

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

17 January 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
27 January 20 – Auckland Anniversary Regatta
6 February 20 – Waitangi Day
14 February 20 – Navy Club Lunch
21 February 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA
13 March 20 - Navy Club Lunch
20 March 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

Hi Folks

MESSAGE FROM THE PRES

This is the final newsletter for 2019. I have enjoyed corresponding with you over the last twelve months and grateful for the feedback I have had.

It has been an active year for the Ngapona Association and we have achieved most of our goals.

Our weekly lunches continue to be well attended, the next one is at the Swanson RSA on 17 January.

Fifty-two weekly News Letters were sent in the last twelve months, and this is the 338th since I started in 2013.

We held a boating week-end in January and plan another one next year.

The Assn mustered a platoon at the ANZAC Day parade held at the Devonport Naval Base.

Our membership is now over 80 and growing fast, however I would like to acknowledge the passing of Doug Wood and Joe Mills who were founder members of the Assn. Doug and Joe were both outstanding characters and are sadly missed. Some members of the Assn attended the HMNZS Ngapona Cocktail Party held at the Navy Museum in June. This was an excellent event and it was an opportunity to catch up with old friends.

A successful Mid-Year Function was held at the at the Bays Club. Next year we will hold a Formal Dinner in June or July. Watch for further details as this will be a great event.

In September we held our first lunch at Tauranga. This proved very successful and we plan to hold another one next year.

The History Project has started to gain momentum. Most of the photos held at Ngapona have now been scanned and entered into a database. This task has proved very time consuming as each individual needs to be identified and recorded. The Assn has acquired a scanner and computer to assist in this task.

All in all it has been a successful year and we look forward to going from strength to strength next year.

Hope you all have an enjoyable New Year and stay safe, look forward to talking with you next year.

FROM THE SICKBAY

It is with sadness that I have to report that Jim Paltridge is undergoing a course of chemotherapy. He is currently in Room 10, Rimu Ward at St. Christopher's Rest Home, 230 Saint George Street, Papatoetoe. Jim is in good spirits and would welcome visitors.

All the best JimP.

Jan Wills has a possible leg infection and spent some time in ED in Wairarapa Hospital last week. Will be having further tests this week. Get well soon Jan.

FROM THE SHOEBOX

Found this on Facebook, can you name them?



SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS HINAU (T17)

HMNZS *Hinau*, built in Auckland by Senior Foundry Co in 1942 was a composite minesweeper fitted for magnetic mines. The design was based on the WWI Castle Class trawlers. Displacement of 625 BRT and a length of 41.4m, *Hinau* was one of 13 completed of the 17 ordered in the class.

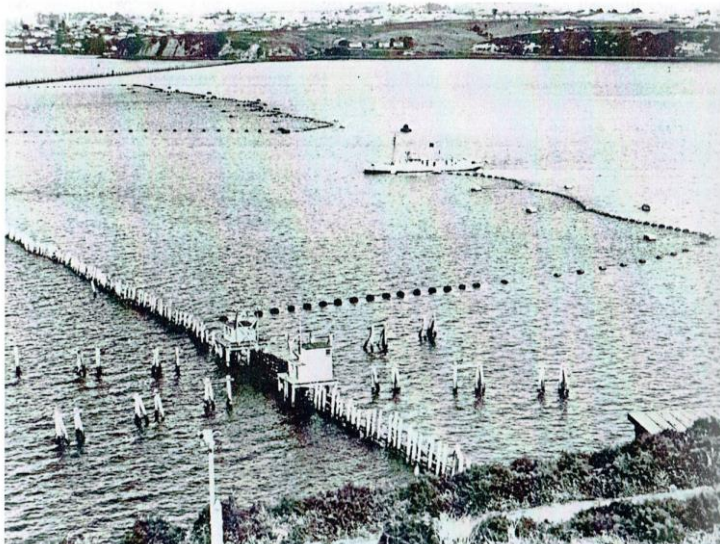
HMNZS *Hinau* served at Wellington and was placed in reserve in 1946 and sold in 1955 to be used as a breakwater at Kaiaua, Firth of Thames, where this photo was taken on 13 November 2013.

On the pennant the motto, 'Kia mataara', translates as 'Be alert'.



DID YOU KNOW?

On 30 December 1940, Cabinet approved the construction of an anti-submarine boom from North Head to Bastion Point, but it was not constructed immediately due to the unavailability of suitable piles. Work finally started in March 1942, and the US took over construction when they arrived a few months later, and it was completed by September 1942. The boom involved 1,050 hardwood piles and the nets were anchored with 200 five-ton concrete blocks.



The small boat entrance is visible just off the shore from North Head, While HMNZS *Claymore* manoeuvres the nets controlling the large ship entrance.