

LONGCAST

25 April 21 – ANZAC Service at DNB 0730

14 May 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club

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

11 June 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club

18 June 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Howick RSA

9 July 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club

16 July 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at New Lynn RSA

24 July 21 – Ngapona Assn Formal Dinner at Birkenhead RSA

Hi Folks



ANZAC DAY SERVICE – DEVONPORT NAVAL BASE

An invitation has been extended to all 'Veterans' and friends to join with HMNZS NGAPONA on Anzac Day at HMNZS PHILOMEL. The memorial service will be conducted starting at 0730 through to 0830 to commemorate those who have fallen. Members of the Ngapona Assn have been asked to read the ode, another to read a poem and another to lay a wreath. Volunteers have been selected for these tasks.

Please advise your intention to attend by **return email** so numbers can be finalised. You will need a photo ID to enter the Naval Base.

BAYS CLUB LUNCH

The Ngapona Assn is holding a lunch on Sunday 16 May at the Bays Club, Browns Bay. We will meet at 1200 and lunch will be served after pre-lunch refreshments. This will be a great event to attend for those who are unable to attend our monthly Friday luncheons. There will be a door prize and a rum issue will be conducted. **Please reply to this email** so that we have an indication of numbers for seating.

NGAPONA ASSN FORMAL DINNER – 24 JULY 2021

The Ngapona Association is holding a formal dinner on Saturday 24 July 2021 at the Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead, Auckland. The guest speaker will be RNZN's Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral David Proctor.

An invitation to attend the function is extended to all NGA Association members, all past and present members of NGAPONA and their partners/spouses. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The cost of this function is \$50.00 per head. A cash bar will operate. There will be a buffet type meal of three courses. It is expected that Able Musician Rebecca Nelson will provide a brief performance during the evening. It is also expected that a rum issue will be held. As this is a formal occasion, appropriate dress with miniatures is expected. For planning purposes, please advise Expressions of Interest by **replying to this email** giving the names of attendees and a contact phone number.

NGAPONA ASSN LAPEL PINS

Ngapona Assn lapel pins are now available at \$10. Please contact Dave Thorpe 027499 3940 or davethorpe@xtra.co.nz for purchasing, can be paid by direct credit to Ngapona Assn, ASB 12-3287-0184065-00 or by cash at the next luncheon.

NGAPONA ASSN POLO SHIRTS

There has been interest in doing another run of Ngapona Assn Polo Shirts and the cost is \$35. Please contact Dave Thorpe 0274993940 or davethorpe@xtra.co.nz With your size.

SICK BAY

Anyone who is hospitalized or knows of any of our Ngapona people in hospital please contact our welfare co-ordinator Richard Maddix 021369904 or richardmaddix@gmail.com so that we can arrange flowers or a card to wish them well for recovery.

WEB SITE

Our new web site has been updated and also Facebook with new photos and a video. Any information that is of interest, please contact Dave Thorpe 0274993940 or davethorpe@xtra.co.nz

NEW MEMBERS

If any of our members know of any ex Ngapona, or from the other reserve divisions, or ex Navy people and would like to join our Association, please contact Richard Maddix 021369904 or richardmaddix@gmail.com and he will give information and an application form or look on our web site to join on line.

LIGHT HOUSE OF THE WEEK – TIRITIRI MATANGI

Position: 36 36.40S 174 53.80E

Characteristics: FI W 15s

Range: 18NM

Structure: Cast iron tower

Tiritiri Matangi lighthouse is situated on Tiritiri Island in the Hauraki Gulf. It marks the approach to Auckland Harbour some 28 kilometres to the south.

Tiritiri Matangi is the oldest lighthouse still in operation in New Zealand. It was also the first lighthouse to be built by the Government.

Construction of the lighthouse was very difficult and cost £5,747. It took 4 months to dig down through 3 metres of thick, boggy, clay-like mud to reach ground that was hard enough to build on.

Building materials for the lighthouse were shipped to the island and then carted in sledges by bullocks over the slippery banks to reach the construction site. Despite the challenges of construction, the original tower is still standing. The light itself, however, has undergone many changes.

The light was first lit on 1 January 1865.

In 2019, the lighthouse was fitted with a 24 volt Flashing LED beacon, replacing the rotating beacon.

In Maori tradition Tiritiri Matangi island is one of the floats of an ancestral fishing net. It is named after a Kawerau pa (earthwork fortification) on the island. The Kawerau people occupied the island from very early times to the 1820s, and again briefly in the 1830s-50s. Ngati Paoa also occupied the island and built a second, smaller pa known as Papakura towards the northern end of the island. Ngai Tai and the Marutuahu iwi also have ancestral links with Tiritiri.

There are a number of archaeological sites on Tiritiri, now mostly covered by regenerating vegetation but still intact below the ground surface. In addition to the two pa, they include whare (house) terraces, food storage pits, and midden (food refuse) sites.

Archaeological excavation of a midden site found during the construction of the wharf showed that Maori were living on the island by the 14th century and catching marine mammals, coastal birds, sharks, rays and other fish for food. By the beginning of the 19th century the catching and drying of sharks for later consumption had become an important seasonal activity in the waters north of Tiritiri.

The forest on Tiritiri was partially burned off in pre-European times. European farmers grazed livestock on the island from the early 1850s. Farming operations were centred around Hobbs Beach, where there was a woolshed, cottage, boatshed, sheepyards and cattle run.

The island continued to be farmed until the 1970s and retained little of its original vegetation. Since 1984 Tiritiri has been transformed by a community-based habitat restoration programme and is now home to a range of threatened bird species.

The Tiritiri lighthouse complex is one of only a few surviving lighthouse settlements in New Zealand, and the only one easily accessible to the public.

It is made of cast iron pre-fabricated in Britain and brought out by ship in sections which were bolted together on site. Over 21m tall and 4.7m in diameter at the base, it was initially painted bright red.

The Tiritiri light incorporated the most modern lantern design and lamp of its period, and has been regularly upgraded as new energy sources and technologies were adopted.

Originally fuelled by Colza (rapeseed) oil it was converted in 1880 to paraffin. In 1926 an automatic acetylene light was installed and the lighthouse staff reduced by two, but a watched light was reinstated in 1949 when work began on the electrification of the island.

In 1965 a Xenon gas lamp, equivalent to 11 million candlepower and reputed to be the brightest light in the southern hemisphere, was fitted. It was replaced in 1984 by a less powerful quartz iodine light because of problems in obtaining replacement bulbs. In 1990 the light was solar powered and fully automated and the lighthouse de-manned.

Two small cottages for the lighthouse keepers were built in 1864 but replaced with larger houses in 1918. The new houses were a standard Marine Department design first used for the Cape Brett lighthouse in 1908. They are still used (with some alterations), one by the Ranger and the other for volunteers and visitors. Other buildings were progressively added to the complex as technology advanced and requirements changed. Many of these have survived.

The signal station immediately to the east of the lighthouse was built in 1912 for the Auckland Harbour Board, its purpose to signal ships approaching the port to see if they needed a pilot. A workshop and engine house to the north of the lighthouse dates from the 1950s.

The island was occupied by the Ministry of Defence between 1940 and 1945 as part of the coastal defence network guarding Auckland harbour and its approaches. A Port War Signal Station to identify approaching ships shared facilities with the Harbour Board initially, but shifted to the centre of the island in 1942.

A Fortress Observation Post linked to the Whangaparāoa, Waiheke and Motutapu defences was built in 1940-41 to the east of the lighthouse. Remnants of these structures still survive.

