

**RNZN COMMUNICATORS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

I have pleasure in presenting my President's Report for the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the association.

Thank you for taking the time to attend the AGM, either in person or via the Zoom link. Your support of the association is appreciated.

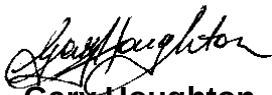
It has been a quiet year since our last AGM, with relatively little association activity. Things will no doubt change over the next few months as preparation for our reunion in October 2024 ramps up.

Planning for the reunion has proved difficult. The well recognised cost of living increases and inflation have had a marked affect on the costs of functions or services for the reunion. Moreover, some businesses are reluctant to commit to a firm price for something so far in advance when they themselves are subject to cost increases on an almost monthly basis, if not more frequent. Progress is being made, albeit slowly, and a firm program and registration form should be available soon. Given that it will be six and a half years between reunions by the time the next one comes round I would encourage you to register for and attend the reunion.

There continues to be dissatisfaction amongst many ex-Service personnel regarding the recognition of and support for veterans. Some who received the NZOSM under the expanded criteria for service in South East Asia were subsequently surprised to learn that it carried no entitlements to any benefits or support. Challenges have been made to Veterans Affairs (VA) on interpretations of some sections of the Veterans Support Act 2014, and the linking of the NZOSM to Operational Service. Although the association has not been directly involved with submissions on these matters in the year, we have kept close liaison with the South East Asia Veterans Association (SEAVA) and their activities in this regard. We will watch with interest the result of the forthcoming General Election and the importance or recognition given to Defence and Veterans Affairs by the next government.

As is coming too frequent nowadays, a number of the association's members have crossed the bar during the year. Their service and contribution to the Navy and the Branch is acknowledged. May they rest in eternal peace.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee members who have worked to support the association over the past year. Thank you for your efforts and I look forward to working with you for another year.


Gary Houghton
President

21 September 2023