



HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

- 13 December 19 - Navy Club, Remuera Club at 1200
- 13 December 19 – Maritime Societies' Annual Dinner, Northern Club at 1830
- 15 December 19 - HMS NEPTUNE St Christopher's Chapel, DNB.
- 20 December 19 - Ngapona Assn Xmas Lunch at Orakei RSA
- 17 January 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
- 29 January 20 – Auckland Anniversary Regatta

Hi Folks

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION MONTHLY LUNCH

Our next luncheon is our Christmas Luncheon to be held at the Orakei RSA on 20 December. We will not be holding a Christmas Function this year but instead will make our final lunch something really special.

The Orakei RSA is going 'all out' to make this an event to remember. They are going to create a naval theme and have a special menu and the meal will be served at the table. There will also be a door prize provided by the Assn. This event is open to **Partners** and **Friends**.

All you have to do is mark it in your diary, tell your friends, and let us know you are coming. Serving members of **Ngapona** and members of the **Navy Club** are most welcome.

MENU

Ham on the Bone, served with Cumberland Sauce, Roasted and Steamed Vegetables, Pomegranate & Potato Salad, and Gravy. Dessert will be Mini Christmas Puddings served with Brandy Custard and Cream.

Total Cost is \$30.00 per head. For those that do not enjoy Ham there will be an alternative meat of Free Range Chicken stuffed with Fresh Herb Stuffing available.

We would like to know of those that require this before the event as well as those who have food allergies such as Gluten Free, Dairy Free.

RSVP required by 16 December. Just reply to this email with **'YES'** in the subject line.

Friday, 20 December 2019, at 1200hrs at the Orakei RSA

PROMOTION AND NEW JOB

One of our Ngapona Association members, Bronwyn Heslop, wife of the Commanding Officer of HMNZS Ngapona, has just been promoted to Commander. Bronwyn is about to take up her new post as Fleet Executive Officer.

Congratulations Bronwyn and all the best for your new job.

BZ

HMS NEPTUNE CHURCH SERVICE ST CHRISTOPHERS CHAPEL SUN 15 DEC.

Memorial Service – 78th Anniversary of the Sinking of HMS NEPTUNE 1000 Sunday 15 December 2019, St Christopher's Chapel, Devonport Naval Base Rig: 1BW (negative swords) or civilian equivalent.

Two volunteers are required this year to assist in the service – please let me know if you are able to help.

On 19 December 1941, HMS NEPTUNE sunk 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. Ngapona Association members are invited to attend the service which will be led by Padre Michael Berry.

NEW COMMODORE AND DCN

In 1996, Melissa Ross broke new ground as one of the first women to serve on a Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) warship on an operational mission.

Today she became the first woman in New Zealand naval history to achieve Commodore rank, and the first woman to be posted as Deputy Chief of Navy.

Commodore Ross, of Nga Puhi descent, was promoted at Te Taua Moana Marae in Devonport. She then reported for duty at Devonport Naval Base, taking up her role as second-in-command of the RNZN.

Her family, from Hokianga in Northland to Kawerau in Bay of Plenty, where she grew up, attended the ceremony.

She went to Kawerau College (now Tarawera College) and trained in mechanical engineering at Christchurch Polytechnic, while also representing New Zealand in volleyball. After two years of study her sister-in-law, who was serving in the RNZN, suggested the Navy as a career.

"I was looking around for an engineering role, but I didn't know anything about the Navy at the time," Commodore Ross said.

She joined the RNZN in 1993. It never occurred to her that a female marine engineer didn't at that time have the same opportunities as her male counterparts, but women had been serving at sea only since the late 1980s, and on support vessels only.

Women were not permitted to serve on frigates until 1994 and Commodore Ross was one of the first, heading to HMNZS Southland first and then HMNZS Wellington to the Arabian Gulf, as part of a Multinational Interception Force enforcing United Nations trade sanctions imposed on Iraq.

"The frigates weren't set-up for women," she said. "On HMNZS Southland they just partitioned off part of the Senior Rates' Mess Deck with plywood for our quarters. But the Navy learnt a lot about deploying women during and after that trip and I am glad we had leaders who had the courage and gave women that opportunity."

She is excited about her appointment as Deputy Chief of Navy.

“This is a really big role, at a time when a lot is happening in the Navy. We have ships being delivered, and returning from upgrades, and we have to ensure we are ready for the next step of bringing them into service.”

What keeps her excited in her career is knowing what she contributes.

“We make a difference to the lives of New Zealanders, whether that is working in our communities during natural disasters, for our nation protecting our resources or internationally with partners to ensure stability globally.”

Commodore Ross has two Masters degrees, the most recent from the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy in the United States. She is passionate about the development of women in the military and was co-chair of the NZDF Women’s Development Steering Group, which she helped create.



DCN handover from Cdre Matt Williams to Cdre Melissa Ross

THE AUSSIES ARE IN TOWN

HMAS BRISBANE berthed today at Princes Wharf and expected to sail at 9000 on Thursday 12 Dec 19.



HMAS *Brisbane III*

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

The Civilian of the Year award was introduced in 2017 as a means of recognising civilian personnel within the NZDF who perform exceptionally in their roles and demonstrate the four RNZN core values of Tū Kaha, Tū Tika, Tū Tira, and Tū Māia.

Chief of Navy, RADM David Proctor announced the 2019 RNZN Civilian of the Year is: Mr David Murray Sea Safety Training Manager – Sea Safety Training Squadron

David has been with the Navy for over 40 years, the last eight out of uniform as the Sea Safety Training Manager at the Sea Safety Training Squadron. Over the past year, David's efforts have increased trainee throughput by an average of 40%, supporting the clearing of backlog for promotion courses.

SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS HAWEA (1975)

The Lake-class were introduced as patrol craft to police the Exclusive Economic Zone, but they were built to a shortened European design, unsuited to the different sea state of the south-west Pacific. As a consequence they had a reputation for having exceptionally poor sea-keeping qualities.

Only four craft were purchased and they took the names of the former Loch-class frigates, but with the pennant numbers P3568 to P3571.



HMNZS *Taupo*



DID YOU KNOW?

On 13 December 1939 the Battle of the River Plate took place. It was the first major battle of World War II, and the first involving a New Zealand ship flying the New Zealand flag. Although HMZ *Achilles* was part of the New Zealand Division of the Royal Navy, she flew the NZ National Flag from the mainmast during the battle. With HM Ships *Exeter* and *Ajax*, an inconclusive engagement took place with the German commerce raider, *Admiral Graf Spee*, before she withdrew to the neutral Uruguayan port of Montevideo. Four days later the *Graf Spee* was scuttled by her own crew.



HMS Achilles

Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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