



Patron in Chief: Her Majesty the Queen

# NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

National President Letter to Members - 1/2019

The new year is both exciting and challenging, with your membership being valuable to the wider Navy Community. Membership is probably more important today than over the past 99 years. The value of membership rests with being informed. This requires us to apply a basic rule, communicate with all members. For instance, how many of your Sub-section members get to read this letter? This letter may be mentioned at your Sub-section meeting along with a list of other incoming documents. Since assuming the role of National President in April 2017 I have drafted a letter to members every month. My request to Office Bearers is to ensure all members have a copy of my letter, don't just file them away!

My aim is to encourage all members to consider the consequence of their membership to the wider Navy Community. Membership of the Association is critical if we are to maintain a place alongside major Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs). We are one of the few truly national ESOs and to ensure Navy has a voice within the wider community we must increase membership. The point of my letters is to outline the work of the Association, embolden you to ask questions. Consider our collective work in support of Shipmates, Cadets or other endeavours that perpetuate support of Navy.

Along with these letters, every member should be receiving the agenda for meetings well before they are held and receive the minutes in a timely manner. As most of our members do not attend Sub-section meetings, for one reason or another, communicating by distributing the record of meetings is the least we can do. Our new website ([navalassoc.org.au](http://navalassoc.org.au)) can be used as a noticeboard; every Sub-section is able to upload documents onto the website for their cohort of members to read. If your Sub-section has not explored this opportunity, ask your Office Bearers how it works. If you are an Office Bearer and need assistance, ask your State Section Secretary or Section Office Bearer conversant with the website for advice. If that fails, send an email to George Mock, Webmaster at [NationalMembershipRegistrar@navalassoc.org.au](mailto:NationalMembershipRegistrar@navalassoc.org.au) and George will help you out.

👑 **CARE:** A draft report has been tabled by the Productivity Commission concerning their review of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), see [www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/veterans/draft](http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/veterans/draft) for the 700+ page report or to read the overview. Their findings are super important to the future of DVA and support directed to Veterans. Few may read the entire report, however, the Association has a role to make sure that the Navy Community is heard. Again, this is why we need to encourage every Serving or ex-Navy person to join our ranks: strength in numbers!! DVA has arranged an extraordinary meeting of Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) for Tuesday 15JAN19. DVA will spell out their perception of the report.

👑 **COMMEMORATION:** 10FEB19 will be the anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Voyager. On 1MAR19 will be the Battle of Sunda Strait with the loss of HMAS Perth and USS Houston. Hopefully each State Section will make arrangements to commemorate these significant and tragic events.

👑 **CADETS:** Support of ANC Training Ships is gradually becoming known to the wider membership. It would be helpful if each State Section was to ensure that any Sub-section with an ANC TS within their geographic area was clearly identified. Support to Cadets should be advised by way of Sub-section meeting minutes being forwarded up the line. National and State Sections need to know the extent and benefit of this work.

👑 **CAMARADERIE:** To Sub-sections that make use of Facebook pages or newsletters, these are most helpful to publicise the activities that enable Shipmates to share their experiences with others. We also need to keep in mind that your input to the White Ensign Magazine is also vital. Sharing information with shipmates keeps them in the loop and illustrates the benefit of your work, enthusiasm and energy. I look forward to working with you so we may experience a productive 2019 for the Navy community across Australia.

Terry Makings

5JAN19