



NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Patron-In-Chief: Her Majesty the Queen

Letter to Members from the National President #9/2018

Email: nationalpresident@navalassoc.org.au

👑 A warm welcome to our new members, your support is central to our ability to maintain headway. Our purpose being to continue: advocating on matters of substance, support to Veterans and/or their family as required, or just being there with like-minded friends. During this year, all members should do their best to encourage at least one Veteran to join us. Our ongoing capacity to support and advocate on behalf of the Navy fraternity depends upon numbers and our ability to think clearly.

👑 Most will be aware of our new website. Two immediate outcomes being the process of joining, along with renewal of annual subscriptions are now more efficient. Moving into the electronic age will improve management of member data and put us on the front foot. The paper based method of administration has not kept pace with the rapid flow of information necessary for a national organisation. Every member has access to the network, even if through a third party. All Sub-section Secretaries (only one exception) has a computer and make good use of it to communicate with members. For those members who have yet to accept computers, you will need to rely upon your respective Secretary to keep you informed and in turn hope you keep him/her informed as well.

👑 Care. There are many initiatives being undertaken by DVA. Considerable information is on the DVA website, albeit a little difficult to navigate. Members who are not computer savvy may need someone they can rely on to assist. The question is, "do you have ready access to electronic communication to/from your Sub-section?"

👑 Cadets. National has received advice, through minutes and specific emails on the level of support provided by Sub-sections to their local ANC Training Ships. This advice is most helpful and enables a wider view of NAA support.

👑 Commemoration. Milestone events in September are: Merchant Navy Day 3SEP, Battle for Australia 5SEP, first Australian Serviceman casualty (AB Billy Williams) 11SEP and loss of the AE1 14SEP. Again, these are milestones that the NAA must remember, particularly if overlooked by Ship or other like-minded Associations.

👑 Camaraderie. The wellbeing of our shipmates may well be the easiest of tasks. Spinning dits at or after a meeting is an important part of our participation, but we must remember that most members do not attend meetings. We need to ask ourselves, how do we keep all members informed, how proactive are we in making sure they are accommodated. Remoteness of some members from their Sub-section is not new, however, in today's environment we have the means of narrowing this gap – through frequent electronic communications (emails).

👑 I ask all Office Bearers to focus on making the best use of our new website systems. Joining procedure was touched on above, but managing our finances through Pay Pal and Bank Transfers should be used, not cheques. If you need to discuss how you are to manage this process at a Sub-section meeting, then please do so! Hand written cheques are labour intensive and with the likelihood of mistakes. Sharing crucial information, such as scheduling events, access to the White Ensign Magazine are all detailed within the new NAA website. Each member has the capacity to update their personal details, another method of making sure the NAA has the correct information at hand. With respect to privacy, each Office Bearer must be aware of when they can share personal information. If anyone is uneasy about what level of accountability they have around privacy, then contact your State Section for advice.

👑 We have been on the path of revitalising the NAA for 18 months, whether the current business plan has traction or requires further articulation is required. The National Executive rely upon receipt of your agenda/meeting minutes to learn about achievements and general participation. Please look at how you are sharing this information: Sub-sections to State Sections, on to National so that the best features of the NAA are made known across the board?

Yours aye, Terry Makings 2SEP18

Once Navy, Always Navy

www.navalassoc.org.au