



Patron in Chief: Her Majesty the Queen

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

National President Letter to Members - 12/2018

As 2018 draws to a close we should take this as an opportunity to look back over the past year. To be thankful for the experience, hopefully much of the year has enriched us. For those events that have brought sorrow, make adjustments to lessen their impact on your appreciation of the support that is around you. Being a Member of the Association has maintained that link with good times, times when decisions shaped your today. Give some thought to new Members, they deserve our support and our encouragement as they seek to maintain that feeling of camaraderie. In return, their support will broaden our future prospects. We welcome them with open arms!

Care: Entitlements aimed at sustaining the health and wellbeing of Service and ex-Service men and women are unfortunately referred to as benefits. The origin of these entitlements is lost in the mire of expectation. As an ex-Service Organisation we need to promote ourselves, in part as the reason these entitlements exist. Essentially, those that went before us worked tirelessly to deliver a range of services, exerting pressure on the government of the day to do more for our Veterans. Membership is the only way we can remain in the game to continue the search for support where crucial & justified.

Commemoration: During the past four weeks we have had the opportunity to remember the loss of HMAS *Goorangai*. Sunk after a collision with the *Duntroon* on 20NOV40 as it entered Port Phillip Bay. The entire Ship's Company of 24 men were lost. HMAS *Armidale* was lost on 1DEC42, again this occasion was a significant reminder of service and sacrifice. In Melbourne, Ray Leonard attended the *Armidale* service. Ray was an eye witness to the heroic and courageous effort of Teddy Sheean. Navy was strongly represented at both services, CDRE Greg Yorke CSC RANR Senior Naval Officer Victoria (Member - Melbourne Sub-section) attended *Goorangai* and CAPT Mike Oborn CSM RAN CO HMAS *Cerberus* attended *Armidale*. Every loss of an Australian Warship is

a reminder to us of the courage and sense of duty that has prevailed within Navy before and since Federation. *May we be worthy of their sacrifice.*

Cadets: CMDR David Marsden has been the RAN's Director Australian Navy Cadets through 2018, he paid off in November. David was most helpful to the Association in searching for methods that would benefit the relationship between the Association and the Australian Navy Cadet organisation. Insurance has been an issue that we have endeavoured to provide to ANC Units, only to realise that our efforts were not going to be as helpful as we wished. The generous support by many in aid of their local ANC Unit is gradually becoming known to others within the Association and elsewhere. We need to continue sharing information about our work so that Serving and ex-Navy folk know we are out there doing stuff! Some may know that the ANC will no longer be publishing their magazine. This may be an area we can assist with, or maybe a decision we need to learn from!

Camaraderie: Our capacity to make fellow members feel welcome should be second nature, however, that camaraderie needs to extend to meetings. Our meetings also need to look to the inclusion of the four pillars so that everyone has a handle on what business we are in.

General: With Christmas upon us may I wish all members the very best and may you recount fond memories with family and friends. The Association commences a new year, subscriptions being due on 1JAN19 (less than a cup of coffee a month!), but more importantly we are only one year away from our centenary. Whilst celebrating Christmas, give some thought to how your Sub-section might celebrate our 100th year as an Association. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Terry Makings

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