

## **NGAPONA ASSN – CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Our Christmas lunch this year will be at the Birkenhead RSA on Friday, 16 December. This will be an excellent meal, but we need to know numbers for the caterer. Thanks to those who have already replied, but we need some more. Just reply to this email with names and numbers attending. (It will only take you a couple of seconds!)

## **NGAPONA ASSOCIATION – HELP REQUIRED**

**Thank you to those who have replied to the questionnaire. To everyone else – just take a couple of minutes to tell us how we can improve the Assn.**

The Association Committee is concerned that the attendance at our monthly lunches is slowly declining, and we should be looking at ways to address this trend.

Below are five questions that we would like answers to. With your help we can keep the Association operating as a vibrant organisation for the enjoyment of our members.

Please reply to this email with your answers – your help would be appreciated.

- a. What other activities would you like the Association to do instead of our monthly lunches for you to attend?
- b. Would you attend every second month for lunch, or have the present arrangement of monthly lunches?
- c. If we held only two functions in a year, would you attend both of them?
- d. Would you prefer to have only one venue to go for lunch, or go to a different venue each month?
- e. What are the main inhibitors resulting in your decision to not attend monthly lunches?

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE - HMS NEPTUNE**

Memorial Service – 81st Anniversary of the Sinking of HMS NEPTUNE

Sunday 18 December 2022, 1000

St Christopher's Chapel, Devonport Naval Base

Rig: 1BW (negative swords)

A memorial service to remember the sinking of HMS *Neptune* will be held at St Christopher's on Sunday 18 December at 1000. I know there are some members of the Ngapona Association who like to attend this service.

As in previous years, there are opportunities to be involved in the service. As the base is still quietly opening up, we are just going for the 'simple but meaningful' approach with the service. We always need ode reciters and readers though.

There will be morning tea following the service. It would be helpful if we had an idea of numbers, so RSVPs to this address would be appreciated.

[michael.berry@aucklandanglican.org.nz](mailto:michael.berry@aucklandanglican.org.nz).

On 19 December 1941, HMS *Neptune* sank after hitting a mine off the coast of Tripoli in the Mediterranean. All but one of the 764 personnel aboard lost their lives. Amongst the crew were 150 New Zealanders, many of whom were

reservists. This event represents the largest loss of New Zealand life at sea and forms a significant event in the history of our Navy and especially of our Naval Reserve.

### **PORT NELSON UPGRADE**

The arrival at Port Nelson of the container vessel MSC Langsar at the weekend marks the first time a ship over 260m has berthed on Main Wharf South since a \$20 million upgrade.

Completed in November 2021, the upgrade included redeveloping the main wharf's northern section, increasing the port's earthquake resilience and moving main wharf container operations further away from residential neighbours.

In a statement, Port Nelson says the trend towards the use of larger vessels has grown over recent years as container shipping lines seek to “optimise the environmental and economic efficiency of sea freight”. Previously, Port Nelson had been able to routinely receive vessels up to 250m in length.

“The arrival of MSC Langsar (on Saturday) is part of a process to normalise the arrival of vessels up to 265m in length,” the statement says.

Along with the visitation of larger vessels, Port Nelson is also set to benefit from new and existing shipping services coming into or back to the region, including the commencement of a new trans-Tasman service from Move Logistics, due to start next week.

*Source: Stuff*



## **WORLD'S LARGEST CONTAINER SHIP**

Last Sunday, the latest and largest container ship in the world, "EVER ATOP" crossed the new Suez Canal as part of the convoy of the south. Its journey is coming from Malaysia and headed for the Netherlands, Osama Rabie, head of the Suez Canal Authority, announced. "EVER ATOP" follows the shipping line of Evergreen and is the tenth ship in a series of 12 giant ships under construction of the 24 A class. Its weight is 221,000 tons, and it can carry 24,132 containers.



## **U.S. NAVY LOWERS TEST STANDARDS**

On Monday, the U.S. Navy announced that it will lower its entrance test standards, the latest in a series of quiet changes intended to address hiring challenges. About 80 percent of Americans of prime recruiting age are ineligible for military service due to obesity, criminal records and other obstacles, and the remainder have many non-military options to choose from in a robust job market. This year, the Navy needs to convince about 38,000 eligible Americans to enlist, and it is making some headline-grabbing changes in order to do it. In November, the service raised the maximum enlistment age from 39 to 41, the statutory limit. Effective Monday, it has also told recruiters that it will accept candidates who score well below average on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT), the standard test administered in all U.S. military recruiting.

## **ITS NOT MARITIME BUT.....**

The final 747-8 freighter model will fly to Portland for painting before Christmas and return to Everett early in the New Year. It will undergo standard testing of fuel and other systems and then be inspected by its buyer, the cargo company Atlas Air that purchased Boeing's last three 747s. Atlas will take delivery some weeks after its return to Everett and at that point Boeing plans a farewell celebration of its "Queen of the Skies." The first 747 rolled out at the same airfield on Sept. 30, 1968. With its distinctive humped upper deck, it's the only airplane many flyers can recognize on first sight. . The final British Airways 747 flights departed London Heathrow on October 8, 2020. After a 54-year production run, 1,574 aircrafts are built. As of 2020, 61 Boeing 747s have been lost in accidents and incidents, in which a total of 3,722 people have died.

## ROYAL NAVY SHIPS IN NEW ZEALAND

### HMS HERALD

Atholl class corvette

Armament: 28 guns

Length: 113 feet 8 inches

Beam: 31 feet 10 inches.

Complement: 175

Full rigged ship

Launched as HMS *Termagant* in 1822 having been built at Cochin India. Renamed HMS *Herald* in 1824.

19 Jan 1840 – *Herald* is employed transporting Lieutenant Governor Hobson from Port Jackson to the Bay of Islands. It seems that the ship remained in New Zealand for some time being employed by the Governor on various duties of which a primary task was to transport dignitaries to various parts of the country to gain further signatories to the Treaty of Waitangi. Places visited include Coromandel, the Bay of Plenty, the East Coast, the South Island and Wellington. *Herald* was also employed on surveying operations and an area of great significance was Auckland harbour by which some areas of interest were named including Herald Island (named after the ship).

1844- *Herald* is converted at Sheerness to a survey ship with her armament being reduced to 8 guns and was employed extensively by the Royal Navy surveying in various places in the world including the Pacific and Australasia and assisted in the resettlement of Pitcairn Islanders to Norfolk Island in 1855.

HMS *Herald* became a chapel ship in 1861 and was eventually sold for breaking up in 1862.



### HMS BRITOMART

Cherokee class brig-sloop

Commanding Officer: Captain Owen Stanley

1840 – vessel used to survey the entrance to the Bay of Islands.

In 1840, while the ship was in New Zealand waters, Governor Hobson became aware that King Louis-Phillipe of France had designs on establishing a French settlement in Akaroa, dispatching a Captain Charles Lavaud in April 1840 to the region followed by a ship carrying 53 emigrants. The French were unaware that New Zealand had been claimed by the British. Hobson became aware of the French warship *L'Aube* approaching New Zealand and sent the *Britomart* to Akoroa to counter any French move to claim the country for France. *Britomart* arrived at Akaroa on the 11th August 1840 and raised the British flag. Lavoud arrived at Akaroa five days later and on sighting the flag accepted that France could not establish a colony in New Zealand. When the ship carrying the emigrants arrived, they elected to become British subjects and remained in Akaroa. Captain Stanley was to carry out other surveys in New Zealand notably a trigonometrical survey of Auckland harbour ordered by Hobson on deciding to re-site the capital from the Bay of Islands. Captain Stanley gave his name to Stanley Point and Stanley Bay on the North Shore and Stanley Street in the city. Britomart Place is named after HMS *Britomart*.

