

NAA Centenary Event 20 Nov 20: Up-Date Provided by the National President



Naval Association of Australia (NAA) Centenary

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Australian War Memorial, Canberra

Friday 20 November 2020, commencing at 1200

*Fellow Members,*

Prior to my appointment I had, on behalf of the NX, initiated discussions with the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to ascertain if we could conduct a Commemorative Service within the AWM to mark the Centenary of our Association and to pay our respects to those who have served in the RAN, at this most sacred place of remembrance. Initially, the COVID19 limitations appeared to be pointing us toward a very small gathering inside the Memorial but then it became possible to look at another option within the grounds wherein we could have a somewhat larger event but still with the possibility of cancelation or much reduced numbers, ever present in the planning process.

I am delighted to advise we have been able to formulate a NAA Centenary Wreath Laying Service for Friday 20 November 2020, at 1200. Regrettable, however, attendance will be limited to those invited due to AWM COVID-19 Protocols. We have been able to despatch invitations to our Patron, the GG; PM and respective Ministers in both the Government and Opposition; CN; Naval Defence Attachés from the UK, NZ and USA; a myriad of RAN Ex-Naval and Naval Interest Organisational Representatives here in Canberra (remembering the interstate travel limitations to be contended with, some are representing their National President located in other States); Naval Widows and Families; the Australian Navy Cadets; the RSL and Air Force Association. We are delighted to have a Navy Chaplain, a RAN Band-Brass Quintet and Navy Vocalist in support. All VIPs will be invited to lay a wreath along with that of the NAA. We are now awaiting Invitation and Wreath RSVPs.

To have secured this opportunity under the prevailing circumstances has been most gratifying but knowing we could not all have the opportunity to attend does lessen such feelings to some extent. Remembering the aim was to do all that was possible to mark our Centenary and to honour those '*whose grave is the cruel sea*' and, '*the many naval veterans*' past and present, I believe we have achieved a commendable outcome in being able to gather at the AWM, and there to represent every member of the Naval Association of Australia and our loved ones, in the conduct of this most important commemorative service. It is with every sincere hope that you will share in this historical event by way of a contemplative thought, prayer or gesture.

Whenever I am afforded the unique and privileged opportunity to represent you and our Association, I shall do so in full knowledge and respect of your expectations.

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We in the National Executive are fully aware that within Sections and Sub-Sections much has been done and planned to mark the NAA Centenary in your own way and within the bounds that are impacting on us all. So that we may make use of the NAA National Web Site to advertise such events on your behalf, we ask that you provide us with those details at your earliest convenience (email address: [nationalmembershipregistrar@navalassoc.org.au](mailto:nationalmembershipregistrar@navalassoc.org.au)). Alternatively, please provide photos and supporting text of any Centenary activities so we can share that with others within the Association. Whilst 20 Nov 20 has been set aside as the day we will mark our Centenary, the time from then until that date next year affords us all with the opportunity to conduct special events to mark this most important milestone in our collective NAA history.

It is very encouraging to see the shackles of COVID-19 being eased and as we dearly hope life will move on towards that which we knew, we do acknowledge and offer prayers for those who have suffered in being confronted with pain or heart-breaking loss.



David Manolas  
National President  
NAA  
31 October 2020



*Once Navy, Always Navy*