

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

LONGCAST

- 23 November 18 – Change of Command, HMNZS *Ngapona*
- 29 November 18 - Change of Chief of Navy
- 30 November 18 – STEAMEX 18 at SRFM
- 7 December 18 - Weapons Electrical Reunion at SRFM
- 7 December 18 – 8th Maritime Societies' Annual Dinner, Northern Club
- 8 December 18 - Ex-Sailors' Get Together - Howick RSA, start 1600.
- 14 December 18 - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club
- 21 December 18 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Orakei RSA
- 25 December 18 – Christmas Day
- 26 December 18 – Boxing Day
- 18 January 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA

Hi Folks

FROM THE SICKBAY

I understand Ian Dunhill is recuperating after knee surgery. All the best Ian.

NGAPONA ASSN MONTHLY LUNCH

We held our monthly lunch at the Grey Lynn RSC last Friday. This is the first time we have gone to Grey Lynn and I would have to say we were made most welcome and the food was excellent.

Our next lunch will be the final one for the year at the Orakei RSA on 21 December. We will not be holding a Christmas Function this year but instead will make our final lunch something really special.

Orakei RSA are going 'all out' to make this an event to remember. They are going to create a naval theme and have a special menu and the meal will be served at the table. There will also be a door prize provided by the Assn. This event is open to partners and friends.

All you have to do is mark it in your diary and tell your friends.

Serving members of **Ngapona** and members of the **Navy Club** are most welcome.

PAPAMOA WAR MEMORIAL

A new war memorial has been built at Papamoa and was finished in time for the Armistice Day Commemorations.

Well done to Mick O'Carroll who was instrumental in the fund raising and building of the memorial.

BZ Micko



Papamoa War Memorial

SURVIVORS OF THE ROCK – ANECDOTE #1.

(By Jack Donnelly)

INTRODUCTION: Both Gary “Kips” Houghton and I have decided to write a monthly anecdote about HMNZS *Tamaki*, Motuihe island in the hope that it will create an interest in the months leading up to the reunion to be held on 14 - 16 February 2020. We intend to cover a variety of topics such as, life as a trainee, “Do you remember?” The history of the island and Tamaki, of our instructors, humorous stories/dits and invite ‘survivors’ to post their stories if they so desire.

O TATOU TURANGAWAEWAE.
*“A place where we have a right to stand.
A place where we feel connected too”*

In a little over 15 months a ‘ships company’ of former sailors who served at the original HMNZS Tamaki on Motuihe island will once again return to the place where they began their naval careers, their turangawaewae.

The ‘ships company’ of former trainees will be representing those who through sickness, poor health or no longer able to travel cannot be with them on the island. The wairua (spirits) of those who have ‘Crossed the Bar’ will no doubt be present.

The visit will be a very emotional journey for these sailors who went from boys to men in a matter of months. The memories of their instructors, training division, living conditions, the famous hill, those buckets of sand, the “dunkirks” that dreaded parade bull-ring, Sunday’s ‘free to roam’ and ferries arriving full to the gunwales with young ladies, those morning swims 365 days of the year and many more will no doubt come ‘flooding back’

Life as a trainee wasn’t all gloom and doom, there was a balance of “good and not so good” instructors, we got paid, got to see the bright lights of Auckland, a movie night, played sport, some were even lucky to meet young ladies from the ferries. However, the most important thing that happened on that island was the adversity that many had to endure which forged a special bond and through that many life-long friends were made. Hopefully, we will be reunited with some of our mates again after 56 or more long years.

The main focus of this reunion is to get every ‘man-jack’ back on our island where we hope to have a plaque unveiled, a wreath laid, a short service conducted, have fun in reminiscing, spinning dits and remembering where everything used to be in the camp.

Our time on the island may have passed into history but it is essential for us to leave something of ourselves to say that we were there, we were real and we were sailors.

“Though people may disappear, the land will remain”

This is the first in a series of anecdotes relating to Motuihe by Jack Donnelly. Please send me any stories of your time on Motuihe and I will pass them to Jack for inclusion in the next article. - Ed



A recent photo of Motuihe

EX-SAILORS GET TOGETHER

Ex-Sailors' Get Together - Howick RSA, Saturday 8 December

If you are in town, you're welcome to attend ...

The Howick RSA is hosting an Ex-Sailors' Get Together of like-minded ex-RNZN, Naval or serving Naval and Maritime folk starting at 1600, Saturday 8 December at its club rooms in Howick.

A chance to meet new friends, reacquaint with old, spin a few dits or just talk shite!
Bar on own account, finger food will be provided and 'Up Spirits' will be piped.

The club restaurant will be open for dinner from 1730.

Partners and dedicated drivers welcome – please RSVP:

Scott Adams 09 534 9702 scott@howickrsa.co.nz

Nat Cole 021 238 8464 natcole65@gmail.com



**Ex-Sailors
Christmas
Get Together**

 **HOWICK
RSA**

**Sat 8 Dec | 1600 HRS
Howick RSA
25 Wellington St, Howick**

All Ex-Navy Welcome

RSVP
Mike (Nat) Cole
021 238 8464
natcole65@gmail.com

Scott Adams
09 534 9702
scott@howickrsa.co.nz

DID YOU KNOW?

On 28 November 1929, the Auckland War Memorial Museum opened, with two 4-inch guns from HMS *New Zealand* mounted on the forecourt.



-inch gun from HMS *New Zealand*

Take care

Jerry Payne

Editor@ngapona.org.nz

021 486 013

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn Inc

"There are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea."

"But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."

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