



Patron in Chief: Her Majesty the Queen

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

National President Letter to Members - 3/2019

The National Council are preparing for the AGM in Launceston on Saturday 29MAR19. This meeting is important for the National Councillors as they must identify methods to improve the Association's position as a reputable Ex-service Organisation (ESO). We are the only Navy ESO at national level, the responsibility that brings should not be underestimated. In recent years we have been challenged as younger Navy Veterans align with other organisations. We must be relevant across all age groups, our challenge is to demonstrate that we have the wherewithal to support each Navy Veteran. The search for one or more initiatives that will enthruse potential members is required, something each Sub-section should be thinking about! The origin of entitlements available to Veterans is often unknown. ESOs have been pressing for improvement to Veteran support, in our case for 99 years. Whilst the breadth of entitlements is significant, the voice on behalf of Navy will only be heard if we have a strong membership base. Our business plan last year proposed that every member bring a new member to the Association. This is yet to materialise, few members have put their minds to this initiative. Our future depends upon each of us putting our shoulder to the wheel and applying thought and energy to each of the objectives in the business plan, when an opportunity is identified, pounce on it!

I draft these letters for two reasons: firstly to test our communications, every member should be included in the information loop; secondly, I try to share snippets of information that may prove beneficial, assist you or other members of the Defence community. Much of our work these days is non-specific, we would gain more if concentrated on the four pillars. Sub-sections must send their meeting minutes to their State Section so Section Council can review their wellbeing periodically throughout the year. The Council's appreciation of each Sub-section needs to be recorded in the Council meeting minutes. These to be shared with National Council, so National understands the health of the Association overall. This process points to a need for all Office Bearers to grasp the importance of knowing the health of the organisation within their sphere of influence. Surely a simple requirement.

🇺🇦 **CARE:** Review of DVA by the Productivity Commission (PC) has been a consuming process. Our position was put to the PC at the public hearing in Melbourne. The Alliance of Defence Force Organisations (ADSO) submissions are also relevant to us. Whilst the Commissioners were adamant about their proposals, eliminate DVA - establish a Statutory Authority, we were adamant that this should not happen. Moreover, the proposal to set up a Policy Unit reporting to Defence was also deemed to be a regressive step. Hopefully the consequence of all this effort will be beneficial to the Veteran Community in the long term.

🇺🇦 **COMMEMORATION.** In recent days we have commemorated the loss of Warships Yarra, Perth along with USS Houston with over a 1,000 sailors making the supreme sacrifice when these ships were sunk in 1942. Foundation of the Navy on 1MAR also occurred. Navy held a vigil in Victoria at the gravesite of VADM Sir William Rooke Cresswell KCMG KBE, father of the Navy. Alex McGown, President ACT Section represented us in Canberra, where CN responded to foundation of Navy.

🇺🇦 **CADETS.** There has been little information received regarding ANCadets this month. We are hopeful that support to ANC Training Ships continues to be explored by Sub-sections.

🇺🇦 **CAMARADERIE.** We are approaching our Centennial year - 2020, each State is expected to arrange an event that will promote the Association and emphasise this historic milestone. This is an opportunity to stand up and be counted.

🇺🇦 To finish off, I wish all new and re-elected office bearers the very best for the next year. Time to make a difference with you at the helm of the Association. Keep in mind, "if we all think the same then nobody is thinking! There is nothing more important than the wellbeing of our Sub-sections and its your role to lead them. I wish you well as you tackle your responsibilities and apply your mind and energy to bettering our Association, particularly our profile within the Veteran Community.

Terry Makings

6MAR19