

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

14 August 21 – Navy Club AGM at 1130, followed by Lunch
15 August 21 - William Sanders, VC Memorial Service, Takapuna
20 August 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Birkenhead RSA
9 September 21 – Merchant Navy Day - Tauranga
10 September 21 – Navy Club Lunch
17 September 21 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Te Atatu RSA

Hi Folks

NGAPONA ASSOCIATION AGM

Tha AGM of the Assn was held last Sunday at the Birkenhead RSA. The existing committee was re-elected unopposed.

President: Jerry Payne
Secretary: Lisa Biesh
Treasurer: Terry Creagh
Committee: Wayne Smith
Richard Maddix
Dave Thorpe
CO'sRep: Lt Simon Aimer

A comprehensive report was given by Ngapona's CO, LT CDR Nigel Heslop. There was robust discussion on some future activities, watch this space. Thank you to all those who attended.

FORMAL DINNER

More photos of our Formal Dinner held in July are about to be loaded onto our website. Google 'Ngapona Assn' to view.

FIRST WOMEN AT SEA

From Alyson Douglas: As you will be aware it is the RNZN 80th this year. Navy Today is doing a story on women at sea; I mentioned to the editor that the VR had (possibly unofficially) female crew on the IPC's well before the RF got themselves organised. He said 'how interesting, that's not documented anywhere', and I promised to track down some evidence (not counting day running here). Does anyone have names / dates / photos to back me up?
See 'Kiwi Rockies' on Facebook - Ed

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC.

If you are a current or former member of NGAPONA, or other RNZNVR unit, or have had ties with the Reserves now or in the past, you are welcome to join the HMNZS Ngapona Assn. Members take part in formal dinners, memorial activities, enjoy monthly lunches at RSA's and other reputable dining/drinking establishments around Auckland, as well as attending NGAPONA functions and formal parades. The growing list of members range from those currently serving in both the Reserves and Regular Force, to those who released a wee while ago, and many in-between. With so many familiar faces, this is a great way to stay in touch with the unit, and those of whom have been etched into your memory from times gone by. Don't let your war stories go untold any longer! Join up. Check out their website for more information, click the link; [HMNZS Ngapona](http://HMNZS_Ngapona) or email us; secretary@ngapona.org.nz for an application.

REMEMBERING OUR GREATEST HERO

LTCDR WILLIAM SANDERS, VC, DSO, RNR. William Sanders remains the only New Zealander to receive our highest military decoration – the Victoria Cross – in a naval action. Born and raised in Takapuna, perhaps it's no surprise that this legend was a reservist! In April 1917 Sanders was in command of HMS PRIZE when she took on the German submarine U-93. Following that battle Sanders was awarded the VC for his 'conspicuous gallantry, consummate coolness, and skill in command'. In August the same year, Sanders and his crew were killed in action when HMS PRIZE was sunk by the submarine UB-48. We are thankful for the efforts on TS LEANDER who have faithfully held an annual service to commemorate our greatest hero around the anniversary of his death. As reservists, let us also gather to remember and celebrate the life and service of the greatest name in New Zealand naval history. Muster at 0800, Sunday 15 August 2021 at Sanders Memorial (corner of Lake Rd and Sanders Ave, Takapuna) Rig: 1B, civilian jacket and tie. The service will be led by our own Padre Michael Berry. If you'd like to know more (or volunteer to play a part), his civvy email address is michael.berry@aucklandanglican.org.nz. Otherwise just turn up and join your shipmates for the roadside service.



THE CANADIANS ARE IN TOWN

Canadian frigate HMCS *Calgary* tied up alongside Princes Wharf last week after two months at sea taking part in Operation Talisman Sabre, a military exercise involving Australia, the United States, South Korea and Japan.

The ship is flying the maritime quarantine flag and the crew will not be able to disembark until New Zealand health officials are satisfied that all requirements of the Maritime Border Order have been met, including the return of negative Covid-19 tests by all the crew, and that all crew members have been symptom-free for 14 days. The ship has Covid-19 testing facilities aboard.

Almost all of the 250 personnel on board *Calgary* are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and have been at sea for 17 days – longer than the 14-day quarantine period currently mandated.

The ship is in port for resupply and refuelling and the crew will engage in shore-based activities, sporting and cultural programmes with the RNZN. *Calgary's* speciality is anti-submarine warfare and was involved in 13 exercises during Talisman Sabre. The vessel also practised aircraft tracking, warning and engagement with the Royal Australia Air Force.

"Ship visits like this are a practical representation of the strong working relationship the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has with the Canadian armed forces," said Rear Admiral David Proctor, chief of the Royal New Zealand Navy. "This is a chance to return some of the excellent support and comradeship the Royal Canadian Navy provided the hundreds of RNZN sailors who have been in Canada over the past three years during the Anzac Frigate Upgrade," he said



HMNZS TAMAKI REUNION

Jack Donnelly is writing a Reunion Dits Book:" I am now at the stage where I am looking for Navy stories of interest. Some time ago a matelot posted this story to me. If anyone out there can recall Naval incidents such as this then please post it on our site, email me, gijackd@yahoo.com or PM me.

TESTING THE WATERS

China has warned the UK's Carrier Strike Group, led by the aircraft carrier HMS *Queen Elizabeth* not to carry out any "improper acts" as it enters the contested South China Sea. 'The People's Liberation Army Navy is at a high state of combat readiness' says the pro-government Global Times, seen as a mouthpiece for the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

China has been closely monitoring the progress eastward of the Carrier Strike Group, which is currently sailing through the South China Sea en route to Japan, while accusing Britain of "still living in its colonial days". The Royal Navy has been carrying out exercises with the Singaporean navy and Britain's Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has made no secret of the intention to conduct a so-called "Freedom of Navigation" exercise through the South China Sea. Contrary to a 2016 international court ruling, China claims much of that sea as its own and has been busy building artificial reefs and runways, some of them close to the territorial waters of neighbouring states.

China has been holding extensive military exercises in the region this week, practising beach assaults in a move that has worried some analysts it is preparing to eventually invade Taiwan. The PLA Navy will use the UK's Carrier Strike Group's presence in the South China Sea "as a chance for practice and for studying the UK's latest warships up close", says the Global Times.

MERCHANT NAVY COMMEMORATION DAY 2021

The Merchant Navy Commemoration Day will be held on 5 September 2021 at 1345 at the Tauranga Yacht and Power Boat Club, Sulphur Point, Tauranga. Please advise the OIC NGA (TGA) if you intend to attend this commemoration NLT 1600 on 14 August 2021.

LIGHT HOUSE OF THE WEEK – GODLEY HEAD

Position: 43.35.3S 172.48.5E

Characteristics: L Fl(3)W 26s

Range: 17NM

Structure: Squat stone emplacement

New Zealand's early colonial settlements depended for their survival upon proximity and easy access to a port. Christchurch is unusual in being separated from Lyttleton Harbour by the raised, outer rim of an ancient volcano, the Port Hills.

This ridge of hills has always been a favourite recreational area for the inhabitants of the otherwise flat city. The enthusiastic lobbying by Christchurch residents for a summit road was soon followed by the formation of another group with an even greater objective: a tunnel road. The Tunnel Road League was formed in 1916 but it was almost fifty years before the efforts of these early campaigners were rewarded. Godley Head takes its name from John Robert Godley, founder of the Canterbury settlement. In 1850 he watched his dream come true as the first four ships carrying Canterbury Association immigrants sailed through Lyttleton Heads and into the harbour. Prior to their arrival the site had already been identified by the Association as suitable for a lighthouse.

The high cliffs meant that a tall tower was not necessary and a squat stone tower was erected along with a double stone dwelling originally roofed with slate. The double dwelling was to be a cause of complaint. Keepers were used to living in close proximity to one another but this amounted to living on top of one another. Godley Head was never an isolated light. With Lyttleton on one side and Port Hills. The road between the two towns was kept in good order and a bridle track led to the lighthouse. Despite this it was not until well into the 1930s that a side road was put through to Godley Head. Before then both stores and keepers were landed by launch at the base of the one hundred and fifty metre basalt cliffs. The lighthouse acted as a lure to day trippers despite the stiff climb after a train ride out to Lyttleton or a tram ride to Sumner, on the Christchurch side of the heads. The Principal Keeper's wife would offer all visitors refreshments — a pot of tea with milk, sugar and a jug of cream along with a slice of fruit cake. As the visitors became increasingly numerous; sixpence was requested to cover costs. Godley Head, along with Tiritiri, Pencarrow and Taiaroa Head, was equipped with a fog signal. The first versions of these, such as the Slaughter's Cotton Powder Explosive Signal, used explosives to generate the warning sound. At Godley Head, where the rock face was unstable, there was considerable risk to life and property whenever it was fired. The keepers were not sorry to see it become obsolete with the arrival of a new signal which used compressed air to generate a warning moan. The strategic importance of the keepers' vantage point resulted in a series of fortifications being erected alongside the lighthouse from the 1880s. Unfortunately, during the Second World War it was found that the lighthouse was in the field of fire of the newly installed guns. Consequently, the old tower was demolished and moved further down the cliff face. The war brought other changes as well: electricity, a tar sealed road and finally a new house for the now one-keeper light. In the mid-1970s the light was made fully automatic and handed over to the Lyttleton Harbour Board and in 1988 to the Board's successor, the Lyttleton Port Company.



Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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