

# HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

## LONGCAST

21 February 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA

13 March 20 - Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club

20 March 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

17 April 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA

Hi Folks

### **MONTHLY LUNCH**

A reminder that our monthly lunch is this Friday at the Titirangi RSA. Hope to see you there about 1200hrs for refreshments before lunch.

### **MOTUIHE REUNION**

All went well, a very historical and emotional occasion.  
A full report next week.

### **HDML P3555 – HMNZS NGAPONA - TAMURE**

The fate of the HDML ex HMNZS *Ngapona* now hangs in the balance. You may have seen her on a swing mooring above the Greenhithe Bridge where she has lived for many years. Her condition has slowly deteriorated during this time and last week she started to take on water. The Harbour Master took control and towed her to Kopu near Thames where she was slipped. On inspection it would appear that her hull is in better condition than *Kuparu* was before her restoration. The owner is now up for salvage costs and wants the vessel sold. If a buyer can't be found the Harbour Master has advised that she will meet the same fate as *Haku* did in 2018 (crushed by a digger).

This vessel is salvageable, it needs some enthusiastic people to make it happen.

**Contact me by return email if you are interested.**



### **SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS KAHU (1988)**

HMNZS *Kahu* was built by Whangarei Engineering & Construction Ltd (WECO). Her keel was laid 8 Dec 1978 and the build completed May 1979. She began service as the HMNZS *Manawanui* (Pennant # A09) 28 May 1979 and operated as a support vessel for the RNZN's diving teams in a variety of under- water tasks. Most took place in the Hauraki Gulf to Bay of Plenty region and had a clear naval aspect, but some civilian in nature, such as the exploration and salvage work on the sunken Soviet passenger liner Mikhail Lermontov in Port Gore, Marlborough Sounds,

In March 1988 the RNZN bought a larger ship to provide facilities for deeper diving and an increased range of dive activities which was commissioned as HMNZ Dive Tender *Manawanui* and the original *Manawanui* commissioned as HMNZS *Kahu* (pennant # A04) on 17 May 1988. From 1988 *Kahu* was operated as the navigation and seamanship training vessel, provided support the RNZN Dive School, and conducting operations with other Government Agencies such as Fisheries, Customs, Police and DOC. After it was sold it underwent an extensive refit by Fitzroy Yachts and is now in the United States.





There was also another vessel in RNZN service called *Kahu*, but was never a commissioned ship. ML411 (*Kahu*) was a Fairmile B class motor launch and was sold in March 1948 for conversion to an island trader, but the project failed and the vessel was sold back to the RNZN in September 1949. It was refitted, re-engined and fitted with seating for use as a Tamaki liberty launch beginning in September 1950 as Q411. It was re-numbered a month later as P3571, and then renamed *Kahu* on 29 April 1954. It took the ship-name *Philomel* in 1956, but was still called *Kahu*, until it was sold to North Shore Ferries in 1965. It was sold into private ownership and sat on a swing mooring near Hobsonville for many years before moving to Whangarei where it is now being used as a house-boat.



## DID YOU KNOW?

On 23 February 1970, the practice of clearing lower deck for the reading of a Punishment Warrant was discontinued. The rating's Divisional Officer and several witnesses were henceforth all that was required.

'Clear Lower Deck' is a naval order for all hands on board to muster on the upper deck. The only men exempt from such an order are those on watch in the machinery spaces where the machinery is actually running.



Regards

**Jerry Payne**

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

021 486 013