

# HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

## LONGCAST

- 19 January 18 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
- 16 February 18 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Manurewa RSA
- 18 February 18 – Northland lunch at Bay of Islands
- 9 February 18 – Navy Club Lunch at Remuera Club
- 16 March 18 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA
- 13 – 16 April 18 - HMNZS Otago and All ships Reunion, Poenamo Hotel, Auckland
- 15 – 18 June 18 – Greenies Weapons Electrical Reunion at Napier

Please visit our website at [www.ngapona.org.nz](http://www.ngapona.org.nz)

Hi Folks

Happy New Year to you all from the President and Committee of the HMNZS Ngapona Assn Inc.

We have enjoyed communicating with you over the last year and look forward to a close relationship over the next twelve months. Have a safe and enjoyable Xmas break.

### **NGAPONA ASSN WEBSITE**

I am now putting the final touches on the website and I now need some photographs to give it the personal touch. If you would like to share some of your memories please send your photos to: [Editor@ngapona.org.nz](mailto:Editor@ngapona.org.nz) and I will upload them for you.

## A NAVAL CAREER IN THE EYES OF COLIN ROSS - Pt. 10

The crossing to Japan was on fair winds and calm seas so we arrived in Kobe ready willing and able for Expo 70. Expo 70 was held in Osaka so Kobe was the nearest port for us to attend the Expo. We were there to support New Zealand Day. I was doubly lucky as I was 24 about so was not required for the one hundred man guard. Boy I am afraid square bashing was not my forte and was to be avoided at all costs.

The other plus was I was actually 24 off on New Zealand Day so got to see the hundred-man guard perform and they looked magnificent. It was a real pleasure sitting in the stand and watching the results of some really good parade training show out.

Expo 70 was mind boggling for a young sailor from the shaky isles. When we arrived through the entrance we were met with a huge Seiko clock. The Expo covered a huge area and was our first experience of what are now quite common moving walkways, which transported you from one area to another. There was a huge International Bazaar inside the entrance.



There were pavilions representing countries and also pavilions for some of the large brands. One of those was Bell Communications which displayed the future of communications, a lot of their display has come to reality with cell phones etc. now the common communication tool it was a display we though would never happen but they could see a lot further into the future.

We spent a whole day there and I would estimate saw about a quarter of what was there to see. As a side note when Kerry and I went back to Japan in 2012 we had a guide in Kyoto, when we were having lunch and conversing about history I found out that ironically she had been at Expo 70 with her school on New Zealand Day so it was really a good discussion point and one of her memories was the sailors all in their white uniforms.

The Expo also had Expoland, which was a fun park so we spent some time in there as well. It was a truly a really amazing experience and we were so lucky to be involved.

The rest of the time in Kobe, four days I think we had alongside, was spent watch keeping for two days, a day at Expo 70 and another day which we did some of the local sights in Kobe. It was also my first experience of sake. Who said Kiwis couldn't drink this stuff. Well I think the sake won the battle and it was a very jaded stoker that had the 24 on the next day.

We left Kobe and sailed down the Inland Sea to Eta Jima, anchoring off the Naval College there and then moved on to Miya Jima, which is not far across the water from Hiroshima. I didn't get to Hiroshima but did get ashore on the island of Miya Jima. My memory of it was it was quite run down and Spartan almost. Interestingly in 2012 Kerry and I stayed on the island and it was very upmarket, we also got to Hiroshima so it only took some forty odd years for me to revisit some of my youth.

Whilst we were anchored off the island unfortunately the ship had a major fire in the TS. This was to have far reaching consequences. It was memorable for the dense smoke produced; it was so bad there were bits of insulation from the wiring floating around in the smoke. There were issues trying to find the seat of the fire in such a compact compartment. It took some time to put out and then the job was to assess the damage.

We left Japan and went back to Hong Kong, there was an inquiry carried out and the net result was that without TS we couldn't function as part of the Escort Squadron so a decision was made to send us home some two weeks early. This had a plus for me in that we were to be relieved by WAIKATO and as I was programmed to be married in December my two future Brothers in Law were both serving on WAIKATO. As they wouldn't be home for the wedding I had no doubt they were lining up to extract their share of the festivities early in Hong Kong at my cost.

By departing early we didn't get to meet in Hong Kong as per the fleet plan so my pocket and health were both saved. Also I was promoted to Leading Hand on our way home. This was obviously a great occasion for me, however the Powers That Be decided I needed to change mess and do my share on the stoker's mess as the new LM(E). I didn't want to move so close to getting home as I obviously had all my rabbits well stowed in 3Dz but as usual it was another battle lost and down to 3M I went to do my share.

Some of the other notable things during the deployment watch keeping, we used to take salt tablets as it was constantly above 30° on the plates we perspired quite heavily for four hours and the dictate of the time was we needed to make up our salt intake with these tablets. Some years later this was discontinued, as the theory was that these salt tablets were probably attacking the stomach lining. Also we made up what was called Limus, which was just lime added to our drinking water. Also there was Kai at night, this came down as a chocolate block and was shaved into the boiling water and came up like cocoa I guess. We also made up soup for the middle watch, this could be a soup of anything and there were some interesting brews concocted.

Our arrival home was a very warm welcome. After seven months away and constant watch keeping at high temperatures there was no way I was going to arrive home with a suntan and extra weight. It was a skinny white LM(E) that was welcomed back to NZ by Fiancée and family. It was great to be back with my fiancée and family and of course a lot of edited stories to tell. While I had been away Kerry had arranged our whole wedding. Her parents were overseas on contract to Fletchers building a hotel on the island of Truk so she had been left to arrange the whole thing, and a great fist of it she made too.

We were married on the 5th December 1970 and had our honeymoon on Pakatoa Island. This was a resort at the time run by Kerridge and included a trip from Auckland out to the island on the hydrofoil so that was another experience. Because I had taken leave to get married I unfortunately had to do retard over Xmas, this was not an ideal way to start married life, however I guess it was a foretaste of things to come.



In Jan/Feb 1971 TARANAKI was the designated guard ship for the One Ton Cup regatta. We sailed each racing day and acted as the starting ship for each race, we had Peter Montgomery on-board as race commentator. This meant that the Engineering Branch went 24 about for the duration, again it meant that I was duty every second day and to make it worse even if we were 24 off we had to sail with the ship and didn't get leave until arrival back alongside after the racing day.

It was obviously a good vantage point to watch the racing however the time away from my new bride was not really appreciated. The ship was to go into refit after Tasmanex because of the fire, so we sailed with the fleet. Unfortunately this is when WAIKATO had their major engine room fire so she jumped us in the refit queue and the poor old Tiddly T had to wait her turn.

Luckily I was posted ashore to PHILOMEL and was stationed for seven months at the NBDC School in Shoal Bay.

*To be continued*

## **CNS #28**

### **Rear Admiral John Martin, ONZM, RNZN**

Chief of Navy: 30 November 2015 to Incumbent

Rear Admiral John Martin took up the role of Chief of the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) on 30 November 2015. During his three-year tenure the Navy will celebrate its 75th Anniversary, generate enhanced combat capability and prepare itself for the delivery of new vessels that will enable the Navy to conduct maritime tasks in the 2020s and beyond. RADM Martin also sits on the boards of the Whole of Government Radio Network and the Customs Investment Board.

Until 30 November 2015, John Martin was the Assistant Chief Capability on the staff of the Chief of Defence Force. In this role he served as the capability sponsor for the Defence Force, managing the capability lifecycle from definition to disposal. Additionally, he acted as the deputy director for the 2014 Defence Assessment, a strategic review of the security environment and the deputy director of the Defence White Paper 2015 - a document that will set the defence force tasks, capability and fiscal requirements out to 2035.

John was the commander of the RNZN Fleet as Maritime Component Commander (March 2011 - Sep 2013). In that role he was responsible to the Chief of Navy for readiness of the Fleet and specialist teams to deliver on the Navy's mission, outputs and outcomes and also responsible to the Commander Joint Forces New Zealand for the command and conduct of marine operations and provision of the naval contribution to Joint Outputs.

John joined the RNZN in 1979 as a radar plotter. During his career he has served in the RNZN, Royal Navy and US Navy ships fulfilling the functions of bridge watch keeper, maritime air traffic controller instructor, frigate navigator, warfare officer and commander. He has held a number of operational staff appointments and was involved in the preparation and deployment of Naval units to the Arabian Gulf and Mururoa Atoll. At this time he was awarded the Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM). More recently he enjoyed a number of appointments within the New Zealand Defence



Force encompassing senior level management, leadership development, portfolio management, operational planning and capability development.

A career highlight was his time in command of HMNZS TE KAHA from 2001 until August 2003. The ship undertook a number of deployments to Australia, South East Asia, China, Korea, and Japan. Following a mission to the Gulf of Oman for Maritime Interception Operations, Rear Admiral Martin was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM).

An enthusiastic fly fisherman who also enjoys tramping, walking and sailing, he is a graduate and fellow of the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies (Canberra), and has a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business and Administration.



Take care

**Jerry Payne**

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President

HMNZS Ngapona 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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