

# HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

## LONGCAST

14 April 21 - - Navy Club Lunch – Waiheke RSA

16 April 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA

14 May 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club

14 – 15 May 21 - OP Grapple Reunion, contact Gerry Wright

[gerrywright@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gerrywright@xtra.co.nz)

16 May 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at the Bays Club, Browns Bay

21 May 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Pt Chevalier RSA

Hi Folks

### DEATH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH KG KT

Statement from BJ Clark, National President of the RNZRSA:

“We were deeply saddened to hear of Prince Philips's death after his recent ill health. He was a tower of strength for our Sovereign and so much of the Commonwealth. On a more personal level, he had an enduring relationship with the RSA for over 50 years.

“As a Naval Officer and a veteran of the Second World War, Phillip enjoyed a unique relationship with the RSA and he took a very real interest in veteran welfare and other veteran issues, not just in New Zealand but throughout the Commonwealth.

“His Royal Highness was always at ease with serving military people or veterans and always welcomed the opportunity for an exchange of views, no matter how brief.

“Prince Philip also held the appointments of Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal New Zealand Navy, Field Marshal of the New Zealand Army, and Air Chief Marshal of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. In these roles, he enjoyed a special relationship with the New Zealand military and that carried over to the RSA as the nation's principal veteran agency.

“The RSA was granted the title “Royal” which served to reinforce the significant relationship between the RSA and the Sovereign and as a tangible sign of the regard in which we are held and we will miss the knowledgeable and genuine interest he took in our activities”.

#### Biography

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (10 June 1921-09 April 2021) was the husband of Queen Elizabeth II.

Philip was born was born in Greece, as a member of the Greek Royal Family but his family was exiled from the country when he was an infant. After being educated in Europe and Great Britain, Philip joined the Royal Navy in 1939,

aged 18, and saw active service in the Second World War.

Before the official announcement of his engagement to the then Princess Elizabeth in July 1947, he abandoned his Greek and Danish titles and styles, became a naturalised British subject, and adopted his maternal grandparents' surname Mountbatten. He married Princess Elizabeth on 20 November 1947, just before the wedding, he was granted the style "His Royal Highness" and created Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth, and Baron Greenwich by King George VI. Prince Philip left active military service when Elizabeth became queen in 1952, having reached the rank of Commander.

The Duke of Edinburgh began to focus on his work in support of The Queen following her Accession in 1952. In 2009 he became the longest-serving British consort (companion to the Sovereign). In May 2017 it was announced that The Duke of Edinburgh had decided, with the full support of The Queen, to no longer carry out public engagements.

Though probably best known for founding The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in 1956, His Royal Highness was also involved in the work of many more charities and organisations which reflected his wide-ranging interests in topics including conservation, sport, the military, and engineering.

#### **New Zealand honours and appointments**

The Duke of Edinburgh accompanied the Queen on ten visits to New Zealand. The Duke was appointed Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal New Zealand Navy in 1958, Field Marshal of the New Zealand Army in 1977, and Marshal of the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 1977. He also held the appointments of Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, The Hawkes Bay Regiment, and the Otago and Southland Regiment.

In 1981 the Duke was appointed an extra companion of the Queen's Service Order (QSO) and in 1990 he was awarded the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal, both of which he wore mounted with his service medals.

In January 1954, during the first visit to New Zealand by the new Queen and her husband, the Duke was presented with the RSA Badge in Gold by RSA President, Sir Howard Kippenberger.



### **FROM THE SICKBAY**

Margaret Mitchell has had an operation and is in hospital. Get well soon Margaret.

### **COPY OF "AUCKLAND ROCKIES" SENT TO PRINCE PHILIP**

John McEwan, author of "Auckland Rockies", sent a copy to Prince Philip in 2011.  
(See attached PDF.)

### **A NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE**

Enjoy a night of classics at the Navy Museum sung by local soloist, Rebecca Nelson. In the lead-up to Anzac Day, Rebecca will sing a range of songs of remembrance including: Ave Maria, Bring him home and others.

**When:** Wednesday 21 April, 7pm

**Limited tickets available - \$20pp**

**Tickets can be purchased at the Museum or email: [info@navymuseum.co.nz](mailto:info@navymuseum.co.nz) T: 09 445 5186**

\$5 from each ticket sold will be donated to the Devonport RSA Poppy Trust.

*(Rebecca is a member of the Ngapona Assn.)*



### **HMAS SUPPLY (II) COMMISSIONED**

Supply Class Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR) ship HMAS Supply (II) Commissioned in Sydney on Saturday 10 April 2021. HMAS SUPPLY (II) is the lead ship of two Supply Class Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR) ships currently being built for the Royal Australian Navy by Spanish shipbuilder, Navantia. The Australian Supply Class ships are based on the Spanish Navy's Cantabria Class design. The ships are intended to carry fuel, dry cargo, water, food, ammunition, equipment and spare parts to provide operational support for the deployed naval or combat forces operating far from the port on the high seas for longer periods. In addition to replenishment, the vessels can be used to combat against environmental pollution at

sea, provide logistics support for the armed forces, and to support humanitarian and disaster relief (HADR) operations following a natural disaster. HMAS SUPPLY was laid down on 18 November 2017 and then launched at the Navantia Shipyards in Ferrol, Spain on 24 November 2018.



### **LIGHT HOUSE OF THE WEEK – MOKOHINAU ISLANDS**

The name Mokohinau is derived from moko (lizard) and hinau (native tree), with the possibility that it came from pokohinu or mokohinu, a name for the mutton birds that inhabit the island. Moko has always been affectionately known as 'the guardian of the [Hauraki] gulf'. Planning began in 1873 for landfall lights on Mokohinau Islands and Cuvier Island for ships arriving from the east across the Pacific, but the equipment for the lights did not arrive from Britain until 1876.

Local maritime opinion differed on the best position for the new light station. Some wanted it on Hen and Chickens Islands while others preferred Bream Head. The decision in 1881 to build at Burgess Island, the middle of the three islands in the Mokohinau group, did not settle the argument to everyone's satisfaction.

The Marine Department let the building contract to Auckland stonemasons John Burke and Co. to construct a concrete tower with a stone light room. As the island stone could not be used for building, blue stone was shipped from Auckland. The quarry workers erected the tower ashore as a temporary measure to ensure that all the stones fitted. The Wellington foundry of J.T. Crabtree supplied the tower balcony, the semi-spiral stairway and other fittings.

David Scott, the engineer in charge, landed from the revenue cutter Hawk in March 1882. Building the long tramway from the beach to the top of the island delayed the tower construction, and 15 months later Mr Scott lit the lamp for the first time. The original first order dioptric lens consisted of an eight-panel system giving a single white flash every 10 seconds with a focal length of 900 millimetres, making it one of the eight most powerful lights in the country. The final report shows that the builders were pleased with their work: 'About 17 feet [5 metres] of the tower was built of concrete surmounted by a light room built of dressed blue stone with an iron balcony, the whole forming a handsome structure.'

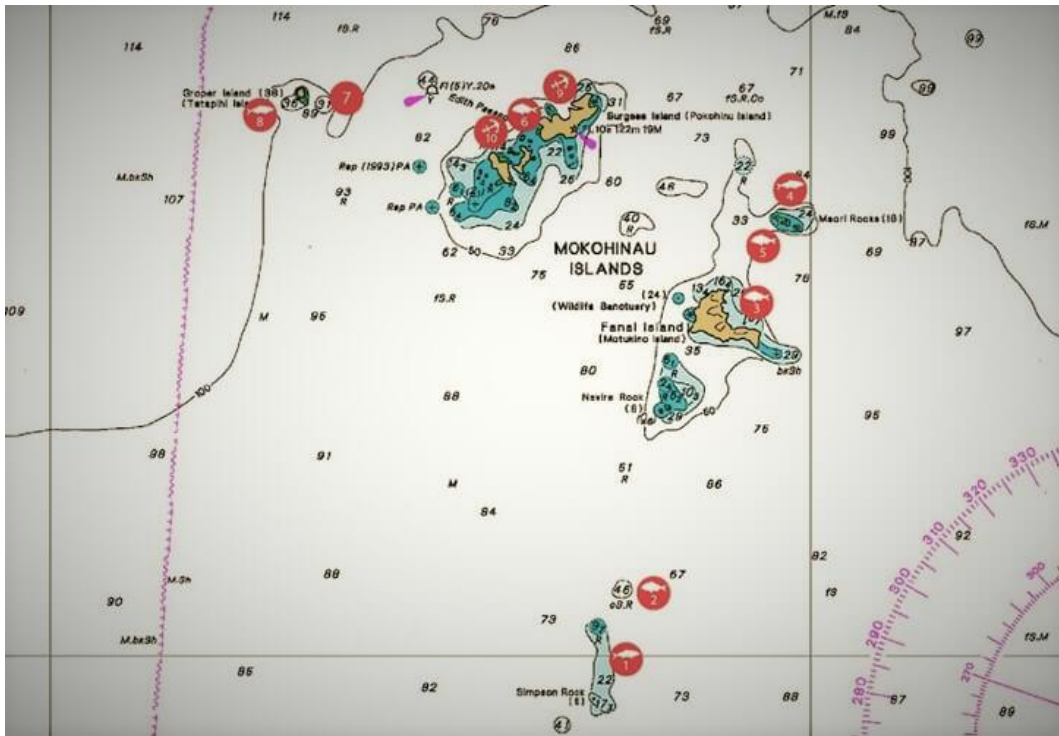
A fortnightly mail service started in 1937 and life was better. Communications with the mainland were improved when the Post and Telegraph Department installed

radiotelegraphy in November 1938 and the station became known by its call sign ZLPM. Amphibious aircraft became available in cases of emergency.

A gang of four men and a cook finished electrification of the light on 10 September 1939. A cookhouse had to be built for the cook but, according to the principal keeper's report, 'a storm blew it into about 50 pieces, wrecking it beyond recognition, and leaving only the range and a table remaining, and the chimney bent all out of shape.'

Soon after the Second World War broke out, the Royal New Zealand Navy built a radar station at the summit of the island near to the tower and installed armed guards. New buildings were erected consisting of barracks, a radar antenna mounted on a tower, a generator house plus storehouses for diesel generator fuel and domestic stores. Early in November 1940 technicians arrived to build the radio masts, installing the transmitter and associated equipment for the radio beacon, from which ships could take bearings using their radio direction finders. Scarcely seven weeks later both the light and the new radio beacon ceased to operate for the duration of the war, and keepers began their duties as coast watchers, working continuous shifts. A sealed beam light unit fitted in 1981 used diesel generator power to automate the station. This light unit consisted of several banks of individual light sources, similar to car headlights, rotating on a tall stand. Should one light fail another adjacent section of lights would take over. Towards the end of the 1990s a solar-powered system, together with a remote monitoring system, replaced the sealed beam light unit. A new remote monitoring system developed by Vega Industries (of Porirua, New Zealand) could keep a record of its main operating functions and relay them every day to Wellington. In addition, the system could transmit an alarm in the event of the failure of any of its major elements.





### THE BURGESS ISLE

In 1999 a syndicate of four from the Senior Rates Mess, Ngapona purchased a 25-foot launch which was built by the light house keeper, Mr Walter, in a shed adjacent to the light house on Burgess Island. The launch was called the *Burgess Isle* and was built in 1980 from timber from some of the demolished buildings. She remained with the syndicate until being sold in 2006. The design plans had to be modified during the building process as it was realised that the original was a bit too big for the shed and she ended up with a slightly blunt in the bow. The RNZAF occasionally brought supplies to the island and for a small fee an Iroquois was used to transport it from the light house to the water.





Regards

**Jerry Payne**

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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