

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

- 9 August 20 – Ngapona Assn AGM at Birkenhead RSA
- 15 August 20 – Navy Club AGM – Remuera Club
- 16 August 20 – Sanders VC memorial ceremony, Takapuna
- 21 August 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Birkenhead RSA
- 6 September 20 - Merchant Navy Day service
- 11 September 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
- 18 September 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Mt Maunganui RSA

Hi Folks

NGAPONA ASSN – AGM

The HMNZS Ngapona Assn will hold the 2020 AGM on Sunday, 9th August, at 1500hrs at the Birkenhead RSA.

A door prize and free drink is on offer. Nominations have been received for all positions on the committee so you won't be asked to stand!

Apologies required by Friday 7th July, proxy form attached.

RANFURLY VETERANS HOME & HOSPITAL

Jill Thompson and Paul Clarkson are both residents at the Ranfurly Veterans Home in Three Kings, Auckland. I know they would both welcome a call or a visit. The phone number for Ranfurly is 09 625 3400.

TAURANGA LUNCH

Our monthly lunch for September will be held at the Mt Maunganui RSA.

The date is 18 September and we are arranging transport.

Please advise by return email if you require transport.

HMNZS AOTEAROA

The Royal New Zealand Navy commissioned the HMNZS *Aotearoa*, the service's new fleet tanker and sustainment vessel. A commissioning ceremony was held on 29th July during which Captain Simon Rooke officially took command of the ship.

“In attendance at the ceremony was ship sponsor Her Excellency the Governor-General of New Zealand the Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy and a host of other dignitaries all there to see *Aotearoa* welcomed formally to the fleet,” the NZ Defence Force said.

After a short period of specialist equipment fit-out, HMNZS *Aotearoa* will conduct sea trials before embarking on a series of port visits which will include a very special one to her Home Port of New Plymouth later this year.



LTCDR WILLIAM SANDERS, VC, DSO, RNR

William Sanders remains the only New Zealand sailor to receive our highest military decoration – the Victoria Cross – in a naval action. Born and raised in Takapuna, he also entered naval service as a reservist. In April 1917 Sanders was in command of HMS PRIZE, a Q-ship, when she took on the German submarine U-93. Following that battle Sanders was awarded the VC for his 'conspicuous gallantry, consummate coolness, and skill in command'. Sadly, in August that same year, Sanders and his

crew were killed in action when HMS *Prize* was sunk by the submarine UB-48. We acknowledge with thanks the efforts of TS LEANDER who have faithfully held an annual service to commemorate our most decorated naval hero around the anniversary of his death. You are urged to gather to remember and celebrate the life and service of probably the greatest name in New Zealand naval history at 0800 on Sunday 16 August 2020 at Sanders Memorial (corner of Lake Rd and Sanders Ave, Takapuna) (Rig: 1B) The service will be led by Ngapona's our own Padre, Michael Berry. If you wish to know more about this commemoration, CHAP Berry's civilian email address is michael.berry@aucklandanglican.org.nz.

BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Ngapona Assn has been offered a number of maritime related books by the late Jim Paltridge for disposal.

If you are interest, please email your bid by return email giving the title and your \$ bid. Bids close on 7th August 20.

The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Books will be available for collection at the AGM on 9th August at the Birkenhead RSA. Otherwise post and packaging will be your care.



TITLE

LATEST BID

Warships of the World –	
Royal Navy –	
Ships at War –	
The Great War –	
Warships –	\$25
Salty Dits –	
21 st Century Warships –	
Warships 20 –	
The Endurance –	\$40
Shipwrecks –	\$40
Royal Navy Falklands –	\$40
WW2 at Sea –	
Seapower –	
NZ Naval Vessels –	
Destroyers at War –	
Blue Water Kiwis –	
Speed and Power –	
Battleship, Cruiser, Destroyer –	\$30
How We Saw The War –	
RNZN –	
The Rockies -	\$20

TE KIWI MĀIA (THE COURAGEOUS KIWI)

News from Te Kiwi Māia (The Courageous Kiwi) - a new charitable trust, established by RNZN personnel.

TKM's purpose is to provide rehabilitation, respite and recovery for NZ Defence Force personnel and first responders, who have sustained physical or psychological injuries as a result of their role in safeguarding and caring for New Zealanders.

Our goal is to secure a facility where we can provide the support that is so desperately needed by the organisations listed below.

To create brand awareness and raise funds, we have had a T-shirt designed by the very talented Royal NZ Air Force **Corporal, Renee Thyne (@artbyreneethyne)**.

"My idea for the design was to promote mental wellness. The helmets represent the heads of our responders and the heart not only represents the health of those personnel but the support of the person wearing the shirt." - Renee Thyne

All Profits go to Te Kiwi Māia - to support NZDF and first responder organisations.

T-shirts available in black or white.

Toddler through to adult sizing.

Female and male styles.

\$30-\$35 each.

To purchase one (or more!) of our T-shirts, visit www.tekiwimaia.co.nz/shop. Email rebecca@rebeccanelson.co.nz for your orders and account details.

(Please note, this is a pre-sale, so delivery of t-shirts will begin in August).

Or, if you'd like to make a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz/org/te-kiwi-maia-1

Lastly, if funds are not an option, then simply following us on Facebook and Instagram, or sharing our cause with your friends would be greatly appreciated!

Te Kiwi Māia - currently supporting:

NZDF

NZ Police

Fire and Emergency NZ

St John NZ

Wellington Free Ambulance Service

Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust

NZ Coast Guard

Surf Lifesaving NZ



Rebecca Nelson is a serving member of HMNZS Ngapona and is attached to the RNZ Navy Band. She is also a member of the HMNZS Ngapona Association.

SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS PUKAKI (1948)

The ship was commissioned on 31 July 1944, and as *Loch Achanalt* (K424) was loaned to the Royal Canadian Navy and joined the 6th Canadian Escort Group. In March 1948 *Loch Achanalt* was sold to Royal New Zealand Navy with five other Loch-class frigates. On 13 September 1948 she was formally transferred and renamed HMNZS *Pukaki* (F424). On 15 October 1948 *Pukaki* sailed from Portland with three other Loch-class frigates, arriving at Auckland in January 1949 to join the 11th Frigate Flotilla for patrols and exercises. On 25 June 1950 *Pukaki* was placed at the disposal of the UN Forces in Korea. In August *Pukaki* and sister-ship *Tutira* arrived at Sasebo to join the UN naval command. Initially attached to Task Group 96.5 for escort duties between Japan and Korea, in September she was transferred to Task Group 90.7 to support of landings by the US 1st Marine Division at Inchon, re-joining Task Group 96.5 in October to protect minesweeping operations prior to the landings at Wonsan. In November she was relieved by the frigate *Rotoiti* and returned to Auckland to refit, after which she was placed in reserve.

Recommissioned in December 1952 for service in the 11th Frigate Flotilla, *Pukaki* was assigned to detached service with the Royal Navy's Far East Fleet 4th Frigate Squadron based at Singapore in September 1953. In January 1954 the frigate was deployed in the Yellow Sea for trade protection and as back-up to UN forces in Korea if required. In May she was transferred to Singapore for anti-terrorist operations in the Malayan Emergency, returning to Auckland in September. She re-joined the 4th Frigate Squadron in the Far East Fleet in June 1955, for trade protection and Korean coast guard ship duties, while also carrying out joint exercises with United States Navy ships, returning to Auckland in May 1956. In December she escorted the supply vessel Endeavour during the initial stage of the journey to McMurdo Sound in Antarctica.

In 1957 and 1958 the ship was deployed as a weather reporting ship during the "Operation Grapple" nuclear tests at Christmas Island. Between 1959 and 1962 she once more joined the Far East Fleet for SEATO exercises and patrols. From 1963-1965 she supported the United States "Operation Deep Freeze" Antarctic operations.

Put into reserve in May 1965 *Pukaki* was sold in October. The ship was towed to Hong Kong and scrapped in January 1966.





HOSPITAL SHIPS

Excepting nuclear power, hospital ships span the evolution of naval propulsion, from the creaks and groans of oars and sails to the sooty mess of coal to today's high-pressure steam turbines. The hospital ship mission evolved from the days when badly injured sailors often were tossed overboard to clear the decks, into the more modern goal of returning casualties to duty. The Athenian navy deployed a vessel named the *Therapia*, indicating a medical purpose, though specifics are lacking. Subsequent Roman sources refer to the Aesculapius, presumably named for the god of healing. The ship's dates are uncertain, but Rome dedicated a temple in the god's name in 289 BC. Into the 16th century several navies deployed dedicated hospital ships. Two or more sailed with the Spanish Armada in 1588, one of which ran aground. France also deployed such vessels, but apparently not to the extent of Britain.

Britain's Royal Navy probably took the lead in the 17th century. The hospital ship *Goodwill* seems the first noted, serving with the Mediterranean Squadron circa 1608. From about 1665 on, Britain maintained two hospital ships at a time, increasing to six at century's end.

Then, as now, hospital ships lent themselves to other non-combatant uses. During the British evacuation of Tangier, Morocco, in 1683, the hospital ships *Unity* and *Welcome* received civilians fleeing the city as well as wounded troops. British hospital ships proliferated, with 22 known in the 18th century, continuing into the 19th. After the 14 February 1797 Battle of Cape St. Vincent, HMS *Victory* was found unfit for combat. She was outfitted as a hospital ship, holding French and Spanish prisoners before restoration as a man-of-war, becoming Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson's famed flagship at Trafalgar in 1805. Probably the Royal Navy's first modern vessels fully equipped for the medical role were HMS *Melbourne* and *Mauritius*. Manned by the Medical Staff Corps, the steamships supported the British expedition to China during the Second Opium War in 1860. Growing awareness of antiseptic methods and sterilization made a major difference in the mid- to late 19th century,

and perhaps a dozen British hospital vessels were in use between 1899 and 1902, through the Boxer Rebellion and Second Boer War.

The *Maheno* and *Marama* were the poster ships of New Zealand's First World War effort. Until 1915 these steamers had carried passengers across the Tasman for the Union Steam Ship Company, but as casualties mounted at Gallipoli, the government pressed them into service as hospital ships.

With the encouragement of the Governor, Lord Liverpool, a massive public fundraising effort helped ensure the ships were fitted out in good time and to the highest standards. Officially known as His Majesty's New Zealand Hospital Ship (HMNZHS) No. 1 and No. 2, these state-of-the-art floating hospitals were crewed by a mixture of civilian seafarers and army medical staff, including nurses.

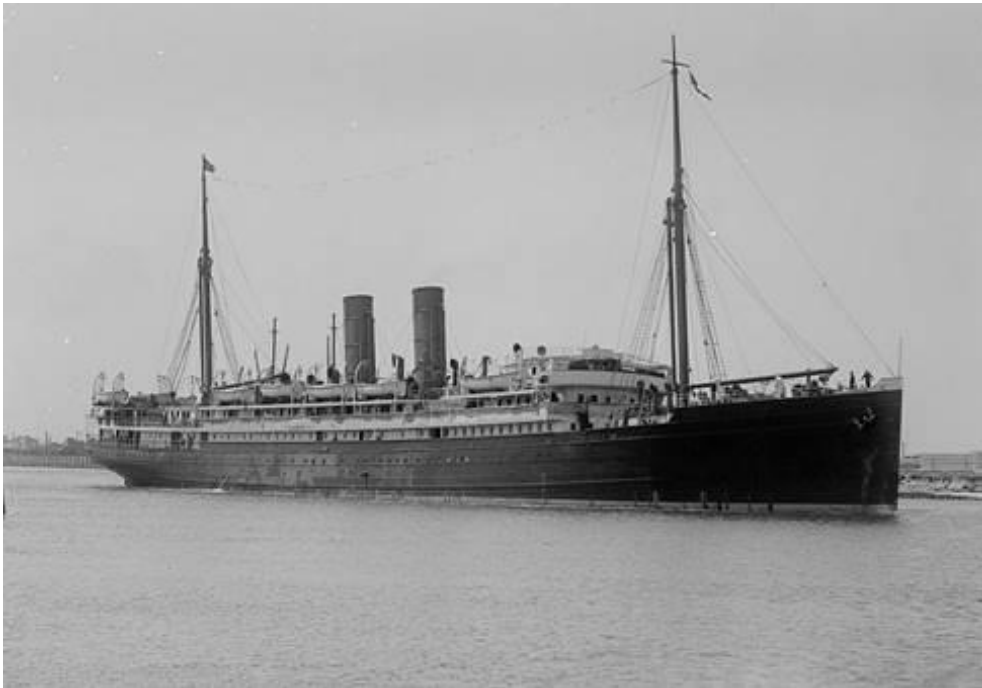
During the Gallipoli Campaign the *Maheno* carried thousands of wounded soldiers from Anzac Cove to the nearby Greek islands of Lemnos and Imbros. The *Marama* entered service just after the Allied evacuation from Gallipoli. For the rest of the war - apart from a series of frantic dashes across the English Channel during the Battle of the Somme - both ships were tasked with carrying incapacitated men back to New Zealand. By the war's end these distinctively marked 'white ships' had transported 47,000 patients.

Age and the Great Depression finally caught up with both ships in the early 1930s. The *Maheno* had been idle for almost four years when the Union Company sold it for scrap in 1935. The ship left Sydney towed by an even older steamer, also bound for the same Japanese breaker's yard. The *Maheno* never got there. The towline parted in mountainous seas off the Queensland coast. Authorities feared the worst, but days later searchers found the ship and its small tow crew hard aground on Ocean Beach, Fraser Island.

The *Marama* had a brief respite but went for scrap in 1937.



SS Marama



SS Maheno

Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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