



HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

- 3-5 May 19 - Radar Plotters' Reunion, Taupo. Contact pearcegc@xtra.co.nz
10 May 19 - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club. (WoN & SoY)
17 May 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Pt Chevalier RSA
25 May 19 - Artificer Apprentices Assn, Ngataringa. Contact andy.francis@xtra.co.nz
1-3 June 19 – Queen's Birthday Weekend
1-3 June 19 – RNZN Antarctic Veterans Reunion, Rangiora RSA Contact bill.lochrie@xtra.co.nz
16 June 19 – Ngapona Assn AGM, Pt Chevalier RSA

Hi Folks

DEATH NOTICE

It is with sadness that I advise that Jimmy Rodden passed away last Wednesday. While Jimmy was not a member of *Ngapona* he had been a strong supporter of the Senior Rates Mess for many years. His funeral was held today in Henderson. Our thoughts are with his family.

ANZAC DAY PARADE - DEVONPORT NAVAL BASE

Thanks to HMNZS *Ngapona* for organising the ANZAC Day Parade at the Devonport Naval Base. The parade, led by the Navy Band, included Veterans, *Ngapona* Ships Company, 120 BCTs, TS Leander Navy Cadets, and Calliope Sea Scouts. I would have to say that I was disappointed with the number of veterans on parade, perhaps it was due to recent events in Christchurch. I hope we can do better next year.

Special thanks to *Ngapona* Coxn, CPO Shane Kennedy for his organisational skills.



ANZAC Parade - DNB

HMNZS AOTEAROA LAUNCHED

At a launch ceremony this week, the Royal New Zealand Navy's first purpose-built ship in 10 years, HMNZS *Aotearoa*, finally found herself in her natural environment only eight months after her keel was laid in a South Korean shipyard, the RNZN press office announced on April 25.

HMNZS *Aotearoa* auxiliary ship was constructed at the Hyundai Heavy Industries dry dock under a USD327 million contract. In 2020, it will replace the Navy's latest replenishment oiler, HMNZS *Endeavour*, which was decommissioned in 2017.

"Seeing a ship of this size and capability on the water nearing full completion is a really exciting time for our Navy," said the Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Proctor, during his speech.

"*Aotearoa* will provide us with a world-class maritime sustainment capability. She is a ship that will carry our nation's name with pride to all corners of the world as we advance New Zealand's interests from the sea."

At 173m long, HMNZS *Aotearoa* is the largest ship the RNZN have ever had in the fleet. The vessel will carry 9,500 tonnes of fuel enough to 'fill up' a frigate like HMNZS TE MANA or TE KAHA 13.87 times. And she'll be able to carry and operate an RNZAF NH90 helicopter. She is the first ship to use the Rolls Royce's Environship design, which includes a new wave-piercing hull for reduced resistance and fuel consumption. Capability features ice-strengthening and 'winterisation' for operations in Antarctica. HMNZS *Aotearoa* sensors

package includes a Farsounder-1000 sonar and SharpEye S and X-Band navigation radars. The two Bergen Main Engines will allow a maximum speed of 16 knots and a range of about 6,400 nm.

HMNZS *Aotearoa* now begins six months of fit out before her formal naming ceremony in October in Ulsan, South Korea, attended by the Governor-General of New Zealand and the ship sponsor, Dame Patsy Reddy. The Commissioning of the ship will take place at the Devonport Naval Base in Auckland in early 2020.



Aotearoa launched

LENGTH OVERALL

AOTEAROA
173M



HMNZS ACHILLES
169M



HMNZS TE KAHA
118M



HMNZS CANTERBURY
131M



BOOST FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Minister for Veterans Ron Mark has today (24 April 2019) announced additional funding to support the wellbeing of New Zealand's veterans and their families.

The funding will go towards health and wellbeing assessments for veterans to ensure that when they leave the Defence Force they are linked to the right support services.

"The review of the Veterans' Support Act 2014 published by Professor Ron Paterson identified that we need to do more for our veterans and their families," says Ron Mark. This new funding package will address some of his key findings, and help meet increasing demands for services.

"We now have upwards of 31,000 contemporary veterans in New Zealand. These younger veterans need early interventions to prevent service-related mental and physical health conditions from getting worse.

"The new funding will be used to better support these veterans by ensuring they are contacted soon after they leave the NZDF and provided with a health and wellbeing assessment.

"If needed, veterans can then be quickly connected to a health provider or support service, so they will get the help they need, as soon as possible.

"The health and wellbeing of our veterans and their families are paramount, and we are delivering significant improvements in that area. But veterans are proud people, and

sometimes they don't turn to Veterans' Affairs until it's too late. This is why early interventions are vital.

"Also announced today is a much-needed capital injection for an upgrade of Veterans' Affairs existing client management system. Younger veterans expect to be able to get assistance online. Better IT systems will ensure routine transactions can be carried out electronically while freeing up staff to spend more time on complex cases.

"This extra funding demonstrates the ongoing commitment from the Coalition Government to our veterans.

"It is no longer good enough to stand by and let our veterans fall through the cracks. We have a responsibility to put their wellbeing at the forefront of our minds.

"Today's announcement represents significant progress towards meeting the recommendations of the Paterson review, and will ultimately help those who have mental or physical challenges as a result of their service.

"It also builds on the secure funding for grants to the RNZRSA and the No Duff Charitable Trust that the Coalition Government announced last year as part of Budget 2018," says Ron Mark.

The boost in operating funding represents a 5.4 per cent increase on current Veterans' Affairs operating funding over the next four years.

In total it represents an additional funding package of \$4.1 million over four years for Veterans' Affairs. The extra money comprises an extra \$2.1 million in operating funding, and a capital injection of \$2 million to upgrade the existing client management system.



SINGAPORE'S MEGA CONTAINER TERMINAL

The 'Tuas Terminal' mega port will commence its first phase of operations in 2021 with two berths for ships. This was revealed by the Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) which also said that it had reached a construction milestone for the project following the installation of the 221st and final caisson on Tuesday (Apr 23). A caisson is a prefabricated box-like concrete structure, around the height of a 10-storey HDB block, that is transported offshore and then sunk into water to form part of the permanent wharf line. Construction for Phase 1 of Tuas Terminal commenced in 2015 and cost S\$2.42 billion, with 294 hectares of land reclaimed, MPA said. It will feature 21 deep-water berths that can handle about 20 million standard-sized container units yearly. Meanwhile, Tuas Terminal will continue to be developed in another three phases, and is targeted to be fully operational from 2040.

The facility can eventually handle up to 65 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of cargo annually. "The capacity of up to 65 million TEUs per annum enables us to meet future demands and to maintain Singapore's competitive edge, strengthening our Global Hub Port status.



Artists impression of the new Tuas Container Terminal

THE U.S. NAVY HAS TOO FEW SHIPS

As the U.S. land wars in the Middle East fade into obscurity, Washington is slowly bracing itself for the naval age that will dominate the twenty-first century. Inherently a maritime nation, the future of America's role in the world will be determined by its sea power. In light of China's entrance into the global commons, no other military branch is flexible enough to respond to Beijing's challenge and maintain the balance-of-power in the Indo-Pacific. But despite its unmatched technological superiority, the Navy has the numbers problem as a result of self-inflicted disarmament of the United States. Due to perceived low-level maritime threats such as piracy and smuggling in the seas, the U.S. Navy was reduced dramatically in the aftermath of the Cold War. There were simply no great power competitors to challenge the American primacy in the seas. The Soviet Union was gone and the Russian navy came close to extinction. Former Secretary of Navy John Lehman's six-hundred-ship Navy had prevailed over the adversary. As such, by 1998 the Navy had fallen to 350 ships from 592 (1989). Furthermore, the 2012 White House strategy called for decommissioning additional warships including several Ticonderoga-class cruisers. Then Secretary of Navy Ray Mabus justified the reduction citing the growing technological capabilities of American warships. In 2015, the U.S. Navy fell to 271 ships.

By : Erik Khzmalyan - Collection of Maritime Press Clippings

MASCOT FOR HMAS BRISBANE

A little-known piece of Australian Navy history dating back to the First World War is being kept alive with a British Bulldog by the name of Hank becoming the first mascot for 'the Steel Cat', HMAS Brisbane (III).

Hank — who carries the honorary rank of Leading Seaman — took pride of place when Brisbane's 200 officers and sailors recently exercised their Freedom of Entry with a march through the streets of Brisbane.

The Freedom of Entry march was one of many activities the Air Warfare Destroyer fit into the maiden port visit to her namesake city.

The tradition of a British Bulldog representing warships goes back over a century to the First World War.

In 1941 an advertisement was placed in the Courier Mail newspaper calling for a “Brisbane British Bulldog to give to the men of HMAS Brisbane”, a naval base in Bulimba.

Churchill the Bulldog auditioned and won the title of ship’s mascot, marching in naval parades and providing an effective morale boost during the Second World War.

Historically animals on ships would not only be a source of morale amongst the crew, but also contributed to pest control, however today the main duties of a ship’s mascot are purely ceremonial.

HMAS Brisbane is the second of three Hobart Class Air Warfare Destroyers built for the Royal Australian Navy and is based in Sydney.



DID YOU KNOW?

On 1st May 2010, the RNZN Museum at Spring Street in Devonport, closed for the last time.

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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