

## RNZN COMMUNICATORS ASSOCIATION REUNION 2024

As members are hopefully already aware, the association's next reunion will be held 18-20 October 2024 in New Plymouth.

It has been noted, and commented on in other forums, that there have been less people actually attending Navy related reunions in recent times than were originally expected based on expressions of interest (EOI). One such reunion was eventually cancelled due to lack of confirmed attendees. Of the various reasons for people not attending the reunions, cost of attending was a common factor (or suspected to be).

I would like to assure all members that your committee is well aware of the importance of the cost of the reunion and the bearing it can have on people's decision on whether to attend or not. The ever increasing cost of living across the board and the impact these increases have on people's life in general are recognised by the committee. Every effort is being made to keep the cost of attending to a minimum, commensurate with being able to have a reunion that members will consider worthwhile attending. We are doing our utmost to not only ensure that there are activities over the weekend to appeal to everyone, but also that it won't break the bank to undertake them.

The cancellation of our last scheduled reunion removed the chance for members to reconnect with other members and resulted in some old acquaintances not being able to be renewed since the 2018 reunion. A six year gap until old mates can get together again. Therefore, I would urge members to take the following views on the association's reunions into consideration when deciding whether or not to attend the reunions.

The association's reunions are the ones at which you reconnect with people who:

- you joined the Navy with;
- you undertook Basic Branch Training or other training with;
- trained you in your various branch courses;
- you went to sea with and lived with in confined situations;
- you went ashore with in various places (and were sometimes led astray by);  
and
- you shared a range of experiences with, some more exciting or arduous than others (and some that grow more so with the passage of time).

Finally, facing the reality of life, these reunions may be the last time you meet up with some of our members, who may cross the bar before the next one.

So, while the cost of attending is recognised, given that there are 14 months until the reunion I would urge you to give every consideration to joining us in New Plymouth.

*Gary Houghton*  
President

July 2023