

RNZN COMMUNICATORS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting my President's Report for the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the association.

Like many other groups and organisations in the country, the committee has had to resort to the use of teleconferencing for its meetings since early this year. This has proved successful in the greater majority of cases and allowed the committee to conduct business as usual.

The association's finances remain in very good condition, as will be outlined in the Treasurer's report. Thanks go to Dearne Berry for her work as Treasurer.

A major update to the association's blog site was introduced earlier this year, giving it a modern look and feel. The blog site continues to be an excellent way of providing information to our members and others. Thanks also go to Frank Rands for his efforts in this field.

The aim of trying to improve membership numbers as identified in my report at last year's AGM has not been very successful. This drive was not helped by the COVID-19 situation.

The committee has continued to correspond with relevant Government ministries and agencies regarding matters affecting ex-Navy personnel, but this has been to no avail to date. Frank Rands, supported by Chris Farrow, appeared before the Parliamentary Select Committee considering the Veterans Support Amendment (Bill No. 2) in July, to put the association's submission that the bill did not really change anything for a lot of ex-Service personnel, especially those who served before 1974. Our submission, along with others from other groups or people, was later ruled as being outside the scope of the committee's review of the bill and could therefore not be considered. A disappointing outcome, to say the least.

Preparations for the association's reunion next year continue apace and are in good place, thanks to the efforts of the reunion team. The shadow of COVID-19 does hang over us, however, and may impact on whether or not the reunion does go ahead. We will have to decide on this point later this year, to avoid financial losses from cancelling at the last minute if we leave it until January or February. COVID-19 has had an affect on the reunion already in that attendees from overseas are now almost certainly unable to attend. The restrictions on travellers entering the country and quarantine requirements are considered unlikely to be lifted or eased to any great extent before the dates of the reunion. Rod Berry will give an update on reunion arrangements in his briefing.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their support over the year and for their willingness to stand for re-election for another year.

Gary Houghton
President

01 September 2020