

**1 October 2016**

**CHAIRMANS REPORT TO THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Fellow Members

I am pleased to present the Chairman's Report to the Association's 2016 Annual General Meeting.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for taking the time to attend today's AGM and for your continued support of our Association. I would especially like to recognise the attendance of our life members Jim Blackburn, Frank Rands and Peter Smith and to thank the membership for their support and confidence during my past 12 months as President.

I am pleased to report that the Association continues to be financially secure. Its' income generation and investment initiatives, while conservative in nature, maintains a stable financial growth.

At our 2015 AGM, life member and meeting attendee, Peter Smith, raised the question of the Association's responsibility around the financial auditing of the Associations accounts. While not wanting to steal the Treasurer's thunder, I would like it recorded that in accordance with the 2015 Constitution, and as a result of Peter's reminder, an auditor was engaged and found no irregularities in the Association's accounts. I would like to thank the Treasurer for her assistance and perserverance in ensuring the auditor had all information he required to reach his conclusions. Sandy will brief you further on the audit itself, and the auditors report, in her report.

The 2015 Communicator of the Year Award was presented on Wednesday 2 December 2015 to ACWS Josh Taitua. Josh's Divisional Officer referred to Josh "as an excellent Able Rate who performed well above his current rank level". Our Association was ably represented at the presentation by Jim Blackburn and John Titmus.

At the 2015 AGM, growing the Association's membership was raised as an agenda item. The Executive and committee were given a clear direction by the meeting that it should pay particular attention to attracting new members to

ensure the Association's future. With this in mind, the Committee has over the past 12 months, undertaken a number of initiatives with partial success. These initiatives will be explained later in the meeting. The membership can be assured that this direction will be an ongoing focus of the committee.

Our Blogmaster, Frank Rands, has toiled over the keyboard to ensure the Association's blog remains at the forefront of keeping the membership informed. Some subjects create more interest than others but as always, a sailor's wit can often read between the lines. It is interesting to note that many ex sailors making comment on the blog are not serving or ex communicators. We are very fortunate that Dale Legget, a committee member and IT guru, has offered to assist Frank with the maintenance and management of the blog.

I would like to make mention in my report that the Association received an offer from an ex communicator to assist the Association by hosting and 'rebuilding' the Association's blog. This person is in the business of hosting and developing websites. Initial meetings were positive. However, and for reasons of his own, the offer was later withdrawn. On behalf of the Association, the Executive thanked him for his offer and wished him well for the future.

A large focus of your Executive over the past 12 months has been their efforts to obtain Medallion Recognition for shipmates who served in South East Asia as part of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve and ANZUK Forces. We believe that the appropriate recognition would be to issue those entitled to the New Zealand General Service Medal with a South East Asia Clasp (non-warlike). This would also result in the Operational Service Medal being awarded. To date our submissions and correspondence has been treated, in my opinion, with indifference. I am sure we have been a thorn in the side of both the Minister of Defence and NZDF and we are committed to being so until the service is appropriately recognised.

Sadly a number of our members crossed the bar this year. On behalf of us all I acknowledge the contributions of these friends and shipmates to the Branch, the Association and their country. May they rest in peace and always be remembered.

Finally and before I close, I have had the honour of being the Association's President for the last 12 months and I particularly wish to thank those who have served on the Executive and on the committee during that time. Without their efforts, dedication and support, my role would be all the more difficult.

Thank You

Rod M K Berry BEM

President

RNZN Communicators Association