



Letters to members have been distributed for just over twelve months. The purpose is to empower members. The idea is that each member needs to grasp the challenges facing the Association. Content is generally under the heading of our four pillars, they being being a consolidated view of the 10 objectives detailed within the Association's Rules. The National Executive has struggled to unfreeze the run-of-the-mill approach taken by much of the Association. There is a need to unearth those within our Association prepared to address the challenges that have to be tackled. Members capable of improving our capacity to support Navy and ex-Navy men and women, along with their families are needed. I am pleased to say that some Sub-sections have embraced the four pillars and have formalised their approach to these objectives. A business plan circulated by National Executive to Sections for consideration by Sub-sections is a simple method of aligning resources with the four pillars. Three simple outcomes against each of the pillars will ideally be progressed this calendar year. If you have yet to hear about this business plan, please ask your leaders for advice. I thank those Office Bearers who have demonstrated the wisdom necessary to understand what is important to our future and how they might achieve the best results, given the availability of resources.

Care. Have you looked at what your Sub-section provides insofar as support for those in need? We profess to provide considerable support for Navy and ex-Navy men and women, effort essentially based on the work of Sub-sections. If you have an interest in 'Welfare' or 'Compensation' then please contact the Co-ordinator in your Section and discuss how you might go about helping out. The Advocacy Training & Development Program (ATDP) appears a tad tedious at first look, but please don't give up without chatting to someone who actually knows what it's all about. If need be, email me! All members should set aside some time to have a look at DVA, whilst there is a host of information, take a look at the fact sheets: dva.gov.au/about-dva/factsheets/dva-factsheets-number

Commemoration. Battle of the Coral Sea Service early May is an opportunity to demonstrate your support of this service, your respect for the sacrifice of those engage in this conflict. A list of commemoration services that should be acknowledged by all Sections annually has been distributed. Cadets. Many of the Cadet Units will be engaged in annual inspections during this month. They appreciate the attendance of Association members. At the last National Council meeting there was considerable discussion about how ANC Support Committees might be assisted with Public Liability Insurance. National Council has struggled to realise the best method of providing this support. National Executive will develop a proposal on how this may be satisfactorily progressed.

Camaraderie. How do we couple camaraderie with those members who do not attend meetings, or have little opportunity to engage in traditional activities. Sub-section needs to give some thought to how best to serve those who we don't see. Keeping in mind that most members do not attend meetings. We bang on about improving membership – every member should be actively seeking to recruit one new member into the Association. Keeping existing members is also vital. Retaining all members by making sure there is regular communication with them is super essential, hence emails.

General. The old adage 'Deeds not Words' should be our mantra! There is no point just talking about it, if you have any urge to do something (anything) positive, please take the initiative. If you attend meetings, put forward your idea – repeat it if necessary to encourage a conversation. Whilst your specific idea may not get up, you may be surprised to hear it being developed into something that many support. If you get no traction, send an email to the National Executive and we can see where your idea might be best tackled. Proposing change or putting forward an idea(s) is best accommodated by writing it down. A formal record gives it prominence and can be compelling. Remember - your contribution is critical to our future!

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