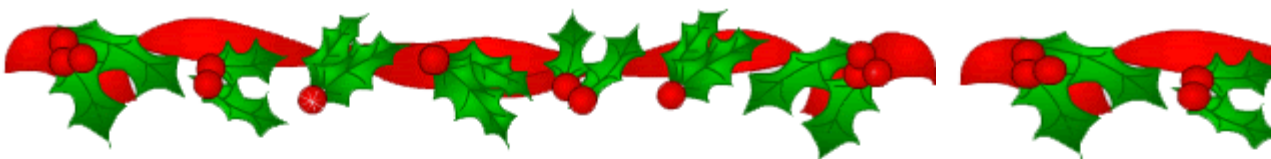HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

17 January 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
27 January 20 – Auckland Anniversary Regatta
6 February 20 – Waitangi Day
14 February 20 – Navy Club Lunch
21 February 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA
13 March 20 - Navy Club Lunch
20 March 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

Hi Folks

Season's Greetings from the HMNZS Ngapona Association

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We held our annual Christmas Lunch last Friday at the Orakei RSA. The lunch was once again a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Thanks to the Orakei RSA for their hospitality and to the Navy Cadets from TS Achilles who served the meal.

NEW MEMBERS

We have two new members this week.

Robyn Payne who most of you will remember as Robyn Carolyn. It was great to catch up with Robyn now who lives in Katikati.

Shirley Murphey who's uncle, Able Seaman Victor Ross (RNZNVR), perished in the Neptune sinking.

Welcome to you both – great to have you on board.

SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS HICKLETON

HMNZS *Hickleton* (M1131) was a Ton class minesweeper built for the Royal Navy by John I Thornycroft of Southampton

New Zealand offered to assist Malaysia in its armed dispute with Indonesia in the mid-1960s, by manning two ships to assist in the anti-infiltration patrols. The RN ship *Hickleton*, then in reserve in Singapore, was commissioned as HMNZS *Hickleton* on 10 April 1965 and carried out hundreds of patrols in the Malacca and Singapore Straits and off Borneo. The ship was engaged in the only exchange of gunfire by an RNZN unit since the Korean War when it intercepted a small boat manned by Indonesian marines off Horsburgh Light on 28 June 1966. Two of the marines were killed outright and the other one, and a boatman, died of their wounds the following day. No casualties were suffered in *Hickleton*.

When the confrontation ended in 1966, the ship was steamed back to the United Kingdom to pay off, and, along with *Santon*, are the only RNZN ships never to have been in New Zealand waters.

After leaving New Zealand service, she was transferred to the Argentine Navy and renamed ARA *Neuquen* (M1).

Hickleton was named for a small village near Doncaster in England.

DID YOU KNOW?

On 23 December 1946, stripped of all material deemed useful and valuable to the Navy, the former cruiser *Philomel* was sold for £750 and towed to Coromandel for removal of remaining items that could be salvaged. On 6 August 1949, she was towed out beyond Cuvier Island and sunk.

Philomel, was a *Pearl*-class cruiser. She was the fifth ship of that name and served with the Royal Navy. After her commissioning in 1890, she served on the Cape of Good Hope Station and later with the Mediterranean Fleet.

In 1914, she was loaned to New Zealand for service with what would later become the Royal New Zealand Navy. During the early stages of the First World War she performed convoy escort duties and then carried out operations in the Mediterranean against the Turks. She later conducted patrols in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

By 1917, she was worn out and dispatched back to New Zealand where she served as a depot ship in Wellington Harbour for minesweepers. In 1921 she was transferred to the Devonport Naval Base in Auckland for service as a training ship.