Minutes of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: 24 September 2011

Venue: Birkenhead RSA

Time: 12.00

Present: Dave Carroll, Sandy Watson, Rex Rodgers, Peter Smith, John Titmus, Brian Henman, Barry Jordan, Yvonne van Geuns, Frank Rands, Rod Berry, Jim Blackburn, Barrie Chivers, Albie Cross, Shannon Blanchard, Cliff Hodgeman, Kerry Hamilton, Graham Cadwallader

1. Welcome
The meeting was opened by the Association’s Chairman Dave Carroll, who thanked the members for their attendance at the meeting.

2. Apologies
Apologies were received from Chris Precey, Jim and Vicky Dell, Jan Luttrell, Mike Dinwiddie, Wayne Dyke, Dennis Kean, Linley Beard and John Bullock.

3. Minutes from the AGMs held on 25 September 2010
The minutes of the previous AGM was presented and read out.
Proposed: Rod Berry  Seconded: Barrie Chivers

4. Chairman’s Report
The Chairman, Dave Carroll provided an overview of the Associations activities over the past 12 months. A copy of the Chairman’s report can be found at Annex A.
Proposed: Barry Jordan  Seconded: Jim Blackburn
5. **Financials**
The Treasurer, Rod Berry, presented the Association's financial position to the meeting. Totals are slightly down from last year due to outgoing payments for the reunion. The financial report can be found at Annex B.

**Proposed:** Barry Jordan  
**Seconded:** Sandy Watson

6. **Correspondence**
Noted was the lack of response from the Central Fund to Association requests for the $500.00. Jim advised that an organisation must now be a registered charity in order to get any money out of the Central Fund. Jim Blackburn to pass information to Rod Berry (Treasurer).

7. **Election of the Association Committee**

Present Chairman, Dave Carroll, called for volunteers from those attending and a vote for nominated committee members.

- **Chairman:** Dave Carroll  
- **Treasurer:** Rod Berry  
- **Secretary:** Yvonne van Geuns  
- **Address Database:** Barry Jordan  
- **Committee:** Jim Blackburn, Sandy Watson, Frank Rands, John Titmus, Wayne Dyke, Greg Hanson

There were no other volunteers from the floor.

**Proposed:** Nick Carter  
**Seconded:** Rex Rodgers

8. **General Business**

a. **Membership**

We currently have a list of 894 members, 349 are full paid-up members.

**Names on website:** If any one knows of someone who has moved house please pass on their names and new address to Barry in order to keep the database of members up to date.

**Reunions**
The next reunion is to be held 23 – 25th March 2012. Dave read out a plan of the reunion weekend. Registration has been slow but numbers expected to rise. Everyone attending will receive a bag upon arrival. This bag will include Ticketing – Registration Forms, Name tags, general info and requested memorabilia.
b. **Website.**

The Chairman thanked Shannon Blanchard for her excellent work on the facebook page. Members on the facebook page are not all Association members however there has been a great response from current serving member who are on facebook and have shown an interest in attending the reunion. Shannon should be able to attach a registration form to the facebook page. Frank advised that there had been over 100,000 hits on the website. Quite a bit of spam is being cut out first.

c. **Communicator of the year –** With the lack of available Morse keys especially Morse keys in presentable state the committee will look further into a lithograph type award. Still under action by the committee.

   **Proposed:** Barry Jordan  
   **Seconded:** Jim Blackburn

9. **Other business.**

Gunther Hennman brought up the issue of having a Guest speaker for the Friday night. Notably Ian Bradley – do we need a guest speaker? It was decided that the Friday night was a meet and greet for members and that we have never had a guest speaker and it was decided not to go for one at this reunion. However, that is not to say that at sometime in the future other committees may decide otherwise. The matter is open to them at that time.

**Arthur Venus**

Jim advised Arthur was now in Hospice care. The family asked that no visitors go as he was not up to that. Jim however would pass on our best wishes on behalf of all the association committee and members.

Chairman Dave Carroll also noted that October would be the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the RNZN.

There being no more business the Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 13.30 pm

Chairman……………………… Secretary………………………

Date …………………/………………/………………
CHAIRMANS REPORT TO THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Fellow Members

I am pleased to present the Chairman's Report to the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the RNZN Communicators Association.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for taking the time to attend this meeting and also acknowledge those who have tendered their apologies.

It has been a year of some turmoil for a number of our members having to deal with the Christchurch Earthquakes, restructuring of the Navy and the civilianisation of defence uniformed posts. I know these events and others have put a lot of strain on people but hopefully we have all come through them ok with the support of friends and family.

I am pleased to report that the Association is financially stable and continues to thrive. It has developed into one of the best NZ Service Associations and I believe the foremost RNZN branch Association which we can all be very proud of.

Our blog site is now one of the most extensive and well visited NZ Association sites and has become the cornerstone of our identity and crucial connection between members. Another recent innovation has been the creation of an Association Facebook Page. This has really taken off with a growing list of friends and regular postings, particularly amongst the younger communicators. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of LRO Shannon Blanchard for getting this up and running, encouraging people to join up and acting as its administrator. I would also like to thank those of you who take the time to contribute to both these sites.

I was pleased to close out 2010 on a positive note with the presentation of the Association’s Communicator of the Year award to ACO Jay Reibel at the RNZN Communications School. This annual award continues to be a key link to the serving communicators and is well regarded.

Last month I was also pleased to make a submission on behalf of the association to the Joint Working Group on medallic recognition for SEA service. This submission was made in support of those members who had personal submissions under consideration. This submission was accepted and acknowledged by the Working Group.

This year has seen the committee working towards the upcoming reunion in Mar 2012. All arrangements are now in place and registration forms were sent out in July with the last newsletter. As usual Initial registrations have been slow but I encourage everyone to get them in over the next couple of months so numbers can be confirmed with the venues. Let your mates know you are attending and encourage them to attend. It will be a great event. In mentioning the committee, I would like to thank them for their continued support and contributions over the past year to ensure the association is wellmanaged and functioning as it should. Most have been on the committee for several years so the Associations growing success is directly attributable to their efforts.

Finally before I close, sadly a number of our members have crossed the bar this year and their names are added to the Association Roll of Honour. I acknowledge the contributions of these friends and colleagues to the branch, the association and their country. May they rest in peace and always be remembered.

Thank you.