

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

21 October 20 – Trafalgar Dinner, Tauranga
7 – 9 November 20 - Armistice in Cambridge
13 November 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
20 November 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Grey Lynn RSA
11 December 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
18 December 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Orakei RSA
20 December 20 - HMS Neptune Commemoration Service, St Christopher's Chapel,
DNB

Hi Folks

FUNERAL NOTICE

The funeral for Richard Simpson will be held on Friday 23 October 2020 at 1100 hrs at the Howick Funeral Home, 35 Wellington Street, Howick.
Richard, (POWEF D106309) passed away on 9th October at Middlemore Hospital after a brief tussle with bowel and kidney cancer.
(Medals to be worn)

MONTHLY LUNCHES

Good muster at the Glen Eden RSA last Friday. The door prize was won by Janine Niethe.

Our next lunch is at the Grey Lynn RSA on 20th November.

Our final lunch for the year is at the Orakei RSA on 18 December. Mark this in your diary now. The Xmas lunch is one of the highlights of the year. The Orakei RSA has new caterers and the meal will again be served by Navy Cadets from TS Achilles.

There will be a door prize and of course 'Up Spirits'.

The cost will be \$25.00 per head, to be paid to the RSA on the day.

We require an indication of numbers for the caterer so **please reply to this email if you intend joining us.**

Menu

Entrée

Seafood

Main

A choice of two meats:

Ham on the Bone w Pineapple salsa, Coleslaw, Potato salad & warm Pumpkin & Kumara salad.

Roast chicken w stuffing, Roast Vege, Brocc, Cauli, Carrots & Beans in a Bechamel Sauce.

Gravy boats along with Bread baskets will be part of the table setting & replenished throughout the meal.

Dessert

Fruit Salad, Ice cream & Custard

or

Apple pie served with Ice cream & Caramel sauce

Cheese, fruit & crackers.

PROPOSED SHIP VISIT TO HMNZS AOTEAROA

An offer has been made by the CO of HMNZS Aotearoa, Capt Simon Rooke, to the HMNZS Ngapona Assn for a visit to the ship.

It is an honour to have this invitation extended to us and to enable arrangements to be made it is important that we an idea of numbers.

It is likely that the visit will be on a week-day forenoon and take about an hour. We could arrange to have lunch on completion.

If you are interested in a visit to the RNZN's newest and largest ship, **reply to this email.**



SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The HMNZS Ngapona is continually seeking new members. Membership is open to current serving members of HMNZS Ngapona (no joining fee), passed members of Ngapona (Full Member), all other interested persons (Associate Member). There is a once only joining fee of \$40.00 and no annual subscription.

An application form is attached.

Glenn Burt, Lt Cdr Rtd, is our newest member.

WEB SITE UPGRADE

The HMNZS Ngapona Association website has been up and running for over two years now and is in need of an upgrade.

Bruce Gordon, (Assn member) of NZ Websites, who designed our website recommends the following to enhance the Google rating of our target market:

- i) Create a video welcome, under 30 seconds, welcoming visitors and inviting interested parties to join the group – if the video is provided he will set this up on the website at no cost to the Association.
- ii) Purchase 3 new domains that are derived from search-words – i.e. nzrockies.co.nz. Only .co.nz domains are accepted by Google for this option.
- iii) These domains are \$40 each per registration, and \$40 every year on the anniversary of purchase. NZ Websites must be the registrar used to obtain these, as they need to be pointed at their server for the next stage to succeed.
- iii) This work involves setting up landing pages for each of the above 3 domains, creating redirects from the domain to the landing page, and generating a full search optimisation for all 3 domains with Google.

Bruce has generously offered to carry out this work at a much reduced cost of \$620.00

Now comes the crunch – The Association is looking for donations to cover the cost of the upgrade. Other organisations would normally fund this through annual subscriptions but our Assn has decided not to charge a yearly sub. So come on members – open your wallets and help us fund this much needed upgrade.

DIRECT CREDIT TO:

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN INC

ASB 12-3287-0184065-00

(Use surname as reference)

HMNZS TAMAKI-FORT CAUTLEY REUNION

Expressions of Interest are being taken from serving & ex-serving Navy & Army personnel including GDs/GSHs/support staff at the main galley/SRFM/OTS/Offrs Mess/ground staff etc who were posted to the training establishment at HMNZS Tamaki-Fort Cautley between 1963 and 1993 to attend a Reunion planned for 2022. If that is you, please email your name, nickname, rank, service number, when/what year(s) you were posted to TA-FC and your preferred email address.

Expressions to: sandy_hiku@yahoo.com

THE DOORS ARE STARTING TO OPEN

New Zealand's Heritage Expeditions will resume domestic cruising this season after receiving the green light from the government, according the New Zealand Cruise

Association (NZCA) in a press release. According to the statement, which quotes Heritage Expeditions' commercial director Aaron Russ, all clearance and exemption requirements, including the Ministry of Health clearance, have been received for the ship to be in New Zealand on the basis of the plan submitted by Heritage Expeditions. Heritage Expeditions will resume operations on its 50-passenger ship Spirit of Enderby as early as November 24. The seven-day New Zealand cruise will start in Invercargill and take guests around the country's remote southern backyard, comprising of the Stewart Island and Fiordland, to return to the Port of Bluff. Another possible start date is December 30. Both trips can be enjoyed by New Zealanders only. The SPIRIT OF ENDERBY crew is now quarantining on the ship off Russia for two weeks, having all tested negative for the coronavirus. They will then sail to New Zealand and get tested again on arrival.

MAHURANGI SQUADRON NAVAL BOAT EXHIBITION

A conversation between model enthusiast Brian Henman and Mahurangi East librarian Fleur Coleman has inspired The Mahurangi Squadron Model Naval Boat Exhibition.

Brian, a Royal New Zealand Navy veteran, now living in Algies Bay, wondered if the library had any plans for Trafalgar Day. Fleur said "no", but when she learned that Brian had a collection of enormous model warships – one of them more than nine feet long – she suggested an exhibition at the library.

Brian was eager to oblige and contacted fellow enthusiasts, Mark Dimmock and Graeme Beeson, to loan their big ships for the event, which will be held early next month.

Graeme Beeson is an internationally renowned model maker from Whangaparaoa. Several of his models are on display at the Navy's museum in Devonport, including the Graf Spee and Achilles.

Brian says there will be 15 radio controlled warships for the Mahurangi event, ranging in size from five feet to 9½ feet. He describes it as "the ultimate big boys' toys exhibition".

The big ships will be supplemented by numerous miniature vessels created by Tokoroa modeller Bob Talbot.

The big ships have been constructed using plans of the original vessels and are made from wood and fibreglass. To buy one would cost anywhere between \$2000 and \$6000.

"They are one-offs that you will not see anywhere else," Brian says.

Most of the ships are models of New Zealand vessels that sailed during the 60s and 70s but there are also ships from the World War I and II era.

Among the notable ships will be HMS Renown, a World War I era battlecruiser, and the largest model, HMS Vanguard, the last battleship ever built.

Every week Brian joins other enthusiasts to sail the ships at Highbrook Business Park in south Auckland, which features a huge pond.

Brian says the enthusiasts execute military manoeuvres with their ships, either together or in succession.

He says steering the models is as challenging as piloting the real ships. Some have four propellers that need to be successfully controlled.

An added complication is that skippers are often tempted to monitor a ship other than the one they are piloting, leading to serious collisions.

“I can tell you a few strong words have been exchanged when that happens,” Brian says.

Brian left the navy in 1984 after serving for 20 years. He served on HMNZS Rotoiti, Taranaki and Otago.

During his stint on HMNZS Otago, he sailed to Mururoa atoll as part of New Zealand’s protest action against French nuclear testing in the Pacific.

The Mahurangi Squadron Naval Boat Exhibition will be at the Mahurangi East Library on Friday and Saturday, November 6 and 7, from 10am to 4pm. Entry is by gold coin for the Mahurangi East Friends of the Library Group, which will serve tea, coffee and snacks.



AND YOU THOUGHT OUR DEPLOYMENTS WERE LONG

HMS *Enterprise* (H88) is returning to UK after a deployment of around 14 months.

Just prior to preparing to return to UK, HMS *Enterprise* was deployed from her temporary base in Cyprus to Beirut to carry out an emergency survey of the harbour and berths following the gigantic explosion.

HMS *Enterprise*, the tenth ship to bear this name, is a multi-role survey vessel - hydrographic oceanographic (SVHO) of the Royal Navy. She has a sister ship, HMS *Echo*, and together they make up the *Echo* class of survey vessels.

Echo and *Enterprise* are the first Royal Navy ships to be fitted with azimuth thrusters. Both azimuth thrusters and the bow thruster can be controlled through the integrated navigation system by a joystick providing high manoeuvrability.



SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS TAKAPU (1980)

HMNZS *Takapu* was a modified *Moa* class inshore patrol vessel of the Royal New Zealand Navy.

She was built in 1980 by the Whangarei Engineering and Construction Company as a version re-engineered for use as an inshore survey vessel.

Takapu arrived on 2 July 1980. In August she returned to Whangarei for adjustments. *Takapu* and *Tarapunga* could work together on surveys or alone. They could also work in company with either *Monowai* or *Resolution*. The first major task was carried out from 1981 to 1984 when they carried out a survey of Foveaux Strait and Bluff Harbour. This was updating a survey last carried out by MNZS *Lachlan* as reported by the Ministry of Defence in 1984.

HMNZS *Takapu* completed service in 2000 and was sold into private ownership. The vessel was converted for private use following an extensive refit. HMNZS *Takapu* was renamed *Takapu 2* following her decommissioning from the New Zealand Navy. She has cruised extensively in the South Pacific and in 2011 was awarded NZ Charter Boat of the year. She is currently berthed at the Auckland Viaduct and is for sale.

