

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

18 June 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
25 June 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Prospect Hotel (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

NGAPONA ASSN - MONTHLY LUNCH – CHANGE OF DATE

Our lunch this month has been postponed one week due to other activities. **The new date is 25 June at 1200hrs.**

The lunch will be held at 'The Prospect of Howick' as the Howick RSA has temporarily relocated to enable new club rooms to be built.

NGAPONA ASSN FORMAL DINNER – 24 JULY 2021

Only a few places left – you will have to be quick

An invitation to attend the function is extended to all NGA Association members, this includes Associate Members, and all past and present members of HMNZS Ngapona and their partners/spouses.

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.

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. A highlight of the evening will be a performance by Able Musician Rebecca Nelson. 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.

NUSHIP FOR RAN

The Royal Australian Navy's second Supply class auxiliary oiler replenishment, NUSHIP STALWART, departed Navantia's Ferrol facilities in northern Spain to sail to Australia and has already covered more than half of her journey to home. Her eventual base at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia. Upon arriving, she will be fitted with Phalanx close-in weapons system (CIWS), a communications suite, Typhoon remote weapons stations, and Saab 9LV combat system at Henderson near Fremantle.



RFA CARDIGAN BAY L3009

Cardigan Bay visited Gibraltar prior to going home to UK after a 4-year stint as the support ship for the Navy in the Persian Gulf. Her sister ship, RFA *Lyme Bay* has replaced her in the support function.

That is a long deployment – hope they had a crew change! Ed



LIGHT HOUSE OF THE WEEK – PORTLAND ISLAND

Position: 39.18.3S 177.52.0E

Characteristics: Fl W 15s

Range: 9NM

Structure: White metal tower

Portland Island is at the southern tip of the Mahia Peninsular (Rocket Lab launch site). It was occupied by early Maori for generations and was known to them as Waikawa. It was a Whare Wananga (school of learning) and the sacred waka (Canoe) Takitimu stopped there for a while. Captain Cook named it Portland Island as he sailed past in October of 1769 and had a few anxious moments off the SW end when it looked like they would be blown onto the rocks which was not all that inviting as there were large numbers of warriors on the shore brandishing spears and clubs. About 1870 the Marine Dept, to safeguard shipping, were looking to establish Light Houses on many promontories around the NZ coast and Portland was regarded as one of the most important. A Mr Johnson surveyed the island for its suitability and by 1875 a Mr John Blackett, chief engineer for the Marine Dept, had drawn plans for a light house and three houses plus ancillary buildings.

Work began in 1876, the first job to do was to dig a track in zig zag fashion up the face at the Northern end onto the tableland. The light was to be at the Southern end. All the Kauri building materials were towed by horse and sledge the 3 miles to the far end and numerous difficulties were encountered. By 1877 the first house was completed and work continued on with the Light House and other buildings. By 1878 the light was commissioned and could be seen for up to 20 miles. At the same time a Red Sector light was beamed onto the dangerous Bull Rock.

The lighthouse continued to operate for 77 years with approximately 28 principal keepers and in 1955 it was replaced with a fully electrified tower.

A media announcement from the Minister of Marine stated that the Portland Island lighthouse would be dismantled and disposed of. Mayor Robert Shortt was a visionary leader for the Wairoa District and saw the value of the lighthouse and the tourism potential that it would bring to the community. After prolonged discussions and dialogue with the Minister, his proposal to move the lighthouse from its current location and to be placed alongside the Wairoa River was granted. Mayor Shortt's drive and enthusiasm ignited a spark that caught the imagination of the citizens who supported his effort to save the iconic lighthouse. The structure was dismantled from the glass apparatus to the copper dome. It was carted three kilometres across the Island down to the landing onto a launch which ferried 20 kilometres across the sea to Waikokopu Wharf. The trip happened several times prior to being transported 40 kilometres by road to be placed near the old Wairoa bridge. The old Wairoa bridge was destroyed during Cyclone Bola.





Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

021 486 013

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