



Patron in Chief: Her Majesty the Queen

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

National President Letter to Members

A warm welcome to new members, may your experience with the Association be positive as we champion your continued bond with old and new Shipmates. This year we devised an inaugural business plan aimed at concentrating our thoughts and effort in support of four pillars (sub headings below). Each pillar warranted three actions, each a simple method to boost the central premise of why we exist. It's important that we appreciate the purpose of these actions. Your Sub-section is the place where these actions need to be applied. Ask how your Sub-section is seeking to accomplish outcomes in answer to the business plan.

🇦🇺 CARE: Supporting service and ex-service men and women is a crucial part of our work. Only a few members are directly involved in accredited welfare and/or compensation advocacy. Over recent years, many of our advocacy stalwarts have retired. If you have time and the gifted skills to assist, please let your State Section Welfare Co-ordinator know of your interest. Or email general.enquiry@navalassoc.org.au and we will follow up your interest. There has been a lot of discussion relating to the DVA White Card. To see if you are entitled, go to <https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-hsv61-dva-health-card-specific-conditions-white> for advice.

🇦🇺 COMMEMORATION: Maintaining the legacy of past service and sacrifice, a key responsibility of the Ex-service Community. September was dedicated to the Battle of Bita Paka and loss of HMAS AE1, both in 1914. Remembering the sacrifice of Australian's first casualty, AB Billy Williams and the loss of AE1, with the entire Ship's Company. Next major service will be Remembrance Day, then loss of HMAS Sydney followed by HMAS Goorangai. Each State Section should make arrangements to reflect on these occurrences and members are encouraged to support these commitments.

🇦🇺 CADETS: Assisting youths to become better citizens by supporting the ANC, many Sub-sections provide invaluable help to their local Training Ship. The aim is for every Sub-section with an ANC Unit within their geographic area to pursue some form of agreement with the TS so that assistance and support is acknowledged by ANC & the Association.

🇦🇺 CAMARADERIE: Meet and socialise with like minded service and ex-service men and women, a rewarding trait, knowing that once Navy, always Navy. Our time at sea/ashore with Shipmates and family is best remembered by being in a group that also experienced the best and worst of learning to be a maritime warrior at sea or ashore.

GENERAL: Office Bearers have an obvious role in shaping our business and influencing the wellbeing of the Association. The conversation at meetings must focus on how we support the four pillars. National Council and State Section Councils have a responsibility to look to the end game. Meeting agenda and minutes need to be shared: Sub-sections to/from State Sections and to/from National Council. Sharing decisions made at all levels is the only way for everyone to understand the direction and achievements. The earlier note about the business plan is about measuring our ability to succeed. Agreed objectives at National, State Section or Sub-section level must influence all Office Bearers if we are to make a difference. National Council make decisions based on the determinations made by their Sub-sections. *Now a pressing matter*, "have you sorted out your NAA website log on?" Every member and Sub-section is encouraged to use bank transfer as the primary means of making payments. All Treasurers are encouraged to use electronic banking, email nationaltreasurer@navalassoc.org.au for info.

Terry Makings

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