

## HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

### LONGCAST

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

14 – 16 February 20 – Motuihe Island Reunion

21 February 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA

13 March 20 - Navy Club Lunch

20 March 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

Hi Folks

#### **FROM THE SICKBAY**

Bryan Shankland is in Auckland Hospital and expects to have bypass surgery tomorrow. Hope it all goes well Bryan.

Jim Paltridge is in Middlemore Hospital receiving chemotherapy. He is expected to return to St Christophers Hospital & Rest Home, Papatoetoe on Friday.

Ray Niethe is in Auckland Hospital and will have another operation on his shoulder tomorrow.

Keith Nicholson is now at home recuperating.

#### **NEW MEMBER**

Our latest member is Ted Ewbank who joined us last week. Ted attended our Christmas Lunch at Orakei RSA in December. Welcome aboard Ted, and look forward to seeing you at more of our functions.

## MOTUIHE REUNION

A 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.

Registration form available from RNZN Comms Assn website.

ANECDOTE #12. *'SURVIVORS OF THE 'ROCK' – THE FINAL MUSTER.*  
(From Jack Donnelly)

INTRODUCTION: After 12 months I finally get to write the final anecdote for the Tamaki-Motuihe reunion. It has been a year-long preparation for our committee who have had to deal with logistics and planning, the many program changes, various organisations, fund raising, seeking sponsorship, transport, initiating new and appropriate ideas and communicating and organising all the information that the attendees require for this reunion. When we began this project, our sole aim was to return to the island with a few *"Survivors of the Rock"* Today, it has become bigger than "Ben Hur" but we are happy with the outcome and response from those who will be attending the reunion. Well done to you all.

TAMAKI-MOTUIHE – "TOGETHER AGAIN" Since September, 1963 when the last sailors left their footprints on the island very few have ever returned to the motu (island) Now, after 57 years about 200 veteran matelots will once again land back on Motu-a-ihenga. The ceremony will be one of nostalgia for them with witnessing once again the raising of the White Ensign, a guard of honour with .303" Enfield rifles, remembering those who have gone before us and the unveiling of a memorial to say that, *"We were there"*

The traditional "Meet & Greet" evening which is being held at the RNZ Yacht Squadron Westhaven will be one of identifying who is who, socialising, reintroducing ourselves to each other, spinning of 'dits' 'chewing the fat,' photos by year, class, intake, division or just 'selfies' of old shipmates reunited again. At some stage the pipe "Up spirits" will be made and the rum bosun will enter the area with a "fanny" to pour into the rum barrel, test for salt and prepare for the customary 'Tot' issue. I'm sure the lantern will swing well into the night.

As with all reunions we have a few visits planned which we see as an important part of the reunion. For our veteran matelots to see the changed "face" of our Navy, talk to young sailors of today, may have the opportunity to view our modern war-ships, visit HMNZS Philomel training establishment and partake in a pussers 'scran' in the Vince McGlone dining hall will be a new experience for many of us. I am certainly looking forward to this part of the program.

The formal Reunion dinner to be held once again at the RNZ Yacht Squadron facilities will be a night in which we all come together to enjoy each other's company, wine and dine, and reminisce of our past life as young trainees. Our guest speaker will no doubt set the theme for the night and to 'open' the floor for others who wish to speak during our meal will be very interesting, funny and no doubt entertaining.

Sunday will see our veterans assemble for our church parade and service. Once we have formed up on Gambia Square (Philomel's parade ground) we will then step off and march in the footsteps of those who have gone before us to Saint Christopher's chapel. A church service followed by the laying of two wreaths, the first on the war memorial wall to those matelots who died during the wars followed by a second wreath which will be laid at the foot of the millennium sailor's statue dedicated to the Tamaki-Motuihe matelots who have 'Crossed the Bar'

A visit to the RNZN Museum before we muster at the Birkenhead RSA for our Poroporoake (Farewell ceremony) The opportunity to wind down, say our farewells, 'catch up' with those Tamaki-Motuihe matelots who could not attend the reunion and other sailors who may be present. A final address, we bid each other good luck and goodbye and the final muster is complete.

*The White Ensign we were proud to have served under.*



### **SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS INVERELL (M233)**

**HMAS *Inverell***, named for the town of Inverell, New South Wales, was one of 60 *Bathurst*-class corvettes constructed during World War II, and one of 36 initially manned and commissioned solely by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). After World War II, the corvette was transferred to the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), where she served from 1952 to 1976.

On 5 March 1952, *Inverell* and three other *Bathurst*-class corvettes (HMA Ships *Echuca*, *Kiama*, and *Stawell*) were transferred to the Royal New Zealand Navy. *Inverell* was commissioned into the RNZN on 10 April 1952, but was decommissioned into reserve after a refit.

In 1965, the corvette was refitted as a training and fisheries patrol ship to replace the frigate HMNZS *Rotoiti*. The 4-inch gun was replaced by a second 40 mm Bofors gun,

and minesweeping gear was removed. She was recommissioned on 15 August 1965, and served until 19 August 1976, when she was decommissioned.

On 1 November 1977, *Inverell* was sold to Pacific Scrap Limited of Auckland for scrapping.



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

On 15 January 1970, while departing Wellington in heavy weather as escort to HMY *Britannia*, three men were washed overboard from the foc'sle of HMNZS *Waikato*. Chief Shipright David Lindsay was drowned and his body recovered by the pilot launch, but Lieutenant Commander John Maire, RNZN, and Petty Officer (later Lieutenant Commander) Bill Morley, were rescued by the ship's Wasp helicopter after over an hour in the water.

The RNZN Seamanship Facility at Devonport is named the 'Bill Morley Seamanship Facility'.



Bill Morley Seamanship Training Facility

Regards

**Jerry Payne**

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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