



RNZN Communicators Association Newsletter 2014

Message from the Chairman

Your committee has had a relatively quiet year as we progress towards the 2015 reunion. Behind the scenes a lot of work has been done by the Wellington based reunion sub-committee lead by Bob Ohlson to ensure the success of this important gathering. I would like to thank the sub—committee for their great work to date especially their fundraising efforts which will help keep the ticket costs down. I would also like to encourage you all to attend the reunion, these have been very successful in the past and Wellington is a great central location to hold one.

Our membership continues to flourish and the serving committee members are making special efforts to attract serving communicators to join the association. An over stock of association ball caps have been donated to serving RNZN Communicators and these were very well received. The committee has also undertaken a review the “Communicator of the Year” award which is explained further in the newsletter I am optimistic that we will start seeing increased interest from serving members in the near future.

I would like to thank the committee for their ongoing support in the management of the Association. I appreciate that they are giving much of their own time for the benefit of our membership. I thank you all for supporting the Association and look forward to catching up with you at the 2015 Reunion.

Yours aye

Dave Carroll

2014 Annual General Meeting

The 2014 AGM was held at the Birkenhead RSA on Saturday 27 September 2014 and it was great to see many of the usual faces in attendance. The low attendance was disappointing particularly by Auckland members as with the small number of apologies received. It is appreciated that those out of Auckland may not be expected to attend the AGMs however it would be nice to see more of the local members there. Remember the AGM provides an opportunity for you to have your say on the management and direction of the Association and this year’s in particular included some important remits on constitution changes.

The revised constitution will be posted on the Association Blog along with a summary of the major changes.

The current committee as elected at the 2014 AGM are:

Dave Carroll (Chairman) (Serving)	John Titmus (Secretary)
Sandy Watson (Treasurer)	Frank Rands (Webmaster) (Serving)
Jim Blackburn (History/Medals)	Yvonne van Geuns (Member)
Rod Berry (Member)	Brian Henman (Member)
Barry Jordan (Member)	Danny Kaye (Serving Member)
Greg Hanson (Serving Member)	Wayne Dyke (Serving Member)

2015 RNZN Communicators Reunion

The next Reunion of the RNZN Communicators Association will be held in Wellington over Queens Birthday Weekend 29 May to 31 May 2015. The sub-committee has put together a varied programme and a reunion page is now on our Blog rnzncomms.org with all the information needed by those planning on attending. Take advantage of the 'Early Bird' registration by 31 December 2014 and get your travel and accommodation booked soon.

Association Memorabilia

A reminder the Association still has a range of memorabilia for sale including new cufflinks tie pins and earrings. An order form is available on our blog rnzncomms.org. If you have any questions about memorabilia pricing or delivery please contact Sandy Watson on (09) 418-3353, email Sandy.watson@xtra.co.nz or treasurer@rnzncomms.org

Association Website

The Flagship of our Association our Blog rnzncomms.org continues to grow in popularity due to our membership contributing and providing items of communication and naval interest. There are now over 500 communicators on email who are kept up to date weekly on the latest news on our Blog.

The Communicators' Association is now in the social media networking business and our Face Book page RNZN Communicators Association now have 270 members, with contributions both from serving and Ex-serving communicators

Association Contacts Database

The association contacts database has been reviewed; however it requires constant effort to keep it up to date. Please keep us informed when you change your contact details change in particular email addresses. If you haven't already, please contact Frank Rands on (09) 426-3122 or frankandlaurie@randsclan.com with your current contact details.

Unofficial Communicators Luncheons

These unofficial luncheons are a great way for members to catch up with each other outside of reunions etc. They have gained some momentum with 4 being held in Auckland and 1 in Wellington this year. These luncheons are dependent on members involvement so where you can please support them and maybe organise something in your area.

Communicator of the Year (COTY) Award

The committee has completed a review of this important part of the Associations' business. The existing award consisted of a polished Morse key on a wood base which the recipient got to keep. These keys have become quite rare and expensive to buy. The committee considered a number of replacement options and criteria for a new award. Essentially the changes include:

- A new trophy for the Communicator of the Year awarded for Superior Performance in Naval Communications (see photo on right and description below)

The four support columns represent the core disciplines of RNZN Comms:

- 1 - Radio & Satellite
- 2- Teletype & Computer
- 3 – Visual Comms
- 4 - Fleetwork

At its centre is the Association Crest

As a link to the past and the previous award it is topped with a chromed Morse key

- The eligibility has been extended to serving Communicators of Petty Officer Rank and below. Previously top student on LCO courses;
- The COTY will be selected by a panel of the Communications Branch Senior Leadership for endorsement by the Association Committee. Should this panel determine that no suitable candidate has been nominated; the trophy will not be awarded for that year;
- The current Senior Leadership of the Communications branch are developing specific criteria for selecting the recipient. These are expected to include practical proficiency, levels of knowledge, contributions to the branch and service and personal attributes;
- The recipient will be presented with the trophy which will be displayed at the Comms School or DEFCOMSTA Auckland. They will also receive a small cup which they can keep as personal recognition.



Medallic Review

The South East Asia 1950 – 2011 Medallic Review Report has been released publicly and it advised the Minister of Defence that “status quo” would remain with no recommendations for change.

Veterans Support Act 2014

This new Act replaced the War Pensions Act 1954 and provides some new benefits for veterans and Members are advised to familiarise themselves with their entitlements. As new criteria and guidance is released by Veterans Affairs New Zealand, the Association Blog will provide links to appropriate information. Some of the important recommendations from the Law Commission Review which were not agreed by the current government will can be looked at again as the Act has a binding clause requiring a follow on review after two years.