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## LONGCAST

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

14 October 22 – Navy Club

21 October 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Glen Eden RSA

Hi Folks

### **NGAPONA ASSOCIATION AGM**

The AGM of the Assn was held last Sunday at the Birkenhead RSA. Your new committee is:

President: Jerry Payne

Secretary:

Treasurer: Terry Creagh

Committee: Wayne Smith

Dave Thorpe

Graham Milne

CO's Rep: Lt Cdr Aston Talbot

Margaret Mitchell was unable to attend the meeting but has offered to join the Committee. This will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

The position of Secretary is yet to be filled.

Thanks to Richard Maddix and Lisa Biesheuvel who did not stand for re-election

A comprehensive report was given by Ngapona's CO, LT CDR Nigel Heslop.

There was discussion on how we could increase the membership.

Thank you to all those who attended.

### **Important Changes**

We have changed our constitution to allow serving and past members of the other Reserve Divisions, Olphert, Pegasus and Toroa to become full members of the Ngapona Assn. This is another step in the vision to eventually have a NZ Naval Reserve Association. We look forward to having members of the other Divisions joining us.

We have also made a change that will allow Associate Members of the Ngapona Association to serve on the committee of the Association.

### **NEW NAVAL COMMAND AT HMNZS PEGASUS**

LTCDR Boore said he is looking forward to the challenge of leading the Naval Reserves in Christchurch, which he took over in late July from LTCDR Zoe Brangwin.

"I feel very honoured to be appointed to the role, and whilst it will be challenging, I am certain it will put the icing on the cake of a dedicated and enjoyable military career.

LTCDR Boore joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in January 1979 at the age of 15 as an apprentice radio fitter, he rose through the ranks receiving his officer's commission in 1993.

LTCDR Boore served aboard Her Majesty New Zealand Ships Otago,

Taupo, Wellington, Waikato and Te Mana, as well as onshore at Tamaki, Philomel and Iriragi before leaving the Navy in 2005 to work for the Australian Department of Defence.

After returning to New Zealand in 2011 following the Christchurch Earthquakes he joined back up with the Naval Reserves in 2012, accepting a short-term regular force engagement in Burnham in 2015 with the Youth Development Unit (South), before taking up his current civilian role in 2018 with the Department of Corrections.

LTCDR Boore said he hopes to continue the great results that have been achieved with the recent round of recruiting and training of the first batch of Naval Reserves.

“I also want to ensure that the specialist Maritime Trade Operations team at Pegasus remain as engaged as they have been over many recent exercises and training activities.

### **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

Rottneest 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Accommodation is available for two couples and two singles. Please advise by return email if you require accommodation.

### **NEW RUSSIAN CORVETTE**

Russian Navy's Bora-class, Hoverborne guided-missile Corvette in Sevastapol Bay. It is a catamaran with rubber skirts which rotate down under the bow and stern to create an air cushion for it to hover partially above the

water. Two of them are built and are relevant in the war with Ukraine.

*Source: Warshipporn*



**NEW ZEALAND VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENTS**



**James Crichton, VC (15 July 1879 – 22 September 1961)**

Born in 1879 in Ireland, Crichton served with the British Army during the Second Boer War, and later immigrated to New Zealand. Following the outbreak of the First World War, he joined the New Zealand Military Forces and served with the Army Service Corps during the Gallipoli Campaign and on the Western Front in a field bakery. He transferred to the infantry in May 1918. On 30 September 1918, during the Hundred Days Offensive, as well as carrying messages while under gunfire, he deactivated demolition charges set by German forces to destroy a bridge.

Following the outbreak of the First World War, Crichton volunteered for the New Zealand Military Forces and was sent to the Middle East with the main body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) in October 1914. Promoted to corporal, he was posted to the New Zealand Army Service Corps (NZASC) as a baker with a field bakery. For the Gallipoli Campaign, the field bakery was part of the NZASC Divisional Train of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The NZASC divisional train was landed at Anzac Cove on 26 April 1915, and Crichton served throughout the campaign. At its conclusion, he was promoted to quartermaster sergeant. Two months later, he was promoted again, to warrant officer, 2nd class, before being sent to the Western Front.

Crichton was now serving with the 1st Field Bakery, which was part of the NZASC Divisional Train supplying the New Zealand Division

In May 1918, having served with the 1st Field Bakery for over three years, Crichton wanted a transfer to serve with the infantry and experience frontline action. He relinquished his rank as a warrant officer and was posted to the infantry. He later stated that he had been selected for officer training with the NZASC, but a senior officer in the Auckland Infantry Regiment offered to arrange his transfer if permission was obtained. It was made clear to him that he would be reduced in rank if he proceeded with the transfer. Initially placed in the 3rd Entrenching Battalion, one of the training units of the New Zealand Division, he was transferred to the Auckland Infantry Regiment and posted to its 2nd Battalion with the rank of private in late August 1918.

On 30 September 1918, during the Hundred Days Offensive, Crichton's platoon was trying to force a crossing of the Scheldt River, near Crèvecoeur, when it came under machine-gun fire. With several men killed, including the platoon commander and senior non-commissioned officer, Crichton and the remnants of the platoon were trapped on an island in the middle of the river. The bridge leading to Crèvecoeur was wired for demolition. Despite a foot wound, Crichton volunteered to inform company headquarters of the platoon's situation.

Fully clothed, Crichton swam the river and despite being exposed to German gunfire as he made his way up the bank, he was able to make his report to the company's commander. He then returned to the trapped platoon, carrying a message to hold on for reinforcements. While waiting assistance from other units, Crichton decided to deal with the demolition charges on the bridges and took out the fuses and detonators. While doing so, he was exposed to gunfire from German snipers.

After he returned to his company commander to report his successful deactivation of the demolition charges, Crichton attempted to re-join his platoon but was ordered to remain behind at company headquarters. He then assisted stretcher bearers transporting wounded soldiers before the

gravity of his wounds became apparent and he was taken, despite his protests, to a field hospital. He was later evacuated to England for further treatment. Promoted to sergeant, he was still recovering from his wounds when the war ended.

Crichton was awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for his deeds of 30 September 1918.

The citation for his VC read:

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when, although wounded in the foot, he continued with the advancing troops despite difficult canal and river obstacles. When his platoon was subsequently forced back by a counterattack he succeeded in carrying a message which involved swimming a river and crossing an area swept by machine-gun fire, subsequently re-joining his platoon. Later he undertook on his own initiative to save a bridge which had been mined, and, though under close fire of machine-guns and snipers, he succeeded in removing the charges, returning with the fuses and detonators. Though suffering from a painful wound he displayed the highest degree of valour and devotion to duty.

— *The London Gazette*, No. 31012, 15 November 1918

After leaving the military, Crichton resumed his pre-war profession as a cable splicer. In 1919 he married Amy Watkins née Howe, a war widow. The couple had two daughters.

Crichton was part of the New Zealand contingent sent to London in 1937 for the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. At the time, he was working for the New Zealand Post & Telegraph Department as a foreman. He retired two years later.

During the Second World War, Crichton served in the Home Guard and worked on merchant ships travelling between New Zealand and England. Crichton died at Auckland Hospital on 22 September 1961. Survived by his wife and a daughter, he was buried in Waikumete Cemetery in Auckland. Crichton's family donated his VC to the Auckland War Memorial Museum, which continues to hold the medal along with his service medals



from the Boer War and the First and Second World Wars.



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