

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

1 June 20 – Queen’s Birthday
12 June 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club (tbc)
19 June 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Howick RSA (tbc)
10 July 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
17 July 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at New Lynn RSA
22 July 20 – Navy Club – Trip to Wellsford RSA

Hi Folks

DEATH NOTICE

MCCLELLAND, John. (Scouse) RNZN 16716. WOPRI. (Ex HMNZS Ngapona)
One of life's genuinely kind, caring souls passed away on 6th May 2020 at Parklane Retirement Village, aged 76 years. Much loved husband of the late Lee. A wonderful father to Chris and Kylie. Brother, Uncle and friend to many who will be dearly missed. A service for Scouse was held last Sunday.

FROM THE EDITOR

This will be the last Newsletter from Home Base Auckland. Our house in Auckland has been sold and we are moving to Waihi Beach for three months while our house in Katikati is being built. I hope to be able to continue the Weekly Newsletters from our new location.

TAMAKI-FORT CAUTLEY REUNION – UPDATE

I have received several emails, messages and on Navy sites about a proposed date for this reunion. As you can all appreciate it will be not only be the incoming committee but also COVID 19 that will decide when this event will take place. The world is a far different place and will remain forever. International travel, NZ advice levels, venues that will be open/closed, what we can and can't do and of course the safe distancing which will be in place for years to come. Imagine having a reunion with safe-distancing? It is going to be so different and a lot of forward thinking by the committee if/when this occasion takes place. I'm confident that when the committee is established the date(s) will be one of their first agenda items. A realistic and significant date would be Friday 22nd – Monday 25th September, 2023. Thirty years almost to the day that Tamaki took ownership of Fort-Cautley on Thursday 26th September. This is not to say that this will be the date as with Covid 19 you never know what tomorrow brings. In the mean-time, the Administration group followed by the reunion committee (when formed) will continue to promote, update, create stories, research history, encourage

comments, “dits” and photos from members to keep the interest up. There is also the QM/REG Office refurbishing project and the fund-raising undertaking to consider. Plenty to do and time is on our side.

GI Jack

SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS MARORO – Q1192, P3554

Q1192 was one of 16 Harbour Defence Motor Launches (HDML) to be delivered to the RNZN in 1943. She was commissioned on 28 September 1943 and joined the 126th. Flotilla at Auckland . Her anti-submarine patrols covered the port approaches, the Hauraki Gulf and northwards to Cape Brett.

She was ready in March 1945 to be deployed to Manus Island but this was cancelled and she transferred to Wellington instead. She paid off from war service in October 1945 at Auckland, was disarmed and placed in reserve on a mooring.

In 1948 she returned to service and commenced duties on the ‘Tamaki’ run to Motuihe Island. At this time she was reclassified as a Seaward Defence Motor Launch (SDML) and in 1950 was renumbered to P3554 and named Irirangi. The Tamaki services ended in August 1963: she was modernised and re-engined with Foden 8s, radar was added, and on 4 August 1964 she was commissioned as HMNZS Maroro for Fishery patrol duties.

Over the years Maroro performed many additional tasks; search and rescue, port visits, escorting visiting warships and in 1970 with Mako was guard-boat for HMY Britannia during the Royal Tour. She was then restricted to sheltered waters and in 1972 was dismantled for disposal. In July 1972 she was sold and went to Fiji as a tourist launch. She was wrecked on a reef on 27 August 1982 and became a total loss.



HDMLs *Maroro* and *Tamure*



A COUPLE OF ML STORIES

- Same trip we were in Bluff and the lads went to a local dance. Wall to wall women and no blokes (or very few) so we kept dancing with the prettier ones each time but sadly got pissed again and left alone. Next morning had hangovers like hell so when the weather forecast came through I added some height to the waves and knots to the winds which made it dodgy to sail so stayed another day.
- New Plymouth ashore again drinking the cocktail of the moment “Chocolate Soldiers”: (tia maria, brandy and orange in equal parts) sailed in the morning, let go the ropes and vomited all over the stern. Those were the days.
- Also remember being alongside in Onehunga so got dressed in our number 8’s tiddly white polo neck jersey’s and sea boots and went into Queen Street in Auckland and hung out being big time sailors from the ML’s and impressing the young sailors who were ashore in regular uniform. Also in Onehunga we were loafing around in the forward cabin playing cards when the CO came on board ropeable. He had spied a beer bottle floating down past the ship and thought we had been drinking and had thrown it out the porthole. Took him a while to settle down and in the end was quite happy we were just loafing.

I copied these from the RNZN Communicators Association website – (thanks Dave) - Ed

DID YOU KNOW?

There are hidden tunnels in North Head, Devonport, containing airplanes and ammunition.

See the interesting documentary at the link below

<https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/mystery-of-north-head-1992>



Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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