



HMNZS NGAPONA
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

LONGCAST

6 April 19 - HMNZS Otago Reunion, Birkenhead RSA. See www.hmzsootago.org

12 April 19 - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club

18 April 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA (Thursday)

19 – 22 April 19 – Easter Weekend

25 April 19 – ANZAC Day

3-5 May 19 - Radar Plotters' Reunion, Taupo. Contact pearcegc@xtra.co.nz

10 May - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club

17 May - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Pt Chevalier RSA

25 May 19 - Artificer Apprentices Assn, Ngataringa. Contact andy.francis@xtra.co.nz

1-3 June – Queen's Birthday Weekend

1-3 June – RNZN Antarctic Veterans Reunion, Rangiora RSA Contact bill.lochrie@xtra.co.nz

Hi Folks

Thanks to all those who spotted my deliberate mistake last week - at least I know you read the emails.

Daylight saving finishes on 7 April.

Please note that our lunch this month is on **Thursday** 18 April due to Easter Weekend.

TS ACHILLES PRESENTATION

Last week Terry Creagh and I visited the Navy Cadets at *TS Achilles*. We presented them with a copy of the book 'RNZN Diary' by Fred Wilson.

I was extremely impressed by their drill and the professional manner in which they carried out their duties.

We should be very proud of our Cadet Forces and the officers, instructors and volunteers who instruct them.

Four cadets from *Achilles* assisted at the HMNZS *Ngapona* Assn lunch in December last year.



Leading Cadet John Osborne receiving the book

“THE WAY WE WERE” – WOMEN AT SEA.

by Jack Donnelly

“They brought bad luck to sailors as they distracted them from their sea duties”

Our women have been on non-combatant ships for well over 30 years, but it was not until 1989 that they were allowed to serve at sea on war-ships. HMNZS Wellington was redesigned specifically to accommodate our first females to serve in a combat zone.

To the older matelot who had served at sea for many years without having women onboard, this was an invasion of his privacy and many did not take too kindly of having to work alongside females.

My personal observations of having women onboard was when in 1996 I requested to be posted to sea on Waikato for my final draft before I left the RNZN. I was always of the opinion that a war-ship was not the place for a woman, full stop!

During my 5 months onboard I saw or heard ‘first-hand’ the following:

- a. How much harder the ladies had to work just to prove that they were worthy of being a sailor at sea.
- b. The preferential treatment they received from some of the officers, senior and junior rates in reference to giving them a hand to lift when storing or ammunitioning ship.
- c. Senior rates “signing off” on task books which had not been completed by one of their

female junior rates in their division.

d. Male and female ratings conversing for long periods of time which led to being distracted from carrying out their specific duties.

e. The normal human behaviour of seeking consensual sex with female ship mates.

f. Watching male & female proceeding ashore arm in arm.

g. Females addressing officers by their first or 'nick' names.

All of which could well have led to a break-down in discipline and authority.

Today, we have female CO's, XO's and most of the trades covered by our women at sea, and good luck to them. It is however, not the Navy that I joined. This is one man's opinion, what's yours?



DID YOU KNOW?

On 5 April 1946, named cap ribbons were reintroduced to replace the wartime HMS ribbons, wartime HMNZS ribbons never having been produced. The ships provided for were: *Philomel*, *Tamaki*, *Tasman*, *Arabis*, *Arbutus*, *Tui*, *Kiwi* and *HMNZS Minesweepers*. As a consequence, there were never any cap ribbons for *HMNZS Achilles*, *Leander*, *Gambier* or the World War II *Monowai*. At the time, the names of the Dido-class cruisers allocated to New Zealand were not known.



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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