

# HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

## LONGCAST

25 – 27 September 20 – Coromandel 200 Community Engagement  
27 September 20 – Daylight Saving starts  
9 October 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club (tbc)  
16 October 20 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Glen Eden RSA (tbc)  
21 October 20 – Trafalgar Dinner  
7 – 9 November 20 - Armistice in Cambridge

Hi Folks

### **‘OPERATION GRAPPLE’ EXHIBITION – WE WERE THERE**

This photographic exhibition at the Navy Museum is the work of artist – Denise Baynham.

To view click on this [LINK](#)

The exhibition tells the story of Operation Grapple through the words of the veterans who were there. The portraits are to honour and recognise the veterans – this is their story.

Opens in the Navy Museum Temporary Gallery Saturday 19th September until mid-December, 2020.

Free admission. 10am – 5pm – 7 days a week.

64 King Edward Parade, Devonport

**Please note: The exhibition includes sensitive themes and may not be suitable for young children.**

### **COROMANDEL 200 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – 25 – 27 SEP 20**

Planning is advanced for this historical Naval service which will take place in Coromandel Township over period 25 – 27 Sep 20. This activity will be NGA (TGA) Unit’s main Domestic Community Engagement for 2020.

### **TRAFALGAR DINNER**

To commemorate Lord Nelson’s victory at Trafalgar over the combined French and Spanish fleets on 21st October 1805 the Bay of Plenty Officers’ Club is organising a dinner.

The venue and price are yet to be confirmed but if you are interested could you please contact:

Graham O’Riordan,  
Mobile 02102 733500

### **NEW OPVs FOR RAN**

Arafura Class OPV program reaches symbolic milestone By: Charbel Kadib The keel has been laid for the first offshore patrol vessel under construction in Western Australia as part of the federal government's National Shipbuilding Program. The Morrison government's National Shipbuilding Program has reached a symbolic milestone, after the keel was laid for the construction of the first WA-built Arafura Class offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named 'Pilbara'. Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds noted that the laying of the keel is an important naval tradition believed to bring "good luck" to the build of the ship and the life of the vessel through the placing of a coin under the keel. The **new OPVs** are intended to replace the existing Armidale class and Cape class patrol boats, Huon class coastal minehunters, and Leeuwin class survey ships in service with the **RAN**. The lead patrol vessel in the class, HMAS Arafura, is named after the Arafura Sea in the western part of the Pacific Ocean.



### **TAMAKI-FORT CAUTLEY ANECDOTE # 6.....TRAINING DIVISION DORMITORIES**

For many young civilians who joined the RNZN at Tamaki-Fort Cautley living in these old WW1/2 Barracks which they called dormitories was a new experience and one in which those who had never lived in close quarters took time to adjust with the loss of their privacy, showering with others, sleeping in bunks, snoring and having to share various facilities. Those who had experienced life on a marae had no problems.

These dorms were very similar to the Tamaki-Motuihe ones except for the addition of the Duty PO's cabin in the centre. This gave closer supervision throughout the silent hours. Living closely together gave them some insight into life on a messdeck at sea, although at that time there were still ships in which you slept in hammocks so that would have been a 'rude' awakening for some. The divisional PO's ensured that their dormitories were kept spotless, decks shined, windows cleaned with newspaper and certain accoutrements laid out neatly on top of drawers. If they weren't then the punishments varied from 'running' or normal kit musters to 'ship rolls' with kit being scattered all over the deck.

Dormitories had 'double bottoms' which could be likened to the 'tiller flat' on a ship where the Instructors administered their own kind of punishment. The worst dorm to be 'housed' in was the one next to the parade ground. You may have had a beautiful view of the parade but being next to the Senior Rates mess meant little sleep and closer supervision by the duty TD PO who was normally relaxing close by in his 'place of duty'

Today the Achilles and Leander dorms are long gone but a block of the old dorms still remain and are maintained by DOC. Hopefully they will be 'open' for those at the

reunion who wish to once again step foot in what was once, "Te tuatahi whare o te heramana" (The first house of the sailor)  
(Supplied by Jack Donnelly)

### **SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS ROYALIST C89**

HMS *Royalist* was an improved *Dido*-class light cruiser – one of five *Bellona*-class cruisers with greatly improved main armament giving more capability against sea and air targets. Light anti-aircraft armament and fire control was also improved. *Royalist* was further modified after completion with extra facilities and crew for directing carrier aircraft operations.

Scotts Shipbuilding and Engineering Company of Greenock built *Royalist*, with the keel being laid down on 21 March 1940. She was launched on 30 May 1942 and commissioned on 10 September 1943. She returned to the dockyard for alterations in November which were not complete until February 1944.

In March 1944 *Royalist* joined the Home Fleet and served for a short period in the Arctic theatre. *Royalist* was then ordered to the Mediterranean to support the Operation Dragoon landings in the south of France in August 1944.

After Dragoon, she joined the Aegean Force preventing enemy evacuation from the islands. On 15 September, accompanied by the destroyer HMS *Teazer*, she sank the transports *KT4* and *KT26* off Cape Spatha. She was then stationed in the Aegean Sea until late 1944, when she was ordered to the East Indies.

*Royalist* was withdrawn from the East Indies after the conclusion of hostilities, and returned home to be mothballed and dehumidified in 1946. The reconstruction of *Royalist* from deep preservation with new superstructure and advanced interim fire control fitted involved major work but was intended to extend the cruiser's life for only 6 years. In March 1953 *Royalist* had started a three year major reconstruction. The "facelift" (new superstructure and electronics, but old engines) of *Royalist* was announced to start a large *Dido/Bellona* update programme. However the new PM, Churchill, favoured the RAF and the 1952 Navy Estimates were reduced.

The ship was handed over to the Royal New Zealand Navy on 9 July 1956. When Captain Peter Phipps went to take command of *Royalist* in 1955.

After working up in UK waters, *Royalist* was operational with the British fleet in the Mediterranean. After hostilities with Egypt commenced, the resulting international outrage caused Prime Minister Sidney Holland to reverse his support for the British - calling for Captain Peter Phipps to withdraw from operations against Egypt.

In early 1957 *Royalist* was involved in exercises with the Australian aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne*. The cruiser made two shore bombardment missions in 1957–1958 during the Malayan Emergency against suspected terrorist areas in south east Johore, firing about 240 5.25-inch rounds. In AA exercises with the British Far East Fleet in 1956–57, *Royalist* outperformed the (pre-war) RN Town-class cruisers, shooting down five jet Meteor unmanned targets and many towed targets immediately on opening fire.

In 1960 *Royalist* had a major five month refit. It was expected the cruiser would only serve another two and a half years; the New Zealand navy board was seeking loan of a third *Whitby*-class frigate (Type 12) from the Royal Navy. In 1962 the still joint-crewed RNZN/RAN/RN *Royalist* suffered serious damage proceeding at high speed in rough sea conditions through the Tasman to get to a six test series between the Wallabies and All Blacks at Eden Park. The cruiser operated with the British Far East Fleet, in three tours of duty in 1963, 1964 & 1965, during the Indonesia–Malaysia confrontation the crews being belatedly awarded General Service Medals for the 1963–64 tours and Operational Service Medals for active service in



combat zones in 1956, 1957–1958 and 1965, finally recognised by the New Zealand government in 2000. There was considerable doubt among RNZN staff whether *Royalist*, which had not had a major refit since 1956, could deploy again in 1965. It managed to deploy again after a seven-week refit working round the clock in Devonport dockyard and work up in the Hauraki Gulf, where it managed 27 knots (50 km/h; 31 mph).

Her motto, *Surtout Loyal*, translates to "Loyal above all"



Regards

# Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

021 486 013

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