

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

LONGCAST

- 6 February 19 – Waitangi Day
- 8 February 19 – Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club
- 15 February 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA
- 8 March 19 - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club
- 15 March 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA
- 23 March 19 – Kumeu Militaria Show
- 18 April 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA (Thursday)
- 19 – 22 April 19 – Easter Weekend

Hi Folks

HDML KUPARU

After her summer cruise to Great Barrier. Bay of Islands and around the Hauraki Gulf, her owner, Scott Perry, has secured a permanent berth in Whangarei. *Kuparu* can now be viewed in the Town Basin, adjacent to the Whangarei Art Museum and Claphams Clock Museum.



Kuparu berthed at Whangarei

MAINTENANCE SUPPORT TEAM

It's been called the "Commodore's barge" or simply the "VIP barge". To the Maintenance Support Team at Devonport Naval Base, she's another job ticked off at the dockyard. The team have spent a month refreshing MAHANGA, the 14-metre vessel used by the Navy as a courtesy transport launch for Navy guests. Built by dockyard apprentices at HMNZS PHILOMEL in 1980 for Commodore Auckland, there is little history on her but she is likely named after one of two cross-harbour Liberty Boats built in 1966, MATAMUA and MAHANGA. The VIP barge is also used for ashes scattering ceremonies, a service the Navy provides to the public two or three times a year. The navigation suite aboard, newly installed by the MST, is a modern fixture, but there are elements of old-style sea practice in MAHANGA, particularly with the teak decking and finishing. Teak is a natural non-slip wood. MST's role at PHILOMEL is support to the fleet on any maintenance they need, says Able Weapons Technician Brent Boeyen. Ships have maintenance crews, but often extra help is needed. "It could be any kind of job. We've just got a team back from Fiji, who went to help out HMNZS TAUPO. We've got another team scheduled to go to Fiji to help HMNZS OTAGO with planned maintenance, so the Ship's Company can have respite." MAHANGA had an unfortunate moment in 2012 when she was holed at the entrance to Tutukaka, on her way back from the Waitangi celebrations. She partially sunk, but was returned to PHILOMEL a week later for repairs. (As printed in *Navy Today*, September 2018)



"Commodore's Barge"

DID YOU KNOW?

On 1st February 2005, Gubb Naval Tailors ceased trading at the Devonport Naval Base. Cliff Gubb joined the Navy in 1935 and served in several ships including *Leander* and *Gambia*. He commenced a tailoring apprenticeship after the war and then set up as the Base Tailor in 1947 until his death in 1990. His nephew, Trevor McKeown, then an Instructor Officer in the RNZN, took over the business until its closure 15 years later, after 57 years association with the RNZN.



A hand-cranked blind stitch sewing machine mounted on a wooden plinth. This was used for many years by Cliff Gubb, ex RNZN tailor, for making and repairing uniforms.

Take care

Jerry Payne

Editor@ngapona.org.nz

021 486 013

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn Inc

"There are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea."

"But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."

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