

29 September 2018

PRESIDENTS REPORT TO THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Fellow Members

I am pleased to present the President's Report to the Association's 2018 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.

The Association continues to be financially sound. Given that your Association was financially responsible for two large events during the past 12 months, we have been able to maintain a stable financial position.

On the 6 October 2017, the Association celebrated 50 years since its inauguration on the 6 October 1967. The Association celebrated the milestone with a Cocktail Party at the National Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy in Devonport. Seventy-two ex and serving Communicators and their guests attended the event. It was pleasing to note that 18 of those 72 were serving Communicators. During the evening, there were three awards presented. The **'Communicator of the Year Trophy'**, **'The Ruth Slight Memorial Cup'** and the **Jim Dell Cup'**.

On the weekend of 16 to 18 March 2018, your Association held a very successful Reunion at the Wairakei Resort in Taupo. The Reunion was attended by 130 of the membership and it was pleasing to note that some of the membership who reside outside of New Zealand made the effort to attend with an additional being were 'first time' Reunion attendees. I would like to give special recognition to "our man on the ground" in Taupo, committee member Gary Houghton, for his work in ensuring the Reunion arrangements ran smoothly. Many thanks Gary.

Your Association again during the past 12 months committed substantial time in trying to encourage those serving and ex serving communicators who were not members of the Association to become part of the family. There are still very few financial members of the Association who enlisted after 1990. The membership can be assured that growing the membership will be an ongoing focus.

The Association's blog continues to be the key point of 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.

At the last AGM I reported that it was with some satisfaction that Government and NZDF had been forced to review their decision around medallic recognition for service in South East Asia 1950 to 2011. I am now disappointed to report that after all the hype, nothing appears to have happened. We will discuss this later as an agenda item.

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 past 3 years. I particularly wish to thank all 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. It has been a pleasure to serve.

I have a personal belief that for any organisation to evolve and grow, regular new blood and ideas are essential. To that, I would like to advise the meeting that it is my intention to stand down as President at this AGM. I wish my successor the very best and be assured will always have my support.

Thank You

Rod M K Berry BEM

President

RNZN Communicators Association