

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

20 December 19 - Ngapona Assn Xmas Lunch at Orakei RSA
17 January 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
27 January 20 – Auckland Anniversary Regatta
6 February 20 – Waitangi Day
14 February 20 – Navy Club Lunch
20 December 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA

Hi Folks

NGAPONA ASSN CHRISTMAS LUNCH

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

We must know by Tuesday 17th December for catering purposes – RSVP to:
editor@ngapona.org.nz

Lunch - Details below. Come and say Hi, Catch up with old comrades, make some new friends .
The set menu looks yum and the Orakei RSA really put on a great venue and function for us!
RSVP by 16th December to editor@ngapona.org.nz! See you there shipmates!

MENU DETAILS:

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.



HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

Royal New Zealand Naval Reserve * Promoting Comradeship * Preserving History

**INVITATION TO ALL EX & CURRENT
SERVING NGAPONA FAMILY,
PARTNERS & FRIENDS**



CHRISTMAS LUNCH



When: Friday 20th December 2019

Where: Orakei RSA

Time: 1200hrs

Cost: \$30ppp (Set Menu with Xmas Theme)

RSVP: By **16th December** to editor@ngapona.org.nz

DOOR PRIZE AT THE LUNCH - WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!

LATEST NEW MEMBER

Rebecca Nelson has recently joined the HMNZS Ngapona Association.

Able Musician Nelson, a member of Ngapona's ship company, enlisted in the RNZN as a Reservist at the end of 2013 as the singer for the RNZN Band. She sings at commemorations and other events throughout the country and around the world.

Able Musician Nelson has numerous career highlights, including singing at centenary commemorations in Gallipoli, The Somme and Passchendaele with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), singing for Prince Charles at his private residence, Highgrove House, for a Royal Navy shipmates' reunion, and signing with Sony music and releasing her album, Poppies and Pohutukawa.

Her latest album recorded with The Band of the Welsh Guards is now on sale and available nationwide through The Warehouse. Devonport locals can pick up a copy from the Navy Museum or you can also purchase the album via her website www.rebeccanelson.co.nz and she will make sure you get a signed copy.



SURVIVORS OF 'THE ROCK' REUNION

reunion is to be held in Auckland 14-16 February 2020 for all those who served in HMNZS Tamaki on Motuihe Island (The Rock). This will be a one-off reunion to bring together those who experienced a unique time in their lives and the history of the RNZN. To have completed your training on that island was a triumph in itself and an experience that will never be forgotten.

The reunion will be open to anyone who served on The Rock, either as a trainee or a member of the Ship's Company. Personnel attending the reunion are welcome to bring their wife, partner or sweetheart with them.

The registration form can be found at:
SURVIVORS OF 'THE ROCK' REUNION



HOW NEW ZEALAND DEFINES AND RECOGNISES VETERANS

Minister for Veterans Ron Mark has announced today the Coalition Government's initial response to work completed by the independent statutory body, the Veterans' Advisory Board.

"When Professor Ron Paterson completed his review of the Veterans' Support Act in 2018, he made a number of recommendations, including one which I referred to my independent advisory body, the Veterans' Advisory Board," says Ron Mark.

The Board was asked to look at who should be considered a veteran and how their service should be recognised.

"This was an issue that a number of veterans had expressed disquiet about. Professor Paterson felt the time had come to look at it again, and I agreed."

The Veterans' Advisory Board has recommended that all who have served should be considered veterans, and should receive services and support, on the basis of need, if they have been injured or made ill by their service in the armed forces, irrespective of where that service took place.

"That would be a substantial change to the current situation in New Zealand and, as the Board recognises, there are a number of implications to be worked through.

"I'm asking my officials to examine and cost the sorts of scenarios for veteran recognition that the Board has detailed, and to examine the possibility of a navigator service to help military personnel transition to civilian life.

"In the meantime, as Minister for Veterans I am using the term 'veteran' in line with the broader and more inclusive definition recommended by the Board, where this does not impact on use of this term as otherwise defined in legislation."

The Board also recommended a Covenant, or Kawenata, be established between service people and the Government and the people of New Zealand.

Such a Covenant or Kawenata would formalise an undertaking that those who serve, and their families, should not be disadvantaged by service, and that special provision be made for those who have sacrificed the most.

"Prominent examples of a Covenant in overseas jurisdictions are the Armed Forces Covenant in the United Kingdom, and the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant, and I believe they have demonstrated significant benefit for veterans and their families.

"Cabinet has agreed that the Veterans' Advisory Board undertake a national conversation with New Zealanders about the possibility of establishing such a Kawenata here.

"The Veterans' Advisory Board will be reporting back to me on their findings by 31 July 2020, and I encourage all those interested in this topic to engage with the Veterans' Advisory Board as they seek the views of the community.

"Early next year I expect to make a further announcement on policy and legislative improvements to the veterans' support system, alongside a summary of progress made on responding to all 64 recommendations of Professor Paterson's report," says Ron Mark.

AMERICA'S NEWEST AIRCRAFT CARRIER CHRISTENED

On Saturday, the daughter of former President John F. Kennedy presided over the christening ceremony for America's newest aircraft carrier. Former first daughter Caroline Kennedy, swinging a magnum bottle of champagne, dedicated the second aircraft carrier named after her father, a former naval officer who served during World War II. The future USS *Kennedy* is the second ship to bear the President's

name and the second *Ford*-class aircraft carrier. The ceremony was held at Huntington Ingalls Industries' Newport News Shipyard in Virginia. *Kennedy* is a member of the new *Ford*-class of aircraft carriers, which will replace the *Nimitz*-class carriers currently serving with the U.S. Navy. *Kennedy* will replace the *Nimitz* sometime in the early to mid-2020s. USS *Nimitz* is the oldest carrier in the Navy, having served continuously since May 1975.

SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS HAWEA (2007)

HMNZS *Hawea* is a Lake-class inshore patrol vessel of the Royal New Zealand Navy. It is one of the Navy's four Inshore Patrol Vessels (IPVs). The ships are designed for maritime surveillance and patrol missions around New Zealand's 15,000-kilometre coast and out to the 200 nautical mile limit of our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The IPVs' primary mission is to ensure the security and prosperity of New Zealanders by undertaking maritime security patrols, surveillance, boarding operations and response to search and rescue call-outs.

Conceived as part of Project Protector, the ships were built in Whangarei by BAE Systems Australia (formerly Tenix Shipbuilding).

Hawea was delivered to the Ministry of Defence and commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Navy on 1 May 2009. *Hawea* is the third ship of this name to serve in the Royal New Zealand Navy and is named after Lake Hawea.

In April 2017, HMNZS *Hawea* conducted a six month deployment to Fiji to help patrol the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). About 380 vessels were boarded and 70 infringements detected during *Hawea*'s deployment to help the Fiji Government in maritime surveillance.

Total distance steamed since commissioning - 119,647.4 nautical miles



DID YOU KNOW?

In New Zealand's worst naval tragedy, the Royal Navy cruiser HMS Neptune struck enemy mines and sank off Libya. Of the 764 men who lost their lives, 150 were New Zealanders.

In early 1941, New Zealand provided crew for the Leander-class light cruiser HMS Neptune, which was to serve alongside its existing ships [Achilles](#) and Leander. The Neptune headed to the Mediterranean to replace naval losses suffered during the Crete campaign and joined Admiral Cunningham's Malta-based Force K.

On the night of 18 December, Force K sailed to intercept an important Italian supply convoy heading to Tripoli, Libya. At around 1 a.m. on the 19th, 30 km from Tripoli, the ships sailed into an uncharted deep-water minefield. The Neptune triggered a mine, then exploded two more as it reversed to get clear. Several attempts were made to assist the stricken cruiser, but when the destroyer HMS Kandahar also hit a mine, the Neptune's Captain Rory O'Connor flashed a warning to other ships to 'Keep away'.

The Neptune struck another mine shortly afterwards and sank within minutes. Only one crew member survived.



HMS Neptune

Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

021 486 013