

## HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

### LONGCAST

11 October 19 – Navy Club, Remuera Club at 1200  
18 October 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Glen Eden RSA  
18 October 19 – Trafalgar Day Luncheon at Te Atatu RSA  
8 November 19 - Navy Club, Remuera Club at 1200  
15 November 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Grey Lynn RSA  
15 – 17 November 19 – Terra Australis Conference at DNB  
13 December 19 - Navy Club, Remuera Club at 1200  
13 December 19 – Maritime Societies' Annual Dinner, Northern Club at 1830  
20 December 19 - Ngapona Assn Xmas Lunch at Orakei RSA

Hi Folks

#### **PASSING OF A SHIPMATE**

A large gathering attended the funeral of Doug Wood last week. It highlighted to me once again that we often only become aware of the true measure of a person when we attend their funeral. I urge you all to make the effort to spend a little extra time with your mates, listen to their stories and ask questions. Perhaps give a helping hand. I know you will be rewarded. Don't leave it till it's too late and say "If only."  
RIP Doug.

#### **NGAPONA ASSN - MONTHLY LUNCH**

Our lunch this month will be at the Glen Eden RSA on 18th October. Some of our members will be attending the Trafalgar Day lunch at the Te Atatu RSA on the same day.

## **MYSTERY SOLVED**

Email from Richard Fields, DSSG Information Advisor, Defence Shared Services Group:

"I have found on file NA66/4/68 Vol 2 a news clipping dated 9 FEB 71 from the Evening Post, naming CPO P. Buckley of Christchurch and CPO N.L. Walker of Stokes Valley as the first Warrant Officers of the RNZN. I haven't found any source/ approvals of this, but expect it to be correct."

Many thanks to John, Wayne and Bangers for your help in solving the mystery.

## **EX HMNZS KAHU**

I was asked recently if I knew the whereabouts of the IPC Kahu. She was decommissioned in October 2009 and sold into private ownership. In 2012 Fitzroy Yachts in New

Plymouth added a 20 foot section amidships. Since then she has sailed extensively in Canadian and North American waters. I understand she is currently for sale in Florida. Yours for only \$2,000,000 USD. (*See attached brochure*)



**EMAIL FROM BRIAN O'BRIEN**

"I am busy travelling through Ireland this month and while in Waterford where my O'Brien Family emigrated from in the late 1800s I was surprised to come across a Church near my destination with a plaque dedicated to Capt. William Hobson R.N...I remembered that HMNZS Ngapona were involved in memorial services to him (not sure if they still do)"

Thanks Brian, the service has not been carried out in recent years, although there have been some working bees to maintain the grave site.  
Can anyone identify members of Ngapona's Guard in the photo? I can see Lt John Burr and L/S Denis Kean. What date was it?



## **EMAIL FROM BOYNE DRUMMOND**

David D’Rose was a CEA1 on Blackpool when the Frank E Evans was sunk

Here is the message he sent me yesterday.

"Yes we did work closely with the Frank E Evans even exchanged some crew members. When we were alongside each other in Manila they would pipe cleaning stations as follows:

"Now hear this - Sweepers man your brooms fwd sweepers sweep aft, aft sweepers sweep fwd " a pause then "men amidships direct traffic".

They were doing flying duties astern of Melbourne and we relieved them I think at 0400.

She was cut in half not long after that with the fwd section sinking immediately.

They were able to tie the stern section to Melbourne. Blackpool was right there and went into search mode.

The only thing I saw come to the surface was a wooden toilet seat. I think we went back to Manila and the enquiry lasted about a week.

I think I’ve some photos somewhere."

*(This is in response to an article in last week's newsletter. Thanks Boyne. - Ed)*

## **RN VETERAN DIES**

BRITAIN has lost one of its last living links with the first naval victory of World War 2. Stanley James ‘Jim’ London toiled in the bowels of HMS Exeter as the cruiser locked horns with German pocket battleship Graf Spee in December 1939. The action – also involving cruisers HMS Ajax and Achilles – has gone down in history as the Battle of the River Plate as the outgunned Royal Navy flotilla attempted to put a stop to the German raider’s three-month campaign against merchant shipping in the Atlantic.

In 2016, London Lane was dedicated – and a then 97-year-old Jim was presented with a replica road sign by Rear Admiral Paul Bennett.

Jim London died at a care home in Worcestershire six weeks short of his 100th birthday.



## **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR THE TAMAKI-MOTUIHE REUNION**

With just under six months to go before our reunion, we require two or three volunteers from former matelots who served on Motuihe and who are going to the reunion to form an Auckland based 'sub-committee', as most of the current organising committee do not reside in Auckland.

The majority of groundwork, initial research and planning has been completed.

However, we believe that as the time gets closer our current man on the ground in Auckland, Bob Anderson, could well become 'bogged down' as the momentum begins to build and will need assistance. We require personnel volunteering to be available to work and assist Bob on any tasks that may eventuate in the final few months.

If you can offer support for Bob, just send an email to: [anro@xtra.co.nz](mailto:anro@xtra.co.nz)

The 'Survivors of The Rock Reunion' now has its own website at [www.therockreunion.org](http://www.therockreunion.org). All information on the reunion will be displayed on this website.

## **SHIPYARD SAVED**

Belfast's Harland and Wolff shipyard has been sold, saving it from closure. The yard, best known for building the Titanic, has been bought for a total of £6m by InfraStrata, a London-based energy firm. Harland and Wolff went into administration in August following the collapse of its Norwegian parent company.

## **SHIP OF THE WEEK - HMNZS BLACK PRINCE C81**

In late 1945 the New Zealand government announced plans to replace the cruisers HMNZS *Achilles* and *Gambia* with updated cruisers. HMS *Black Prince* was in New Zealand waters when the decision was announced that her and her sister ship HMS *Bellona* would be commissioned into service with the Royal New Zealand Navy. Because both *Bellona* and *Black Prince* needed extensive refits the third of the class, HMS *Royalist* was loaned to the RNZN for an indefinite period. *Black Prince* was commissioned into RNZN service and placed into reserve in June 1946. A major refit began in January 1952 which was completed by January 1953. Between 1954 and 1955 she participated in exercises with the RAN off Australia and Singapore including an unfortunate incident in March 1955 when she bombarded the Australian town of Currarong with 5.25" shells due to an error in ranging. July 1955 she was put back into fleet reserve taking over from *Bellona* and laid up at Devonport. A small refit was taken in 1957-1958. But by 1959 she was placed into extended reserve. In 1961 she was stripped of all fittings and equipment and sold to Japan. She was broken up in 1962. The name commemorates Edward, Prince of Wales, the eldest son of King Edward III. A noted warrior, he was one of the original Knights of the Garter and was present at the naval battle of Winchelsea against the Spanish in 1350, where cannon was used at sea for the first time.



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

On 8th October 2014, announced by Rear Admiral Steer in With all Despatch 14 - 14 that:

- Ships would be dry while underway or at anchor and duty-free cigarettes would not be sold.
- No consumption of alcohol anywhere during working hours.
- The price of alcohol in ships' messes would be raised to be directly comparable with supermarket prices.

Take care

**Jerry Payne**

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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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