

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

6 June 19 – 75th Anniversary of D-Day
14 June 19 - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club.
16 June 19 – Ngapona Assn AGM, Pt Chevalier RSA at 1500
21 June 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Howick RSA
12 July 19 – Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club
12 – 14 July 19 - Mururoa Vets Assn AGM, Warkworth RSA
19 July 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at New Lynn RSA
20 July 19 – Northland Lunch, Bay of Islands Yacht Club
3 August 19 – Ngapona Assn Mid Year Function at the Bays Club
10 August 19 – Navy Club AGM, Remuera Club at 1100

H Folks

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 16 June at 1500hrs at the Pt Chevalier RSA. Members are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be available after the meeting. We need some fresh ideas on the Committee, it is not a big commitment (6 meetings a year), a nomination form is attached, (we will organise a seconder).

NGAPONA ASSN MONTHLY LUNCH - HOWICK

Our lunch this month is at the Howick RSA on Friday 21 June.



**Naval Luncheon -
2 Course Meal \$20.00
Friday 21 June
12pm start
ALL WELCOME**

The lunch will be \$15 for carvery or \$20 including duff and there will be 'up spirits'. The **Howick RSA** has gone to considerable lengths to make us welcome and put on something a little extra.
Let's make this a lunch to remember!!!

HMNZS MANAWANUI COMMISSIONED

Her Majesty's New Zealand Ship Manawanui was commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Navy by the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, the ship's sponsor, in an event at Devonport Naval Base in Auckland last Friday.

The ceremony included the traditional breaking of a bottle of wine on the ship, and the pronouncement by the Prime Minister that "I name this ship, Her Majesty's New Zealand Ship, Manawanui."

"The commissioning of a ship is a significant moment; from this moment Manawanui will come to represent our country, and through the actions of the ship's company, will represent our values as a nation." Jacinda Ardern said. "For these reasons it is an honour to have been chosen to act as the ship's sponsor."

HMNZS Manawanui is the fourth ship of the Royal New Zealand Navy to hold the name. Manawanui in English means 'steadfast' or 'big heart'. Manawanui will serve as a dive and hydrographic vessel for the Royal New Zealand Navy, replacing HMNZS Resolution and the previous HMNZS Manawanui.

Manawanui's predecessor had a long history of service, including clearing unexploded ordnance from World War II in the Pacific, undertaking search and recovery, and inspecting hazards in sea lanes.

“The impact of these tasks on communities in New Zealand and across the Pacific is real and it is meaningful. For some it means being able to engage with the environment safely, and to journey with certainty.” Jacinda Ardern said. “These are small things we take for granted, but they are vital to our wellbeing. They allow communities to connect, to generate livelihoods, and of course to engage with their natural surroundings.

The Prime Minister concluded the ceremony with the words to Manawanui’s crew, “kia kaha, kia m•ia, kia manawanui; be strong, be brave, be steadfast.”

The modern design and systems of the Manawanui will provide improved capacity, safety and capability over the vessels it replaces. Some of the new and enhanced capabilities include a 100 ton salvage crane, a remotely operated vehicle and a contemporary dynamic positioning system, which will allow the Navy’s specialist divers to achieve greater levels of effectiveness and safety, in a greater range of conditions. Defence Minister Ron Mark said, “Manawanui is a highly capable ship, and will be a game changer domestically and for our South Pacific region, where it will operate frequently. Its commissioning comes at a time when we have raised the priority for operating in the South Pacific to the same level as our own territory, commensurate with the Coalition Government’s Pacific Reset.

“Manawanui is also a procurement success story, having been delivered in the space of ten months since contract signature in August 2018. The ship will now undergo a second stage of modifications in New Zealand to install defence specific equipment. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.” Ron Mark said.

(Stuff)



HMNZS Manawanui Commissioning Ceremony



HMNZS Manawanui



Manawanui - 100 tonne crane

BOOK REVIEW

TEMPORARY ACTING GENTLEMAN-SEAMAN by Neil Harton

In August 1940 Neil answered an advertisement for candidates for special entry into the RMZNVR under scheme B to undergo training in the UK to qualify for commissioned rank. He sailed from New Zealand on SS *Akaroa* in September 1940 and was drafted to HMS *Ganges* to undergo training as an ordinary seaman. His first task was to climb the 100 foot mast.

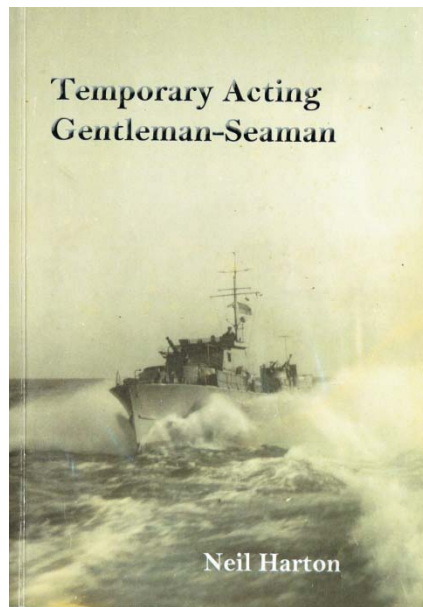
January 1941 saw him drafted to HMS *Arethusa* at Oban in Scotland and they immediately sailed for Gibraltar. On their return to Scotland there were two trips on northern patrol to the Arctic.

In May 1941 Neil was accepted for officer training at HMS *King Alfred* near Brighton. Three months later he was accepted for Coastal Forces and continued training in Scotland. September that year saw him posted to ML 303, a class B Fairmile as First Lieutenant. Six months were spent working out of Great Yarmouth escorting convoys. Many long hours were spent in wet and bitterly cold conditions on an open bridge. In February 1942 he was posted as First Lieutenant of ML 315, a C Class Motor Gun Boat. A year of 'Z' Patrols in the North Sea followed.

On 23 February 1943 he was given command of MGB 331 and was given the status of 'Qualified Officer' which gave him seniority above other RNR and RNVR officers. He took command of MTB630, a 'D' Class Fairmile powered by four 1500hp supercharged Packards and carried about 25,000 litres of 100 octane petrol. The flotilla to which he was attached led the invasion fleet across the English Channel for the Normandy invasion in 1944. Neil returned to New Zealand in October 1944.

I hope you get the opportunity to read this account of life in Coastal Forces during the WWII as told by an RNZNVR officer from Wellington. Those of you who have served on MLs will find it of great interest.

Neil is now aged 102, and it is hoped that he will be able to address us at one of our monthly lunches.



MURUROA VETS AGM

The AGM for Mururoa Vets Assn will be held at the Warkworth RSA, 12-14 July. For further details email 2019.comms@mururoaveterans.com or contact 027 208 1355.

HMAS MELBOURNE – USS FRANK E EVANS INCIDENT

The Naval Chapel at Sydney's Garden Island Naval Base and the Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour have hosted A moving memorial service was held at the Naval Chapel at Sydney's Garden Island Naval Base for the American crewmen who lost their lives aboard the USS Frank E Evans following a collision with Australian aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne (II) on 3 June 1969.

74 US sailors lost their lives in the collision, which was the second time a destroyer operating in close company with the Royal Australian Navy aircraft carrier crossed her bow, resulting in significant loss of life and the sinking of the destroyer.

Director of Strategic & Historical Studies at the Sea Power Centre, Mr John Perryman said that the Melbourne-Frank E Evans incident impacted the Royal Australian Navy even though the aircraft carrier was found not to be at fault.

The court martial of Melbourne's commanding officer, Captain JP Stevenson, RAN was controversial and although he was eventually cleared of blame, it effectively ended his career.

Many years later in December 2012, Captain Stevenson received an official apology from Minister for Defence Stephen Smith, in which he stated that Stevenson was not treated fairly by the government of the day or the Australian Navy following the events of 1969.

DID YOU KNOW?

On 14 June 2017, the Littoral Warfare Unit was commissioned as HMNZS *Matataua*. HMNZS *Matataua* is a commissioned ship in the RNZN and is made up of three distinctive groups hydrographers, divers, and logistics that operate primarily within the littoral or coastal waters.

Matataua provides deployable maritime capabilities to conduct operations that safeguard access to the harbours, inshore waters and littoral zones of New Zealand and wherever New Zealand Defence Forces are required to operate. *Matataua* is based on small, deployable, mission-based detachments utilising a wide range of equipment, platforms and tools to deliver its mission. It is capable of being rapidly deployed by air, sea and land into operational areas. Specialist teams within the groups can be quickly assembled into a composite force. The groups are:

- The Military Hydrographic Group (MHG)
- The Clearance Diving Group (CDG)
- The Logistics Support Group (LSG)

In 2017, the unit officially became HMNZS *Matataua* and was previously known as the Littoral Warfare Unit. *Matataua* means 'Eyes of the Warrior' - a fitting name for a unit of divers, hydrographers and surveyors, who go before the main force to identify and contain any dangers that lie ahead.



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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