

30 September 2017

PRESIDENTS REPORT TO THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Fellow Members

I am pleased to present the President's Report to the Association's 2017 Annual General Meeting.

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 and Frank Rands 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 sound. Given the challenging investment climate our income generation and investment initiatives, while conservative in nature, have maintained a stable financial growth.

On the 15 December 2016 the 2016 Communicator of the Year Award was held onboard HMNZS Endeavour and presented to ACWS Sarah Freeman who was serving on HMNZS Endeavour at the time. Four excellent nominations for the Award were received however Sarah's nomination stood out from the rest and was well deserved. The Association was ably represented by Jim Blackburn, Frank Rands and Danny Kaye.

Your Association again during the past 12 months committed substantial resources and time in trying to encourage those serving and ex serving communicators who were not members of the Association to become part of the family. The initiatives will be explained later in the meeting however it is of concern to the Executive that there are very few financial members of the Association who enlisted after 1990 i.e. in the last 30 years. The membership can be assured that growing the membership will be an ongoing focus of the committee.

The Association's 50th Anniversary celebrations take place in one weeks time on the 6 October 2017. I would like to thank the committee who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this event. We are particularly pleased that life member Jim Dell will be present to award the Jim Dell trophy, Paul Slight, former husband of Ruth Slight will present the Ruth Slight trophy and Commodore Jim Gilmour, RNZN. the Maritime Component Commander and ex Communicator, will present the 2017 Communicator of the Year trophy. Further discussion on the Anniversary celebrations will take place later in the meeting.

The organisation of the 2018 RNZN Communicators Reunion is well underway. Again without stealing too much of the thunder from an agenda item, I would like to thank the committee for their commitment and giving of their time to making a success of this event. If you have not registered for the Reunion, I urge you to do so. Without your support, there is no event.

The Association's blog continues to be the primary method of maintaining contact with our members. I would like the meeting to recognise the time and effort by our Blogmaster Frank that goes into managing the blog on a day by day basis. It is no easy task I can assure you.

It was with some satisfaction this year that Government and NZDF have been forced to review their decision around medallic recognition for service in South East Asia 1950 to 2011. New information provided and continued applied pressure from a number of sources, including your Association, was the impetus for a further review to take place. We await the outcome with baited breath.

Your Association has taken a keen interest in the Review of the Operation of the Veteran Support Act 2014. Professor Ron Paterson has been appointed as the independent reviewer and as well as conducting meetings around New Zealand, he has encouraged all those with an interest or any concerns with the performance of the current Act to communicate with him.

In using my own case to explain, I have communicated my concerns in writing through my local MP and the Minister of Defence who has forwarded my correspondence to the Review Panel. I received an acknowledgement from both my local MP and the Minister of Defence. I encourage you all to make yourself heard.

Sadly a number of our members crossed the bar this year. On behalf of all of us 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