

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

6 September 20 - Merchant Navy Day Service, Tauranga
11 September 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
9 October 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
16 October 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Glen Eden RSA
16 October 20 – Trafalgar Day Lunch at Te Atatu RSA

Hi Folks

TAURANGA LUNCH

It is with great disappointment that I have to advise that due to Covid-19 the Assn has decided that, in the best interests of our members, we should postpone the Tauranga Lunch till next year.

REECE GOLDING – FINAL DAY IN A BLUE SUIT

WOSCS R.S. Golding, MNZM, MSM – Terminal Date 31 Aug 20.
This week sees the final day in uniform of WOSCS Reece Golding – the conclusion of almost six decades of combined RNZN and RNZNR service – a staggering achievement.
HMNZS Ngapona intended to hold a function to recognise Reece’s service but this has had to be postponed due to Covid-19.

MERCHANT NAVY DAY SERVICE

Merchant Service Day commemoration on 3 Sep 20 at the Auckland Maritime Museum is cancelled.
An online commemoration is planned.

WILLIAM SANDERS VC COMMEMORATION

The William Sanders VC annual commemoration service on 16 Sep 20 at Sanders Ave, Takapuna, is cancelled.

RIMPAC 20

HMNZS *Manawanui* got right amongst the action during the two week RIMPAC exercise held off the coast of Hawaii. *Manawanui* joined 22 surface ships and a submarine from 10 other countries conducting high-end war-fighting training events, live gunnery, anti-surface warfare, air defence, manoeuvring and maritime interception operations. RIMPAC is a biennial event designed to foster and sustain cooperative relationships, critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The exercise is a unique training platform which enhances interoperability and strategic maritime partnerships.



TAMAKI-FORT CAUTLEY - THE 'LIBERTY' TRUCK

When we were on Motuihe island it was the liberty boats that were our vital source of transportation, miss it and you had to sleep on the wharf/streets, book into a hotel, find a 'friendly' merchant ship, roam the streets or go back to the party.

Tamaki-Fort Cautley and it was the good old Bedford trucks that you would have to board if you wanted to get a ride ashore and return. They had long wooden seats, trainees were bundled in, stacked 3-deep, no seat belts and off you would go to be dropped off at the Ferry buildings.

Later that evening, "*Duty driver, lay aft*" and out from the J/R's 'wets' would stagger the duty driver, stumble into the driver seat and away he would go. "*Get in! you bloody "OD's"*" if you couldn't find a seat you just lay on the dirty wooden deck. There were few places in which you could hold onto under the canopy, it was a matter of hoping for the best. Around past the Masonic, up Vauxhall road at 80mph 'rattling and rolling'

On arrival the 'duty' driver would throw down the back-board, out you'd jump and into the arms of the duty PO who had been 'warming up' all evening in the mess. Having provided a 'safe and caring' travel, the driver would then teeter back to the 'Wets' to finish off his pint and wait for the next 'pipe' Imagine doing that routine today?

SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS ROTOITI (F625)

HMNZS *Rotoiti* (F625) was a Loch-class frigate of the Royal New Zealand Navy, which had formerly served in the British Royal Navy as HMS *Loch Katrine* at the end of World War II.

In 1948 *Loch Katrine* was sold to New Zealand for £234,150. After refitting at HMNB *Portsmouth* she was commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Navy on 7 May 1949, and renamed HMNZS *Rotoiti* on 16 May by Mrs Bill Jordan, wife of the New Zealand High Commissioner. In June *Rotoiti* exercised with the Mediterranean Fleet and in July took passage with *Tutira* to Auckland, via Aden and Singapore, arriving in August to join the 11th Frigate Squadron for patrols and visits in the South-Western Pacific.

On 29 June 1950, in response to an appeal from the United Nations, New Zealand made two frigates available for UN service in Korea. On 7 October *Rotoiti* sailed from Auckland to Sasebo, calling at Darwin and Hong Kong, and arriving in Japan on 5 November to relieve HMNZS *Pukaki*.

In May 1952 awards were made to the ship's company for their Korean service. These included the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) to the Captain, Lieutenant-Commander B.E. Turner, who was later awarded the United States' Legion of Merit – the only RNZN officer to be awarded this distinction. The DSC was also awarded to two other officers, and also two Distinguished Service Medals. A Mention in Despatches was awarded to the Petty Officer Telegraphist, and Able Seaman Marchioni was awarded a Posthumous Mention in Despatches.

On 7 January 1952 *Rotoiti* sailed for her second Korean tour of duty, relieving *Hawea* at Sasebo on 2 February.

In February 1957 *Rotoiti* was recommissioned to support the "Operation Grapple" nuclear weapon trials at Christmas Island, arriving there on 31 March. Nuclear trials monitoring occupied the rest of the year in rotation with *Pukaki*.

Rotoiti was placed on the Disposal List in 1966, and sold for scrapping to the Hong Kong Rolling Mills. On 18 January 1967 *Rotoiti* was paired with sister ship HMNZS *Kaniere* and towed by the tug *Daisy* to Hong Kong for breaking up.



Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

021 486 013

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