

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

10 July 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
17 July 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at New Lynn RSA
22 July 20 – Navy Club – Bus trip to Wellsford
9 August 20 – Ngapona Assn AGM at Birkenhead RSA
15 August 20 – Navy Club AGM
21 August 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Birkenhead RSA

Hi Folks

DEATH NOTICE

It is with sadness that I have to advise that Ian (Lofty) Logan, CDR Rtd, passed away in Cambridge yesterday. More details to follow when known.

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN – AGM

The Ngapona Assn will hold the 2020 AGM on Sunday, 9th August, at 1500hrs at the Birkenhead RSA.

HMNZS AOTEAROA - A11

The RNZN's newest ship, *Aotearoa*, berthed at the Devonport Naval Base at 1100hrs on Friday, 26 June 2020.

Shortly after the ship docked at a specially-extended wharf at Devonport Naval Base, *Aotearoa's* commanding officer Captain Simon Rooke said he and his crew were "incredibly happy".

"It's a massive day for us."

It is the 5th ship command for the 46-year-old officer, who was born in Kawerau and went to secondary school in Rotorua.

He earlier commanded HMNZS Canterbury during the Kaikoura earthquake response in 2016, as well as during tropical cyclone relief efforts in Vanuatu (2015) and Fiji (2016).

Sixty-three of the *Aotearoa's* 65 crew were at Devonport to welcome the boat on Friday, with the other two on training courses.

Capt Rooke had been aboard *Aotearoa* during sea trials out of Ulsan but was not on board for the voyage over, during which she was captained and crewed by Hyundai Heavy Industries personnel.

Support Force: *Aotearoa* is a new Polar-class support vessel built by Hyundai Heavy Industries, as part of the Maritime Sustainment Capability (MSC) project.

Aotearoa is a purpose-built, technologically enhanced asset that will add real value to the Royal New Zealand Navy's combat operations, humanitarian relief functions and operational and training support. She will provide global sustainment to New

Zealand and coalition maritime, land and air units, and United Nations security operations through resupply of ship and aviation fuel, dry goods, water, spare parts and ammunition.



LENGTH COMPARISONS

LENGTH OVERALL

HMNZS AOTEAROA
173M



HMNZS TE KAHA
118M



HMNZS CANTERBURY
131M



NAME THE WHARF

Request from Jim Blackburn

In 1953/4 time I was serving in Navy Office Comcentre which was on the 8th floor (actually the roof) of the Defence Building in Stout Street.

We..., there were 4 of us, who did not "live out" in the area were "accommodated" in HMNZS *Olphert* which was then on the upper floor in the inward end of a Wharf Shed

on Aotea Quay? Just down past the Railway Station I have been unable to find the name of this wharf or anyone who was actually in *Olphert* during that time or knows which wharf it was.

The living conditions were quite primitive....; There was no hot water other than that from a ZIP over the sink... there was an electric cooker the same as in any normal house, there were 4 double bunks with our unlashed Hammocks for bedding. We did our own victualling and cooking, and our dhobeying in the ubiquitous galvanised bucket. When the Rockies had Drill night, (there was a 5 inch Gun at the top of the stairs) or Sunday Parade took place, we had to "make ourselves scarce" . anyway most weekends from Friday to Monday we were on watch and only went back there for a midday meal. Shortly after I left there I believe the Comms Staff were victualled in Shelley bay Air Force Base.

Jim would like to know the name of that wharf on which *Olphert* was situated and when.

RNZN COMMUNICATORS REUNION 2021

The interest in our 2021 Reunion continues to build momentum. The Reunion is planned for New Plymouth over the weekend of Friday, 26 March to Sunday, 28 March 2021. Approximately 130 members/wives/partners have now registered to attend and there is still 9 months before the actual weekend.

The organised activities are proving to be popular attractions. There are good numbers visiting the Stanleigh Gardens with a 'bubbly' lunch, the golfers are filling the bus to the Westown Golf Club and a second bus has had to be ordered for the Forgotten Highway, Whangamomona visit and lunch.

Your Committee is delighted to inform you that two of our membership have offered to assist your Reunion by way of sponsorship. Murray (Wings) Kingham, Managing Director of Trans Pacific Timbers and Ian Napier, Managing Director of ARCNZ have committed, through their sponsorship, to the success of our Reunion in 2021. Many thanks guys – your contribution is invaluable.

We are often asked if the Committee was considering Reunion 2021 memorabilia. The simple answer is Yes. We are currently working on three products. Our plan is too have them ready to show you in our August 2021 Reunion Update. We will also put them up on the blog.

THE DATE OF THE TAMAKI-FORT CAUTLEY REUNION

(From Jack Donnelly)

The initial planning stage of appointing and posting biographies of our reunion 'key' personnel is now complete, the next question that many of you would like to know is, "When will the reunion be held?"

I have thought long and hard about this and my preference would be: 21st– 24th OCTOBER 2022. (NZ Labour long weekend) A long weekend in the spring. The Monday could be used as a travelling day home for those who have travelled. Why 2022?. In my opinion, 20 plus months is enough time to organise, plan, obtain sufficient funding and personnel to plan and save for this reunion.

THE STORY OF HMNZS CHARLES UPHAM

Gerry Wright is compiling the story of HMNZS *Charles Upham*. He would like to hear from anyone who served in her.

Please contact Gerry at gerrywright@xtra.co.nz with any stories or experiences you have had with the ship.

HMNZS *Charles Upham* (A02) was a Mercandian 2-in-1 class roll-on/roll-off vessel operated by the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) between 1994 and 2001.



SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS OTAGO F111

HMNZS *Otago* (F111) was a Rothesay-class Type 12 frigate, or separately designated, Otago-class frigate acquired from the Royal Navy by the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) before completion. *Otago* and *Taranaki* differ from the Royal Navy Rothesays as they were never reconstructed to the Leander standard, with hangar and landing pad for a Wasp a/s helicopter as the main weapon system with a/s torpedoes, depth charges and AS-12 missiles to engage FAC and surfaced submarines. The RNZN frigates were constructed with the long range Type 177 sonar to combine with the only operational MK 20 heavyweight torpedo, (where the RN versions in most cases had an accurate short range Type 174, initially) and provided more comfort for the crew in cafeteria messing and bunk bedding. *Otago* was launched on 11 December 1958 by Princess Margaret, and was commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Navy on 22 June 1960.

Otago took part in various Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) deployments and took part in a protest against French nuclear tests at Mururoa Atoll in 1973.

In the weeks preceding the bomb test, HMNZS *Otago* was constantly monitored and tested by French Navy Lockheed 2PV-5 Neptune maritime patrol aircraft. The instructions were that *Otago* project authority, but not engage, if seriously challenged by French frigates, RNZN frigates should do everything to increase distance and not use weaponry. The Neptunes flew various patterns fully testing the *Otago*'s radar, electronic warfare and IFF passive and active capabilities. HMNZS *Otago* was flying 3 RNZN battle ensigns, officially as an aid to recognition and to signal this was a RNZN operational warship on a political not a protest mission. The objective was to lead a NZ government and world protest against 'illegal' atmospheric testing,

demonstrate ability for 'innocent passage' in international waters, outside the French territorial 12-mile zone and, while avoiding confrontation, maintain the right to self-defence.

Otago became the RNZN training ship in 1981, and paid off into inactive reserve in November 1983. The vessel was sold for scrap in 1987 and broken up in Auckland.

