



Xmas poster
2017.docx



Northland Lunch
November 2017.docx



HMNZS NGAPONA EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

LONGCAST

- 10 November 17 – Navy Club Lunch, Remuera
- 10-12 November 17 - Armistice Weekend at Cambridge
- 17 November 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Titirangi RSA
- 19 November 17 – Northland Xmas Function.
- 24 November 17 - Ngapona Assn End of Year Function at the Pt Chevalier RSA
- 8 December 17 – Maritime Societies' Annual Dinner, Northern Club, Auckland
- 8 December 17 - Navy Club Lunch at the Remuera Club
- 15 December 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Orakei RSA

Hi Folks

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN - WEB SITE

The Ngapona Assn has received a very generous offer from NZ Websites Ltd to develop and host a web site for the Assn.

The website will serve to keep members informed of the activities of the Assn and hopefully attract new members.

As you will be aware, there is no annual subscription to belong to the Assn, so we are now seeking donations to cover the cost of the website. If every member was to donate \$30 it would cover all our costs, but I know that will not be possible for everyone. If you would like to donate, our bank account is: ASB 12-3287-0184065-00. Please show 'Website' in particulars and use your name as a reference.

Thanks to [NZ Websites](#) for your proposal.

The response to the call for donations to date has been very pleasing but we are still well short of our target of \$1500.

NAVY CLUB LUNCH

The Navy Club is holding their monthly lunch this Friday, 10 Nov at 1200, at the Remuera Club.

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN MONTHLY LUNCH

The Ngapona Assn executive has decided to ask for a "Gold Coin Donation" at our monthly lunches to assist with welfare and hospitality costs. This will not be a compulsory donation but it will, in a small way, help our finances. Our next lunch is at the Titirangi RSA on Friday 17 Nov 17.

NORTHLAND LUNCHEON

A reminder that our next Northland Luncheon will be on 19 November 2017 at the Bay of Islands Yacht Club Waitangi. This will be the last one until next year. Let's make it a good one. More the merrier.

Please RSVP by 14th November with the number attending. See attached flyer.

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN - END OF YEAR FUNCTION

The Ngapona Assn is holding its annual End of Year Function at the Pt Chevalier RSA on Friday 24 November. For those who are unable to make it to our monthly lunches this is a good opportunity to catch up with your shipmates. Partners and friends are most welcome. Just drop Jill an email so we can advise the caterer. See attached flyer.

A NAVAL CAREER IN THE EYES OF COLIN ROSS Pt. 2

Posting into PHILOMEL was a whole change of differing experiences. There was still the discipline, which continued to ensure we toed the line. Some of this became second nature such as Marks of Respect i.e. saluting. There was also the expectation of being on time and working as a group, these are traits that have served me well over the following fifty plus years.

One of the biggest differences was the first exposure to the Engineering Branch. We spent a lot of time both in the workshop and at school. School encompassed both engineering and schoolwork. The MES (Marine Engineering School) was behind where the new Galley now is situated and adjacent to the swimming pool. In those days all engineering and workshop was conducted there. This is prior to the machine workshops being built up at TAMAKI (Narrow Neck).

Senior Rates whom were Artificers taught all workshop and Marine Engineering and we very early learnt they were proud of their rate. They took being called Sir as almost an insult and quickly trained us in the title "CHIEF" This was before Warrant Officers were introduced so there were CERA (Chief Engineering Artificer) and ERA1 (Engineering Artificer 1st Class) and there was the odd ERA2 (Petty Officer).

Still as part of Training Division we resided in B5 dorm, this had all bunks and a recreation space at the end. The other B dorms were just being transitioned from hammocks to a bunkroom. Training Division also had a separate dining room opposite the CRO Flat. This changed shortly after we arrived when it was closed and they opened a larger dining hall ,which catered for all junior rates.

Workshop memories include having to make a square block out of a round bar. Use of chisel and file ensured we all had an array of blisters and bruises. Confidence with a hammer and chisel usually lead to over confidence and a hammer blow, which missed the chisel but didn't miss your hand.

If the Duty PO thought there was talking after lights out the punishment of doubling up the Hospital hill was a favourite but as I recall we only did it a couple of times before it was banned after one of the other classes had a trainee collapse during this punishment.

After this it was doubling between the Cell Block and the PO's Mess. We were out there doing this one night when after about twenty minutes no one had been to check on us, so we took the bull by the horns and fell ourselves out and quickly turned in. Nothing was mentioned so it would appear the PO had forgotten about us.

I found the school work challenging, and suddenly discovered that my three years at Secondary School and playing sport as opposed to putting some effort into school work came back to haunt me. Apprentices did twelve months training in NZ then went to UK for two years eight months to complete their training. Obviously if you were not up to the mark you were not going to be sent. Unfortunately with two other classmates this was our fate. We could either leave the Navy or transfer to other branches.

Making a decision to transfer to become an ME2 was a logical decision as I was enjoying what I had currently been learning so in August 65 made the transition. I found

the rest of the year a bit of a breeze really and looked forward to becoming Ships Company and posting to sea.

Things that come to mind from this time were the movies at night in the Gym, you had to be early to get a good spot and bring your own chair. Most nights were pretty much your own after Dog Watch activities but we were one in four watches so every fourth night there were musters, cleaning up for rounds which the OOD did every night from 1900. If your area was not up to scratch there would be a re-scrub later and the Duty PO was not happy having to come back and re-inspect your efforts.

The YMCA was housed in a building opposite B1 & B2 Dorm, this was good for a recreation space and as part of it was a shop for soft drinks etc. We of course were not allowed to use the Wet Canteen (Beer Bar). Behind the YMCA was the Library which was fairly well stocked with books. These buildings have now disappeared and the area is currently a Car Park.

Towards the end of our course we were sent to load stores on LACHLAN, which was making a dash up to supply ROYALIST which had broken down in the Coral Sea and was stopped in the water awaiting a tug. ROYALIST's predicament was of course front-page news in all the papers. So of course at the end of our training we all looked forward to which ship we were being posted to. ROYALIST by this time had arrived home under its own steam, however you can imagine our consternation when the whole class was posted to her in January 66. We really were not keen to be recognised as belonging to her after all the adverse publicity and of course the enquiries that had already started.

So feeling a bit deflated at this outcome we had our passing out parade and went on leave and draft over Xmas with the thoughts of joining ROYALIST on return in 1966.

To Be continued

CNS #20

Vice Admiral Sir Somerford Teagle RNZN KBE
Chief of Naval Staff: May 1987 – May 1989
Chief of Defence Force: 1991 - 1995

The information available on the net is very limited. I did find the following signal that may be of interest.

FRM CNS

1. In December last year I advised the Minister of Defence that I was my intention to abolish the daily spirit allowance.
2. While recognising the historical significance and service traditions associated with the tot, the rationale for the spirit issue as a compensation for poor food and living conditions no longer applied in today's [sic] navy and the daily issue of strong spirit is simply not appropriate in a high technology service which places

increasing emphasis on individual responsibility. Recent tragic accidents, whilst not in themselves bearing directly on my considerations have nonetheless served to emphasise the need for a sensible approach towards the consumption of alcohol. Accordingly, the daily spirit issue will cease with effect from 1 March 1990.

3. The tradition of quote splice the mainbrace unquote will be maintained as will the authority of commanding officers to approve a special spirit issue following exceptionally arduous duty.
4. The Minister of Defence has approved a gratuitous issue to the RNZN 50th Anniversary Trust sufficient rum for 50,000 one-tot miniatures to be produced for sale in support of the Trusts [sic] objectives.
5. Cancel this message 31 Mar 1990.

Take care

Jerry Payne

021 486 013

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."

(To be removed from this email list please reply to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.)