

Once Navy



Always Navy

Letter from the National President letter

3 /2018

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The simple way of ensuring our members know what is happening within the Association is to tell them. Ensuring agenda/minutes convey the appropriate message/business of meetings and follow through with agreed actions. My message is to encourage members to discuss matters of relevance within their Sub-section, or make contact with the Executive, whether that be Sub-section, State or National level. One effective way of getting the message out there is through the White Ensign Magazine, albeit one way! We must understand what we are about and whether we have maintained the course. I have received comments from several members and appreciate the confidence in the National Executive. All feedback is good and particularly valuable when it identifies improvement. Individuals who make constructive comment may not see a direct result, but rest assured your views influence the conversation. It is evident that there is considerable activity unreported and therefore unknown to others. The obligation is upon Sub-sections (all of us actually) to record relevant activities for members to appreciate what is happening. One impediment to 21st century communication is the reliance on Australia Post. We all need to advise the National Registrar (NationalMembershipRegistrar@navalassoc.org.au) of our email address, if you haven't already. For the very few who don't have immediate access to a computer, whether that be through family or the local library, then you need to ask your secretary (or maybe the grandchildren) how best to arrange an email address. We must move with the times as we have a large block of members who do not attend meetings, but they must be kept in the picture and emails is the answer!

CARE. We are receiving advice regarding welfare work being undertaken by members at a low level. These well meaning members visit hospitals and offer support to widows/widowers. This is an important aspects of our work. Recording these commitments through Sub-section discussions/minutes is rewarding and gives others an appreciation of the breadth of commitment. The extraordinary commitment by authorised officers, dealing with welfare and/or compensation matters is a credit to them and the NAA. We are looking at a different method of communicating with Accredited Officers to assist in sharing DVA initiatives and register any concerns in process management. The NAA has several gateways into DVA and advice relating to contemporary issues is vital to make those encounters beneficial to all concerned.

COMMEMORATION. In February a service for HMAS *Voyager* I and II occurred. *Voyager* I was part of the Scrap Iron Flotilla, deployed to the Mediterranean at the outset of WWII. Hard to imagine the fear of being bombed or sunk by submarines on any given day. *Voyager* II, lost on 10FEB64 after colliding with HMAS *Melbourne* with the loss of 82 lives. Whilst most of the survivors attended their annual reunion & service at Jervis Bay, some attended services in their own state. A list of commemoration milestones has been shared with State Sections. The list of services will hopefully be remembered by Sections through some remembrance activity. Many services are historically local interest only, Sections need to step up and promote all major services as State run milestones, this is an ex-Navy community responsibility.

CADETS. It is pleasing to hear that many Sub-sections seek to reinvigorate their support of local Cadet Units. Some form of formal arrangement would be helpful, but any increase in support will be welcome.

CAMARADERIE. Social gatherings is the image that most non-members have of the Association. Whether we all agree is not the issue, what is needed is an effort to change that perception. We need to build a reputation around the four pillars, demonstrating all vital aspects of our dedicated work.

GENERAL. Membership remains a crucial feature of our future. Being financial is paramount, next is the goal for each member to recruit one new member. Please welcome Jan Gallagher as the new National Treasurer. Jan is an active Reservist and quite adept at looking after accounts. Welcome aboard Jan.

Yours aye
Terry Makings

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