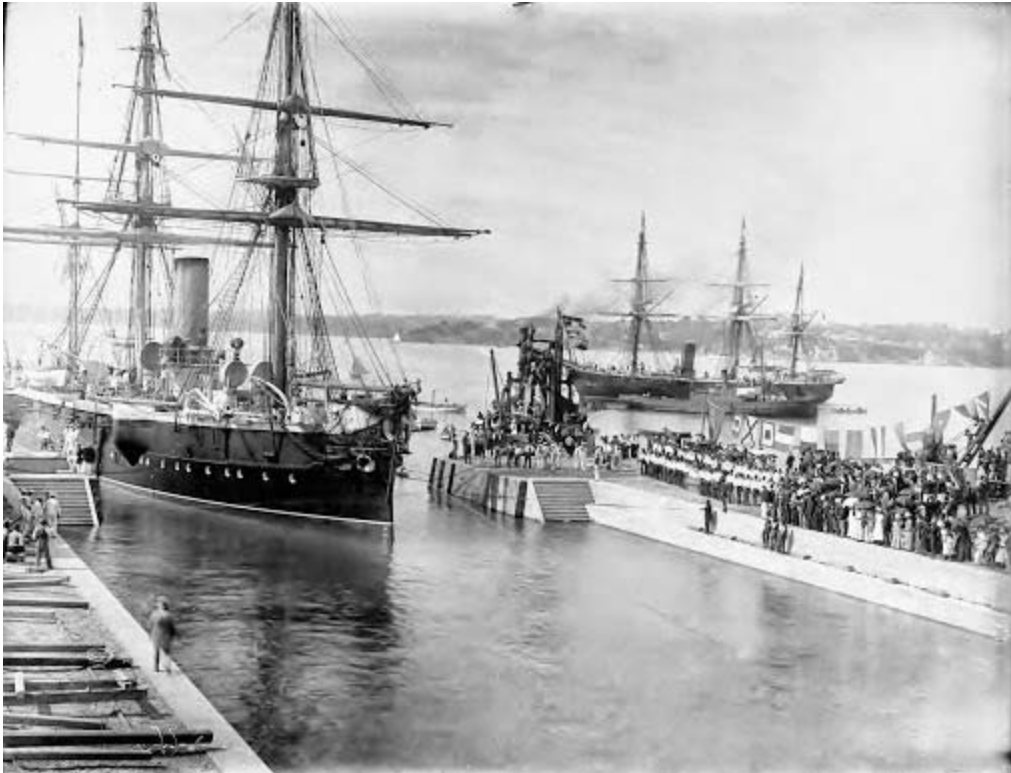
The objects of the Assn are as follows:

- 1 To foster and promote comradeship amongst former members of the RNZNVR and HMNZS Ngapona in particular, those having an association with, or an interest in, the RNZN and/or RNZNVR, and members of the Association.
- 2 To encourage an interest in the history of HMNZS Ngapona and maintain a permanent record.
- 3 To support HMNZS Ngapona if and when required.
- 4 To liaise and co-operate with other Divisions of the RNZNVR and the RNZN.
- 5 To encourage membership of the Association.

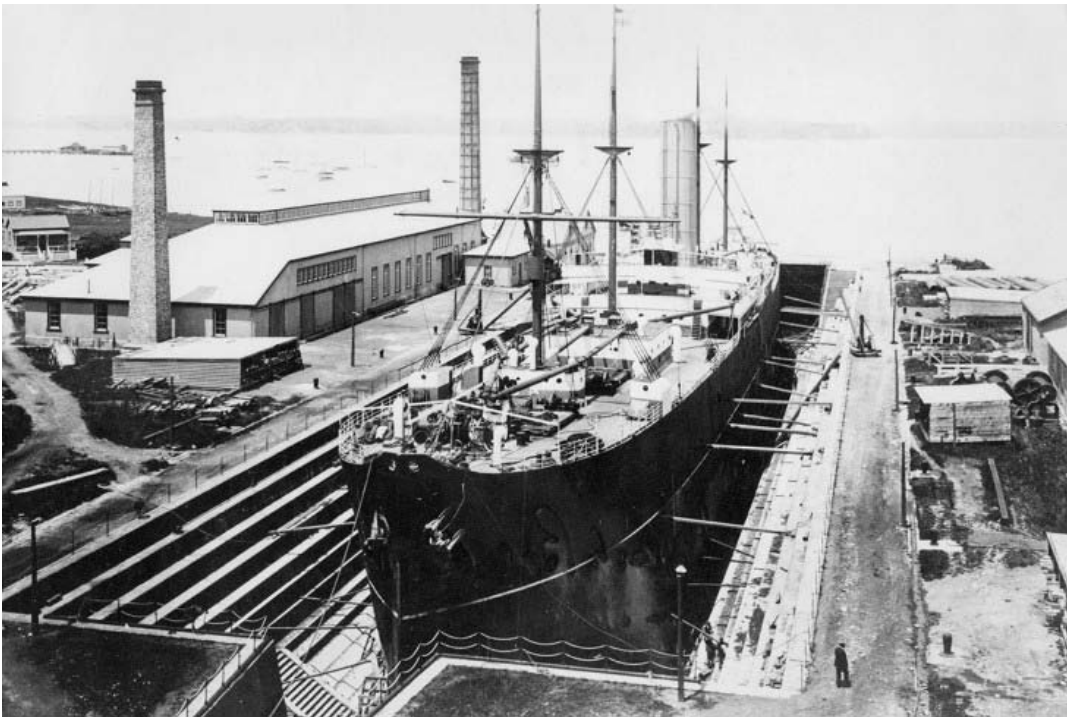
Your membership will help preserve the history of *Ngapona*.  
An application form is attached.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

On 31st March 1936, work commenced on the lengthening of Calliope Dry-dock to be able to accommodate the new cruisers, *Achilles* and *Leander*. It involved extending the dock floor by 13ft, and widening the recess made in 1927 to fit the liner *Northumberland* by 8ft each side. The dock was increased once more, in 1943, to be able to receive the heavy cruisers of the US Navy.



HMS *Calliope* entering the Dry Dock 1888



SS *Kaikoura* in dry dock in 1906

### INTERESTING FACT

HMS *Calliope* was the only one of 14 ships in Apia Harbour, Samoa, to escape the tropical cyclone of 1889. In an heroic act of seamanship Capt Kane navigated his ship out of the harbour entrance in winds of up to 100 knots (130–185 km/h, 80-115 mph) blowing directly into the anchorage. To relieve the strain on the five anchor cables, *Calliope's* boilers were producing maximum pressure; the engines were being worked "red hot", and the propeller was making 74 revolutions per minute, sufficient for 15 knots (28 km/h) in calmer waters.

There were ten men on the wheel and more below handling relieving tackle on the tiller to assist in maintaining control of the rudder. Taking two hours to travel four cables (740m), the cruiser finally escaped the anchorage into the open sea.

The engineer attributed their success to the superior properties of West Coast coal from New Zealand used to fire the ship's boilers.

On 29 October 1907 *Calliope* became a drill ship at Newcastle upon Tyne for the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Tyne Division, and served there for over four decades. When finally scrapped in 1953, the steering wheel was presented to the government of Western Samoa.

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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