

Once Navy Always Navy



From the National President to Members

2/2018

PO Box 3362,
Belconnen DC ACT 2617

We are well into 2018 and hopefully everyone has paid their membership fee for 2018. We don't give reminders that fees are due, not the shrewdest way of retaining members. This will change when we introduce the new software into the website - have you visited the website lately? For the Association to continue as a formidable union of Navy and ex-Navy men and women it takes numbers. Each of us should be on the search to bring one new member to your Sub-section this year. Membership is critical to our wellbeing and our capacity to influence the decision makers. In fact, increasing our membership is an important part of our future. Many think recruiting the entire 'ship's company is the aim of the game. In reality, membership is based on two things, keep the members we have and encourage our ship mates to join us - *one at a time!* One very important part of any success comes from the experience a potential new member has on that first exposure to the Association. "Did you make him/her welcome and introduce them to your colleagues?" Ensuring every potential new member is warmly welcomed is a promise we must make. Being a tad blasé on the arrival of new folk is hardly a sign of welcome!

CARE. NAA representatives are preparing for the Legislation Workshop planned for March and the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table scheduled for 9MAR18 in Canberra. There is also a Young Veterans Forum, so you can see there are plenty of avenues of interacting with DVA. Obtaining feedback from our members and other Navy men and women is pivotal if we are to improve our contribution at these various forums. Sub-sections are encouraged to discuss and bring their ideas and concerns to the attention of State Sections, then to the National Council.

COMMEMORATION. The HMAS Voyager Service, 10FEB18 reminds us of the exploits of the Scrap Iron Flotilla, five destroyers deployed to the Mediterranean at the outset of WWII. Each of them created a legacy of hard work, through dedicated service and sacrifice. HMAS Voyager 2 was a modern gunship, the first of three Daring Class Destroyers. This service marks the sinking of Voyager 2 on 10FEB64, after a collision with HMAS Melbourne. With the loss of 82 men, the legacy of their sacrifice is important for the Navy community to remember. We also need to prepare for 1MAR18, loss of HMAS Perth and USS Houston. Over 1,000 men were lost on that fateful day in 1942. These are important occasions that deserve our support.

CADETS. We have suggested each Sub-section formalise their relationship with their local ANC Training Ship by a memorandum of understanding, or similar agreement. It would then be most helpful if any such agreement could be made known to your respective Section and National. We are trying to recognise the support we provide and also the benefit we derive from ANC Training Ships. Keep in mind, no alcohol or smoking when Cadets are present.

CAMARADERIE. We don't need much encouragement to socialise. One aspect to be mindful of is low level welfare that takes place under the auspices of camaraderie - record this effort!

GENERAL. Back to membership, are you financial? Have you a plan to recruit a new member? Have you given thought to how you might step up a notch and help manage the Association? Leaving the job to others may seem like a good idea, but maybe your influence and energy is what is needed to make the difference. The Association is in need of an injection of enthusiasm. You may just be what the doctor ordered, give yourself credit for being able to make a difference.

Yours aye,
Terry Makings

6FEB18

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