



## HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

### LONGCAST

15 July 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at the Bays Club

7 August 22 – Ngapona Assn AGM at Birkenhead RSA at 1500

12 August 22 – Navy Club

19 August 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Orakei RSA

9 September 22 - Navy Club

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**Hi Folks**

#### **NGAPONA ASSN PLATINUM LUNCH**

Our next lunch is at the Bay's Club in Brown's Bay this Friday, 15 July. Every second year we hold a formal event and the alternate years hold something a bit different and more informal. This year it is our 'Platinum Lunch' at the Bay's Club, Browns Bay, which is going to be quite special. The Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Proctor, has ordered a 'Splice the Mainbrace' in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, so there will be an 'Up Spirits'. So that we can get the catering just right we need an indication of numbers attending.

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Please reply to this email advising your intention to attend this special event (numbers required).

[Send Email](#)

**HNNZS NGAPONA ASSN INC**  
**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM of the Ngapona Assn will be held on Sunday, 7th August 2022, at the Birkenhead RSA at 1300hrs.

**Notice of Motion** (1) That Full Membership shall be open to Serving and Past members of HMNZS Olphert, HMNZS Pegasus and HMNZS Toroa.

**Notice of Motion** (2) That the Constitution be changed to reflect the new requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act.

Please make an effort to attend this meeting as it is important for the survival of your Assn.

There will be 'finger food' and of course a 'President's Shout'.

**HMNZS TE MANA IS HOME**

As gun salutes from ship and shore rang around the harbour, more than 700 excited friends and family lined the wharf and greeted the 175-strong crew with a mix of cheers, banners and helium balloons and cries of excitement.

A rousing haka was performed by sailors on the wharf as the ship came alongside and this received an equally passionate response from the ship's company.

Commanding Officer, Commander Mike Peebles, then left the ship to greet his family.

He was followed by Petty Officer Jacob Biddle who went down on one knee on the wharf and proposed to his partner who said 'yes' to a chorus of cheers. The

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rest of the crew then disembarked amongst scenes of emotion from friends and family.

Also welcoming the ship and crew back home were the Minister of Defence Peeni Henare, Secretary of Defence Andrew Bridgman, and Chief of Navy Rear Admiral David Proctor.

Rear Admiral Proctor said it was a very good day for the Navy.

“With the upgraded HMNZS Te Kaha already home, the return of HMNZS Te Mana marks the next step in the restoration of the Royal New Zealand Navy’s combat capability,” he said.

“Once their modern systems have been fully introduced, the frigates will provide Aotearoa with high-end options over the full range of maritime operations.

“Te Kaha and Te Mana will be able to deploy through the Indo-Pacific and anywhere in the world to advance our national interests, including providing maritime security alongside our partners where needed.”

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## **CHANNEL FEVER**

A “Channel Fever” Naval Gathering has been arranged at Tauranga RSA on Saturday 16 July 2022. This get together includes partners, all ships, all commissions, all ranks.

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Details as follows:

**Venue:** Tauranga RSA, 1237 Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga

**Date:** Saturday 16 July 2022

**Time:** Door registrations commence at 1600

**Up Spirits:** @ 1805

**Scran at 1830:** Light snack, restaurant and bar meals are available at your own cost.

### **RAN HAS NEW CN**

The new Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, was recently welcomed by the Royal Australian Navy at a ceremony in Canberra.

The appointment follows a distinguished career for VADM Hammond, having joined the Navy in 1986 as an electronics technician before gaining his commission two years later.

Having served as a submariner and Commanding Officer of the HMAS *Farncomb*, VADM Hammond was then appointed Commander Australian Fleet in 2020 and served as Deputy Chief of Navy between 2018-2020.

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### **RIMPAC 2022 OFFICIALLY KICKS OFF**

The U.S. Navy launched the 28th edition of the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), the world's largest international maritime exercise on June 29, 2022. Twenty-six nations, 38 surface ships, four submarines, nine national land forces, more than 30 unmanned systems, approximately 170 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel will train and operate in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California, June 29 to Aug. 4.

Following RIMPAC's theme of Capable Adaptive Partners, RIMPAC forces will exercise a wide range of capabilities, projecting the inherent flexibility of maritime forces and helping to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific.

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This year's exercise program will include gunnery, missile, anti-submarine and air defence exercises, as well as amphibious, counter-piracy, mine clearance, explosive ordnance disposal, diving and salvage operations. Additionally, the exercise will also introduce space and cyber operations for all partner nations.

*Source: Naval News Staff 30 Jun 2022*



## **DEFENCE REVIEW**

The RNZ RSA welcomes the Defence policy review announced by the Minister of Defence.

RNZ RSA Board member Major General (Retired) Martyn Dunne, CNZM, QSO said the policy review provides the Government with an opportunity to ensure Defence Force Personnel are at the forefront of future decision making.

“The most important capability the New Zealand Defence Force has is its people, and the Minister of Defence has made it very clear that they are one of his key priorities. The RSA considers the effects on personnel at every stage of

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acquisition, life cycle and generation of defence capabilities, as central to policy considerations.

The RSA's experience with veterans of the New Zealand Defence Force demonstrates that policy decisions should, as a priority, consider health outcomes for those who serve.

Capabilities should not be introduced purely for the effect they can deliver in any conflict, without consideration of the long-term effects on those who will operate the systems. The RSA believes the policy review should look for opportunities to ensure minimum harm to any future generations of personnel from physical and mental injuries related to their service.

The Mental Health Framework recently released by the Government identified issues that should be taken into account in any policy review. Equally, the scrutiny of conditions of service would assist in arresting high levels of attrition currently experienced by the Defence Force.

We encourage this policy review to consider personnel as a core capability to ensure New Zealand maintains a world class Defence Force that is a career of choice for young New Zealanders," said Major General Dunne.

The RNZ RSA will offer to participate as a partner in the review.

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## **NEW ZEALAND VC RECIPIENTS**

**William James Hardham, VC (31 July 1876 – 13 April 1928)**

William James Hardham was born on 31 July 1876 in Wellington to George Hardham, a labourer, and his wife, Ann Hardham née Gregory. He received his education at Mount Cook School. When his schooling was completed, he obtained work as a blacksmith. A keen sportsman, he played rugby for the Petone Rugby Club and also represented Wellington in provincial rugby. He would eventually play 53 games for Wellington. His military career began in 1895, when he joined the Wellington Naval Artillery, a part-time militia unit, serving with the Petone Company.

The Second Boer War arose from tensions between the Boer South African Republic and the British authorities in the Transvaal of South Africa over control of the region. In September 1899, just prior to the commencement of hostilities, New Zealand's Parliament offered the British Government a mounted rifles contingent from the New Zealand Military Forces for service in South Africa, which was accepted. Volunteers were plentiful and two contingents had

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already left for the war by 1900.

Hardham was among those who volunteered and he was posted to the 4th New Zealand Contingent as a farrier sergeant major. Landing in Portuguese East Africa in April 1900, the Fourth Contingent, nicknamed the "Rough Riders", were deployed as part of the Rhodesian Field Force around Mafeking. Aside from a brief action at Ottoshoop in August, the Rough Riders spent the majority of their war service in

the Transvaal, carrying out reconnaissance patrols

pursuing Boer commandos. On 28 January 1901, Hardham was on a patrol near Naauwpoort, in the Transvaal, when it was ambushed by twenty Boers.

Although the patrol was able to withdraw, one man was wounded and his horse was shot from under him. Seeing this, Hardham rode to his aid and extracted him to safety while under heavy gunfire.

For his actions, Hardham was recommended for the Victoria Cross (VC) by General Herbert Kitchener, commander of British forces in South Africa. The commander-in-chief of the British Army, Field Marshal Earl Roberts, concurred with Kitchener and the VC nomination was approved. The citation for Hardham's VC, the first to be awarded to a New Zealander of a unit of the New Zealand Military Forces serving overseas, read:

On 28 January 1901, near Naauwpoort, this Non-Commissioned Officer was with a section which was extended and hotly engaged with a party of about 20 Boers. Just before the force commenced to retire Trooper McCrae was wounded and his horse killed. Farrier- Major Hardham at once went under a heavy fire to his assistance, dismounted and placed him on his own horse, and ran alongside until he had guided him to a place of safety.

— *The London Gazette*, No. 27362, 4 October 1901

Hardham was presented with the VC, the only such award made to a New Zealander in the Boer War, on 1 July 1901 by George, Prince of Wales, who was in South Africa on a visit. This event took place even before the award was officially announced in *The London Gazette*. At the time of the presentation of

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the VC, the back of the suspender bar and reverse face of the medal itself was not engraved with his name, rank, unit and date of the action that resulted in the award, in a departure from normal practice; Hardham presumably arranged the engraving himself later.

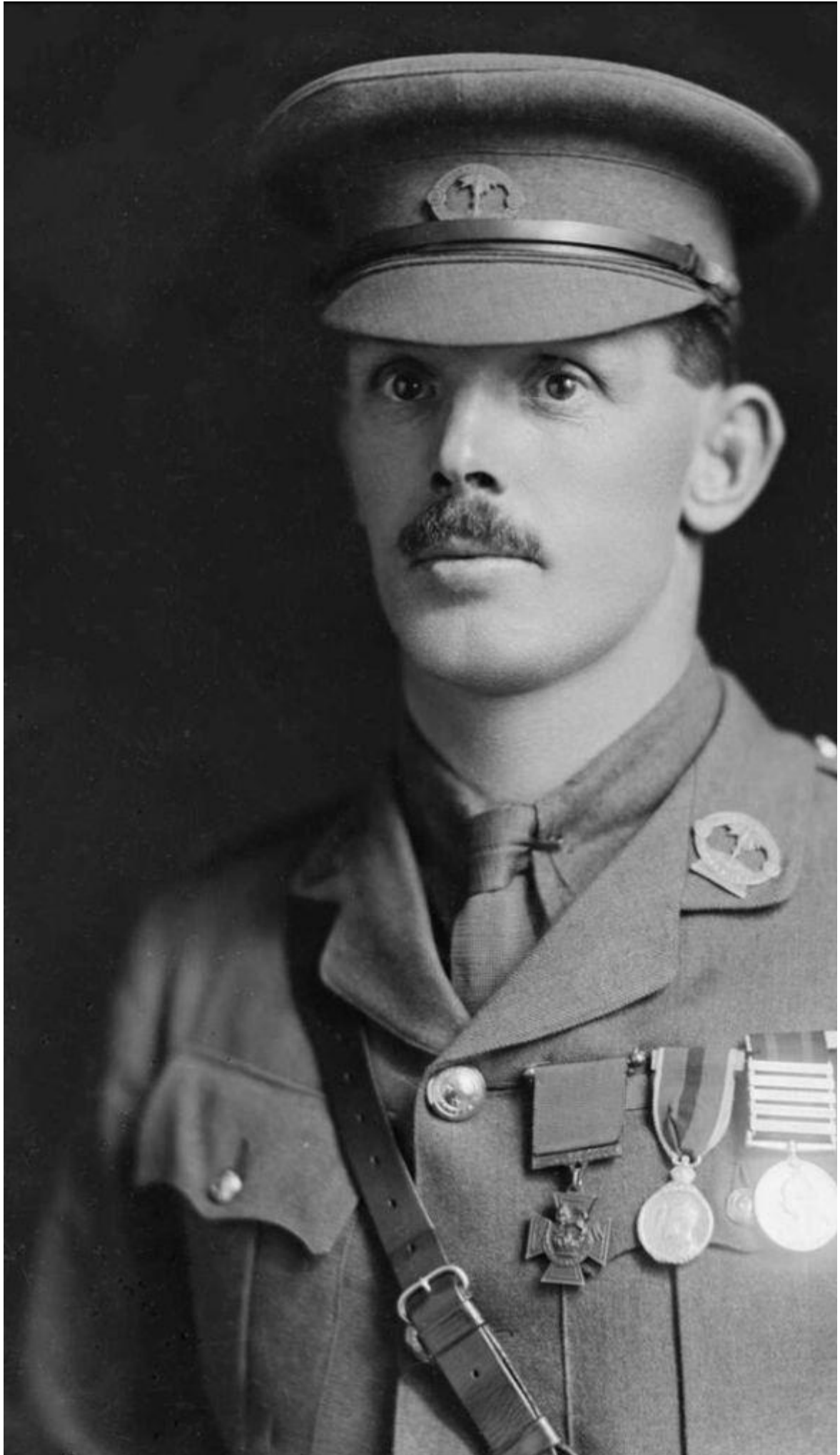
On the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Hardham volunteered for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF), being raised for service overseas. Appointed as a captain in the Wellington Mounted Rifles (WMR), he was second in command of its 2nd Squadron. Travelling on the troopship *Arawa*, he embarked with the main body of the NZEF for the Middle East in October 1914. His regiment was part of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade and was destined for service in the Gallipoli campaign. Arriving in Egypt, the WMR spent several months in training and during this time Hardham helped to organise sporting events to keep the men occupied. While the WMR was not involved in the initial landings on 25 April 1915 at Gallipoli, it arrived on the peninsula a few weeks later on 12 May, without their horses. Within days, the WMR was involved in the fighting. During the Turkish assault on Anzac Cove on 19 May, the WMR helped fend off attacks at Quinn's Post. Later in the day, Hardham was ordered to lead an attacking party on the stretch of ridge named the Nek, from where Turkish soldiers were sniping. Hardham received serious wounds; another officer who came to his aid was also wounded. The trapped WMR soldiers were relieved on 30 May and the position, too exposed to further attacks from the Turks, was abandoned. Although treated for his injuries, which were to his hand and chest, Hardham was repatriated to New Zealand in February 1916. Soon after his return, on 16 March, he married Constance Evelyn née Parsonson at St. Peter's Church in Wellington. He agitated for a return to active duty with the NZEF but instead received an appointment as commandant of Queen Mary Hospital in Hanmer Springs. Initially a temporary position, he did so well in the post that it was made permanent and he was promoted to major. Suffering from stomach cancer, Hardham died at his home in the suburb of Ngaio on 13 April 1928, at the age of 51. He received a military funeral, and among the attendees was the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Gordon Coates. Buried at Karori Cemetery in

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Wellington, Hardham was survived by his wife. The couple had no children. His VC is displayed at the National Army Museum at Waiouru. The Hardham Cup, a competition trophy in Wellington club rugby, is named in his honour and he is also remembered by a plaque in Queen's Garden in Dunedin.

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**Our mailing address is:**

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