

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

21 November 20 – HMNZS Ngapona (Tauranga sub-unit) Mess Dinner
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
15 January 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
1 February 21 – Auckland Anniversary Day
8 February 21 – Waitangi Day
12 February 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
19 February 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA

Hi Folks

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN – XMAS LUNCH

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. There are a few places left but filling fast. We require an indication of numbers for the caterer and also any special dietary requirements. **Please reply to this email if you intend joining us. Please do it now!**

PS – Those travelling from the north should be aware that some roads at the bottom of town will be closed from 15 to 20 Dec due to the America's cup racing. Suggest you take the Greenlane exit to avoid delays.

MEMORIAL SERVICE – 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF HMS NEPTUNE

Sunday 20 December 2019, 1000 St Christopher's Chapel, Devonport Naval Base
Rig: 1BW (negative swords) On 19 December 1941, HMS NEPTUNE sunk after hitting a mine off the coast of Tripoli in the Mediterranean. All but one of the 764 personnel aboard lost their lives. Amongst the crew were 150 New Zealanders,

many of whom were reservists. This event represents the largest loss of New Zealand life at sea and forms a significant event in the history of our Navy and especially of our Naval Reserve. Ship's Company are invited to attend the service which will be led by Padre Michael Berry. Further information can be obtained from the Padre on his civilian address michael.berry@aucklandanglican.org.nz.

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

Veteran's Affairs are coming to Tauranga to meet with New Zealand veterans living in the Bay of Plenty.

This forum is an opportunity for New Zealand veterans living in the Bay of Plenty to hear from Veterans' Affairs and support organisations.

Thu, 26 November 2020

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM NZDT

Mt Maunganui RSA

544 Maunganui Road

Omanu, Bay of Plenty

RSA CENTENARY PIN

The RSA Centenary Pin is now available. Contact: orders@rsa.org.nz

Support the RSA while helping celebrate the 100 years of operating to support Service Personnel.

This pin commemorates the first 100 years. With your assistance, we will reach another.

Stock is limited - be quick.



CRUISE SHIP ARRIVES

After 29 days at sea, Heritage Expeditions' flagship *Spirit of Enderby* (Russian icebreaker Professor Khromov) arrived at the Port of Lyttelton on Monday. She will next head for Bluff to operate an 'Unseen Fiordland and Stewart Island' cruise on November 24. *Spirit of Enderby* will undergo some maintenance in Lyttelton in preparation for the company's upcoming Southern Ocean season. Exemption granted As Heritage Expeditions is a family-owned New Zealand company, *Spirit of Enderby* was granted an exemption by the New Zealand government to restart cruising in the country. She is the first passenger vessel to utilise Lyttelton's new NZ\$67m cruise berth, just days ahead of the official opening on November 25. The ship was docked by New Zealand's first and only female marine pilot, Captain Joanne Laing. There were cheers all round when *Spirit of Enderby* sailed out of the Port of Vladivostok on October 16, after spending 14 days isolating on anchor in the harbour. All aboard returned two negative COVID-19 tests.

Source : *Seatrade cruise News*



INCREASE IN UK's DEFENCE SPENDING

Prime Minister Boris Johnson revealed he was increasing the UK's defence spending by a monumental sum over the next four years, in a move that will revolutionise the Royal Navy and create 40,000 jobs. The Royal Navy will soon be one of the foremost naval forces in the world with "direct energy weapons and inexhaustible lasers", Boris Johnson claimed as he unveiled a huge £24billion defence spending splurge. He told the Commons: "The returns will go far beyond our armed forces. "From aerospace to autonomous vehicles, these technologies have a vast array of civilian applications opening up new vistas of economic progress, creating 10,000 jobs every year - 40,000 in total - levelling-up across our country and reinforcing our union. The Navy will be kitted out with a host of modern warships, Johnson claimed, in a move that should revitalise the shipbuilding industry across the country. He later

added: "Our plans will safeguard hundreds of thousands of jobs in the defence industry, protecting livelihoods across the UK and keeping the British people safe."
Source: Daily Star

SHIP OF THE WEEK - HMNZS TASMAN

The Navy leased four acres on the oil-tank reclamation to house the crew of the anti-submarine boom and then decided to build barracks for 200 officers and ratings as a training establishment. HMNZS Tasman was commissioned in January 1944 and offered courses in signalling, telegraphy and cookery for both men and women. Up to eighty Wrens were stationed at Tasman at any one time, and their parades added a distinctive touch to the military presence in Lyttelton during the last year of the Second World War.

In 1957 Edgar Wilson (local farmer) Patron of the Belfast Rugby Club purchased a building from HMNZS Tasman, Lyttelton, for new club rooms for 550 pounds, cost of shifting and putting on foundations at the new rugby club site for 349 pounds, 17 shillings and 5 pence. Section cost 650 pounds and the club rooms were officially opened on the 13th December 1958.

Today there are new rugby club rooms, but the old "Tasman" building survived and was shifted to another site owned by the Elim Church at 801 Main North Road Belfast 8051 where it stands today.





Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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