

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

13 December 19 - Navy Club, Remuera Club at 1200
13 December 19 – Maritime Societies' Annual Dinner, Northern Club at 1830
15 December 19 - HMS NEPTUNE St Christopher's Chapel, DNB.
20 December 19 - Ngapona Assn Xmas Lunch at Orakei RSA
17 January 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
29 January 20 – Auckland Anniversary Regatta

Hi Folks

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION MONTHLY LUNCH

Our next luncheon is our Christmas Luncheon to be held at the Orakei RSA on 20 December. We will not be holding a Christmas Function this year but instead will make our final lunch something really special.

The Orakei RSA is going 'all out' to make this an event to remember. They are going to create a naval theme and have a special menu and the meal will be served at the table. There will also be a door prize provided by the Assn. This event is open to **Partners and Friends**.

All you have to do is mark it in your diary, tell your friends, and let us know you are coming.

Serving members of **Ngapona** and members of the **Navy Club** are most welcome.

MENU

Ham on the Bone, served with Cumberland Sauce, Roasted and Steamed Vegetables, Pomegranate & Potato Salad, and Gravy. Dessert will be Mini Christmas Puddings served with Brandy Custard and Cream.

Total Cost is \$30.00 per head. For those that do not enjoy Ham there will be an alternative meat of Free Range Chicken stuffed with Fresh Herb Stuffing available. We would like to know of those that require this before the event as well as those who have food allergies such as Gluten Free, Dairy Free.

RSVP required by 16 December. Just reply to this email with **'YES'** in the subject line.

Friday, 20 December 2019, at 1200hrs at the Orakei RSA

HMS NEPTUNE CHURCH SERVICE ST CHRISTOPHERS CHAPEL SUN 15 DEC.

Memorial Service – 78th Anniversary of the Sinking of HMS NEPTUNE 1000
Sunday 15 December 2019, St Christopher's Chapel, Devonport Naval Base Rig:
1BW (negative swords) or civilian equivalent.

Two volunteers are required this year to assist in the service – please let me know if you are able to help.

On 19 December 1941, HMS NEPTUNE sunk after hitting a mine off the coast of Tripoli in the Mediterranean. All but one of the 764 personnel aboard lost their lives. Amongst the crew were 150 New Zealanders, many of whom were reservists. This event represents the largest loss of New Zealand life at sea and forms a significant event in the history of our Navy and especially of our Naval Reserve. Ngapona Association members are invited to attend the service which will be led by Padre Michael Berry.

PRESENTATION TO MIKE SUBRITZKI

Mike Subritzki (ex HMNZS Ngapona – E100514) was presented with the Polska Krzyz Zaslugi (Cross of Merit) at a dinner held for all members of the Katikati RSA and Rotary Club members on Armistice Day.

The New Zealand Honorary Consul Mr Boguslaw Nowak, was unavailable so was presentation was made by Lt Cdr Glen Burt (RNZN ret'd), president of the Katikati RSA. The Cross of Merit (Polish: **Krzyż Zasługi**) is a Polish civil state decoration established on June 23, 1923, to recognize services to the state.

Congratulation Subs – Ed



SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS *Hawea* (F422)

Formerly the Loch-class frigate HMS *Loch Eck* (K422). She was purchased by the RNZN in 1948. The ship was to originally have been named *Moana*, after the Maori name for the West Coast's Lake Brunner. The Labour Party Maori MPs of the time forced a change of name to a lake that reflected their tribal affiliations, and it was changed to *Hawea*, after the North Otago lake.

Hawea was involved in the Korean War and in February 1951 she sailed to Kure, Japan, to join the United Nations Task Force. In May she was deployed for convoy defence, patrol and bombardment duties off the west coast of Korea. On 18 May she shelled a gun position on the coast, the first time that an RNZN ship fired on the enemy. From June to December she provided navigational data for bombardments in the Han River estuary, shelling rail traffic and maintaining a blockade. On 15 September 1951, *Hawea* swamped a 7.6-metre (25 ft) motor boat which sank in the Han River estuary while navigating swift tidal channels to reach a bombardment position.

In February 1952 she was relieved by *Rotoiti*, returning to Auckland on 8 March. She had spent 272 days at sea, steamed 55,000 miles, and fired 21,000 rounds of ammunition. After refit and maintenance at Auckland from April to June she returned to Korea in October for further operations. After the Armistice Agreement of July 1953 she returned to Auckland, arriving there in August.

After a refit she returned to the 11th Frigate Flotilla in February 1954 for patrols and port visits. In December 1956 she and *Pukaki* escorted the supply ship *Endeavour* in a passage to the Southern Ocean, sailing from Bluff to the edge of the pack ice. *Endeavour* was taking Sir Edmund Hillary and members of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition to make a trans-polar crossing as part of International Geophysical Year.



DID YOU KNOW?

On 8th December 1955 the Royal Fiji Naval Volunteer Reserve was reconstituted and named HMS *Viti*. ML P3555 was loaned to the Fiji Government as the name the name ship. In 1959 P3555 returned to Auckland and became HMNZS *Ngapona* and attached to the Auckland Division of the RNZNVR. In 1967 she was renamed *Tamure*, she was sold by the RNZN in 1972.



HMNZS Ngapona

Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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