



## LONGCAST

- 2 April 23 – Daylight Saving ends
- 7 April 23 – Good Friday
- 10 April 23 – Easter Monday
- 14 April 23 – Navy Club
- 21 April 23 – Poppy Day
- 21 April 23 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Avondale RSA
- 25 April 23 – ANZAC Day
- 12 May 23 – Navy Club

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### Hi Folks

#### **ANZAC DAY AT HMNZS PHILOMEL**

ANZAC day is looming and HMNZS Ngapona is in the process of getting the ball rolling. The Veterans and Ngapona Assn members as usual are more than welcome to attend and take part.

Padre may need a few readers. If you can assist, please contact Padre Michael Berry on [michaelberry@gmail.com](mailto:michaelberry@gmail.com)

If you wish to attend the parade, contact the Ngapona Coxn, CPOCSS Shane Kennedy, :09 446 1438, with your name and car registration number.



Muster at HMNZS Ngapona

Fall In - 0730

Step Off - 1745

### **CHIEF OF NAVY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Earlier this week, CDF released a message outlining, a one-off payment, notable changes to allowances and indicating future improvements in remuneration to come from 1 July. The introduction of the Interim Sustainment Allowance (Maritime) provides a significant increase in the allowances paid for personnel at sea. We currently have an unsustainably high level of attrition which limits our ability to deploy our fleet. This impacts all of our trades and ranks and hinders our ability to train our sailors and deliver to Aotearoa. Payment of an interim allowance demonstrates that NZDF leadership recognise the need to make an urgent and significant change for naval personnel, while an enduring solution is being developed. It also acknowledges the challenges that people have faced in recent years, while deployed in the maritime environment, and the financial impact of sea service on individuals and their families. While it benefits those serving at sea now and into the future, I recognise that the issues faced recently, especially the impact of sea service during Covid-19 restrictions, have provided a significant basis to advocate for better compensation for the conditions associated with sea going service. I also recognise that those in shore organisations make an essential contribution and are also under significant pressures and spend time away from home. While not every sailor will receive the Interim Sustainment Allowance (Maritime), I absolutely understand the concerns you and your shipmates have raised. We know times are tough for many in the organisation. Further, we know that salaries have not kept up with inflation and cost of living increases in recent years; people are having to squeeze their budgets further to cover increased rent, mortgage interest, fuel and grocery costs – among other cost increases. There is a lot of work happening behind the scenes to improve the overall remuneration for the Defence Force. I, like you, look forward to

CDF announcing further positive news later in the year. Today's announcement is welcome at a challenging time for our Navy and provides recognition of the hard work that you do.

### **VETERANS' AFFAIRS TĀMAKI MAKAURAU AUCKLAND FORUM**

**Tuesday 28 March 2023 10:30am – 3:00pm at the Due Drop Event Centre in Manukau** (Sir Noel Robinson Conference Centre)

The Auckland forum is an opportunity for current and former service personnel to meet with Veterans' Affairs and other support organisations to discuss entitlements and other support for them and for their family and whānau.

It is free to attend for you and your whānau.

Whether you are still serving, or have left service, and even if you are feeling OK, and don't require support, come along and learn what is available for you and your family and whānau.

This forum is being held in the Sir Noel Robinson Conference Centre at the Due Drop Event Centre in Manukau. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Remember your family and whānau are welcome to come along with you, it is free for them to attend, but they still need register.

#### **Veteran Support Organisations**

As well as staff from Veterans' Affairs, you will have the opportunity to meet with other support organisations. There will be a number of organisations present, visit our website to find out more.

#### **Case management clinics**

When you register, you can also make an appointment to meet with a member of the Veterans' Affairs case management team. There are limited appointments and these will either be in person or on Zoom with a Case Manager back in Wellington.

When you register, please book an appointment with a Case Manager by selecting a ticket at the time you would like to meet them.

If you would like to bring a support person to your appointment, please select one case management ticket for yourself and a general admission ticket for your support person.

#### **Parking**

Parking at the Due Drop Event Centre is free for this event. Please enter via the Main Gate next to The Ramada Hotel

#### **COVID-19**

The wellbeing of veterans and their whānau is our top priority. If you aren't feeling well at all, please stay at home. Our aim is keeping all the attendees at the Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Forum safe. Masks aren't mandatory, but please feel free to wear one if you like, and hand sanitiser will be available throughout the venue.

### **BET YOU DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THIS!**

The South Korean government is planning to inspect every port crane supplied by China, according to BusinessKorea. This is because the U.S. government recently pointed out that cranes built by Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery Company (ZPMC) may be used for espionage purposes. At present, a total of 478 Chinese port cranes are in operation in South Korea along with 389 domestically produced cranes. According to the U.S. government, Chinese cranes at U.S. ports are capable of accessing military secrets such as military supply transport information with their software and sensors. It is closely monitoring state-run ZPMC in particular, the global market share of which is 70 percent.

### TENSIONS CONTINUE TO GROW

China's defence ministry said on Friday that it yet again had to monitor and drive away the U.S. Navy destroyer USS Milius that entered its territorial waters in the South China Sea near the Paracel Islands. "We sternly demand the U.S. to immediately stop such provocative acts, otherwise it will bear the serious consequences of unforeseen incidents," a spokesperson said in a statement from the Ministry of National Defence. The U.S. Navy said the guided-missile destroyer was asserting its navigational rights and freedoms. It was the second straight day of a stand-off between the two superpowers amid growing tensions in the South China Sea. China claims vast swathes of the area that overlap with exclusive economic zones of various countries including the Philippines. Trillions of dollars in trade flow every year through the waterway.

Source: Reuters



### NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A PILOT VESSEL

The General Company for Ports of Iraq (GCPI), a port operating company under the Iraqi Ministry of Transport, recently began operating a new catamaran pilot station vessel built by Colombo Dockyard (CDPLC) of Sri Lanka.

*Shatt Al-Arab* ("River of the Arabs") is one of two newbuild vessels supplied by CDPLC to the same customer in fulfilment of a contract that also includes Toyota Tsusho Corporation (TTC) of Japan with loan funding provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The delivery of *Shatt Al-Arab* and *Al Faw*, a buoy tender also built by CDPLC, is part of a multi-phase initiative of port and harbour rehabilitation and reconstruction projects being carried out in Iraq with the assistance of the Japanese government.



## ROYAL NAVY SHIPS IN NEW ZEALAND

### HMS NORTH STAR

A 28-gun Atholl class sixth rate built at Woolwich dockyard. Completed May 1826.

Armament: 20 32 pdr carronades; 6 18pdr carronades, 2 9pdr guns.

Propulsion: Sail

Complement: 175

Length: 113ft 8 inches

Beam: 31 feet 6 inches.

1826-1828 *North Star* was in the West African squadron with the task of suppressing the slave trade. In 1828 she returned to England via the West Indies being stationed at Portsmouth from 1829 to 1832. 1832-1833 *North Star* was stationed as part of the North America and West Indies Station before paying off. In 1834 she was commissioned for service on the South American Station until 1836 when she returned to Portsmouth.

September 1841 *North Star* was commissioned for service in the East Indies and China Station under the command of Captain Sir James Everard Home. *North Star* saw action in the First Opium War.

At the end of the war *North Star* was dispatched to Calcutta then Sydney when the Flagstaff War in New Zealand erupted.

23 March 1845 saw *North Star* arrive in New Zealand with officers and men of the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment. She operated in the Bay of Islands area during the war. 29 April 1845, she fired on the pa of Pomare II. 8 May 1845 sailors from *North Star* and HMS *Hazard*, supported the 58th Regiment at the Battle of Puketutu. The colonial forces were repulsed with serious losses.

27 Dec 1845 – 11 Jan 1846 saw officers, seamen and Royal Marines from *North Star* assisting the army at the siege of Ruapekapeka.

*North Star* returned to England on the 19 Dec 1846 via the Cape of Good Hope.

Under Commander James Saunders, and in 1849, *North Star* was then deployed to the Arctic to search for Sir James Clark Ross' expedition (an expedition to locate a previous expedition by Sir John Franklin). There being no sign of either expedition stores were deposited along the Canadian Arctic coast. When attempting to return to England, *North Star* became trapped in ice off the coast of Northwest Greenland in a bay to be called North Star Bay. In so doing *North Star* became the first RN ship to winter so far north. *North Star* was not to break free until Aug 1850 eventually meeting up with another expedition (William Penny) where the Commander was advised that Ross had returned to England. *North Star* returned to England but was soon to return to the Arctic in 1852 to search for Franklin. She saw service as a depot ship in the area of Beechy Island before returning to England in 1854. *North Star* was broken up at the Chatham Dockyard in 1860.

Note: The Battle of Puketutu was an engagement that took place on 8 May 1845 between Maori led by Hone Heke and Te Ruki Kawiti and British forces led by Lieutenant Colonel William Hulme. Heke and Kawiti had sacked Kororareka in March 1845, the British in retaliation sought to engage and defeat these protagonists. The British force destroyed a pa at Otuihu and then moved inland led by their ally, Tamati Waka Nene, to attack Heke's pa at Puketutu. Three parties of British soldiers and sailors attempted to attack the pa from the rear but were ambushed by Kawiti's warriors. Eventually the British retreated leaving Heke in command of the battlefield. Heke abandoned the pa. The British suffered 13 killed and 30-40 wounded. The Maori suffered 30 Killed and 50 wounded.



Regards

[Jerry Payne](#)

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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