

# HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

## LONGCAST

12 February 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club

19 February 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA

12 March 21 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club, Guest Speaker,  
Professor Stephen Hoadley

19 March 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

9 – 11 April 21 – Cooks and Stewards Reunion

Hi Folks

### **NEW LANDING CRAFT FOR ADF**

The Australian government will invest up to AUS\$800 million (US\$620 million) to acquire new fleets of Australian-built amphibious vehicles and landing craft that will be able to transport land forces with enhanced speed and protection. Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC said the Army Littoral Manoeuvre – Light project, LAND 8710 Phase 1 will strengthen the ADF's amphibious capabilities. "Today's announcement delivers on this Government's objectives, set out in the 2020 Force Structure Plan, to enhance the ADF's amphibious capabilities, especially in Australia's territorial waters and the near region," Minister Reynolds said. "These new vessels, introduced from 2026, will be larger, faster, and better protected to support ADF operations. "They will allow Defence to quickly and effectively deploy both domestically and to our near region, as well as remain engaged with regional security partners and support humanitarian assistance to our neighbours in the Indo-Pacific. "We have also seen the importance of the Army water transport capability most recently on Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20, evacuating Australians to safety off beaches and delivering much needed supplies." Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price said the Morrison Government's investment in these fleets demonstrates its commitment to Australia's defence industry. "Australian industry involvement will be maximised throughout the design, construction and sustainment phases of this project," Minister Price said. "The new and enhanced platforms will use Australian industry's expertise both during the detailed design and build phases to support the delivery of the Morrison Government's Naval Shipbuilding Plan." "By taking this approach, the Morrison Government is also encouraging potential export opportunities for Australian industry through the design and build of this new capability," Minister Price said. With two separate fleets to be acquired, the watercraft will provide independent shore-to-shore, ship-to-shore, and over-the-shore capabilities to better manoeuvre and sustain the ADF in littoral and riverine environments. Through the project, an Independent Landing Craft will be delivered to replace the Army's existing LCM-8 vessels. This will present opportunities for Australian industry in the detailed design, build, maintenance and support elements of the project. An Amphibious Vehicle will also be built to replace Army's current LARCV which will offer significant opportunities for Australian industry in the vehicle's design, build, and maintenance and through life support phases.

*Source : Naval News*



### **SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS WAKAKURA P3555**

HMNZS *Wakakura* (P3555) was a *Moa*-class inshore patrol vessel of the Royal New Zealand Navy. It was commissioned in March 1985 for the Naval Volunteer Reserve. *Wakakura* was attached to the Wellington division of the Naval Volunteer Reserve from her commissioning until 2005, when she returned to the fleet base in Auckland.

*Wakakura*, in company with HMNZS *Kiwi*, carried out farewell manoeuvres on 29 November 2007, flying a paying-off pennant, in Waitemata Harbour prior to decommissioning on 11 December 2007.

*Wakakura* was the second ship of this name to serve in the New Zealand Navy. The first ship was the training minesweeper HMNZS *Wakakura* (T00) (1926–1947). *Wakakura* is a Māori word which could mean "precious canoe" or could mean "training boat".

With the receivership of Helipro in 2014, the vessel was sold in February 2015 and moved to the Marlborough Sounds. As of 2017 HMNZS *Wakakura* (P3555) remains in Kaipapa Bay.

*From the NZ Defence Force, Thursday, 6 December 2007*

"Two of the remaining three Navy In Shore Patrol Craft, HMNZS *Wakakura* and HMNZS *Kiwi* will formally decommission from operational service on Tuesday 11 December 2007 at the Devonport Naval Base, marked with two special events. At 6:00 am the lifting of the Mauri (life force) will take place with the formal decommissioning ceremony to commence at 10:00 am.

Sister ships, *Hinau* and *Moa* were decommissioned on 23 January 2007, with the fifth In Shore Patrol Craft, HMNZS *Kahu*, to remain in operational service as the Navigational and Seamanship Training Ship.

Named after World War II minesweepers of the Royal New Zealand Navy, Inshore Patrol Craft *Kiwi* and *Wakakura* were attached to the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve Divisions (RNZNVR) in Christchurch and Wellington respectively until April 2005.

Built in Whangarei, New Zealand in the 1970s, the ships were used for conducting basic seamanship and navigation training.

The Inshore Patrol Craft crewed by the Volunteer Reserve supported many Naval and Defence Force exercises, as well as multi-agency government work during their

service. They conducted fishery patrols, search and rescue operations, mine counter-measure activities, started yacht races, and carried out seamanship training, contributing to the functions of the Defence Force as a whole.

They were relocated to Devonport Naval Base for use as training ships whilst the new ships of Project Protector are being built and will decommission over staged intervals.

An end of an era for the In Shore Patrol Craft heralds a new beginning as the new In Shore Patrol Vessels being built under Project Protector, *Rotoiti*, *Hawea*, *Pukaki* and *Taupo*, commission into operational service in 2008 as replacements.”

Particulars of HMNZS *Wakakura* (P3555)

Standard Displacement: 91 tonnes

Length Overall: 27 metres

Beam: 6.1 metres

Draught: 2.4 metres

Speed: 12 knots

Range: 1,000 nautical miles

Complement: 18 (composition changes with training requirements)

Propulsion: Two Cummins diesels (710 hp)

Twin shafts





**WHERE IS WAKAKURA NOW?**