

# Minutes of the RNZNCA AGM 27 September 2025



Held 1130 at Birkenhead RSA and via Zoom

The meeting opened with the President, Gary Houghton welcoming everyone and reciting The Ode in memory of all communicators who crossed the bar in the last 12 months.

**Present:** Gary Houghton (President), Steve Mowbray, Frank Lewis, Alan Padgett, Dale Leggett, Red Matthews, Barry Jordan, Sandy Watson, Jim Blackburn, Rod Berry, Dennis Powell, Kerry Hamilton, Rex Rodgers, Brian Henman.

**Via Zoom:** John Bullock, Danny Kaye, Chris Farrow, Murray Nash, Jeff Brown, Barry King.

**Apologies:** Colin Burgess, Jan Lutterll, Stu Keith, Peter Campbell, Deanne Berry, Yvonne Ohlson, Steve Prentice, Jim Dell, Vicki Dell, Jan Wills, Velvet McKirdy, Dave McKirdy, Frank Rands, Paul Murray, Jan Ainsworth, Des Sanson, Pauline Patterson, Paul Killkolly, Dave Wistrand, Pete Trainer, Neal Catley, Ian Jacques, Neil Cundy, Bob Overton, Peter Robb, Ken Smith, Jan Kingham, Murray Kingham, Jerry Payne.

Moved that Apologies be accepted: Dale Leggett      Seconded: Frank Lewis      Carried.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** 21/09/2024

Moved that Minutes be accepted: Dale Leggett      Seconded: Alan Padgett      Carried.

**Matters Arising:** Correction Barry Jordan was present. Irirangi memorial will be covered later.

**Correspondence In or Out:** Nil

**Presidents Report:** Gary Houghton presented his report (attached).

Moved that the Report be accepted: Sandy Watson      Seconded: Dale Leggett      Carried.

**Financial Report:** Alan Padgett presented the reviewed financial report. Alan thanked Sandy Watson for the smooth handover.

Moved that the Report be accepted: Dale Leggett      Seconded: Chris Farrow      Carried.

**Election of Officers:** The following officers were nominated and accepted. Due to Dave Wistrand's wish not to stand a volunteer was called for from the floor. One person volunteered.

President - Gary Houghton  
Vice President – Brian Chambers  
Secretary - Frank Lewis  
Treasurer – Alan Padgett  
Committee – Jeffery Brown  
Dale Leggett  
Neil Cundy  
Murray Nash

The President congratulated everyone then moved that they were elected.

## Notices of Motion: Nil

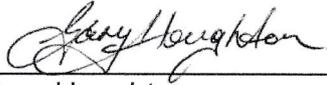
**Reunion:** Alan Padgett had looked at two venues in Hamilton both being very expensive. Gary Houghton looked at three venues in Taupo and the committee decided the reunion in 2027 will be held at the Wairakei Resort as their pricing was more acceptable, although final prices will not be known until closer to the reunion.

## Other Business:

- 1. Communicator of the Year – The Future.** Gary Houghton proposed that the COTY award be transferred to the RNZN, to be held by the Maritime Warfare Training Centre, and the annual selection for and presentation of the award managed by the Communications Warfare Specialist school. It would be handed over formally with a memorandum of agreement to be drawn up between the RNZN and the RNZNCA. Danny Kaye offered to assist with formulating the letter. Jim Blackburn gave an outline of the history of the award.  
Proposed: Gary Houghton    Seconded: Frank Lewis    Carried.
- 2. Reunions.** - Barry Jordan raised the point that at the 2009 AGM it was agreed that every second reunion would be held in Auckland, with the intervening reunions held somewhere else and asked why this routine had not been followed and the next reunion was being held in a place where a reunion had previously been held. Gary Houghton admitted that he and others on the committee were unaware of the arrangement when planning for the 2027 reunion. Following discussion on the pros and cons of holding reunions in Auckland, it was agreed that the planning for the next reunion would continue as previously advised, although investigation would be made into the availability of a venue that could provide both accommodation and facilities for reunion functions in Tauranga.  
(**Editorial note.** The Minutes of the AGM in 2009 and subsequent years have been checked and no record of a proposal for alternating reunions in Auckland can be found. However, it is accepted that the matter may have been discussed during the meeting. The issue will be considered by the committee for future reunions after 2027.)
- 3. RNZRSA Litigation.** Gary Houghton stated that he had received a request to send a letter to the solicitor handling the litigation before the High Court on the conduct of the RNZRSA EGM earlier this year, giving support for the litigation being undertaken. Gary had attended the meeting online and gave a brief on how the meeting had been conducted. He pointed out that subsequent to the EGM we had withdrawn as a member of the RNZRSA and were no longer an Affiliate. After discussions on the request to support the litigation it was decided that the Association should not provide a letter to the solicitor.
- 4. HMNZS Irirangi Memorial:** Frank Lewis utilized a power point to show members the proposals for the memorial: plaque, mounting and site. He pointed out he had been working on this project since 2013 after a visit to the old Trentham Military camp. Application was made to Heritage NZ and the Irirangi site was made a place of historical importance. A foundry has been approached to cast a bronze plaque to be placed at the gates of the old camp. It would be placed on a piece of Ruapehu rock. The plan is for it to be ready and dedicated at the time of the 2027 reunion. Cost estimates to date are \$2360.00 plus GST for the plaque. Cost of the rock, mounting of plaque and installation of the memorial not yet known. It was agreed that application would be made to the RNZN for contribution and application made for a NZ Lotteries grant. Any shortfall could be covered by donations and RNZNCA funds. Frank will look for sources of finance.

**Closure.**

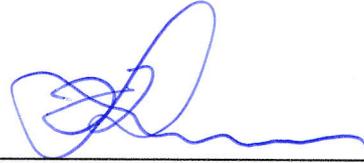
There being no further business, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1248.



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Gary Houghton  
President

5 Oct 25



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Frank Lewis  
Secretary

Oct 25

**RNZN COMMUNICATORS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

I have pleasure in presenting my President's Report on the business and activities of the Association over the last year.

The 2024 Reunion held in New Plymouth in October last year was a success judging by feedback received. Acknowledgement and thanks must be paid to those involved in the its organisation: Sandy Watson, Alan Padgett and Dale Leggett. Also, Dave Wistrand for taking charge of the reunion golf tournament, which was marked by the inaugural award of the Bob Ohlson Trophy. Additionally, a special mention and thanks must be made to Chris Bond for his work and efforts in being the local liaison person, providing boots on the ground support in New Plymouth.

In January this year a delegation from the Association (Jim Blackburn, Sandy Watson, Alan Padgett and me) visited the Maritime Warfare Training Centre at Devonport Naval Base to present the Communicator of The Year award to the 2024 winner, LCWS Samantha Hardy. The presentation was made in conjunction with the CWS Forum 2025, so there was a reasonable attendance of currently serving personnel to watch the ceremony. Presentation of the award was made by the association's founding member and current Patron, ex-CRS Jim Blackburn.

Those attending the ceremony were most impressed by a brief on Jim's service history and experiences, and the CWS members were reminded in addresses by both Jim and me that they were considered as Communicators by the Association, but our visit and talks did not elicit any interest from any of them in joining the Association. It has been well reported previously that the Association's committees have tried different tactics and ideas to get CWS personnel to join, without success. This lack of interest by the serving personnel reflects the different attitudes and interests of younger generations, and other similar clubs and associations have experienced similar problems in attracting new members. The committee has decided that we should no longer spend time and effort in continuing to try and get CWS personnel to join but instead look after the members that we have.

In May, the new constitution of the RNZRSA was passed at a Special General Meeting. As many of you will know, given all the reports in the news media, the reorganisation of the RNZRSA, the revised constitution and the conduct of the SGM have been controversial to say the least. The latter point is the subject of ongoing legal action. As far as the Association is concerned, the new constitution means that the RNZRSA is now involved with the management and administration of Affiliate

Members. This includes, amongst other things, the requirement that Affiliates will permit an RNZRSA representative to attend and speak at their meetings. The new requirements are considered inappropriate for the way that the Association is structured and run, and an unnecessary administrative burden. Moreover, becoming an Affiliate Member has not met the original purpose of taking up such membership, namely to get support and backing from the RSA organisation in our efforts for: recognition of service in the Far East Strategic Reserve; entitlement for ex-Service personnel to be buried in the Service section of cemeteries; action on the recommendations of the Patterson Review; and acceptance of the Veterans Advisory Board report of 2019. The RNZRSA responses to approaches from the Association over the years were, to say the least, disappointing; there was no support given to the Association's submissions on the Burial Act or the Patterson Report. The Committee therefore decided that there was little point in the Association remaining as an Affiliate of the RNZRSA and we did not renew our membership this year.

Frank Lewis has continued leading the project for the establishment of an HMNZS Irirangi memorial. Progress has been made with a design for the plaque being completed and accepted, and a visit conducted to determine a location for the memorial. The next step is to finalise a suitable and appropriate mounting for the plaque and then arrange for the memorial to be installed. An application will be made to Chief of Navy seeking a contribution from Navy towards the cost of the memorial. Details of an unveiling ceremony for the memorial will be put out when finalised.

After considering a couple of options it has been decided to hold the Association's next reunion in Taupō on 15-17 October 2027. Three possible venues were considered and the Wairakei Resort, the venue for the 2018 Reunion, selected as the most suitable. Negotiations with the establishment to finalise indicative costings for the reunion are ongoing and details will be promulgated as soon as available.

As mentioned in my report last year, it would be good to get some of the younger members of the Association involved with its management. A trawl email was sent out to all members this month calling for volunteers to join the committee. We certainly did not get trampled in the rush. In fact, we got more response from the West Island (2) than we did from both the North and South Islands combined (0). So, I would repeat my call for the younger members to step forward to help with the Association.

With the increasing median age of our members there has been a considerable number who have crossed the bar in the last year. Some well-known, others notorious and some not known to many. Regardless, each did their duty and contributed to the ships they served in, the Branch, the Navy and the country. To them we say - Thank you for your service. Rest in eternal peace.

Finally, I would like to thank those who have served on the Committee for the past 12 months, particularly Dave Wistrand, who is stepping down as Vice-President, and our Patron, Jim Blackburn, who has provided wise counsel and kept us on the straight and narrow.

  
**Gary Houghton**  
President

27 September 2025

## Treasurer's Report 2024/2025

This financial year has been quiet since the end of the reunion in New Plymouth

Membership numbers have been relatively static since the last AGM.

Membership stands at 313

Life Membership is 4

As at 30 June 2025 (being the end of our financial year), the accounts were:

Kiwibank Everyday account	\$ 6914.00
Kiwibank Reunion account	\$ 2533.00
Term Deposit	\$ 12,000.00

The Term Deposit is into its third year of a 5 year term running at 5.25% per annum which is a good rate at present. Interest from this Term Deposit is used for administration and running costs of the Association eg: Google – Xero accounting – Zoom and the website administration etc. We also cover the engraving for the COTY award.

As this is my first Treasurers report, I hope I have kept up to the standards of our previous treasurer Sandy Watson. I would like to thank Sandy for the help she has given.

Finally, I would like to thank Barry King for his continued support in reviewing the accounts for the AGM. I would also add that Barry keeps our Xero accounting system running which is greatly appreciated.

Alan Padgett

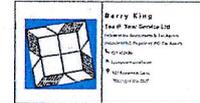
Gary Houghton

Treasurer .....

Chairman .....

Date 2025





# Reviewer's Report

**RNZN Communicator's Association**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2025**

## Report to the Members:

I was appointed Reviewer of the RNZN COMMS ASSOCIATION for the year ended 30th June 2025. My relationship is solely that of Reviewer and I have no other interest in the group other than as a retired member of the RNZN and an Associated Member.

In compliance with the constitution, I have examined the books and accounts of the RNZN COMMS ASSN for the year ended 30th June 2025.

I have received all the information and explanations I required. Sufficient evidence was obtained to give reasonable assurance that the Financial Statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In common with other organisations of this nature, control of income prior to it being recorded is limited and there are no practical audit or review procedures to determine the effect of this limited control.

The review included the examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. It also included assessing whether:

- The accounting policies were appropriate to the association's circumstances.
- They were consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I am of the opinion that proper records have been maintained and that association has managed a satisfactory system of control over its transactions.

Resulting from the afore mentioned review, in my opinion:

- The Financial Statements comply with generally accepted accounting policies for an organisation of this type.
- The Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Organisation as at balance date.

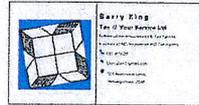
Further, I compliment the Treasurer on his high standard of bookkeeping, financial transaction recording and presentation of the accounts.

**Barry King**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'BK', is written over the printed name 'Barry King'.

**Accountant, Fellow of the Accountants & Tax Agents' Institute of NZ**

**Honorary Reviewer** Review Completed: 5th July 2025



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# Statement of Financial Performance

RNZN Communicator's Association  
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	NOTES	2025	2024
<b>Income/Revenue</b>			
Association Membership		75	50
Interest Income		565	564
Other Income		1,000	-
Reunion Registration Income		5,258	10,801
<b>Total Income/Revenue</b>		<b>6,898</b>	<b>11,415</b>
<b>Less Expenses</b>			
Comms Badges & Polo Shirts & Uniforms		55	218
Computer - Accounting Software & Zoom		320	342
General Expenses		146	50
Printing, Postage & Stationery		70	28
Reunion Expenses		15,281	4,119
Subscriptions		-	58
Trophy Expenses		-	561
Reunion Registration Refunds		686	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>16,558</b>	<b>5,376</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>(9,660)</b>	<b>6,040</b>

These financial statements have been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.



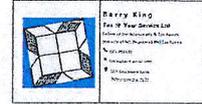
# Statement of Financial Position

RNZN Communicator's Association  
As at 30 June 2025

	NOTES	30 JUN 2025	30 JUN 2024
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Bank accounts and cash</b>			
<b>Bank and cash/(bank overdraft)</b>			
Kiwibank Everyday Account		6,914	7,134
Kiwibank Reunion Account		2,533	11,972
<b>Total Bank and cash/(bank overdraft)</b>		<b>9,446</b>	<b>19,106</b>
<b>Total Bank accounts and cash</b>		<b>9,446</b>	<b>19,106</b>
<b>Inventories</b>			
Badges and Memorabilia Stock		105	105
<b>Total Inventories</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>9,551</b>	<b>19,211</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
<b>Investments</b>			
Kiwibank Term Deposit		12,000	12,000
<b>Total Investments</b>		<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>21,551</b>	<b>31,211</b>
<b>Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)</b>		<b>21,551</b>	<b>31,211</b>
<b>Members Accumulated Funds</b>			
<b>Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)</b>			
Retained earnings/Accumulated funds		31,211	25,171
Current year earnings		(9,660)	6,040
<b>Total Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)</b>		<b>21,551</b>	<b>31,211</b>
<b>Total Members Accumulated Funds</b>		<b>21,551</b>	<b>31,211</b>

Note: Term Deposit is invested with Kiwibank at an interest rate of 5.25% paid annually. Matures January 2028.

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.



# Reunion Expenses Transactions

RNZN Communicator's Association  
For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

DATE	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE	DEBIT	CREDIT	RUNNING BALANCE	GROSS	GST
<b>Reunion Expenses</b>								
16 Aug 2024	Spend Money	French Photographics - Photography		100.00	-	100.00	100.00	-
4 Sept 2024	Spend Money	Egmont Honey - Honey Bags for Reunion		336.00	-	436.00	336.00	-
14 Sept 2024	Spend Money	Sandy Watson - Table decorations etc reimbursement		390.67	-	826.67	390.67	-
17 Sept 2024	Spend Money	Navy Musuem - Navy Pens for Reunion		225.00	-	1,051.67	225.00	-
18 Sept 2024	Spend Money	Egmont Honey - Honey Bags for Reunion		28.80	-	1,080.47	28.80	-
18 Sept 2024	Spend Money	Sandy Watson - Chocolates etc for Reunion		52.00	-	1,132.47	52.00	-
20 Sept 2024	Spend Money	Sandy Watson - Placemats for Reunion Dinner		55.00	-	1,187.47	55.00	-
25 Sept 2024	Spend Money	K M Smith - Bubbly Stantleigh		96.00	-	1,283.47	96.00	-
26 Sept 2024	Spend Money	Giles Enterprises - Chocolatier Reunion		215.63	-	1,499.10	215.63	-
2 Oct 2024	Spend Money	Sandy Watson - Laminating		19.80	-	1,518.90	19.80	-
4 Oct 2024	Spend Money	C W Withers Ltd - to C Withers of bus transport for reunion in New Plymouth		1,240.00	-	2,758.90	1,240.00	-
4 Oct 2024	Spend Money	Siesmic Events - DJ Expenses for Reunion		1,280.00	-	4,038.90	1,280.00	-
4 Oct 2024	Spend Money	K M Smith - Reunion Expenses		525.00	-	4,563.90	525.00	-
6 Oct 2024	Spend Money	D/C FROM D E & M J WISTRAND - Golf for Reunion		560.00	-	5,123.90	560.00	-
9 Oct 2024	Spend Money	JB Ventures Ltd - Whangamomona Hotel Reunion Expense		1,520.00	-	6,643.90	1,520.00	-
9 Oct 2024	Spend Money	Ngamoutu Hotels Ltd - Final Payment to Hotel for Reunion		7,858.50	-	14,502.40	7,858.50	-
14 Oct 2024	Spend Money	JB Ventures Ltd - Whangamomona Hotel Reunion Expense		80.00	-	14,582.40	80.00	-
15 Oct 2024	Spend Money	Mama Partnership - Cake for Reunion		320.00	-	14,902.40	320.00	-
17 Oct 2024	Spend Money	Sandy Watson - Navy Museum Fridge Magnets for Reunion		306.00	-	15,208.40	306.00	-
22 Oct 2024	Spend Money	Alan Padgett - PAY Alan Padgett, A Padgett refund Hotel drinks lunch		275.88	-	15,484.28	275.88	-
23 Oct 2024	Spend Money	BOND MR CA & MRS J - Flowers for Reunion		100.00	-	15,584.28	100.00	-
29 Oct 2024	Receive Money	Ngamoutu Hotels Ltd - Refund Overpayment ex Hotel		-	514.00	15,070.28	(514.00)	-

Reunion Expenses Transactions

DATE	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE	DEBIT	CREDIT	RUNNING BALANCE	GROSS	GST
6 Dec 2024	Spend Money	Vivid Images		210.45	-	15,280.73	210.45	-
	Total Reunion Expenses			15,794.73	514.00	15,280.73	15,280.73	-
	Total			15,794.73	514.00	15,280.73	15,280.73	-