

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

9 April 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
9 – 11 April 21 – Cooks and Stewards Reunion
16 April 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA
14 May 21 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club
14 – 15 May 21 - OP Grapple Reunion, contact Gerry Wright
gerrywright@xtra.co.nz
16 May 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at the Bays Club, Browns Bay
21 May 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Pt Chevalier RSA

Hi Folks

DEATH NOTICE

Payne, Elaine Mary (RNZNVR HMNZS Ngapona G100700)

It is with great sadness that I have to advise of the passing of Elaine on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at Waipuna Hospice, Bethlehem, Tauranga, peacefully surrounded by family after a brave struggle with cancer.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday 31st March at 1330 at Davis Funerals, 400 Dominion Road, Mt Eden, Auckland.

In lieu of flowers donations to Waipuna Hospice would be appreciated and may be left at the service.

Medals to be worn.

I would like to thank all those who have sent messages of condolence and offered support. There have been far too many to thank individually. Your thoughts have helped during this difficult time. Elaine fought an extremely strong battle right to the end – she would not give up.

My thanks to you all.

Jerry Payne

SUEZ CANAL BLOCKED

The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway in Egypt, connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through the Isthmus of Suez and dividing Africa and Asia. Constructed between 1859 and 1869 under the rule of Ottoman Empire by the Suez Canal Company formed by Ferdinand de Lesseps in 1858, it officially opened on 17 November 1869. The canal offers watercraft a more direct route between the North Atlantic and northern Indian oceans via the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, thus avoiding the South Atlantic and southern

Indian oceans and reducing the journey distance from the Arabian Sea to London by approximately 8,900 kilometres (5,500 mi), or 8-10 days. It extends from the northern terminus of Port Said to the southern terminus of Port Tewfik at the city of Suez. Its length is 193.30 km (120.11 mi) including its northern and southern access-channels. In 2020, over 18,500 vessels traversed the canal (an average of 51.5 per day).

The original canal featured a single-lane waterway with passing locations in the Ballah Bypass and the Great Bitter Lake. It contained, according to Alois Negrelli's plans, no lock systems, with seawater flowing freely through it. In general, the water in the canal north of the Bitter Lakes flows north in winter and south in summer. South of the lakes, the current changes with the tide at Suez.

While the canal as such was the property of the Egyptian government, European shareholders, mostly French and British, owned the concessionary company which operated it until July 1956, when President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized it—an event which led to the Suez Crisis of October–November 1956. The canal is operated and maintained by the state-owned Suez Canal Authority^L (SCA) of Egypt. Under the Convention of Constantinople, it may be used "in time of war as in time of peace, by every vessel of commerce or of war, without distinction of flag." Nevertheless, the canal has played an important military strategic role as a naval short-cut and choke-point. Navies with coastlines and bases on both the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea (Egypt and Israel) have a particular interest in the Suez Canal. After Egypt closed the Suez Canal at the beginning of the Six-Day War on June 5, 1967, the canal remained closed for precisely eight years, reopening on June 5, 1975.

In August 2014, the Egyptian government launched construction to expand and widen the Ballah Bypass for 35 km (22 mi) to speed up the canal's transit-time. The expansion intended to nearly double the capacity of the Suez Canal, from 49 to 97 ships per day. At a cost of 59.4 billion Egyptian pounds (US\$9bn), this project was funded with interest-bearing investment certificates issued exclusively to Egyptian entities and individuals. The "New Suez Canal", as the expansion was dubbed, was opened in a ceremony on 6 August 2015.

On 24 February 2016, the Suez Canal Authority officially opened the new side channel. This side channel, located at the northern side of the east extension of the Suez Canal, serves the East Terminal for berthing and unberthing vessels from the terminal. As the East Container Terminal is located on the Canal itself, before the construction of the new side channel it was not possible to berth or unberth vessels at the terminal while a convoy was running.

Efforts to dislodge the Ever Given, a 400-meter (1,300-foot) container ship that has been blocking the Suez Canal in Egypt since Tuesday, are ongoing as excavators remove sand and mud from the ship's bow while tugboats try to move it.

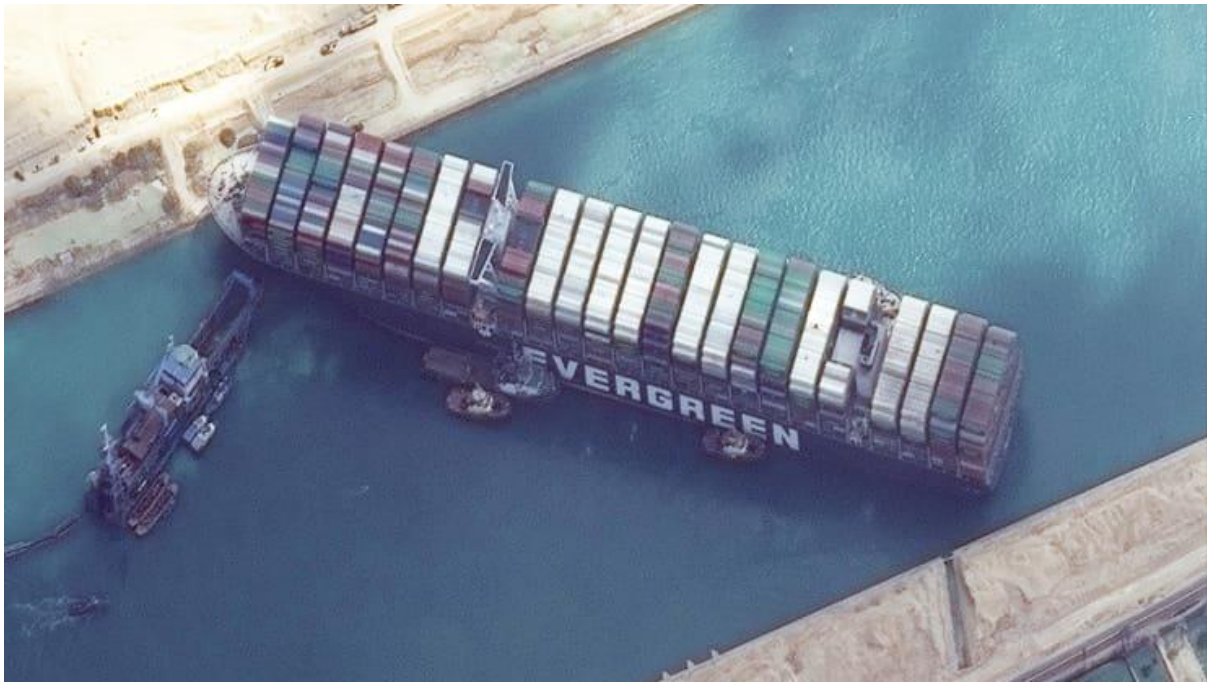
I understand from a news bulletin tonight that the Ever Given has now been re-floated. There are now about four hundred ships on the north and south side of the canal waiting to transit. It will take some while to clear the back-log.



Alternative route



One man and his digger – frees a 200,000 tonne vessel



Wedged!!

LIGHTHOUSE OF THE WEEK – NORTH CAPE

Position: 34 24.89S 173 03.03E

Characteristics: Fl W 8s

Range: 18NM

Structure: White concrete tower

Messrs D. & C. Stevenson of Edinburgh won the contract for a pair of identical lights for North Cape and Matakawa (present-day spelling Matakaoa) near East Cape, but the two lights were never installed as planned, probably due to the First World War. In 1925 one complete set of light, lantern, lenses and apparatus was sent to Dog Island to replace a 60-year-old installation that had become dangerous. The other lenses and light went to Castle Point. Captain Bollons and W.A. Fraser, the lighthouse engineer, had already selected the site on Murimotu Island years earlier. Some three metres would have to be levelled off the sharp ridge to reach bedrock and to form a bench. By the end of October Mr Fraser had levelled the site and had laid the foundations. He reported that progress had been slow because everything needed to build the light had to be hauled 90-odd metres to the top of the island by what he called a 'Blondin' wire. This was like a flying fox of wire rope with a hand-operated winch at the top of the hill. Despite a heavy south-east gale delaying work and damaging the camp, they managed to complete the short concrete tower. Mr Fraser lit the first light on 20 December 1928 with sufficient gas to last for 220 days.

Some 20 years after the conversion to gas, electric power for the light came from 17 batteries of two volts each, with a 60-watt bulb giving a range of 27 miles with an air transmission factor of 0.85. Latterly, when solar power superseded this system, the old light and its lantern were removed and passed into private ownership.

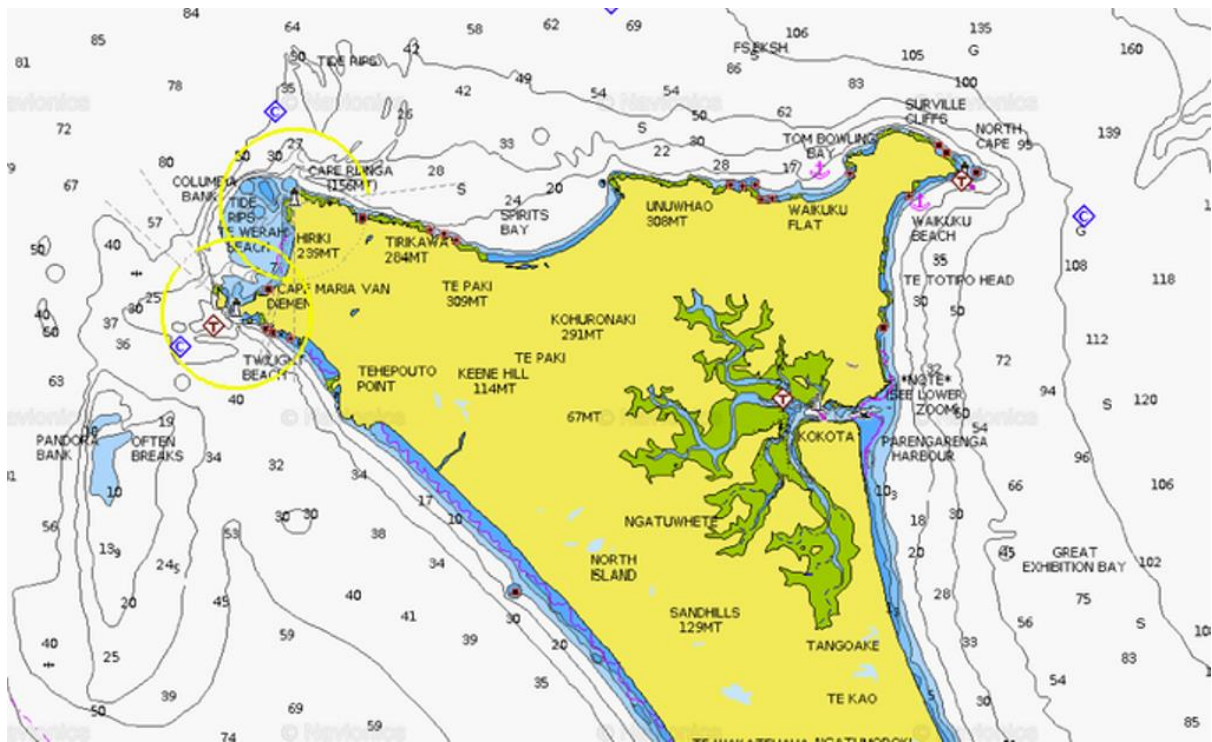
Enterprising local people re-erected the light at Waitiki Landing and lit it as a tourist attraction in a location 'not visible from the sea', as stipulated by the Marine Department.

North Cape is located at the northern end of the Northland Peninsula in the North Island of New Zealand. It is the north-eastern tip of the Aupouri Peninsula and lies 30 kilometres (19 mi) east and 3 kilometres (1.9 mi) north of Cape Reinga. The

name *North Cape* is sometimes used to refer just to the cape that is known in Māori as Otou and which overlooks Murimotu Island, and sometimes just to the eastern point of Murimotu Island. It is also used to refer to the whole larger headland stretching about five km from Murimotu Island westwards to Kerr Point (Ngatuatata) and including the Surville Cliffs. This wider North Cape, and specifically the Surville Cliffs, is the northernmost point of mainland New Zealand, being about three km further north than Cape Reinga.

North Cape was once an island formed by a marine volcano. Sand deposited by ocean currents eventually formed a sandy isthmus known as Waikuku Flat, which joined the island to the rest of the Aupouri Peninsula. The headland and flat combined now form the North Cape Peninsula. A large part of North Cape is enclosed in the North Cape Scientific Reserve. The reserve's purpose is to protect the unique flora and fauna of the area, some of it endemic to a small area on Surville Cliffs.





Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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