



HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

8 November 19 - Navy Club, Remuera Club at 1200
15 November 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Grey Lynn RSA
15 – 17 November 19 – Terra Australis Conference at DNB
13 December 19 - Navy Club, Remuera Club at 1200
13 December 19 – Maritime Societies' Annual Dinner, Northern Club at 1830
20 December 19 - Ngapona Assn Xmas Lunch at Orakei RSA

Hi Folks

DEATH NOTICE

It is with sadness that I have to advise that LtCdr Joe Mills RNZNVR Rtd passed away on Saturday.

Funeral details to follow.

RIP Joe

NELSON'S PRAYER

About an hour before the time when the opposed lines at Trafalgar seemed likely to converge, Nelson left the poop and retired to his dismantled cabin. Here Pasco, the flag-lieutenant, coming in with a message, found Nelson on his knees composing a prayer which was part of his legacy to England:

“May the great God whom I worship grant my Country,
And for the benefit of Europe in general,
A great and glorious Victory;
And may no misconduct in any one tarnish it;
And may humanity after the Victory be the
predominant feature of the British Fleet.
For myself, individually, I commit my life to
Him who made me,
And may His blessing light upon my endeavours
for serving my Country faithfully.
To Him I resign myself and the just cause
which is entrusted to me to defend.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Trafalgar Square is a public square in the City of Westminster, Central London, built around the area formerly known as Charing Cross. Its name commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar, a British naval victory in the Napoleonic Wars over France and Spain that took place on 21 October 1805 off the coast of Cape Trafalgar.

The site of Trafalgar Square had been a significant landmark since the 13th century and originally contained the King's Mews. After George IV moved the mews to Buckingham Palace, the area was redeveloped by John Nash, but progress was slow after his death,

and the square did not open until 1844. The 169-foot (52 m) Nelson's Column at its centre is guarded by four lion statues.

William Railton designed the column and statue to honour Admiral Nelson, after his victory in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

The granite statue was sculpted by E. H. Baily. It is five metres high and stands on a bronze platform made from old guns from the Woolwich Arsenal Foundry.

The four bronze panels at the base of the column depict some of Nelson's battles. The lions, designed by Sir Edwin Landseer, are said to protect Nelson's Column.

The fountains were added in 1845. The mermaids, dolphins and tritons (the male figures with tails like fish) were installed later.

There are four plinths for statues in the square. Bronze statues stand on three of them: General Sir Charles James Napier in the southwest, Major General Sir Henry Havelock in the southeast and King George IV in the northeast.

The fourth plinth, in the northwest of the square, was empty for many years. It is now managed by a Commissioning Group Panel of specialist advisors. This group guides and monitors the commissions for the plinth. The content presents world-class contemporary artworks in the public realm.

In 1876 the Imperial Measures were set into the north terrace wall. Surveyors can still check 'Perches', 'Chains' and other archaic measures against feet and yards. When the central staircase was added, the measures were relocated, and you can now find information about them outside the café on the square.



Nelson's Column Trafalgar Square, London

CHANGE TO HAIR AND ACCESSORIES POLICY

The Chief of Navy has approved the following, effective from 1 Nov 19.

- a. Removal of gender restrictions and definitions from hair and accessory policy e.g males are able to have long hair worn iaw the regulations.
- b. Allowing RNZN personnel to grow moustaches.
- c. Allowing RNZN personnel to wear full head braids on the grounds of religious or cultural reasons.
- d. Removal of the restriction on bald personnel wearing beards.
- e. Addition of policy regarding accessories iaw cultural and Army/Airforce guidelines.

DECOMMISSIONING HMNZS PUKAKI AND HMNZS ROTOITI

On 17 October 2019 HMNZS PUKAKI and HMNZS ROTOITI were decommissioned after more than a decade of service to the Royal New Zealand Navy.

During their service, PUKAKI and ROTOITI conducted a range of tasks for many Government agencies including Customs, Ministry of Fisheries, DoC, Police, MFAT and Maritime New Zealand. Both ships contributed significantly to the NZDF responses to the Christchurch Earthquakes and the RENA maritime disaster. They were also a home for our people during countless training opportunities and port visits from Opuia to Bluff. The Naval Patrol Force will now shift focus to the growing requirement for Southern Ocean patrol and protection of the wider Pacific. This will see the acquisition of an Ocean Patrol Vessel that will support the remaining two Inshore Patrol Vessels and our two Offshore Patrol Vessels.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTIONS

Pharology - is the scientific study of lighthouses and signal lights, their construction and illumination.

(Thanks Gerry Wright - first one with the correct answer.)

Whaler Photo - Kerry Watt, Dick Linton, Peter Jacobsen & Unknown

(Thanks Dave Thorpe)

F-35 FIGHTER JETS LAND ON HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH

British F-35 fighter jets, considered among the most advanced warplanes in the world, touched down for the first time on HMS *Queen Elizabeth*. Pictures captured the moment the first time the Lightning jets touched down on board. Flown by Royal Navy and Royal Air Force pilots, it marked the first time the British jets have landed on HMS *Queen Elizabeth*. The Ministry of Defence said: "Once fully operational, the UK Carrier Strike Group will be a formidable force around the world, using a number of platforms to work alongside our allies".

"The Lightning jets are embarking in the 65,000-tonne carrier to conduct operational trials off the East Coast of the USA". It follows "successful developmental trials last year with US Lightning jets" where forces conducted hundreds of takeoffs and landings over an 11-week period at sea. "The bringing together of the UK Lightnings on the first in class HMS *Queen Elizabeth* paves the way for the world's most up to date, fully integrated carrier force." The fighter jets are the first to "combine radar-evading stealth technology with supersonic speed". The jets, which are believed to cost around £100 million each, can reach a top speed of 1,200mph. The UK currently owns 18 aircraft, with an additional order placed for 30 jets, which also have the ability to land vertically.



F-35 on board HMS *Queen Elizabeth*

SHIP OF THE WEEK - HMNZS CANTERBURY L421

HMNZS *Canterbury* is a multi-role vessel (MRV) of the Royal New Zealand Navy. She was commissioned in June 2007, and is the second ship of the Royal New Zealand Navy to carry the name. She is also New Zealand's first purpose-built strategic sealift ship.

As early as 1988 the Royal New Zealand Navy had identified the need for some form of sealift in the South Pacific. In 1995, this led to the commissioning of HMNZS *Charles Upham*. The subsequent failure of successive governments to fund the required refits resulted in *Charles Upham* being sold in 2001.

At the same time the newly elected Labour Government directed the navy to exclude the option of a third frigate from the Maritime Forces Review, while the sea lift requirement was also part of a wider capability mix desired.

The construction of the MRV was sub contracted-out to Merwede Shipyards in the Netherlands by Tenix Shipyards in Williamstown, Melbourne, with the design based on the commercial RoRo ship *Ben my Chree*. However, the choice of a commercially based design has been criticised after the ship was delivered, as it placed several limitations on the functionality of the ship in rough seas – rather than the coastal environment for which *Ben my Chree* was designed.

The keel was laid on 6 September 2005 and the MRV was launched successfully on 11 February 2006.

She was constructed with an ice-strengthened hull to allow her to operate in the subantarctic waters, where New Zealand governs several islands, and where *Canterbury* is to assist scientific expeditions.

In early 2011, it was announced that the ship would form the core asset of a joint Australia-New Zealand task force for disaster-relief operations. At that time *Canterbury* was the only vessel available to the navies of the two countries suitable for such tasks as three other similarly capable Australian ships were unavailable due to significant maintenance problems.

Coincidentally, the newly appointed disaster-relief ship was in the port of Lyttelton less than two weeks later during the devastating February 2011 Christchurch earthquake. The crew provided meals for 1,000 people left homeless in that town, and accommodation for a small number of locals.

After the earthquake on 14 November 2016, *Canterbury* was deployed to provide relief for Kaikoura, as extensive damage to major roads severely restricted access. The ship delivered supplies from Port Lyttelton to Kaikoura and evacuated foreign tourists back to Port Lyttelton.

As a sealift ship, *Canterbury* is not intended to enter combat, or conduct opposed landings under fire. The ship's armament consists of a single 25 mm M242 Bushmaster cannon fitted to an MSI DS25 stabilised mount, two .50 calibre machine guns, and a number of small arms. These are intended for self-defence against other smaller craft, and for ocean patrol duties (for example the intercepting of suspicious civilian craft) during a naval blockade.

The ship has cargo space of 1,451 square metres (15,620 sq ft), which can be unloaded via two ramps, either from the starboard side or the stern.

The ship also carries two Landing Craft. The landing craft have a length of 23 metres (75 ft) and a displacement 55 tonnes (empty) to 100 tonnes (loaded with two NZLAVs). *Canterbury* is able to accommodate up to four NH90 helicopters for deployment ashore in support of New Zealand Army operations and disaster relief activities.



HMNZS *Canterbury* - L421

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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