



## HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

### LONGCAST

8 July 22 – Navy Club

15 July 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at the Bays Club

7 August 22 – Ngapona Assn AGM at Birkenhead RSA at 1500

12 August 22 – Navy Club

19 August 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Avondale RSA

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**Hi Folks**

### **NGAPONA ASSN PLATINUM LUNCH**

Our next lunch is at the Bay's Club in Brown's Bay on 15 July. Every second year we hold a formal event and the alternate years hold something a bit different and more informal. This year it is our 'Platinum Lunch' at the Bay's Club, Browns Bay, which is going to be quite special. The Chief of Navy,

Rear Admiral Proctor, has ordered a 'Splice the Mainbrace' in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, so there will be an 'Up Spirits'. So that we can get the catering just right we need an indication of numbers attending.

**Please reply to this email advising your intention to attend this special event (numbers required).**

## **MENDING FENCES**

After cancelling a multi-billion-dollar contract with French firm Naval Group in 2021 and infuriating French president Emmanuel Macron in the process, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese intends to "reset" relations with France. The submarine deal broke down last year when then Australian prime minister Scott Morrison instead signed defence pact Aukus with the US and UK. Macron accused Morrison of lying to him about the contract and tensions erupted between the countries as a result.

## **DEEP FIND**

The wreck of the USS *Samuel B. Roberts*, also known as the Sammy B, was found in two pieces on a slope off the Philippines last week at a depth of more than 22,600 feet, according to a statement by the American explorer Victor Vescovo and the British company EYOS Expeditions. That's more than four miles deep and what is believed to be the deepest wreck ever discovered. The Sammy B contributed to the American victory in the October 1944 Battle off Samar, part of the broader Battle of Leyte Gulf, which has been called the largest naval battle in history. Despite being outgunned, the Sammy B attacked a fleet of imperial Japanese navy ships led by the Yamato, the largest battleship ever constructed, before sinking under fire in the Philippine Sea, earning it a description as "the destroyer that fought like a battleship." Among its 224 crew members, 89 were killed.



## **TWO HALVES WILL BE JOINED**

On the way from Kiel to Hamburg, the K130 Braunschweig class is Germany's newest class of ocean-going corvettes. Five ships have replaced the Gepard-class fast attack craft of the German Navy. They feature reduced radar and infrared signatures ("stealth" beyond the Sachsen-class frigates) and will be equipped with two helicopter UAVs for remote sensing.



## **VICTORIA CROSS**

### **MAJOR CHARLES HEAPHY**

War Office, February 8, 1867.

THE Queen having been graciously pleased, by an instrument under Her Royal Sign Manual, bearing date the 1st of January, 1867, to direct that the decoration of the Victoria Cross may be conferred on persons serving in the Local Forces of New Zealand, who have performed deeds of gallantry during the progress of the operations undertaken against the insurgent native tribes in that Colony,—Her Majesty has accordingly been pleased to signify Her intention to confer this high distinction on the under-mentioned Officer of the Local Forces of that Colony, whose claim to the same has been submitted for Her Majesty's approval; viz. : —

Corps.

Auckland Militia

Rank and Name.

Major Charles Heaphy

Act of Bravery for which recommended.

For his gallant conduct at the skirmish on the banks of the Mangapiko River, in New Zealand, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, 1864, in assisting a wounded soldier of the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment, who had fallen into a hollow among the thickest of the concealed Maories. Whilst doing so, he became the target for a volley at a few feet distant. Five balls pierced his clothes and cap, and he was wounded in three places. Although hurt, he continued to aid the wounded until the end of the day. Major Heaphy was at the time in charge of a party of soldiers of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Regiments, under the orders of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Henry Marshman Havelock, Bart., C.B., V.C., the Senior Officer on the spot, who had moved rapidly down to the place where the troops were hotly engaged and pressed.

The multi-faceted Charles Heaphy made quite an impact on colonial New Zealand as an artist, explorer, soldier and colonial administrator. He was the first colonial soldier to win the Victoria Cross. Born in London, in 1822, Heaphy was the son of a professional painter and inherited some of his father's artistic skills. At 17 he was appointed as resident Artist and Surveyor to the New Zealand Company. He arrived in Port Nicholson (Wellington) in late 1839. His portraits of Māori chiefs, including Te Rauparaha, and various landscape paintings provided an important record of this early European contact period. His work was used by the company in its publicity campaign to attract more migrants.

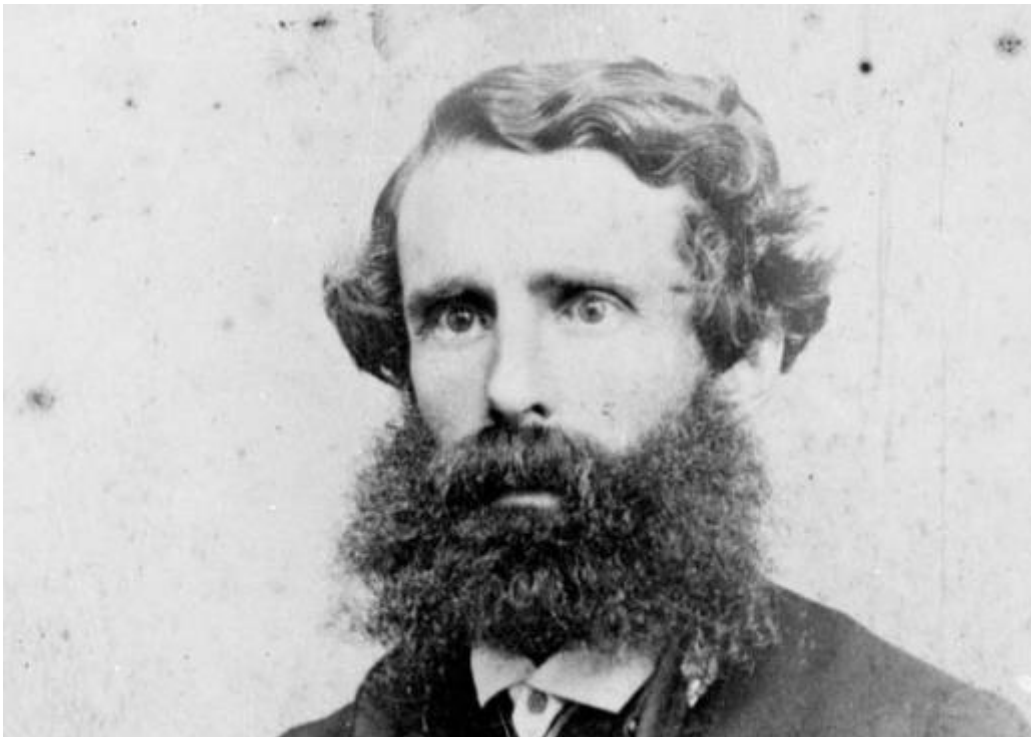
With the Company struggling to provide adequate land for new settlers, Heaphy informed the Company directors of the prospects of exploration into the South Island interior. His 1846 journey with Thomas Brunner was one of the most arduous in the history of New Zealand exploration. The pair spent 560 days journeying from Nelson down the Buller and the West Coast to Arahura. The Heaphy Track in the north-west corner of the South Island is a permanent reminder of this epic journey. Heaphy's role as propagandist for the New Zealand Company had made him unpopular with a number of Nelson settlers. By 1847, struggling to make a living, he left for Auckland to take up a job as a

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draughtsman in the Survey Office of the colonial government. He later became Chief Surveyor. He also served as gold commissioner at Coromandel from November 1852 to June 1853.

In 1859 Heaphy enlisted with the Auckland Rifle Volunteers. He supported the war that broke out in Taranaki in 1860. As preparations were made to invade the Waikato he helped with the survey work for the military road being driven south from Auckland. By July 1863 he was in command of a local militia and became Lieutenant-General Duncan Cameron's Military Surveyor and Guide to the Forces. In February 1864, while under intense fire, Heaphy went to the aid of a wounded soldier during fighting at Waiari, near Te Awamutu. This act saw him become the first member of an irregular unit to be awarded the Victoria Cross. He received his medal three years later at a parade in Auckland on 11 May 1867. Despite this recognition Heaphy was privately expressing disappointment with his life in New Zealand. This may have reflected his heavy workload as chief surveyor to the central government from January 1864 to December 1865, when he was fully occupied with surveys of confiscated Waikato lands.

In June 1867 Heaphy was elected unopposed as Member of the House of Representatives for Parnell. He achieved little in his two years in Parliament, eventually resigning to take up another government post as commissioner of native reserves. He was appointed a judge of the Native Land Court in 1878. A combination of poor health and government cutbacks led to his retirement in 1880. By June 1881 his health had deteriorated to the extent that he and his wife left for the warmth of Brisbane. He died there in August that year.





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