

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

LONGCAST

8 March 19 - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club
15 March 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA
23 March 19 – Kumeu Militaria Show
6 April 19 - HMNZS Otago Reunion, Birkenhead RSA
18 April 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA (Thursday)
19 – 22 April 19 – Easter Weekend
25 April 19 – ANZAC Day
25 April 19 – Gunnery Instructor's Reunion, Thames
10 May - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club
17 May - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Pt Chevalier RSA
1-3 June – Queen's Birthday Weekend
1-3 June – RNZN Antarctic Veterans Reunion, Rangiora RSA

NGAPONA ASSN - NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that I advise that Mr Cyril Hicks, Lt Cdr RNZNVR (Rtd) NZ9829 has become a member of our Association. Cyril served at *Ngapona* from 1952 to 1957. It is possible that Cyril is perhaps the oldest past member of *Ngapona*. Welcome Cyril, great to have you on board.

To all those other past members of Ngapona who receive the weekly newsletter, we encourage you to join the Assn. There is a once only joining fee of \$40.00 with no annual subscription.

The objects of the Assn are as follows:

- 1 To foster and promote comradeship amongst former members of the RNZNVR and HMNZS Ngapona in particular, those having an association with, or an interest in, the RNZN and/or RNZNVR, and members of the Association.
- 2 To encourage an interest in the history of HMNZS Ngapona and maintain a permanent record.
- 3 To support HMNZS Ngapona if and when required.
- 4 To liaise and co-operate with other Divisions of the RNZNVR and the RNZN.
- 5 To encourage membership of the Association.

Your membership will help preserve the history of *Ngapona*.
An application form is attached.

NGAPONA ASSN LUNCH AT WAIHEKE RSA

Our next lunch is at the Waiheke RSA on Friday, 15 March. Mark your diary now - this is a great day out.

The ferry leaves the downtown ferry building on the half hour. Suggest we catch the 1100 boat as this also calls at Devonport on the way so 'Northern Folk' don't need to come into town.

It's good to get to the ferry building early and have a coffee before boarding the ferry. The return sailings are on the half hour with the 1400 and 1600 sailings calling at Devonport.

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN - WEBSITE

The Ngapona Assn now has a website up and running. Visit 'www.ngapona.org.nz' to get the latest news. We are now looking for photographs and articles to add to the site. If you have any stories or 'pics' you would like to share just email them to editor@ngapona.org.nz so we can upload them.

A very special thanks to Bruce Gordon of Discount Websites who created the site for us at a very reasonable cost.

If you need any work or advice on new or current websites you can contact Bruce at bruce@discountwebsites.co.nz

Bruce is ex RNZN so understands 'jackspeak'.

COMMAND WARRANT OFFICER APPOINTMENT

Chief of Navy RA David Proctor has announced WOET Dion Edwin as the new Command Warrant Officer for the Maritime Component Commander (MCC CWO). WO Edwin is due to take up the appointment in March 2019.

The MCC CWO is a NZDF Senior Warrant Officer position which focusses on star-rank advisory and requires strong leadership, managerial skills, interpersonal acumen and strategic influence. The MCC CWO, alongside the NSC CWO and the WON, work across all levels of our Navy and NZDF to foster a better understanding of our sailors' perspectives and play an important role in our Integrated Defence Force.

VETERANS ID CARDS FOR HM FORCES

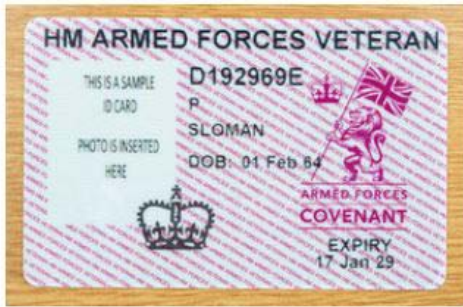
A new ID card for armed forces veterans, which will help them access specialist support and services, has started to be issued to service leavers.

From today, any personnel who have left the military since December 2018 will automatically be given one of the new ID cards, which will allow them to maintain a tangible link to their career in the forces.

The cards allow veterans to easily verify their service to the NHS, their local authority, and charities, helping them to access support and services where needed.

All other veterans will be able to apply for a new ID card by the end of this year, to mark their time in the armed forces.

Is this a good move, should New Zealand follow suit?



An example of the new Veterans ID card

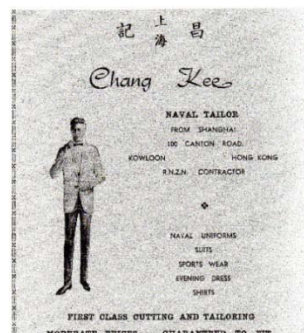
“LIBERTY GUYS TO GLAMOURISE”

Was the typical ‘yankee’ ‘pipe’ that many a Kiwi matelot heard when alongside of an American war-ship. It was time for their sailors to prepare and go ashore. The ‘dress’ of our matelots was interesting to say the least over the years. It was the “shit, shower and shampoo” ritual followed by the body being ‘washed’ with old spice and then the arduous performance to don the ‘square rigged’ number one’s. (At a time when it was compulsory for all Junior Rates to wear their uniform ashore) Then “Jolly Jack” would proceed ashore looking “spick n span.”

The matelots uniform was a thing of historical “beauty” with buttons & bows, tapes & cords, zips & velcro which all had to be in place other-wise most times you wouldn’t get past the ‘eagle-eyed’ OOD’s/DPO’s inspection. How some matelots got their uniforms off in a hurry and at times back on in a hurry when ashore will no doubt remain a mystery. The best-looking winter rig ashore was half blues with the stylish burberry coat with the white silk scarf and trop shirt showing.

When “civvies” became the rig for sailors to go ashore in, the matelot was always smartly and trendily attired with the latest fashioned clothes to the fore. With the aid of Chang-kee (Tailor) and Pinkee (cobbler) onboard, the many clothing tailors ashore in the far-east who offered copious amounts of beer whilst they measured you up in conjunction with dirt cheap prices and of course not forgetting Gubb & Mackie who also enjoyed ‘measuring up’ sailors, the matelot showed the way in the fashion stakes for many years.

Who can forget the collarless suits, flared trousers, cravats, large “Elvis-like” collars, broad belts, dangling jewellery, vest & matching trousers, chisel or pointed toed shoes complete with side-burns! Oh, the memories of days that are now long gone. I wonder if anyone still has any of these type of clothes in their wardrobe today?
(Supplied by Jack Donnelly WOGI Rtd)



AUSTRALIAN GALLANTRY AWARD FOR 161 BATTERY MEMBERS

The NZ Government has agreed that Royal New Zealand Artillery personnel who served in the Vietnam War will be awarded the Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry.

The award affects around 120 members of 161 Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery, who participated in the Battles of Coral and Balmoral in Vietnam between 12 May and 6 June 1968, as well as other New Zealand Armed Forces personnel directly involved in one or both battles.

Eligible veterans who are not in contact with the Royal New Zealand Artillery Association should provide their contact details to New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Archives and Medals, Private Bag 905, Upper Hutt 5140.

Email: NZDF.pam@nzdf.mil.nz or telephone: 04 527 5280.



DID YOU KNOW?

On 1st March 1990 the rum issue in the RNZN ceased. Previously any sailor over the age of 20 was entitled to half a gill of rum per day (rum was not issued to officers), but at the time, only 28 percent of those sailors eligible were drawing their entitlement. In 1939, in the Royal Navy, only 17 percent of those entitled drew their daily tot, but the usage climbed dramatically as a result of World War II.



Last rum issue - Philomel 1 March 1990

Can you name the officer?

Take care

Jerry Payne

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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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