

**RNZN Communicators Association
PO Box 5931, Wellesley St, AUCKLAND**

Newsletter2010

Chairman's Message

Welcome to our 2010 Newsletter.

Firstly I would like to thank all members for your support over the past year particular those who were able to attend the 2009 Reunion and 2009 Annual General Meeting. I also apologise to those who did not receive timely notification of the AGM. The Committee acknowledges that not all our members have email or internet access and it is therefore intended to provide a postal newsletter at least once a year which will include notification of the AGM. I would encourage you to attend the AGMs if in Auckland and look forward to seeing some of you at this year's.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the re-election of the existing Association Committee, two new committee members (Owen Young and Greg Hanson) and the award of Life Membership to Frank Rands. Details of the full Committee are:

Dave Carroll (Chairman) (09)443-3404

Barry Jordan (Memberships) (09)444-1485

Jim Blackburn (History/Medals) (09) 444-4019

Owen Young (Serving) (09) 475-6886

Yvonne Van Geuns (Secretary) (09) 473-7316

Frank Rands (Webmaster) (09) 410-0149

John Titmus (Images) (09) 576-5352

Greg Hanson (Serving) (09) 444-4275

Rod Berry (Treasurer) (09) 419-5583

Sandy Watson (WRNZNS) (09) 817-6333

Wayne Dyke (Serving) (09) 473-4090

Membership

The Association presently has 324 financial members from a nominal roll in excess of 650.

If you are a financial member the committee would like to thank you for showing your support. If you have not made the commitment we urge you to formalise your membership of the Association by way of the Registration Form which is included with this newsletter. If you are unsure of your membership status contact Barry Jordan on 09 4441485 or email hilander@paradise.net.nz

The committee is continually looking for opportunities to expand the membership by promoting the association through the website and newsletters. Because the cost of maintaining the website and administering the Association continues to rise, future newsletters and information will only be sent to financial members.

Foundation Membership

Like everything these days, nothing comes for free. Even this newsletter comes at a cost – printing, enveloping and postage. We don't count the cost of your committee's time in putting it together. So if you are not a member of the association then give it some thought and join for the one off Full Membership fee of \$25.00. However, if you consider it is a worthwhile Association, than please support the Association by becoming a Foundation Member. The cost of this is a once only fee of \$100. Your \$100 will be invested in a term deposit and the interest earned will be utilised for the administration of your Association. There is a limit of 100 Living Foundation Members and currently we have just over 50 such members who are ensuring the longevity of your Association.

Address Changes/Missing Communicators

If you know of any communicators who are not on our mailing list or did not receive this newsletter please advise them to contact the Membership Secretary, Barry Jordan, on 09 4441485 or email hilander@paradise.net.nz.

Annual General Meeting 2010

The 2010 AGM will be held at The Birkenhead RSA at 1200 on Saturday 25 September. The Committee looks forward to seeing as many members as possible who can attend. Remember the AGM provides an opportunity for you to have your say on the management and direction of the Association. In particular, if there are any serving members keen to represent the views of today's branch we would welcome your attendance.

Please advise Barry Jordan on 09 4441485 or email hilander@paradise.net.nz of your intention to attend the AGM. Also ensure any remits or committee nominations are seconded in writing and with the Secretary by 10 September 2010.

Reunion 2012

As a result of an on-line survey conducted last year, Association reunions will now be held every 3 years with each consecutive reunion being held in Auckland.

The 2012 Reunion will be held in Auckland from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 March 2012.

The Committee is investigating suitable venues and activities and these details will be advised at the 2010 AGM and by future newsletters.

2009 RNZN Communicators' Reunion

The 2009 Reunion was held in Nelson on 20 to 22 March 2009 and was deemed by many to be our most successful Reunion ever. It was the first to be held outside of Auckland since 1972 and the first ever to be held in the South Island.

Over 160 conference revellers gathered in Nelson for the three day event. Friday evening commenced with a welcome from the Association's then President, Frank Rands and was followed by an evening of conviviality and 'story' telling. Saturday had us participating in the many events around Nelson that had been organised for us by the local committee. Saturday evening was our formal dine and dance.

It has to be said that age was certainly not a barrier to enjoying oneself into the early hours of the morning.

Sunday's closing activities included wreath laying ceremony at the local Cenotaph followed by a farewell Bar-b-que lunch at the Reunion venue.

A great deal of the Reunion's success can be attributed to the help provided to your National Committee by the Association's Nelson Reunion committee of Pete Lowish, Bob Young, Brent Lindqvist and Nigel Craik. Without their support, local knowledge and hard work we don't believe the Reunion would have been the success it was. Well done guys.

Association Website

As some of you are aware the website continues to grow with emphasis on the history of the RNZN Communications. The History of Electronic Warfare, the History of Communication Schools, the History of Radio Communications, the History of Communication Centres and a number of Oral Histories from members of the Communications fraternity have been posted. This is your opportunity to contribute to the Association by adding your bit of history.

By the way have you heard of the 15 Ordinary Signalmen who were drafted to HMS EXETER and HMS ENCOUNTER in 1941 and spent 3 ½ years in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp. This story came to light by one of our members running past a grave site on Ambon Island, in Indonesia and noticing a Kiwi Ordinary Signalman's grave. Further investigation into what this Signalman was doing on HMS EXETER when he died has turned up a forgotten history. Two of the fifteen are still with us and we hope to collect their story and publish it shortly. There are lots of little bits of history out there so if you are inclined, jump on in and either ask a question or give us your bit. In addition, 'What happened on this Day' and 'Did you know' are two other sections of interest and are updated weekly. Your website is getting hits from all over the world and a monthly analysis is showing that the hit rate is growing. Old photographs are always interesting so scan them and send them in to frank@aurarire.co.nz. Remember the web site is at <http://www.rnzncomms.org>.

Regards Frank Rands (Webmaster)

Communicator of the Year Award (COTY)

The RNZN Communicators Association is proud of its continuing support of the Communications trade and its current serving members. One of the ongoing means of support is each year recognising the overall top communications student completing the Leading Communications Operator qualifying (LCO (Q)) course. Pictured below is EX CVI Arthur Venus presenting the award, a lovingly restored morse key, to the 2009 recipient ACO Hayden "Haydz" Bradford at the Communications Trade seminar held in January 2010. Hayden has subsequently gone on to be promoted LCO and is serving in HMNZS Resolution.



The RNZN Communicators Association began presenting the award in 2004 to the student who not only attained the highest overall academic results but also demonstrates the core values of the trade. Each recipient gets to keep the trophy and the winners name is recorded on a roll of honour located at the Communication Training School. One of the purposes of the award was to raise awareness amongst current serving members, of the Association's existence and its goals. Although there has not been a steep increase in the number of current serving members joining the Association, we have seen more interaction between current serving members and the Association particularly when the sailors are researching historical aspects of the Communications Trade for the presentation phase of the LCO (Q) course. This year eight Association members attended the Communications Seminar and were present at the awarding of the prize, they even managed to slip into the trade photograph.

Previous winners of the COTY award are:

2004 - ACO Cheryl Wagener

(Now a POYS serving in HMNZS Te Kaha)

2005 - ACO Dallas Kiwikiwi

(Now a POYS serving at NAVCOMMSTA Auckland)

2006 - ACO Mark Naish

(Soon to be a PORS, has recently completed a Tour of Duty in Afghanistan)

2007 - ACO Karen Paisley

(Now a LCO serving in HMNZS Endeavour)

2008 - ACO Jemma Ward

(Now a LCO serving at NAVCOMMSTA Auckland)

If any of the readers have an old morse key in the corner gathering dust and would like to donate it as a prize please contact any of the committee members.

Association Donations

Over the last year the Association Committee has made a donation of \$1,000 to the RNZN Museum which was gratefully received. This donation will go towards re-establishing the museum in its new facility at Torpedo Bay. A further donation of \$100 was made to TS Talisman for their sailing expedition to Noumea. TS Talisman is the Nelson sea cadet unit who provided valued support at the Associations 2009 reunion.

The Committee has also submitted an application to the RNZN Central Fund for a grant of \$500 towards the Association reunion costs. We are still awaiting a response to this application.

Email Notifications

Some of you will be saying, oh No! Here is another email from Frank Rands – Delete it, don't open it, it's always bad news advising of another crossing of the bar. We apologise if some of you feel this way, but a large number of the membership wish to be advised when shipmates from a previous life and time cross the bar, so please bear with us, as your committee believes it is a worthwhile service we are providing our members.



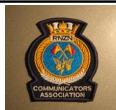

Association Memorabilia

A reminder, that the Association is still selling a range of memorabilia. An order form is included below or you can find one on the website. Please email any orders or questions to Sandy Watson on 09 8176333 or email sandy.watson@xtra.co.nz Orders may also be mailed to the Association postal address given on the order form.

MEMORABILIA ORDER FORM

If you would like to purchase an item of Association Memorabilia, please detach and complete the order form below:

Order Details

Item		Qty	Size	Total Cost
Polo Shirts are Navy in colour and available in S, M, L and XL. Cost per shirt is \$40.00 including postage in NZ				\$
Baseball Cap – Cost \$15.00 plus \$5.00 postage			N/A	\$
Blazer Badge - Cost \$15.00 including postage in NZ			N/A	\$
6 Beer and Wine Glasses etched with RNZNCA Badge – Cost \$27.50 per set. (Due to their fragile nature, these items are for pickup in Auckland only, by prior arrangement).		Qty Beer	N/A	\$
		Qty Wine		\$
Total Payment Required				\$

Purchasers Details

Name	
Service Number	
Postal Address	
Email Address	
Payment Method: <i>Internet Banking:</i> Account 12-3072-0601108-000 Details to appear on Association Statement: <i>Particulars</i> – Surname <i>Code</i> - Service Number	Cheque: Payable to RNZN Communicators' Association

Mail Completed Form to: PO Box 5931, Wellesley St, Auckland 1141 or
Email Completed Form to: sandy.watson@xtra.co.nz