



## *RNZN Communicators' Association* *2011 Newsletter*

### *Chairman's Message*

Welcome to our 2011 Newsletter.

On behalf of the Association I would firstly like to pass on my support and thoughts to the Associations membership residing in the Canterbury region, particularly those who have been personally affected by the latest round of aftershocks. I am often included in emails between members so I know many of you are in touch with old shipmates in the Canterbury region. I urge you to keep this communication going. It is at times like this that the Association's purpose becomes relevant.

Your committee has had a busy start to the year with the organisation of the 2011 AGM and the 2012 Reunion. Further information on these events is contained in this newsletter. As always, the success (or not) of both the events will depend on your support. I would particularly like to extend a warm invitation to all our serving members and hope you will take advantage of the AGM and the 2012 Reunion being held in your region.

I would like to thank the Committee for their ongoing support in the management of the Association. It is not always pleasant coming out in a mid winter evening to attend meetings. I always appreciate that they are giving of their own time for the benefit of our membership.

I look forward to catching up with you all at either the AGM or our 2012 Reunion.

Yours Aye  
Dave Carroll  
Chairman

### *2012 RNZN Communicators' Reunion*

The next Reunion of the RNZN Communicators Association is being held in AUCKLAND over 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012. During the past three months your Committee has been working very hard to establish a Reunion Programme that will ensure the 2012 Reunion's success. The Programme is arranged and is attached to this newsletter for your viewing.

There are a number of weekend activities which involve access to the Naval Base. To ensure you have a trouble free entry, could you please advise us on the Reunion Registration form which Naval Base activities you will be attending.

Dave Wistrand has kindly offered to organise the Reunion Golf Day. Please email Dave on [david-w@ihug.co.nz](mailto:david-w@ihug.co.nz) or by phone on 09-432 0227 indicating your intention to play. Dave will inform you of the venue and tee off times.

Once again we are offering a discount for 'early bird' registrations. This is explained on the Registration Form. If you are not a financial member of the Association then as part of Registration Fee you are also obliged to pay the Association Membership of \$25.00. Entry to all functions will be by ticket only. Your tickets and other Reunion information will be made available to you when you first arrive at the Reunion.

Please find attached to this newsletter the Reunion Registration form. You can either complete and return to us via snail mail or for the "techno's" amongst us, you are able to register and pay on line.

The Reunion will not be successful without your support. Our past Reunions have been well attended and great events. Your support is always appreciated.

## Association Memorabilia

A reminder that the Association still has a range of memorabilia for sale. An order form is included on the back of the Registration Form in this newsletter. If you have any questions about memorabilia pricing or delivery please contact Sandy Watson on 09 8176333 or email [sandy.watson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sandy.watson@xtra.co.nz).

## 2011 Annual General Meeting

The 2011 AGM will be held at The Birkenhead RSA at 1200 on Saturday 24 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.

Your committee may have a familiar appearance. That is because most of them have been serving you for more than ten years. At the upcoming AGM we would like to encourage you to volunteer to become part of the team. In particular, if there are any serving members keen to represent the views of today's branch we would welcome your participation.

Dave Carroll (Chairman)	(09) 443-3404	Yvonne Van Geuns (Secretary)	(09) 473-7316
Rod Berry (Treasurer)	(09) 419-5583	Barry Jordan (Memberships)	(09) 444-1485
Frank Rands (Webmaster)	(09) 426 3122	Sandy Watson (WRNZNS/Memorabilia)	(09) 817-6333
Jim Blackburn (History/Medals)	(09) 444-4019	John Titmus (Images)	(09) 576-5352
Wayne Dyke (Serving)	(09) 478-7760	Shiree Waho (Serving)	(09) 489 3222
Greg Hanson (Serving)	(09) 444-4275		

Please advise Barry Jordan on 09 4441485 or email [hilander@paradise.net.nz](mailto:hilander@paradise.net.nz) of your intention to attend the AGM. Also ensure any remits or committee nominations are proposed and seconded in writing and with the Secretary by 9 September 2011.

## Association Website

The website continues to grow in popularity each month. This is due to you, our members contributing and providing comments on specific items of interest as they arise. There are over 400 communicators on email now and every week all are kept up to date with the latest changes. It is a challenge to keep it interesting and I am always looking for images and stories from the past.

The Communicators' Association has recently moved into the social networking arena with the introduction of a group under the Facebook application. Many of our serving members continue to utilise this method of communications and already the group has grown to 136 members. This method of communicating may not be for everyone but it certainly seems popular with the younger set. Anybody interested in joining this group please click on [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_198189710214617](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_198189710214617)

Blogging is the new way of displaying data on the web. Since the Communicators Assn site moved to a blog last August, we have had over 87,000 hits. You can subscribe to the blog and get notification that the site has been updated, you can leave comments on items of interest and management of the blog is made easy. There is quite a lot of interest being raised outside of the Communicators realm and a number of non communicators check this blog for the latest happenings. Go on when you have time, take a look at <http://rnzncomms.org> and enjoy the experience.

Keep up 'blogging' and if you have any suggestions then please do not hesitate to contact Frank, the webmaster at [frankandlaurie@gmail.com](mailto:frankandlaurie@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto:hilander@paradise.net.nz).

## *New Zealand Defence Services Medal*

Mid April saw the first New Zealand Defence Service Medals (NZDSM) presented to 34 recipients at a ceremony at the Grand Hall, Parliament. Ministers presenting the medals were Hon Wayne Mapp, Minister of Defence and Hon Judith Collins, Minister of Veterans' Affairs.

Since then, the New Zealand Defence Force's Medals Office has received over 6,000 applications – around 200 per day. By 20 May 2011, 1,560 medals had been issued and they are going out on a daily rota.

The NZDSM recognises attested military service since 3 September 1945. The medal is tangible medallic recognition for those who have served in the Regular and/or Territorial military forces for three years or more since the end of the Second World War, including those who did Compulsory Military Training (CMT) or Balloted National Service.

Families of deceased ex-Service personnel will be invited to apply for their late relations (husband/father/mother etc) medal entitlement after the processing of the initial applications from older living ex-Service personnel is well underway. This is likely to occur in early 2012.

To apply for the medal it is recommended that you apply online if possible as this is the fastest way to process the applications. The online form can be found under <http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdsm/index.html> . Hard copy (paper) application forms are also available from your local RSA's.

## *Communications Branch Training Register*

For those of you who have visited our website <http://rnzncomms.org> , you will know that we have a section under "Our History", sub section 'The Unofficial RNZN Communications History' Chapter 14, relating to the Communications Branch Training history. Our recorded history starts in 1933 and currently ends in 1998.

As this is 'The Unofficial RNZN Communications History', we are relying on your memories and perhaps those old service docs in the bottom drawer at home to maintain this history.

When you get a moment could you please review the information that is currently in the Training Register section and let us know if you have any alterations or additions. While we appreciate you may not recall all information, little pieces help form the big picture.

The additional information should contain;

- ✓ The year the course took place
- ✓ The ship/establishment on which the course took place
- ✓ The title of the course
- ✓ The dates of the course
- ✓ The course instructor
- ✓ The course participants

Please email any additional information to the webmaster, Frank Rands, at [frankandlaurie@gmail.com](mailto:frankandlaurie@gmail.com).

## 2012 Reunion Programme

### Friday 23 March 2012

1730	Meet and Greet, Takapuna Rugby Club, Akoranga Ave, Northcote, North Shore
1730	Registrations Commence
1830	Up Spirits
	Finger Food will be provided
1900 - 2000	Photographs
2359	Close

### Saturday 24 March 2012

0730 – 0900	Breakfast, Naval Museum, Torpedo Bay, 64 King Edward Parade, Devonport
0900 – 1000	Tour of the Museum
1030 – 1130	RNZN Ship Visit, HMNZS Wellington, Devonport Naval Base
1130 – 1230	Bridge Simulator Visit, Devonport Naval Base
AM/PM	Golf. Organiser – Dave Wistrand
PM	Model Warships Display, Devonport Naval Base Pool
1900-2359	Dinner & Dance
	Bruce Mason Centre, Cnr Hurstmere Rd & The Promenade, Takapuna
	Entertainment – Springfield Dance Band
	Dress – Semi formal

### Sunday 25 March 2012

1000 – 1100	Church Service/Wreath Laying, St Christophers Chapel, Devonport Naval base
1130 - 1400	BBQ Luncheon and Farewell
	Model Helicopter Display
	Ngataringa Sports Complex, Ngataringa Bay, Devonport Naval Base
O/C – DISPERSAL	At Your Leisure

## Accommodation Options

Association member Paul Craggs has a homestay in West Auckland. He has kindly offered three double rooms free of charge to Reunion attendees. If you would like to take advantage of his kind offer, please contact him at [pcraggs@sourcehr.co.nz](mailto:pcraggs@sourcehr.co.nz)

### **Emerald Inn on Takapuna Beach**

16 The Promenade, Takapuna  
Phone: +64 9 488 3500  
Cost: \$146.00 - \$180.00 per night  
Email: [info@emerald-inn.co.nz](mailto:info@emerald-inn.co.nz)  
Web: [www.emerald-inn.co.nz](http://www.emerald-inn.co.nz)

### **Parklane Motor Inn**

Cnr Lake Road and Rawiti Ave, Takapuna  
Phone: +64 9 486 1069 or 0800 801 069  
Cost: \$140.00 per night  
Email: [book@parklane.co.nz](mailto:book@parklane.co.nz)  
Web: [www.parklane.co.nz](http://www.parklane.co.nz)

### **Poenamo Village Hotel**

31 Northcote Road, Takapuna  
Phone: +64 9 914 3373 or 0800 763 626  
Cost: \$110.00 - \$200.00 per night  
Email: [poenamo@clear.net.nz](mailto:poenamo@clear.net.nz)  
Web: [www.poenamohotel.co.nz](http://www.poenamohotel.co.nz)

### **Spencer on Byron**

9-17 Byron Avenue, Takapuna  
Phone: +64 9 916 611 or 0800 773 623  
Email: [reservations@spencerbyron.co.nz](mailto:reservations@spencerbyron.co.nz)  
Web: [www.spencerhotel.co.nz](http://www.spencerhotel.co.nz)  
Cost: Studio Room - \$145.00 per night  
Suite - \$165.00 per night  
20 rooms have been reserved until 1 March 2012 and can be booked on the link below  
<https://booking.ihotelier.com/istay/istay.jsp?groupID=578420&hotelID=75565>