

## HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

### LONGCAST

14 February 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club  
14 – 16 February 20 – Motuihe Island Reunion  
21 February 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA  
13 March 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club  
20 March 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA  
17 April 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA

Hi Folks

#### **AOTEAROA**

From Capt Simon Rooke, CO Aotearoa. “First day at sea for me on AOTEAROA, our Navy’s newest ship, which commenced a month of Contractor Sea Trials (under the builders control), off Ulsan, Sth Korea on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

What a great day - the ship is performing well. She rides well (weather is calm though, and cold); emergency drills ✓; the Uckers Board the XO and I made over the weekend was put through it’s own sea trials! ✓

The next week will be an amazing learning experience as I quench my thirst for knowledge in preparation for command of this exciting new capability, when she is commissioned into our fleet later this year.”



## **RECRUITING DRIVE IN TUAKAU**

Well done to Peter Jacobsen for organising a recruiting drive in Tuakau for the RNZN.

Last week a Petty Officer attended the Tuakau Youth Centre to talk about life in NZ's Navy and as a further bonus she brought along a Sergeant from the NZ Air Force who talked about the Air Force life, both of these personnel were military recruiters. and a couple of the members were interested in the Navy. The Petty Officer handed out Navy brochures.

Peter says "It is early days as the two oldest Tuakau Youth Centre youths are a couple of years younger than recruiting age, I was expecting more of the teenage youths to turn up, but there was interest by a couple and they were given brochures about joining etc. I will be handing out a few brochures myself."

***Keep up the good work Peter - Ed***

## **THE FINAL COUNTDOWN - TAMAKI-MOTUIHE REUNION**

In just FOUR days we will come together as a "ship's company" to celebrate, remember, reminisce and enjoy each other's company after 57 years. There have been so many barriers, impediments, withdrawals due to poor health, and unforeseen changes over the past 12 months, and they even continue today to get this reunion to where it is. I want to inform/share with all attendees the logistics, statistics and ideas that the committee have come up with for our reunion.

### **a. THE REUNION:**

1. The final number of Tamaki-Motuihe former matelots who will be in attendance stands at 187.
2. The 'show-bags' will consist of, Reunion ID's and program with a few very special memorabilia items
3. Mr Richard Rigalsford who was in the very first intake of trainees on Motuihe in 1941 will be attending the reunion
4. Taking photos of the event and making comments is important to share with those who could not be with us and who are on FACEBOOK. Post them daily if you can. I have never owned a 'flash' computer camera.

### **b. MOTUIHE CEREMONY: Muster at Half Moon Bay Marina 0900**

#### **(Registrations can be done on-board)**

1. Time Management will be crucial. Buses must be at HMB jetty no later than 0900. We will be running to a tight schedule throughout the day. A reminder to all matelots, "The ship is under sailing orders"
2. On the ferry there are 'heads' a lounge, and small café in which you may purchase a coffee and fast food. Bring plenty of water, fruit or small eats, and those with bald heads a hat, It could 'dawn' a sunny hot day.
3. The GI will give a brief on the ceremony for "key" personnel on the ferry. A drill rehearsal will be carried out by the Guard.
4. Those who are fit enough can immediately walk up the hill, doubling is optional, unfortunately, we have been unable to source "micks", tin buckets (for sand) or 5.25" projectiles, however there are .303" rifles onboard? The last bus up the hill will pick up any 'stragglers'
5. CN will be attending the Motuihe ceremony.
6. The Motuihe ceremony will be as short as possible due to all of us veterans being well over 70 years of age.

7. Parking at HMB is very limited. Pre-paid or park in residential street in which you will have quite a distance to walk to the ferry. Best option, to be dropped off and picked up.

8. There will be no wet weather routine.

**c. MEET & GREET: RNZYS 1830 - 2130**

1. We have 111 "G" ratings lining up for their "Tot"

2. Men, don't forget your tot number?

3. No going round the buoy, no gangway stops, no 'queens' no 'sippers' no loitering on the quarterdeck, no tipping your 'tot' overboard and sadly no 'splicers'.

4. Apologies, but there will be no payment of 3 pence for "T" (temperance) men. 'Goffa's' will be available.

5. The wearing of name tags is important. Many of us have changed in appearance, some more than others over the past 57 or more years.

6. CN will be in attendance.

**d. VISITS: DNB 1000 - 1500**

1. We hope you all have a great, relaxing and informative day.

2. Those who will be having a "pussers scan" in Philomel, enjoy.

**e. REUNION DINNER: RNZYS 1900 - 2300**

1. Wear your miniature medals of full medals if you wish. You earned them, so wear them with pride.

2. At some stage of the evening the floor will be 'open' and the opportunity for matelots to 'spin a dit' try to keep it reasonably short.

**f. CHURCH SERVICE: DNB 0930**

1. Those with wheelchairs/walkers are welcome to march alongside the platoon.

2. The church service program is very inclusive, we have two very special matelots who will address the service.

3. There will be two wreaths laid on completion of the church service. One on the war memorial and the other at the foot of the millennium sailor.

**g. FINEX – BIRKENHEAD RSA. SUNDAY 1600.**

1. The opportunity to meet up with some of our "old" shipmates

2. A chance to "Chew the fat" or spin more 'dits'

3. A time to relax

4. To inform other matelots present who could not be in attendance on how the reunion unfolded.

*"Though sailors may disappear, the island remains"*

*"A place where we have a right to stand."*

*"A place we will be forever connected too"*



## MOTUIHE

The final act of the Tamaki – Motuihe reunion.

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February, at 0930, we will be having the normal reunion march from Gambia Square to St Christopher's church in the base. Then the church service in which we have two speakers, Richard Rigalsford, a former Seaman Boy who was in the very first intake on Motuihe in 1941 and our very own Bill Morley.

On completion we will assemble alongside both the war memorial and statue of the millennium sailor where we will lay a wreath for those who gave their lives in the world wars and conflicts. Then the final act of the reunion will take place with the laying of a wreath at the foot of the sailor.

The reasons that I have decided to lay this wreath at the foot of the Millennium Sailor:" is because he represents a period in time, and on this day and this occasion it is our time, our generation, our era and those sailors who served on the "Rock" and have since "Crossed the bar".

A time when we were all sailors. He is one of us, he is all of us, and today, he is a sailor from HMNZS Tamaki – Motuihe. We will never forget them "Lest we Forget"

### ***"SURVIVOR OF THE ROCK " - OUR MILLENNIUM SAILOR.***

The statue of the millennium sailor depicts a matelot off to sea waving goodbye with his kitbag over his shoulder. Sailors have been on this earth for more than one thousand years and will no doubt be around well after we have all gone.

Millennium means a period of one thousand years or an interval of time beginning on any date. Therefore this sailor can represent our time and our generation.

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February he will be a sailor from HMNZS TAMAKI - MOTUIHE and as the final official act of the reunion I intend to lay a wreath at the foot of this sailor

to honour and remember those who served on the “Rock” and have “Crossed the Bar”

*“Lest We Forget”*

*“He is one of us, he is all of us”*



## **RN RESERVES**

### **NEW COMMANDER OF MARITIME RESERVES ASSUMES COMMAND**

Commodore Melanie Robinson arrives with her vision for the future of the Royal Navy's Reserve forces.

Melanie has served in the Royal Navy for 27 years; was amongst the first women to go to sea and remains amongst the first to command a warship. One of only 12 female Captains, Cdre Mel now becomes one of only four female naval officers to have achieved flag rank as Commodore Maritime Reserves (COMMARES).

Setting-out her stall on day one, she said, "I am determined to lead a step-change in how the Maritime Reserves recruits, employs and deploys its personnel.

We are already operating as an auxiliary support force: Offering flexibility and cost efficiency, reserve personnel deliver capabilities into every aspect of frontline activity every single day."

Speaking at the Supersession Ceremony onboard HMS Victory, the first ever Reservist to be appointed in the role of COMMARES, Cdre Martin Quinn said, "Four years ago we commenced a significant programme of change across the Maritime Reserves to enable further regular/reserves integration across a range of capabilities.

"We have never been busier and in the future we hope reserves will be able to do even more."

Cdre Robinson is clear in her aim to grow the Reserves, generating a versatile and agile force by employing a simpler structure, better aligned to the Royal Navy's five core branches and modern requirements.



"I will shortly set-out a future vision for an Auxiliary Naval force fit for the 21st Century. A force that takes full advantage of its unique capacity to tap-into skills and talents unavailable as part of the Regular service.

"Under my command, we shall redesign the Reserves, the way it's run and the people structures that support it, setting the conditions and outlining the offer to Britons seeking to '*protect their Nation's interests*' but on a more flexible basis better tuned to their availability."

Her vision for the future of the Maritime Reserves will include a wider employment offer, a better employment model, and proactive and recognised use of civilian skills to support a transforming Navy.

"The Reserves' greatest strength is our capacity to recruit and employ a fantastic diversity of personnel, allowing the RN to draw upon otherwise unaffordable skills, both from existing personnel and future recruits. From manning OPVs to providing specialist skills, today marks the beginning of a Reserves Renaissance across the next 12 months. It will offer opportunity for Reservists, Regulars, potential joiners and employers alike."



Commodore Robinson inspecting the Guard of Honour

### **SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS Kahu P3571**

HMNZS *Kahu* was one of twelve Fairmile Class B anti-submarine motor boats built in Auckland. Q411 (*Kahu*) was built by Percy Vos and launched in 1943. She saw service in the Solomon Islands during WWII. At the end of the war all Fairmiles were sold except Q411 which was retained by Navy. She carried the pennant number 3571 until being named HMNZS *Kahu*. She was used as a supply vessel for Motuihe Island until being sold in 1965. For many years she sat on a mooring near Hobsonville in a dilapidated state. In 2015 she was towed to Whangarei for a refit that has not happened. She is currently being used as a house-boat without engines or shafts.



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

On 16 February 1996, the Maritime Operations School was opened by Her Excellency Dame Catherine Tizard. The installation of the Nautis Tactical Trainer to replace the Solatron at North Head then followed.



Take care

**Jerry Payne**

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Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn Inc

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