

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

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
20 April 20 – RNZN Band 60th Anniversary Concert at Auckland Town Hall
27 April 20 – ANZAC Day observed
8 May 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
15 May 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Pt Chevalier RSA
1 June 20 – Queen’s Birthday
12 June 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
19 June 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Howick RSA
25 July 20 - Ngapona Assn Formal Dinner at Pt Chevalier RSA

Hi Folks

NEW MEMBERS

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the 14 new members who have joined the HMNZS Ngapona Association in the last week.

Edward Sampson
Mike Clarke
Peter Ward
Mark Geor
Peter Kruse
Andy Bevan
Buck Taylor
Aston Talbot
Tarreu McCulloch- Penfold
Michael Berry
Helen Gwyn
Julie Quinn
Zac Goodsir
Bruce Gordon (A)

Welcome aboard, I hope you enjoy your membership, remember ‘the more you put in the more you get out.’ Hope to see you at some of our social events.

A special mention that Bruce Gordon became our 100th member and that he designed and hosts our website. Take a look at ‘Ngapona.org.nz’ and we also have a Facebook page.

MOTUIHE REUNION

The reunion is now over and by all accounts it was a great success. A lot has been written about the event and most of it can be seen on Face Book at 'Ex RNZN Navy Club', but I would like include a final comment from Jack Donnelly:

'I could quite easily write a book about this reunion. I am so pleased and privileged to have been a part of a committee that "pulled" this event off. Would I do it again? *"you bet I would"* To see the many faces of matelots, their stories, tears, happiness, laughter, shared memories and fun that we had over the 72 hours we were together was priceless! Thank you all, Goodbye, God bless and may you all have a happy life.

"Lest we Forget, and we will never forget Tamaki-Motuihe" '



Richard Rigalsford – the oldest matelot



The Church Parade.

RUM ISSUE – 30 YEARS AGO

The New Zealand Navy was the last Navy in the world to stop the rum ration, on the 28th February 1990.

Other navies in the world removed the rum rations a bit earlier:

- The United States Navy was the first to abolish the rum ration, removing it in 1862.
- While the Royal Australian Navy never issued the rum ration, their sailors were entitled to the rum ration when they were on Royal Navy ships until 1921.
- The Royal Navy abolished the rum ration in 1970
- The Royal Canadian Navy abolished the rum ration in 1972.

Rum was issued to sailors over the age of 20. Taking a tot of rum was not compulsory. Sailors who did not wish to take up their rum issue could receive an allowance in lieu. Junior ratings (Ordinary Rates, Able Rates and Leading Hands)

were required to drink their rum issue on the spot in front of the Officer of the Day and duty Petty Officer between the hours of 1150 to 1210 daily. Senior rates were allowed to take their rum issue back to their mess. Junior Ratings never received neat rum officially. It was always mixed with water on the basis of one part rum to one part water in the RNZN. Rum had alcoholic percentage of 98% or 148 over-proof.



NGAPONA ASSN MONTHLY LUNCH

Our next lunch will be at the Waiheke RSA on **Friday 20th March**. This is a major event in our social calendar and should not be missed. Waiheke RSA always puts on something special and the ferry trip makes it a great day out.

ROYAL NZ NAVY BAND

60th Anniversary Concert

The HMNZS Ngapona Assn is planning an outing to attend the RNZ Navy Band 60th Anniversary Concert on **Monday 20th April** at the Auckland Town Hall. We are planning to meet in town to have a light meal prior to the concert.

Keep the date free. **Details to follow – watch this space!!**

About the Band

Throughout Naval history, music and musicians have formed an integral part of what the Navy does and it is this tradition that the Royal New Zealand Navy Band proudly continues today. The Band does regular community engagement events including

public concerts, appearances at sporting fixtures and schools visits throughout New Zealand. The Band regularly provides musical support at Ceremonial occasions, entertainment at ship departures and returns as well as State Ceremonial Visits. Whenever possible, the Band promotes recruitment and attracts new recruits for the whole of the New Zealand Defence Force.

The Band is based in HMNZS PHILOMEL, Auckland, and travels extensively throughout New Zealand as well as occasionally overseas, all of which makes for a varied and sometimes demanding workplace. All new entrants to the Band undergo Basic Common Training alongside all the other trades of the Navy and all musicians are given a level of medical training, which enables them to step up and provide support in times of civil or defence emergency in a non-musical role. Despite its diminutive size, the Band performs to the highest level in a wide range of ensembles; from individuals performing at Last Post Ceremonies, through duos and small combinations for dinners and light entertainment, to the Big Band and Concert Military Band. The Band of the Royal New Zealand Navy is the only full-time professional Concert Military Band in New Zealand and its success relies upon a level of versatility and musicianship unrivalled anywhere else in the country.

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION – FORMAL DINNER

The Assn is holding their bi-annual Formal Dinner on **Saturday 25th July** this year. This will be the third dinner we have held and all have been a resounding success. Please mark your diary for this event as spaces will be limited.

EX HMNZS TAMURE

Tamure (ML P3555) is currently on the hard at Kopu near Thames awaiting her fate. The hull is in reasonable condition, considering her past, and she is definitely salvageable, just need someone with the time, money and desire to make it happen. My spies tell me there is some interest from Woodlyn Park in Waitomo that has the Fairmile *Motunui* (ML406). But it would be far better to see her restored. Whatever happens, it will not be staying in Kopu for long.

SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS KANIERE (F426)

HMNZS *Kanier*e was one of six Loch-class frigates that the New Zealand government purchased in 1948. She was a Second World War design of anti-submarine frigate. *Kanier*e was the last of the Loch-class frigates to be sent to Korea to serve full time under the UN and carried out patrols and naval gunfire support. With the outbreak of the Korean War the New Zealand government offered the services of the Loch-class frigates to the United Nations Naval Force. All six Loch-class frigates served tours of duty off the Korean coast from 1950 to 1954. The frigates served under RN and USN command as part of the United Nations naval forces operating off the Korean coast. In July 1953 *Kanier*e was on patrol when the Armistice was being negotiated. She was deployed to evacuate South Korean partisans from outlying islands above the 38th parallel which was proposed to be the armistice line for the UN and the North Korean/Chinese forces. She also provided naval gunfire support to operations against North Korea. Both *Kanier*e and *Hawea* were involved in heavy bombardments of enemy guns positions, bunkers and defensive positions right up to the ceasefire. In 1958, she was made a training frigate and remained so until she was paid off in 1960. In 1961 she was an alongside training ship which she did for further five years being sold in 1966 and broken up in Hong Kong.

Her 4-inch (102mm) gun was retained by the RNZN and used for gunnery training up at the naval camp at Whangaparaoa. In 1968 the gun was handed over to the MOTAT museum in Auckland. This has been returned to the Navy Museum and has been refurbished.

The name comes from the lake of that name on the West Coast, 30km south of Hokitika. The nearby mountains were famed for kakapo.



HMNZS Kaniere



Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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