

# Once Navy



# Always Navy

National President letter to members

4/2018

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The Naval Association seeks to be relevant to a wide cross section of the Defence community. To achieve this every member needs to be engaged, be part of shaping our progress. Relevance is about long term, not something that fades beyond our personal survival! State Sections need to be able to validate the performance of their respective Sub-sections. In turn, Sub-sections need to provide sufficient information to enable, not only their own members but their respective Sections to appreciate their situation. To make sense of how the NAA is travelling, our formal records, agenda/minutes are crucial as they are the vehicle for recording performance, good or otherwise. Communication is a most important aspect of any organisation, we are no different. I have mentioned Email contact many times and recently the National Membership Registrar requested email details for all members. National manage the membership register, however, the reliance on others has meant data can be somewhat out of date or non-existent. We have postal addresses for everyone, however, that is not enough in this digital era. To be part of the long term solution, arrange for your email address to be provided to the National Membership Registrar as soon as practical. Let's steam into the new age with an open mind and enthusiasm!

Care. I hope you have had the opportunity to look at the DVA website, notwithstanding that means you need a computer! All of the initiatives underway in DVA are on their website and they are too vast to distil into a few lines and post to members. Our gateways into DVA demand rapid exchange of information and being able to quickly gather views and opinions of members is paramount. Again, only those with access to a computer can be part of this rapid fire process.

Commemoration. During the past month we remembered HMAS Perth and HMAS Yarra. Loss of both Warships resulted in many making the supreme sacrifice. HMAS Vampire I was sunk on the 9APR42 with the loss of 10 sailors. All members should support these services.

Cadets. We advertise in the Australian Naval Cadet magazine 'On Board'. Success of this initiative is dubious, however, it does provide direct access to a sizeable group of potential members. We need to re-think the method of communicating if we are to encourage their membership.

Camaraderie. Social activities stimulate members, whether that be a simple get together after a meeting or specially arranged events. Low level welfare seems to fall into camaraderie as well. I have proposed these encounters be noted in meeting minutes, not to identify recipients, but to gauge the extent of our involvement. Some regularly visit their local hospital to comfort other Veterans. Navy News is often provided, but a friendly conversation is also a great medicine.

General. Further to the preamble above, increasing membership is the responsibility of us all. After a year as National President my view is we need new blood to help change our destiny. My proposition is that each of us must encourage one other person to join the Association. We need to be confident about our future, that membership is a good thing, worthy of giving a little time and effort. I look forward to witnessing our growth, demonstrated by increased membership and a greater awareness of the treatment of Veterans and their families.

Yours aye,  
*Terry Makings*

7APR18

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