

## NGAPONA ASSN AGM

The Assn held its AGM last Sunday at the Birkenhead RSA. There was a reasonably good attendance, especially from Serving members which was good to see.

The existing committee all stood to continue for the next year. There were no further nominations received. The committee therefore continues as:

- a. President: Jerry Payne – [jerry@payne.kiwi.nz](mailto:jerry@payne.kiwi.nz)
- b. Secretary: Wayne Smith - [commanderwaynesmith@gmail.com](mailto:commanderwaynesmith@gmail.com)
- c. Treasurer: Terry Creagh - [terry@autowatchinterlock.co.nz](mailto:terry@autowatchinterlock.co.nz)
- d. Margaret Mitchell - [margaretmitchell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:margaretmitchell@xtra.co.nz)
- e. Dave Thorpe - [davethorpe@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davethorpe@xtra.co.nz)
- f. Graham Milne - [seawindpilot@hotmail.com](mailto:seawindpilot@hotmail.com)
- g. Lt Cdr Chetan Sawyer, CO's representative.  
(Margaret Mitchell is the Welfare Representative)

**NOTE:** Association's end of year (Christmas) luncheon is being held at the Birkenhead RSA on Saturday 18 November. A Saturday has been chosen to give those people who are still working, a chance to attend. The 18<sup>th</sup> November has been chosen as it has been noted that people's commitments rise during December which may inhibit them attending a December function.

## Help

**We need numbers for catering purposes.**

**Please phone Terry Creagh – 021 644 686 or 09 427 5007**

The monthly lunch for the Association will be held at the Bays Club, Brown's Bay, on Friday, 21st July 23.

This is one of our major events of the year and has been a tremendous success in the past.

To ensure the continued success of the event we need to know numbers attending for catering purposes. Please phone Terry Creagh with numbers to ensure we reserve a place for you.

## AUCKLAND ROCKIES

In 1995 Lt Cdr John McEwan produced a 400-page book on the history of the Naval Reserves in New Zealand. This well researched book gave the history of the founding of Ngapona and its activities up to 1995. John has started researching the period 1995 to 2020. He needs help with any historical material, including photographs and medallic recognition for that period. If you are able to assist, please contact John; [john.mcewan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.mcewan@xtra.co.nz) The intent is to have the book complete and ready for sale for the Ngapona Centenary in October next year.

Your help is need **NOW!**

## **CEREMONIAL GUN SALUTE**

Today, 17 July 23 at 1200, a Royal 21 Gun Salute was fired from the Philomel Training Jetty for the Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Consort.

## **HOMEPORT**

If you want to keep up with what your Navy is doing, I suggest that you download the new and improved HomePort v2 app which has gone live two years after launch. HomePort has undergone a major refresh giving it a modern look and feel and heaps of new features. It still provides all the key RNZN Divisional info you need, but with Version 2 you also get:

- 2 way forums - ask questions, get answers, share dits
- great search functionality
- notifications added
- more use of video messaging

For all the detail on how to download and register the new version, go to - [nzdf.mil.nz/homeport](https://nzdf.mil.nz/homeport)

## **FREE TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE EU**

EU and New Zealand sign free trade agreement The EU and New Zealand have signed their free trade agreement (FTA), which will deliver significant gains for the EU. The deal will cut some €140 million a year in duties for EU companies from the first year of application. As a result, bilateral trade is expected to grow by up to 30% within a decade, thanks to this deal, with EU annual exports potentially growing by up to €4.5 billion. EU investment into New Zealand has a potential to grow by up to 80%. This landmark agreement also includes unprecedented sustainability commitments, including respect of the Paris Climate Agreement and core labour rights. The agreement is now sent to the European Parliament for its consent. Following the completion of the ratification process in both the EU and New Zealand, the deal enters into force. Trade agreements are part of the EU's open trade – or 'partnering' - approach, which is one of the three goals of the European Economic Security Strategy presented last month. This agreement with New Zealand also demonstrates how the EU is stepping up engagement with this burgeoning region of the world, delivering on its Indo-Pacific Strategy.

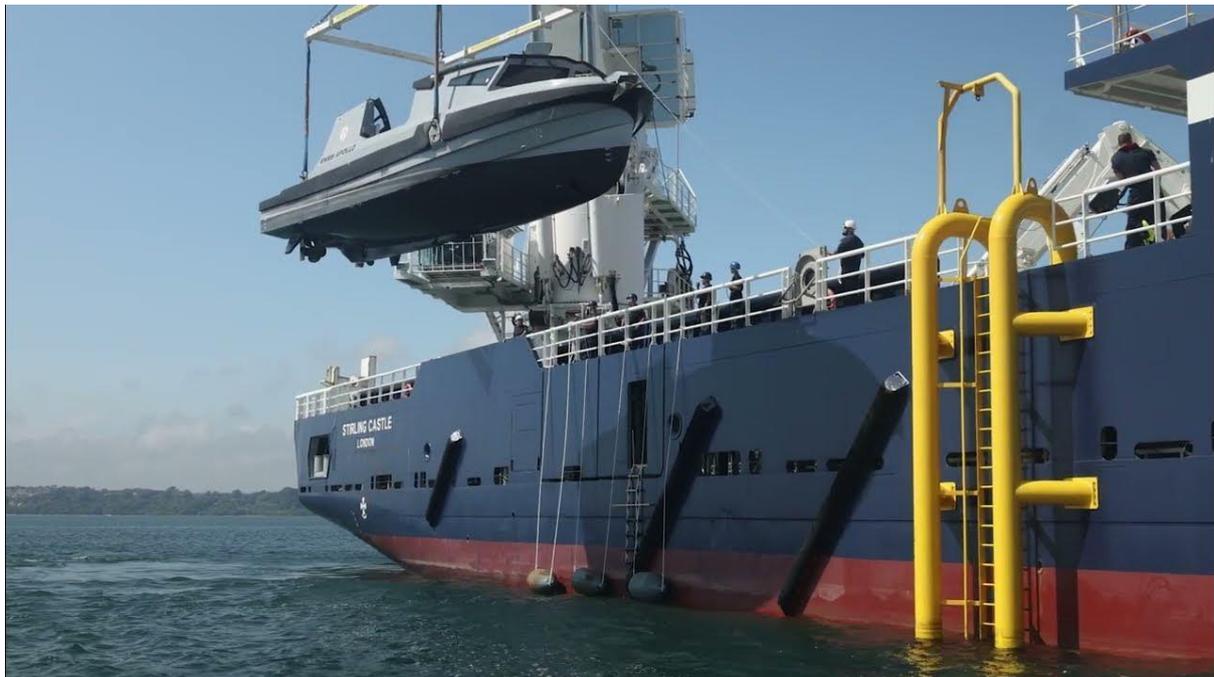
*Source: portnews*

## **MINEHUNTING MOTHERSHIP TRIALS**

The UK's mine countermeasure operations have taken a significant step forward with the debut trials of a minehunting 'mothership' and autonomous vessels. For the first time, three boats joined RFA STIRLING CASTLE marking a critical milestone in the integration of autonomous minehunting systems within the navy. The Royal Navy Motor Boats APOLLO, HYDRA and HAZARD were trialled alongside the recently-

purchased Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship. The trials, carried out in collaboration with Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S), the procurement arm of the Ministry of Defence, aimed to demonstrate that autonomous vessels could be hosted on board Stirling Castle and eventually be controlled or remotely piloted from the ship. “Using autonomous and uncrewed equipment removes the threat to naval personnel by keeping them well away from the minefield, leaving robots systems to do the legwork. It also allows more extensive searches of the sea,” the press release stated. Rear Admiral Ivan Finn, Director Navy Acquisition, highlighted the significance of the trials, “These trials mark a key milestone in the delivery of the Royal Navy’s Mine Hunting Capability programme. We can now look forward to having Maritime Autonomous Systems permanently embarked and ready for operations over the coming months.” The Maritime Autonomous Systems Trials Team (MASTT) oversaw the week-long trials on Stirling Castle. Lieutenant Commander Jason Munson, Officer in Charge of MASTT, expressed satisfaction with the initial integration of ship and autonomous boats. He stated, “The trials marked a significant milestone in the Mine Hunting Capability Programme. Operating from a host platform will allow our autonomous vessels to be used in a wider range of environments.”

*Source: ukdefencejournal*



### **LARGEST CONTAINER SHIP IN THE WORLD**

The largest container ship to be built in the world, the ‘OOCL Piraeus,’ has been named after the largest port in Greece. The OOCL PIRAEUS has a transport capacity of 24,188 TEUs with a length of 399.99 meters, width 61.30 meters (24 rows) and deadweight of 215,000 tons. The ship is equipped with state-of-the-art systems and technology, designed to allow a more efficient economy in energy.

*Source: The Greek Herald*



M/S JUNO is the world's oldest registered (overnight) cruising ship, built at the Motala shipyard and launched in 1874.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

Tomorrow I go into Grace Hospital in Tauranga to get my right hip joint replaced, hopefully all will go well and I will get next week's newsletter out on time.