





HMNZS NGAPONA

EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

### LONGCAST

13 – 15 October 17 – Service Women Reunion, Northcote, Auckland  
20 October 17 – Trafalgar Day Lunch at Te Atatu RSA  
20 October 17 - Old Salts Lunch at New Lynn RSA  
10-12 November 17 - Armistice weekend at Cambridge  
17 November 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Titirangi RSA  
19 November 17 – Northland Xmas Function.  
8 December 17 – Maritime Societies' Annual Dinner, Northern Club, Auckland  
15 December 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Orakei RSA

Hi Folks

### COMMS ASSOCIATION 50TH REUNION

The attached photo is of Jim Blackburn addressing the gathering at the Comms Reunion last Friday. It was great to catch up with some old friends and meet some of the serving members.

### NAVY CLUB LUNCH

The Navy Club is holding their monthly lunch at the Remuera Club this Friday (13th).

### MURUROA COMMUNICATIONS

Correction to last week's email, Jim Dell sent me the following:

The teleprinter circuit with Otago was terminated at HMNZS Irirangi. I was the POOW at the time and when the triggering device was detonated at 0600, the Duty Officer in Wakefield rang me and asked if we still had comms with Otago. I said yes. A few minutes later Admiral Thorne rang to confirm that we had comms. Again I said yes and the Admiral said that was most unusual to which we both agreed as we expected radiation to disrupt high frequency communications for several hours or days.  
Thanks Jim.

## **DECOMMISSIONING HMNZS ENDEAVOUR**

On 15 December, HMNZS ENDEAVOUR will be decommissioned after almost 30 years of service.

Over her time in service, ENDEAVOUR has steamed over 800,000nm and pumped more than 210 million litres of fuel to more than fifteen partner nations. ENDEAVOUR has seen operational service in Bougainville and East Timor as well as conducted deployments throughout Australia, South Pacific, Asia, West Coast of Canada and the United States as well as travelling through the Panama Canal to Europe.

ENDEAVOUR will return to her home port of New Plymouth for the last time on 14 November 2017 where she will officially hand back the charter to the Mayor of New Plymouth before making her final entry into Devonport at 1000, Friday 01 December 2017.

In March 2018, ENDEAVOUR will depart New Zealand for the final time under a civilian crew, heading for India. She will be recycled in an environmentally responsible manner, which will take approximately five weeks.

In 2020, the RNZN will welcome a new replenishment capability for the Navy with the arrival of HMNZS AOTEAROA. Once in service, she will be almost double the displacement of ENDEAVOUR and the largest Naval vessel the navy has ever operated.

## **HMNZS HINAU'S PROPELLER**

Some of you may remember the removal of the propeller from the old HMNZS Hinau at *Kaiaua* in the early 1980s. This was quite an evolution and it was eventually placed on a plinth in front of the flag pole at Ngapona's HQ in St Mary's Bay. Does anyone recall what happened to the plaque which was attached to it or the time capsule which was buried beneath it? The prop has now been moved to the grounds of the Navy Museum at Torpedo Bay, minus the plaque! If you sort of squint at the attached photo you can just see the plaque.

## **CNS #16**

Rear Admiral Keith Michael Saull RNZN CB.  
Chief of Naval Staff: April 1980 – April 1983

Keith Saull joined the Royal Navy as a Midshipman RNR on graduating from HMS *Conway*, a Merchant Navy training school, in 1945. He was immediately posted to the British Pacific Fleet and joined the battleship HMS *Duke Of York*.

Early tasks included assisting in the re-occupation of Hong Kong, attending Japanese war trials and patrolling the waters of the Dutch East Indies whilst serving in the frigate HMS *Black Swan*. Rather than being demobbed he joined an Extended Service Commission scheme and was posted to Palestine where he commanded the motor launch HMS *Moreta* intercepting illegal Jewish immigrants. He was Mentioned in Despatches for his service in Palestine.

He transferred to the Royal New Zealand Navy in 1951 and within a few days of arrival in New Zealand found himself as the Gunnery Officer of the Loch-class frigate HMNZS *Taupo* heading to the Korean War. *Taupo* was to be involved in action in the Han River and at Yang do Island in 1952.

After specialising in gunnery he served in a variety of ships including the cruiser HMNZS *Royalist* and as First Lieutenant and Commanding Officer of the Loch-class frigate HMNZS *Kaniere* [sister-ship to *Taupo*]. In 1959 he became the first Executive Officer of the modern frigate HMNZS *Otago* whose commissioning was a cornerstone in the development of the modern RNZN.

Staff appointments included the Commanding Officer of the training establishment HMNZS *Tamaki* then at Narrowneck and postings to HMNZS *Wakefield* [HQ Wellington] and command of the frigate HMNZS *Taranaki* lead to 1971 when Admiral Saull was promoted to Captain and was posted to command the new Leander-class frigate HMNZS *Canterbury*.

In 1973 Admiral Saull proceeded to Washington as Naval Attaché. Prior to returning to New Zealand as The Commodore, Auckland [COMAUCK] he spent a year at the Royal College of Defence Studies. He was promoted to Rear Admiral in 1980 and served until 1983 as the Chief of Naval Staff [CNS]. He retired from the RNZN at the conclusion of his term as CNS on 6 April 1983 and was placed on the RNZN List of Retired Officers on 17 April 1983. Admiral Saull died on 28 February 2016, aged 88.

Take care

**Jerry Payne**

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President

HMNZS Ngapona Ex Members Assn Inc

*"There are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea."*

*"But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."*

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