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LONGCAST

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

13 August 22 – Navy Club – AGM, Remuera Club at 1100

19 August 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Orakei RSA

9 September 22 - Navy Club

16 September 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at New Lynn RSA

THIS SUNDAY

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN INC NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Ngapona Assn will be held on Sunday, 7th August 2022, at the Birkenhead RSA at 1500hrs.

Notice of Motion (1) That an Associate Member may stand for election to the Committee.

Notice of Motion (2) That Full Membership shall be open to Serving and Past members of all RNZNVR/RNZNR Divisions.

Notice of Motion (3) That the Constitution be changed to reflect the new requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act.

Please make an effort to attend this meeting as it is important for the survival of your Assn.

There will be 'finger food' and of course a 'President's Shout'.

TRIP TO PERTH NEXT ANZAC DAY

It is time now to make your bookings for the trip to Perth next year.

The itinerary is be below:

Plan B

Return flights to Perth – Air NZ the Works

7 nights' accommodation at Quay Perth, with breakfast daily

Return airport transfers

Full day tour of Fleet Base West

Swan River and winery tour, full day with lunch and refreshments

Rottnest Island full day tour with lunch

ANZAC Day commemoration

Shopping and Perth mint visit

Hospitality

Approximate price in NZD \$3950 per person

Plan C

Includes all or the above, plus 1 extra night in Perth and Indian Pacific Gold Class Rail Journey and flight out of Sydney Air NZ the Works

Approximate price in NZD \$6950 per person

Contact Richard Maddix on 021 369 904 or email richardmaddix@gmail.com

HMNZS TOROA REUNION

It is proposed to hold a reunion for the 95th Anniversary of the RNVR (NZ Division) Otago in June next year. Registrations of Interest from ex and current serving members of HMNZS Toroa are requested to forward names and numbers of those wishing to attend to the Secretary, RNZNVR Association (Otago) at jimdell295@gmail.com or write to The Secretary RNZNVR Association (Otago), 211 St Andrew Street, Dunedin, no later than 31 August.

NORTHLAND LUNCH

Bay of Islands Yacht Club, 12th November 2022. So mark it on your calendars now.

Further news will follow.

THE WORLD NEEDS GRAIN

Insurers will only be willing to cover ships sailing through a proposed corridor to get Ukrainian grain out if there are arrangements for international navy escorts and a clear strategy to deal with sea mines, underwriters and brokers say. An aide to mine sweeping could be the use of satellite technology to identify the locations of the mines, said a marine war insurer who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue. Countries such as the United States, Britain or France may have that technology, the insurer added. The initial problem is that there are over 80 ships stuck in Ukraine – many with cargoes onboard including grain – which need to get out before new ships can go in, sources said.

Ukraine could export 60 million tonnes of grain in eight to nine months if its ports were not blockaded, but

Russia's strike on the port of Odesa showed it will definitely not be that easy, an economic adviser to the Ukrainian president said on Sunday. Ukraine could earn \$10 billion by selling 20 million tonnes of grain in silos and 40 million tonnes from its new harvest. Russian missiles hit the port of Odesa a day after Russia and Ukraine, with mediation by the United Nations and Turkey, signed a deal to reopen Black Sea ports and resume grain exports. Moscow says it hit military infrastructure. The deal is expected to ease global food shortages caused by the war. Ukraine will need 20 to 24 months to export those volumes if its ports are not functioning properly, he said. As part of the provisions of the deal, a Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) will be established in Istanbul and will be composed representatives from all signatories. This will include representatives from Ukraine, Turkey, the Russian Federation, and the UN. It is understood that the Ukrainian delegation arrived in Istanbul on Monday 25th July with the Russian delegation expected soon after, headed by Rear Admiral Eduard Luik, Chief Navigator of the Russian Navy. Merchant vessels are to be prior registered with the JCC, verifying their details and confirming their loading port, having liaised closely with port authorities. The JCC will remotely monitor vessels through the duration of their passage through the maritime humanitarian corridor. As all vessels will be monitored remotely, no military vessels or aircraft or drones may approach the humanitarian corridor closer than a distance agreed by the JCC without authorization by the JCC and consultation with all parties. The JCC will develop and disseminate a detailed operational and communications plan including safe harbors and medical relief options.

Source: Reuters / Dryad Global

AUSTRALIANS TRAINING IN THE UK

As part of the AUKUS agreement, Australian submariners are now attending Royal Navy nuclear propulsion training courses. "The Royal Navy (RN) routinely provides training to foreign Nationals through International Defence Training arrangements. Under the AUKUS arrangements, this now includes the attendance of Australian personnel on RN Nuclear Propulsion training courses. The operation of RN nuclear submarine propulsion plants by Australian personnel remains subject to further enabling work." said Baroness Goldie, Minister of State for the Ministry of Defence.

AUKUS is a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, announced in September 2021. Under the pact, the US and the UK will help Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. Additionally, the pact also includes cooperation on advanced cyber, artificial intelligence and autonomy, quantum technologies, undersea capabilities, hypersonic and counter-hypersonic, electronic warfare, innovation and information sharing. The pact will focus on military capability, separating it from the 'Five Eyes' intelligence-sharing alliance that also includes New Zealand and Canada.

TAIWANESE NAVAL EXERCISE

President Tsai Ing-wen will board a naval vessel to observe an upcoming joint naval exercise on Tuesday that is part of the annual five-day live-fire phase of the Han Kuang military exercises, the Ministry of National Defence (MND) said on Sunday. Tsai will be on board a warship to observe the drill that is expected to feature more than 20 military vessels and several Air Force fighters in the sea off eastern

Yilan County's Suao naval base, to test the Taiwan armed forces' joint defence capabilities against a Chinese invasion from the sea, the MND said. This will mark the first time President Tsai will board a warship to inspect the annual Han Kuang exercises since taking office in May 2016. It is also the second time Tsai will board a warship to inspect a military drill.

NEW ZEALAND VC RECIPIENTS



Donald Forrester Brown VC (23 February 1890 - 1st October 1916)

Donald Brown was born on 23 February 1890 in Dunedin, New Zealand. He was one of 10 children of Robert Brown, a draper living in Oamaru, and his wife Jessie née McFarlane. His parents were migrants from Scotland who had married in New Zealand. The youngest boy in his family, Brown was educated at South School and, later, Waitaki Boys' High School in Oamaru. After completing his schooling he took up farming, and by 1913 had purchased a farm at Totara, south of Oamaru.

When the First World War broke out, Brown continued to work on his farm for a year but then sold it and volunteered for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) on 19 October 1915. He received his training at Trentham Military Camp and embarked for the Middle East in January 1916 with the Ninth Reinforcements. By this time he had been promoted to corporal. The newly formed New Zealand

Division was training in Egypt and when Brown arrived, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Otago Infantry Regiment. Within a few months he was on the Western Front in France with the rest of the division. When the First World War broke out, Brown continued to work on his farm for a year but then sold it and volunteered for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) on 19 October 1915. He received his training at Trentham Military Camp and embarked for the Middle East in January 1916 with the Ninth Reinforcements. By this time he had been promoted to corporal. The newly formed New Zealand Division was training in Egypt and when Brown arrived, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Otago Infantry Regiment. Within a few months he was on the Western Front in France with the rest of the division. The next month, Brown, by now a sergeant, was involved in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, part of the Somme Offensive. On the opening day of the battle, 15 September, the 2nd Otago Battalion, alongside the 2nd Auckland Battalion, had to capture a series of German-held trenches from their position south-east of High Wood. The advance commenced at 6:20 am. While the first trench was easily captured with the assistance of effective artillery support, his company came under heavy flanking machine gun fire while advancing to the next trench, which caused many casualties in the company. Brown, together with another soldier, Corporal Jesse Rodgers, attacked one machine gun post, killing the crew and capturing the gun. The remaining soldiers regrouped and prepared for an attack on the next trench. During a covering artillery barrage they once again came under fire from a machine gun post. Brown was amongst those who attacked this second machine gun post, swiftly dealing with the threat.

Once the covering barrage lifted, the New Zealanders advanced and captured their next objective, a position known as Switch Trench, by 7:00 am. Some tanks were supposed to have been assisting the infantry but these never appeared. Brown was key in immediately improving the existing defences in preparation against a possible counterattack, by digging new trenches for shelter should Switch Trench be targeted by German artillery. The following day, his battalion was relieved and withdrew from the front line. Brown's company lost 123 men from its initial complement of 180 during the opening day of the battle. After a period of rest, Brown's battalion moved back into the front line on the evening of 28 September. It was to be one of the assaulting battalions involved in an attack to clear out a German trench system near Eaucourt L'Abbaye as part of the Battle of Le Transloy that commenced on 1 October. On the opening day of the battle, Brown was again involved in the seizing of a German machine gun post at a strongpoint that was holding up the advance. Moving forward on his own, armed only with a pistol, Brown attacked the post. He managed to kill its crew and capture the gun which allowed his fellow troops to attack and capture the strongpoint. While firing at German soldiers as they fled, Brown was shot in the head by a sniper and killed instantly.

The senior leadership of the NZEF were slow to recognise Brown's gallantry and it was not until the officers of his battalion lobbied for a VC nomination that any progress was made. The award of the VC to Brown was gazetted on 15 June 1917. The citation read:

“For most conspicuous bravery and determination in attack when the company to which he belonged suffered very heavy casualties in officers and men from machine gun fire. At great personal risk this N.C.O. advanced with a comrade and succeeded in reaching a point within thirty yards of the enemy guns. Four of the gun crew were killed and the gun captured. The advance of the company was continued till it was again held up by machine gun fire. Again Sjt. Brown and his comrade with great gallantry rushed the gun and killed the crew. After this second position had been won, the company came under very heavy shell fire, and the utter contempt for danger and coolness under fire of this N.C.O. did much to keep

up the spirit of his men. On a subsequent occasion in attack, Sjt Brown showed most conspicuous gallantry. He attacked singlehanded a machine gun which was holding up the attack, killed the gun crew, and captured the gun. Later, whilst sniping the retreating enemy, this very gallant soldier was killed.”

The medal remains in the possession of his family but it has been loaned for display at Waitaki Boys' High School, the QEII Army Memorial Museum in Waiouru and the North Otago Museum.

Brown is buried at Warlencourt British Cemetery, France. A memorial tablet in his honour was unveiled in the Oamaru Municipal Chambers on 27 October 1917. In 1919, as part of an effort to recognise men from North Otago who had been killed in the war, an oak tree was planted in his memory in Oamaru. There is also a plaque honouring him in Queen's Garden in Dunedin.



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