

## HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

### LONGCAST

6 June 22 – Queen’s Birthday  
10 June 22 – Navy Club  
17 June 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Avondale RSA  
24 June 22 – Matariki  
8 July 22 – Navy Club  
15 July 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at the Bays Club

Hi Folks

The next lunch for the Ngapona Assn will be held at the Avondale RSA on 17 June 22. We have not been to this RSA since they moved some time ago, so it will be interesting to see how they are in the new premises. We have been advised that the Club does not open until 1200, so there is no need to get there too early. We are also informed that the food is great.

#### **COULD WE SEE THIS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC?**

China christened a remarkable new 290- foot ship last week – the world's first semi-autonomous drone carrier. It'll carry, launch, recover and co-ordinate the actions of more than 50 other autonomous aerial, surface and underwater vehicles. The Huangpu Wenchong Shipyard began construction on the Zhu Hai Yun last July in Guangzhou. According to the South China Morning Post, it's the first carrier of its kind, a self-contained autonomous platform that will roll out with everything necessary to perform a fully integrated operation including drone aircraft, boats and submersibles. While it's mainly pitched as an ocean research platform, the SCMP also reports that it has "military capability to intercept and expel invasive targets," a capability at the forefront of many autonomous marine projects.



### **RUSSIAN SHIP SALES**

Russia's biggest shipping group Sovcomflot and its western lenders have sold a sixth of its Kremlin-owned fleet as part of plans to repay debts and eventually return to international markets once sanctions are lifted. Sales of at least 20 vessels have been completed, according to people familiar with the matter, as the group sought to avoid defaulting on debt and triggering bad loans on the banks' balance sheets. This would have damaged the company's reputation with creditors and oil majors, including Shell and Total, that charter its vessels, say industry figures. The asset sale comes as energy executives warn Russia's oil and tanker industry will increasingly resemble Iran and Venezuela, which rely on a "dark fleet" of vessels operating outside international markets. These ships turn off location signals, register under false flags and use shell companies. Sovcomflot was founded in 1988 and has become Russia's largest shipping company with a fleet of 122 vessels at the end of last year, slightly less than half of which carry crude oil. Russia's government owns 82.8 per cent of the company.

*Source: Global Circulate*

Fears over global food shortages as the Ukraine war grinds on are spurring calls for a safe corridor for ships to exit the Black Sea, but the logistics are daunting and would need Russian cooperation. Dozens of container ships are blocked in Ukrainian ports that are surrounded by Russian forces, choking off exports of wheat, sunflower oil and other foodstuffs, as well as fertilizer for crops. That has already sent prices rising and the United Nations warns that millions of people are at risk of malnutrition or even famine. "Stop blocking the ports in the Black Sea. Allow for the free flow of ships and trains and trucks carrying food out of Ukraine," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a UN Security Council meeting on Thursday. "About 400 million people throughout the world depend on grain supplies from Ukraine," Serhii Dvornyk, a member of Ukraine's mission to the UN, told the meeting. "We demand that Russia

stop illicit grain stealing, unblock Ukrainian seaports, restore freedom of navigation and allow trade ships to pass," he said. Russia denies the claims, yet such assurances are not about to be tested by shipping firms hoping to get vessels to and from Ukraine. A Western diplomatic source told AFP around 20 million tonnes of grain are currently blocked in Ukraine and trying to send out such quantities by truck or rail is not feasible.

"If any passage is arranged, it can then be used by the aggressive side," said Deniz Kutluk, a retired admiral of the Turkish Navy, which controls access to the Black Sea via the Bosphorus under the 1936 Montreux Convention. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky might first insist on receiving more advanced weapons for coastal defence from Western allies, raising the risk of further reprisals by Moscow. And even if all the mines were cleared, "you can put mines back in very quickly," Lavault said. "We don't know how much capacity they have left, but to drop in mines you just need a fishing boat and two metal poles and in one night the way is blocked."

James Stavridis, the U.S. Navy admiral who was NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe from 2009 to 2013, said the solution could be escorted convoys as during Operation Earnest Will, which protected Gulf oil tankers during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

Source: *themoscowtimes*.

**(Could we see MTO in action? - Ed)**

## **RUSSIA'S ONLY AIRCRAFT CARRIER**

The only aircraft carrier in the Russian Navy, Admiral Kuznetsov, has docked at the 35th plant in Severomorsk for repairs and modernization, United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) CEO Alexei Rakhmanov told Sputnik. "The docking operation for the Kuznetsov has been successfully completed," Rakhmanov said. Earlier, Rakhmanov told the agency that when signing the contract for the repair and modernization of the cruiser and determining the required scope of work, it was assumed that only one gas turbine unit out of four was to be unloaded and repaired. Then it was found that all four units needed repairs, a total of 10-11 months of work. In October 2018, when Admiral Kuznetsov was floated, an accident occurred: floating dock PD-50, in which the ship was located, abruptly went under water, as a result of which a crane fell on the aircraft carrier and damaged part of its deck. Admiral Kuznetsov was then transferred to the 35th shipyard, where a fire broke out on board when a spark from welding hit the hold room with spilled fuel. As a result, two people were killed and more than a dozen were injured.

Source: *urdupoint*.



## CRUISE MISSILES ON RUSSIAN SUBS

Strategic movement in the Black Sea continues with Russia reportedly loading cruise missiles onto a pair of submarines among its Black Sea fleet. This comes just days after a report that stated the U.S. was preparing to target the Russian fleet to free up paths for Ukraine to export grain. Two Russian submarines have already moored at berths in the South Bay of Sevastopol to onload the Kalibr missiles, according to the Ukrainian media outlet Kyrm.Realii. Four of these "Caliber" types of missiles will be loaded upon two of the six Varshavyanka submarines, which are designed to fire these kinds of missiles that have both land and sea capability strikes. Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2017 said these missiles have the ability to strike a target from 1,400 kilometres (870 miles) from the underwater vessels.

Source: *Newsweek*

## CAPT BЛИGH R.N.

### Action against the Danes

18 Mar 1801. Bligh assumes command of HMS *Glatton* a fourth rate of 56 guns. *Glatton* was launched on the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 1792. She was built for the East India Company and was taken up from trade in 1795 and converted into a warship. Bligh did not credit the sailing ability of his new ship however; she was attached to the fleet of Admiral Sir Hyde Parker which was to sail to the Baltic to confront a blockade raised by Denmark and Sweden which threatened Britain's trade with Germany. This came about as Napoleon was allied to Russia which convinced the Danes and Swedes to carry out this action against Britain. The British were also anxious that the Danish fleet may be used against them should Denmark become an ally of France. Parker's second in command (in HMS *Elephant* when battle commenced), was no other than Vice Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson.

The battle was fought in narrow and shallow waters. Nelson commanded a group of ships with shallower drafts (including *Glatton*). Parker commanded a group of heavier vessels staying away from the shallow waters and screening the action that was to occur inshore.

The Danish fleet was anchored in a defensive formation in Royal Passage off Copenhagen. Nelson's plan was that the British ships would sail in to a position adjacent to the Danish ships, and would then anchor and engage that ship. This would occur on a one-on-one basis, individual ship engaging an individual ship. In the event HMS *Agamemnon*, HMS *Russell* and HMS *Bellona* went aground when entering the channel. Battle was joined about 11:30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1801. Parker was unable to discern what was occurring owing to the thick smoke over the engagement, but he could see the three ships that were aground with two flying distress signals. This led him to signal Nelson to recall from the action. This led to the now famous action of Nelson where he held his telescope to his blind eye and stated that he could not see the signal.

Despite the courage of the Danes during the action, the superior gunnery of the British won the day.

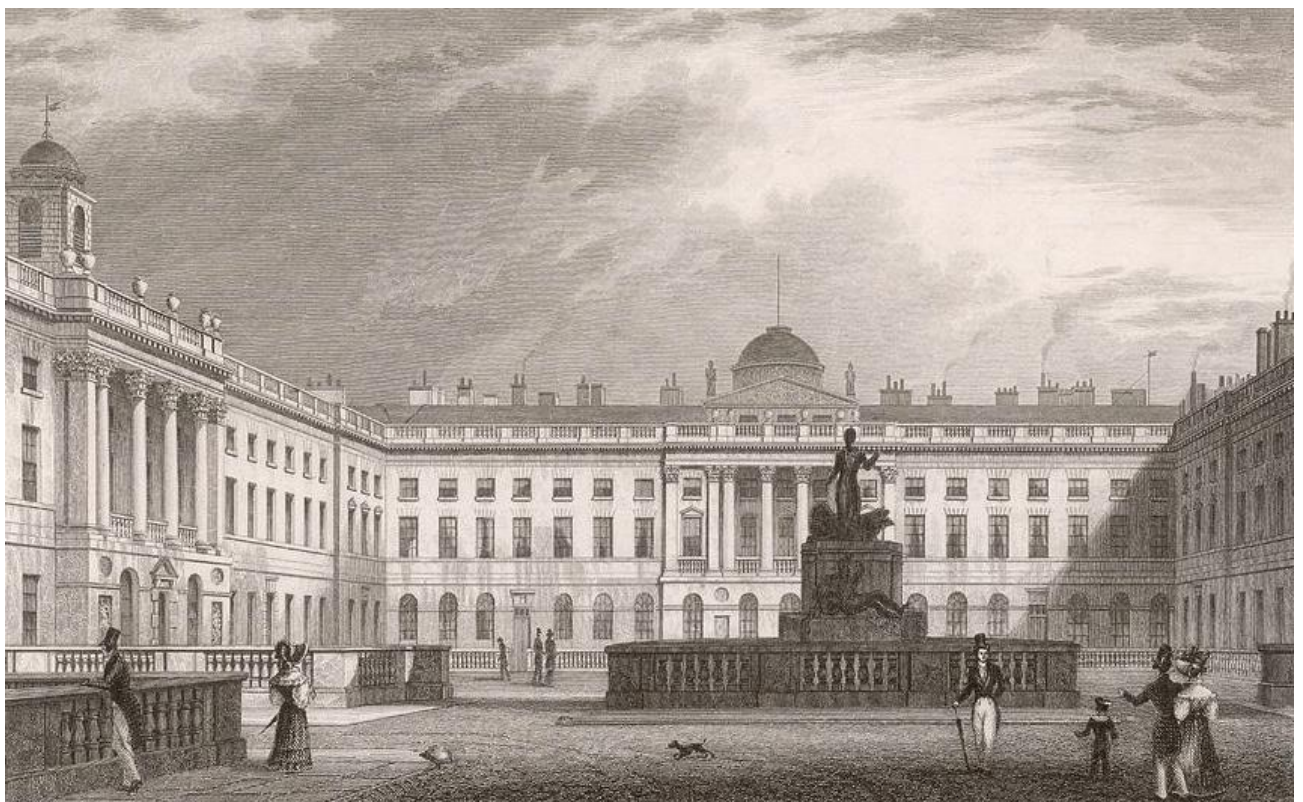
HMS *Glatton* being anchored close to *Elephant* and abreast of the Danish Commodore was in the thick of the action. His log indicates that action commenced at 10:26 and by 11.24, *Glatton* had lost its fore topmast and seven upper deck guns to enemy fire. Around noon however, the Danish Commodore struck his colours to *Glatton*. Once the battle was over Bligh was to be thanked by Nelson for his part in

the action. However, *Glutton* had been severely mauled requiring carpenters to repair on board to repair battle damage.

Due to his conduct at Copenhagen, Bligh was immediately given command of HMS *Monarch* (74 guns) whose Captain had been killed during the battle. However, as soon as he reached England, he was again promoted into Command of HMS *Irresistible* (74 guns) which had been Nelson's flagship at the Battle of St Vincent. It was in May of 1801, Bligh was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society for his 'distinguished service to navigation, botany and science'. At this stage *Irresistible* was flagship for Vice Admiral Parker. Bligh was about 47. Hostilities with France were ebbing.

Note: 'The Royal Society' was formally the "Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge" and was founded in 1660.

*(to be continued)*



Somerset House – Home of the Royal Society

Regards

**Jerry Payne**

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

021 486 013

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