

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

13 March 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
20 March 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA
5 April 20 – Daylight Saving finishes
17 April 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA
20 April 20 – RNZN Band 60th Anniversary Concert at Auckland Town Hall
25 April 20 – ANZAC Day
27 April 20 – ANZAC Day observed
8 May 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
15 May 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Pt Chevalier RSA
29 May – 1 June 20 - HMNZS Otago Association Reunion, Tauranga
1 June 20 – Queen’s Birthday
12 June 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
19 June 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Howick RSA
10 July 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
17 July 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at RSA
25 July 20 - Ngapona Assn Formal Dinner at Pt Chevalier RSA

Hi Folks

NGAPONA ASSN MONTHLY LUNCH

Our next lunch is at the Waiheke RSA on Friday 20th March. Suggest we catch the 1100 ferry from Downtown Auckland, this calls at Devonport on the way. Return ferries depart from Waiheke on the half hour with 1400 and 1600 sailings calling at Devonport. Suggest you give yourself a little extra time for the 1100 ferry due to road works on Quay Street.

Look forward to seeing you there – *I have asked for fine weather.*

RNZ NAVY BAND CONCERT

On Monday 20th April the RNZN Band is holding a concert at the Auckland Town Hall to mark their 60th Anniversary.

The Ngapona Assn is planning to meet in town for a quick bite to eat - venue to be confirmed - before attending the concert.

Please keep this date free as this will be a most enjoyable outing

COMMAND WARRANT OFFICER APPOINTMENT

WOCWS Darren Crosby has been selected as the Command Warrant Officer for the Naval Support Command and will take up this role on 6 April 2020.

REVISED NAVY CREED

Last year after review and consultation, the Defence Force introduced a fourth Core Value that has been incorporated within Navy; Integrity – Tū Māia.

OUR NAVY CREED

Our Navy Creed symbolises who we are, what we represent, and our identity as sailors in an Integrated Defence Force. Last year after review and consultation, the Defence Force introduced a fourth Core Value that has been incorporated within Navy; Integrity – Tū Māia.

Te Reo equivalents have also been introduced and the signature behaviours underpinning the Core Values have been updated. This new Navy Creed was first recited by our most recent shipmates in front of their friends and family at the December JOCT/BCT graduation parade.

There is no intention or requirement to change the Navy Haka.

Our Revised Navy Creed

I am a sailor of the Royal New Zealand Navy
Te Taua Moana o Aotearoa

I represent the proud heritage of those who have gone before me

I serve to protect our people and our whanau with mana

I will follow those above me and lead those below me

I embody the Navy's Core Values

Tū Kaha - Courage

Tū Tika - Commitment

Tū Tira - Comradeship

Tū Māia - Integrity

THE TAMAKI – FORT CAUTLEY REUNION – NEWSLETTER #1

From Jack Donnelly

"If you fail to plan you are planning to fail"

In the "lead up" to the Reunion I will be posting newsletters whenever they are required to ensure that personnel who are thinking of or wish to attend this reunion are updated. To date, we have established an administration team of Tony Lewis, Duncan Macmillan, Peter Robb and myself. Our initial tasks have been to;

- a. To set up a FB page dedicated to this reunion.
- b. To 'gauge' the interest of having such a reunion
- b. Invite former and current Officers, Senior and Junior ratings, General Dutymen and civilian staff to join our website and register for the event
- c. To begin initial planning and solicit ideas and initiatives prior to having a committee formed.

UPDATED DETAILS ARE:

1. The official title of this reunion will be known as....TAMAKI – FORT CAUTLEY.
2. The Tamaki crest with the motto, 'Ake Ake Kia Kaha" will be our official emblem.
3. Having received so much interest from former and current matelots we anticipate that this reunion will be the largest ever to be held in terms of numbers attending in the history of the RNZN.
4. It has been so encouraging to see the amount of class/course photos posted on your website to date. Whilst it is great to see, in due course we will require a "volunteer" to collate them all and put in chronological order.
5. We will be calling for 'volunteers" to form a steering committee in 2 weeks' time. The reason for the delay is to wait as long as we can until the list of those requesting to join and register has waned. We need to have the very best personnel on this committee. Time is on our side.
6. Over the coming months there will be many "hard" and rightly asked questions that will be put forward by matelots wishing to attend this reunion. We will certainly try to give you the answers.
7. Over the next 18 months to 2 years I will be inviting former and current matelots to write an anecdote on such things as the history, personal experiences and 'ditties' about Tamaki-Fort Cautley.
8. We believe that the first priority for the committee will be to seek permission from the iwi(s) who are the guardians of this land to use it for our reunion purposes, the possibility of refurbishing the old regulating/QM's grot and placing various plaques on the land. There may well have to be a hui to korero on our requests.

If any of our members would like to comment on this newsletter, please feel free to do so. If there are members who have ideas that they would like to express, please feel free to do so.



SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS KIWI (T102)

Three small *Bird* class corvettes ordered in 1939, HMNZS *Moa*, *Tui*, and *Kiwi* were built by Henry Robb Ltd., of Leith, Scotland between 1940 and 1941. This class was based on the design of an experimental Royal Navy minesweeping trawler were the first new ships to enter service with the Royal New Zealand Navy, their principal peace time function was training, and in wartime, minesweeping and escort duties. After working up in Northern England she went to New Zealand In December 1942, the four ships of the 25th Minesweeping Flotilla, comprising the three 'Bird class' corvettes HMNZS *Kiwi*, *Tui*, and *Moa*, with HMNZS *Matai* as senior ship, had deployed to the Solomons.

The night of 29-30 January 1943 proved eventful for two ships of the 25th Minesweeping flotilla of the RNZN. HMNZS *Kiwi* and *Moa* were patrolling one mile apart off Kamimbo Bay at the north-west end of Guadalcanal when the asdic operator obtained a 'contact' at 3000 yards with the vessel immediately identified as a submarine. *Kiwi* at once altered course toward the enemy and increased to full speed to attack with depth charges while the *Moa* kept her course and acted as ASDIC directing vessel. The outline of the submarine could be clearly seen when the *Kiwi* dropped a pattern of six depth charges, one of which fell in the wake of the periscope. On the next contact, after another pattern of depth charges, the submarine was forced to the surface, its electric motors apparently disabled.

The Japanese submarine *I-1* tried to escape in the darkness using her diesel engines under the high land of the island but her efforts were in vain. *Kiwi* and *Moa* turned towards their foe firing star shells and high explosives one of which fired from *Kiwi* found its mark. The submarine replied with her 5.5-inch 125mm gun with two shells passing close over the *Kiwi* and three very close to the *Moa*. At this time the *Kiwi* prepared to ram the submarine on the port side abaft the conning tower. Although she hit the submarine she kept up hot fire with every gun that could be bought to bear.

During the entire battle the *Kiwi's* searchlight and signalling lamp were trained on the submarine. The searchlight was controlled by Leading Signalman Campbell Buchanan at considerable risk to himself. Into the action Buchanan was hit and although mortally wounded remained at his post uncomplaining until relieved. He died of his wounds at Tulagi the following day. This act of courage won him the US Navy Cross and a posthumous mention in dispatches. In a fierce action that lasted more than an hour, *Kiwi* rammed the submarine three times before *I-1* finally struck a reef and was wrecked. At the time *Kiwi* was under the command of Lieutenant Commander Gordon Bridson who was awarded the DSC and the United States Navy Cross^l for this action.

Kiwi rammed the submarine in a close encounter that resulted in the submarine being sunk. Today, the museum has the 5.5-inch gun that was carried by *I-1* in its collection.

During the action of ramming the submarine, which was over twice her size, she sustained damage her bow and was sent back to Devonport for repairs. After repair, she returned to the Solomon's area, remaining there till almost the end of the Second World War, returning to Auckland in August 1945 to help in the clearance of the Auckland minefields, going into reserve shortly afterwards. She recommissioned in 1948- 1949, 1951-1952, and 1954-1956 for use as a training ship, before finally paying off in 1956. She was sold for scrap in 1964 and broken up shortly afterwards.



DID YOU KNOW?

On 9th March, 1943, the first Harbour Defence ML's Q1183 (later P3551, *Mako*) and Q1184 (later P3552, *Paea*) commissioned in Wellington. USS *Frank Joseph Irwin* - arrived Wellington on 18 January 1943 with Q1183 and Q1184 on board.



HMNZS *Mako*



HMNZS *Paea*

Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

021 486 013

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