

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

10 December 21 - Navy Club Lunch

17 December 21 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Orakei RSA

15 January 22 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA

Hi Folks

NGAPONA ASSN – MONTHLY LUNCH

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we have had to cancel our lunch this month. Lets hope the situation improves and we can hold our Christmas Lunch on 17 December.

NEW ZEALAND OPERATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL (NZOSM)

After intense lobbying over many years to the government the Minister of Defence, Hon Peeni Henare announced last week that 4500 more veterans are now eligible for the New Zealand Operational Service Medal (NZOSM) for service in South East Asia from 1 Feb 1959 to 31 Jan 1974 who had not previously received a medal for that service.

The recent review by the NZ Defence Force showed the need for a wider approach to medallic recognition for South East Asia than had been practiced in the past.

The eligible veteran must have been posted or attached for seven or more days with the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR), the Australian New Zealand United Kingdom Force (ANZUK). If one has already been issued the NZOSM for other operational service you are not to receive another medal or clasp. The award does not afford eligibility under the Veterans Support Act 2014, however further representations are being made.

There are now 24 RNZN ship deployments to South East Asia now qualify for the NZOSM from 1961 to 1974 and are HMNZS Royalist, Pukaki, Taranaki, Otago, Blackpool, Waikato.

For further information and application forms, go to NZ Defence Force Personnel Archives and Medals web site.

<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/PAM/NZDF-PAM-Enquiry-and-Medal-application-form-Aug-2020.pdf>

ARMISTICE DAY

A reminder that Armistice Day is this Thursday, 11 November.

LIGHT HOUSE OF THE WEEK – KAHURANGI POINT

Position: 40.46.7S 172.13.2E

Characteristics: Fl(2)W 15s

Range: 9NM

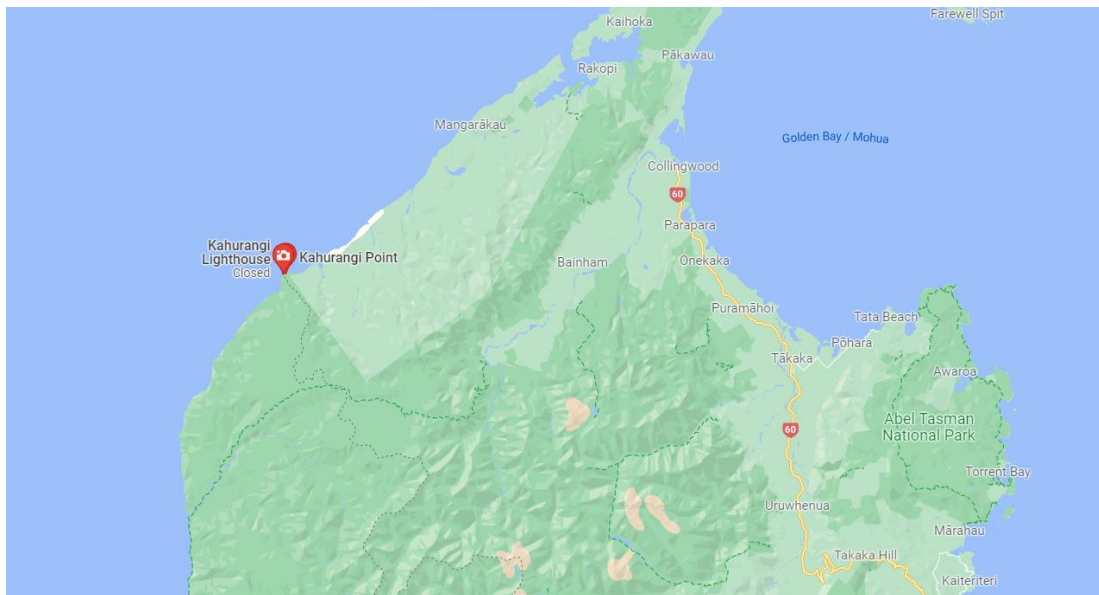
Structure: White metal tower

In March 1770 Captain Cook named a cape Rocks Point, lying some 8 kilometres south-south-west from present-day Kahurangi Point. The offshore Kahurangi Shoals (also known as Stewart Breaker) remain the only offshore shallows between Farewell Spit and Westport. Abel Tasman had already named the point as Steyle Hoeck (Steep Point). There seems to be no clear meaning to the Maori name save that Te-Kahu-o-te-rangi translates to 'the blue of the sky', an apt description for this isolated region. A warden of the Marine Board, Captain R. Johnson, together with Captain Fairchild of the government vessel Luna, carried out a survey of the shoals on 14 September 1875. They reported finding a minimum depth of 31/2 fathoms (6.5 metres) at low water, right in the track of passing vessels.

Kahurangi Point, at the north end of the Karamea Bight, remains as inaccessible now as it was in 1903 when the lighthouse was built. This was the first cast iron tower to be produced by the Judd Engineering Works at Thames, which later cast towers for Cape Campbell, East Cape and Cape Brett. The tower was shipped in sections to the deep-water mouth of the Big River and unloaded onto a natural rock landing. It was then dragged several kilometres up the beach on drays and winched by tramway to the site nearly fifty metres above.

On 17 June 1929 the Murchison earthquake devastated the lighthouse station. One house, the school room and several other buildings were demolished. The tower remained standing but with shattered lenses and lantern panes. Alva Page, the son of one of the keepers at the time, remembered seeing a section of the hillside floating out to sea with cabbage trees, pungas and other vegetation still standing on the land. He and his father were in the hills behind the lighthouse when the quake struck, forcing them both to their knees. They returned to the lighthouse with trepidation, believing that Mrs Page must have been swept away with the house. Fortunately, she was outside at the time and was found safe but shaken, holding on to a remaining fence line.





Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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