

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

3 October 20 – Navy Club AGM – Remuera Club
9 October 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
16 October 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Glen Eden RSA
21 October 20 – Trafalgar Dinner - Tauranga
7 – 9 November 20 - Armistice in Cambridge

Hi Folks

DEATH NOTICE

Capt C.B. Thompson, (Lt-Cdr, RNZNVR Rtd, 100078) died on Thursday morning. Barry was XO of Ngapona for many years. He was Master of *Spirit of New Zealand* and other sail training ships. His death notice has not yet been published, but it is understood his memorial service will be this coming Friday.

NAVY CLUB AGM

A reminder that the Navy Club is holding their AGM this Saturday, 3 Oct 20, at 1100hrs, at the Remuera Club, Remuera.

TRAFALGAR DINNER

To commemorate Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar over the combined French and Spanish fleets on 21st October 1805 the Bay of Plenty Officers' Club is organising a dinner.

The venue: Oak Tree Restaurant, 1237 Cameron Road, Tauranga

Price per head: \$68.00

Bookings: graham.oriordan@gmail.com giving number of diners with names. Before Monday 12th October.

Payment to: BNZ 02 0466 0012097 00 (please include name and "Trafalgar" in deposit details)

Contact: Graham O'Riordan, Mobile 0210 273 3500

WARRANT OFFICER OF THE NAVY APPOINTMENT

CN has announced the appointment of a new WON. After consideration from a very large pool of candidates WODR Lance Graham has been selected.

VR BASEBALL CAPS

The RNZNVR Association (Otago) is are looking at putting an order together for a baseball cap with the VR Assn logo on the front of it. This is a good looking product made of decent material and available at the \$20 mark (incl GST); plus a couple of dollars for postage. They are not ordering at this stage but trying to see if they can reach the minimum numbers necessary to place an order; so no payment right now. Responses to jimdell295@gmail.com



HMNZS OTAGO REUNION

The HMNZS Otago Reunion has been postponed until 28th and 29th May 2021.

NEW BOOKS BY GERRY WRIGHT

HMNZS Charles Upham – the sorry story of a ship that was bought for \$14 million, overhauled for \$7 million and sold for \$8 million.

Costs \$25.00 plus \$6.00 postage in NZ

Pioneer Sailor – The story of Rosy Reardon who joined the Navy in 1907, toured the world, and died on operations in 1914 as NZ's first WW1 fatality

Cost \$20.00 plus \$6.00 postage in NZ

Gerry is happy to sign any book.

Payment to ASB 12-3069-0274687-01

(see flyer)

BEIRUT KILLER BLAST

Who is responsible for the horrific Beirut Port blast will be formally decided in due course but already it is clear that a patchwork of mismanagement and complacency underpins this catastrophic event, the likes of which must not be allowed to happen again. The University of Sheffield, UK estimates that the blast in the Port of Beirut was around 1.5 kilotons in TNT equivalent. That makes it one tenth the strength of the atomic bomb dropped on the Japanese City of Hiroshima. As of August 13, 2020, the death toll from the August 4, 2020 explosion was reported at 220 people, with a further 6,000 injured. Michel Aoun, President of Lebanon, has stated the blast was caused by 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored unsafely in a Beirut Port warehouse. In short order following the explosion, the government announced that a number of port officials have been placed under house arrest pending an investigation. The ammonium nitrate arrived on a Moldovan-flagged ship, the MV *Rhosus*, which entered Beirut port in November 2013. The vessel was suffering technical problems during its voyage from Georgia to Mozambique, according to Shiparrested.com, which deals with shipping-related legal cases. The *Rhosus* was inspected, banned from leaving and subsequently abandoned by its owners, sparking several legal claims. The cargo was then placed into storage in a port warehouse. The explosion is thought to have occurred when sparks from a welding machine ignited a warehouse containing fireworks, quickly causing a fire to spread. Ammonium nitrate in its pure form is not dangerous. It is, however, heat sensitive. At 32.2 degrees Celsius (89.96 degrees Fahrenheit), ammonium nitrate changes its atomic structure, which affects its chemical properties and in the Beirut warehouse the heat generated caused a chemical ignition. Ammonium nitrate, is one of the most widely used fertilisers in the world, but it isn't commonly used in New Zealand. Other countries around the globe also use the fertiliser and may also have large stores. Urea is often used in New Zealand's horticultural industry, rather than ammonium nitrate. It doesn't have those same explosive characteristics.



IRAN OPENS NAVAL BASE

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps opened a new naval base along one of the world's busiest oil transit routes on the Persian Gulf as frictions with the U.S. and its allies in the region loom over security in the waterway. The Shaheed Rahbari base near the port of Sirik, on the eastern side of the Strait of Hormuz, took six years to build and will give Iran "full control" of various vessels that use the channel, the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, a report on Press TV's website said, citing an opening ceremony attended by IRGC commander Major General Hossein Salami. Tensions between Iran and the U.S. have escalated dramatically since President Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal two years ago and re-imposed stringent sanctions on the Islamic Republic, triggering a security crisis in the region.

SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS SANTON, M1178

HMNZS *Santon* (M1178) was a Ton class minesweeper that operated in the Royal Navy, the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), and the Argentine Navy. Built for the Royal Navy by Fleetlands Shipyards of Portsmouth, the minesweeper was launched on 18 August 1955 and commissioned as HMS *Santon*. She was named after a small village in Humberside.

The minesweeper was commissioned in the RNZN from 1965 to 1966, when she was returned to the United Kingdom. She was later transferred to the Argentine Navy, and operated as ARA Chubut (M3).

Early in 1965, Indonesia was employing a policy of confrontation against Malaysia. New Zealand agreed to assist Malaysia by deploying two Royal Navy minesweepers then in reserve at Singapore. These were commissioned into the RNZN on 10 April 1965 and joined the Royal Navy's 11th Minesweeping squadron (also Ton class), taking part in anti-infiltration patrols in Malaysian waters.

In her first year *Santon*, together with her sister ship *Hickleton*, carried out 200 patrols, with 20 incidents involving intruding Indonesians, often taking as prisoners those aboard the intercepted craft.

In April 1966, *Santon* assisted in the rescue of the crew of the wrecked Panamanian freighter *Carina*. By the time the Indonesian confrontation policy ended in August 1966, *Santon* had steamed 67,400 miles. Following the withdrawal of Commonwealth ships from the anti-infiltration patrols, the RNZN crew took her back to England, where she paid off in reserve at Portsmouth in November 1966.

HMNZS Santon and sister ship *HMNZS Hickleton* are the only commissioned RNZN ships never to have visited NZ.



Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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