



## HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

### LONGCAST

3 April 22 – Daylight Saving ends  
8 April 22 - Navy Club Lunch at Remuera  
15 – 18 April 22 – Easter  
22 April 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA  
25 April 22 – ANZAC Day

Hi Folks

I have been in Nelson on a boat delivery trip, so unfortunately was not able to attend the Assn lunch at Waiheke last Friday. I am told it was a very successful event with nearly thirty attending. I am also reliably informed that the door prize was again won by non-other than Terry Creagh. This raffle rigging will have to cease!

#### **NEW MEMBER**

Welcome aboard to our newest member, **Sacha Belcourt**. Great to have you as a member and I hope you can attend some of our lunches.

#### **MARINA FIRE**

Late on the afternoon of 14-03-2022 a fire at east Auckland's – Pine Harbour Marina, desecrated 5 vessels. One of the vessels is the 1960 Jack Morgan built 38' woody – Kokoru. She was one of the vessels at Pine Harbour, that through no fault of their own, was left in ruins by an onboard fire on a neighbouring boat – with the combined size of the insurance claim being seven+ figures. Dockside chat is that the explosion > fire was related to a battery installation.

The decision has been made to rebuild Kokoru – a mammoth undertaking, that has some big hurdles upfront – the first being – where to find the kauri, that magical timber that sadly these days you cannot just order from Placemakers.

**Today's story has two parts:**

**(1) to congratulate the owners on making the rebuild call – to quote them “you can't take it with you but you can leave a legacy”**

**(2) to shout out to the classic wooden boating community for a source for the kauri Kokoru needs – which is approx 8 lengths approx 150mm x ideally 8 metres. But beggars can't be choosers so it's whatever can be found.**

**Obviously prepared to pay – any ideas on who we can talk to – contact [waitematawoodys@gmail.com](mailto:waitematawoodys@gmail.com)**





### **CAPT BЛИGH R.N.**

#### **Promotion and *Pandora***

Lieutenant William Bligh was now 35. He was also much acclaimed for his actions with respect to the mutiny and his long and daring launch voyage. As far as their Lords of the Admiralty were concerned, he remained in command of the *Bounty* as its fate was not known. In the meantime, he acted as a relief commander of various ships at their Lord's discretion. Meanwhile the frigate HMS *Pandora*, 24 guns, 500 tons, Captain Edward Edwards, was to sail to hunt down and bring the mutineers to justice.

22 Oct 1790. HMS *Royal William*, 100 guns at Spithead. The court martial of Lieutenant William Bligh relating to the insurrection of his crew and the loss of his ship was conducted. Bligh was found innocent of any wrongdoing and was acquitted. Purcell however, had to answer charges that Bligh brought against him and received a reprimand. Bligh was duly presented to King George the third, and was promoted



to Commander. He was then given the commission of the 14 gun sloop HMS *Falcon* with the rank of Captain (i.e. Captain of the ship).

7 Nov 1790. HMS *Pandora* sails from The Solent to recover the *Bounty* and to capture the mutineers.

Dec 1790. Bligh is appointed as Post-Captain to HMS *Medea* a 28 gun sixth rate frigate. A Post-Captain was a RN officer holding the full rank of Captain, as opposed to an officer holding a Commander's rank but who is the Captain of a ship (as Bligh was in HMS *Falcon*). As it is recorded that Bligh spent the next four months on half pay waiting for a command, it seems that his appointment to *Medea* was for administrative purposes only.

But what of the *Pandora*? Captain Edward Edwards had an unenviable reputation having mercilessly put down a mutiny in HMS *Narcissus* (20 gun sixth rate) in 1782 in which he was the Captain (and a Post Captain). With him on *Pandora* was former *Bounty* midshipman Thomas Hayward and John Hallett.

23 March 1791 – *Pandora* reaches Tahiti. Edwards found fourteen men of whom four were the loyalists who were forced to remain on the *Bounty*. Edwards had a cage built on the deck of *Pandora* in which the mutineers would be housed. This was to become known as Pandora's Box.

8 May 1791 – *Pandora* leaves Tahiti.

29 August – *Pandora* founders on the Great Barrier Reef. Four mutineers and 31 of *Pandora*'s crew are lost. The remainder now find themselves facing an open boat voyage to Timor and then on to Batavia. Eventually, 78 men of *Pandora*'s ships company of 134 with six mutineers and four loyalists reach England.

Edward's subsequent court martial for the loss of his ship exonerates him. He was eventually promoted to Vice-Admiral in 1809 ending his career as Admiral of the White, the third most senior officer in the RN at the time.

Note: In those times the RN was divided into three squadrons, white, blue and red. The order of precedence post 1805 was Admiral of the fleet, Admiral of the Red (rank created in 1805), Admiral of the White, Admiral of the Blue. Prior to 1805, was Admiral of the Fleet, Admiral of the White, Admiral of the Blue.

(to be continued)



HMS *Pandora*

Regards

**Jerry Payne**

Editor

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