



## **RNZN Communicators' Association 2013 Newsletter**

From Our Chairman,

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the sad passing of a valued committee member Dennis Kean. Dennis had a distinguished career in the regular and reserve navy and will be sadly missed as a keen supporter of naval tradition and issues. The association also expresses its sincere condolences to Dennis's family and wider circle of naval and personal friends.

On behalf of the Association I would also like to pass on the committee's support to those Association Members who reside in the Canterbury Region and are working through significant community recovery issues as a consequence of major earthquakes in 2010 and 2011. I also now need to acknowledge those Wellington members who may be dealing with the aftermath of a significant earthquake and let's hope the issues are not as severe as for those in Christchurch.

Your committee has had a quiet year as is usually the case for those years between our reunions however it has allowed our committee to focus on some of those administrative areas which do need constant attention such as our membership database.

Our membership continues to flourish and it is pleasing to see that we now have 81 foundation members and we still have vacancies for those who want to further support our association. Congratulations to Peter Smith who in recognition of outstanding service to the association was awarded a life membership, Peter has been a leader in his work as a former committee member and also his contribution to the history of the communication branch.

Work on the 2015 Reunion to be held in Wellington has begun and a sub committee under the able leadership of Bob Ohlson is now looking at the options taking into account those important reflections drawn from the 2012 reunion.

I would like to thank the committee for their ongoing support in the management of the Association. I appreciate that they are giving of their own time for the benefit of our membership. I would particularly like to thank Rod Berry who after many years as the Association Treasurer, has recently stepped down to move overseas.

I look forward to catching up with you all at this year's September AGM or later at the 2015 Reunion

Yours aye

Dave Carroll

Chairman

## 2015 RNZN Communicators' Reunion

The next Reunion of the RNZN Communicators Association is to be held in Wellington Queens Birthday weekend 29 May to 1 June 2015. As mentioned earlier in the newsletter planning is now underway and venue options are being reviewed and then booked as appropriate. Lessons from the 2012 Reunion have formulated part of the planning in particular the costs to individual members and their partners. Please keep yourself up to date on further information about the reunion on [rnzncomms.org](http://rnzncomms.org)

## Association Memorabilia

A reminder that the Association still has a range of great memorabilia for sale. An order form is available on our Blog [rnzncomms.org](http://rnzncomms.org) . If you have any questions about memorabilia pricing or delivery please contact our treasurer Sandy Watson on (09) 4183353, [sandy.watson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sandy.watson@xtra.co.nz) or [treasurer@rnzncomms.org](mailto:treasurer@rnzncomms.org)

## 2013 Annual General Meeting

The 2013 AGM will be held at the Birkenhead RSA at 1200 Saturday 21 September 2013. The committee looks forward to seeing as many members as possible attend. Remember the AGM provides an opportunity for you to have your say on the management and direction of the association.

The AGM is a time to encourage you to volunteer to become part the team. In particular if there are any serving members keen to represent the views of today's branch we would welcome your participation.

The current committee with responsibilities is as follows:

Dave Carroll (Chairman) (09) 4433404                      Barry Jordan (Constitution) (09) 4441458

Sandy Watson (Treasurer/Memorabilia/WRNZNS) (09) 4183353

Frank Rands (Webmaster) (09) 426 3122                      Wayne Dyke (serving) (09) 4787760

Jim Blackburn (History/Medals) (09) 4444109                      Greg Hanson (serving) (09) 4444275

John Titmus (Secretary/images) (09) 5765352                      Yvonne van Geuns (member) 09 4737316

Rod Berry (member) (+61 4) 981 48413                      Brian Henman (member) (09) 2360119

Please advise John Titmus on (09) 5765352 or email [john.titmus@dia.govt.nz](mailto:john.titmus@dia.govt.nz) if your intention is to attend the AGM. Apologies are also gratefully accepted as it is a means of ensuring our communications to you are working. Please ensure any remits or committee nominations are seconded in writing and with the secretary by Friday 23 August 2013

## **Association Website**

The website continues to grow in popularity. This is due to you as members contributing and commenting on specific items of naval interest. There are now over 480 communicators on email and are kept up to date weekly with the latest news. It is a challenge and the webmaster is always looking for new stories and images of the past.

The Communicators' Association has recently moved into the social networking with the introduction of a Facebook Group page. Many of our serving members continue to utilize this page and already the group has grown to 210 members. This method of communications while more popular with our younger communicators, is here to stay. Any members interested in joining this group can go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for RNZN Communicators Association.

Blogging is now an accepted method of providing data on the web. Since the Communicators Association website moved to Blog in August 2010 we have over 412,000 hits. When you have time go to our Blog [rnzncomms.org](http://rnzncomms.org) and enjoy the experience.

Keep up the blogging and if you have any suggestions then please do not hesitate to contact our Webmaster Frank Rands at (09) 4263122 or [frankandlaurie@randsclan.com](mailto:frankandlaurie@randsclan.com)

## **Association database**

The association database is being reviewed. This has involved mainstreaming all the contact data into one spread sheet, checking contact details and via the blog searching for those communicators who are now missing usually due to members not informing the association of changes in contact details. Thanks for the work being done by Frank and Laurie Rands.

Any database issues or changes please contact Frank Rands at (09) 4263122 or [frankandlaurie@randsclan.com](mailto:frankandlaurie@randsclan.com)

## **Unofficial Communicators' Luncheon**

The committee recently agreed to having 3 monthly unofficial communicators' luncheons here in Auckland, two have already been held and attendance has been encouraging. The next luncheon is midday Thursday 14 November at the Birkenhead RSA. The committee encourages other regions to consider this an option to provide an informal means of bringing our membership together outside our established Reunion and AGM Foray

## **Communicator of the Year**

The Association still continues to provide a prize to the RNZN Communicator of the year and Congratulation to ACO Candice (Candy) Fox the 2012 recipient.

## **NZDF Medallic Issues**

If you are eligible and have not applied for the New Zealand Defence Service Medal the committee recommends strongly that you now apply. Over 49,000 of these medals have been issued to service and ex service personnel.

The South East Asia 1950-2011 Medallic Review is nearly complete and it looks like its findings hoped to be with the government by the end of July 2013. The Medallic Recognition Joint Working Group has been working on this for nearly two years. One recent positive indication from the group has been a statement quote “Outcomes of extra research has been the location of some of the instructions given to Royal New Zealand Navy Ships. These documents will be important in the final decision-making process” unquote.

For information on medals go to <http://medals.nzdef.mil.nz>

## **Subscribe to your Blog**

Your blog is moving with the times and soon an automatic notification of updates will be implemented. This update has been scheduled to be sent out every Saturday at 0700 – in time for Colours. The notification will only be sent if the Blog has been updated in the previous week.

If you don't want to receive this 'once a week' notification, then you will be able to unsubscribe from the list and you will not be included in any future notices.

One of the great aspects of the notice, is that non-communicators will be able to subscribe and receive the notification. It is worthy of note that our blog is starting to generate interest from outside of our community.

**If you do not receive our update notification and wish to subscribe to this service then click on the link 'Update Notifications' to the right of this page.**