



Patron in Chief: Her Majesty the Queen

# NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

National President Letter to Members

A warm welcome to new members, we seek to champion your continued bond with old and new Shipmates. The crucial topic this month relates to how well we communicate with our members. Most members do not attend meetings, so it is imperative that we share information with them. To be relevant to the wider Veteran community is a challenge. Highlighting the importance of our work, at Sub-section level is a must. All members and potential members need to know what we are about. The purpose of these monthly letters is to alert members to the work of National and also prompt members to gauge how well their Sub-section shares incoming information. Generally, we take a cursory approach to information provided by others. Office Bearers have the opportunity to ensure that their respective members are made aware of our work, seek out advice about member wellbeing and solicit ideas on how to be better at what we do. Can I remind all Sub-sections that sharing their meeting agenda and minutes is a primary means of keeping members abreast of activities. Sharing your documents with State Section will also ensure the Council is privy to the health or otherwise of every Sub-section within their jurisdiction. I commend the new website to all members, Office Bearers in particular should make extensive use of the website as a means of reinforcing our connection with the wider Association.

**CARE:** Members should be familiar with how to access DVA support. Being familiar with what Non-liability Health (NLH) is a must, source relevant info on the DVA website. The website is a tad difficult to navigate, but worthwhile having a go. Each Sub-section is encouraged to view the DVA website, search for fact sheets or other points of interest to share with members to make meetings interesting and relevant. DVA has many projects underway, all aimed to better the interface with Veterans and their families. We also need to be familiar with the ATDP website to source accredited Advocates.

**COMMEMORATION:** we must remember the loss of HMAS Sydney II on 19<sup>th</sup> November and then HMAS Goorangai on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Each of these Warships were lost with all hands. We then need to prepare for the HMAS Armidale service on 1<sup>st</sup> December. A thought for Teddy Sheean would be appropriate as we consider the service and sacrifice of so many Shipmates.

**CADETS:** We are slowly learning more about the good work undertaken by so many Sub-sections as they support their local ANC Training Ship. State Sections are encouraged to document this support. Drafting articles for the White Ensign Magazine is another way of sharing knowledge of your work.

**CAMARADERIE:** Bringing Shipmates into the fold of the Association is most important to longevity of the Association. Our capacity to support Shipmates or influence the level of support provided by third parties depends upon numbers. Growth is crucial and must be the focus of all Members. Membership automatically connects us to maritime events and services arranged by the Association and others. Most have experienced the best and worst of learning to be a warrior at sea or ashore. Let's enjoy the moment with Shipmates and family.

**GENERAL:** Improvements to how we do business requires Office Bearers to see the light! Have you asked, "Do we need to change anything?" Much of the discussion conveyed through my monthly letters has been directed at membership growth and reinforcing the four pillars. My reason is to make it clear that growth in membership numbers is vital and every Member has a role to play in changing the pattern. The focus on four pillars is simple, what are we here for? I look forward to reading and hearing more about outcomes and how work is directed towards growth of membership and the four pillars.

Terry Makings

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