



Patron in Chief: Her Majesty the Queen

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

National President's Letter to Members - 7/2019

As a national organisation we need to be mindful of our purpose. All of us may express a view as to how we should go about our business, however, that view should be based on motivation to care for our Shipmates and/or to sustain the history of milestone events. Care is demonstrated in different ways, socialising the simplest and being an accredited advocate probably the most challenging. No matter at what level you wish to participate, it all contributes to the accomplishment of our purpose.

Many aspects of our fraternity are strengthened by belonging, the continuation of our Navy experience. Every expression of interest that is application to join could be seen as a yearning to connect. When a prospective Shipmate shows interest, we need to respond accordingly – with enthusiasm. At the moment, we have a long list of Veterans who have taken a step towards joining. We notice that quite a few of these Veterans struggle to complete the process. This may be a consequence of a delay between first key stroke and payment of the joining fee. Above all, we need to be mindful of potential members and deliver a credible response to their approach. We must be mindful of existing as well as new members, every individual is valued.

Some may know that we are reviewing our rules, starting with the constitution. The objective being to simplify our governance processes to make it easier for office bearers to navigate the rules. Influencing the review is how we share information, the necessity is to move into the 21st century, with respect to all communication. Many Shipmates avoid using emails, this has to change. Our aim is to facilitate access by all Shipmates, via emails as soon as practical. This can only be achieved if all office bearers take it upon themselves to take this on as an assignment. Most will not be overly confident about how to help out their Shipmates. National will strive to assist in the short term, to improve our overall method of communication between all Shipmates.

The Productivity Commission's final report of their DVA review was tabled in Federal Parliament go to www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/veterans/report to see the report and all submissions. The report

recommends significant change, however, the actual destination if all of the recommendations are supported by Government is subjective. Fingers crossed that the outcome is better for Veterans than the sweeping changes being progressed by DVA at the moment. If the final report is contrary to any submission made at a personal level by individual members, then you may need to draft your thoughts again for your local member.

Many Sub-sections make donations to worthwhile charities. There is a particular entity that looks after serving Veterans, *Keeping Watch!* *Keeping Watch* is the recipient of donations, this entity replaced the RAN Canteens of old. A suggestion is that we focus on *Keeping Watch* as our favoured beneficiary as they look after today's sailors that are doing it tough.

Most will know that the Association was a founding member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO). As such, any submission or media release published by ADSO is supported by the Association, unless stated otherwise. Similarly, you may have read the recent media release by all members of the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) expressing a view that a Royal Commission into Veteran Suicides was not supported. The principle reason being that if upwards of \$100M is to be allocated to this issue, then it should be spent on the range of recommendations already determined by previous studies and reviews. Deeds not Words!

Our National Secretary has advised all Sections that the National postal address has changed. Our new postal address is PO Box 524, Curtin ACT 2605. Please note the change on any documents you may have at hand.

My usual reminder, each of us to recruit one other person to join the team. Membership gives Navy a voice in the wider community.

Yours aye,

Terry Makings

6th July 2019

Once Navy, Always Navy

www.navalassoc.org.au