



NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Patron In Chief: Her Majesty The Queen

National Patron: His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

Letter to Members from the National President 7/2018 Email: nationalpresident@navalassoc.org.au

Federal Government has reviews underway focused on the relationship between Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and veterans. Our input has relied upon the intellectual knowledge of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisation (ADSO). We are a founding member and ADSO has framed appropriate opinion in response. If you wish to read submissions to the Productivity Commission review, go to:

www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/veterans/submissions

The outcome of these reviews will reshape the way DVA administers its role in support of the Defence Community. Ex-Service Organisation's (ESO) may also be impacted by the changes taking place now and indeed changes that will come from the reviews. Our involvement in *CARE* has already changed over the past decade. For instance the introduction of the Advocacy Training & Development Program (ATDP) replacing the Training & Information Program (TIP) has highlighted a serious decline in accredited advocates. We can question the validity of a change, however, keep in mind that each change is an extension of the experience of some Veterans and the opinion of those employed in the Veteran community. We need to ask, do we understand what is happening with DVA and *CARE*? Prompt your Sub-section to learn more about *CARE*.

The opinion of Sub-sections is important and will only be known if minutes of meetings or comments drafted on specific matters are shared. First of all, Sub-section Shipmates should know what has been discussed, then passed up the line to State Section. Many members do not attend meetings, they need to be communicated with. Passing information up and down the line quickly is paramount. Shipmates need to be actively involved at a level that suits their interest, time and energy. Every member is capable of making a difference, just engage and demand your Sub-section keeps you posted.

Commemoration, we have the Battle of Savo Island anniversary on Thursday 9th August. This conflict in 1942 resulted in the loss of HMAS Canberra with 193 casualties, 84 of whom made the supreme sacrifice. On 11th September will be the anniversary of the Battle of Bita Paka where in 1914 the first Australian Serviceman casualty of WWI occurred, that being AB Billy Williams. Three days later, on 14th September 1914 the AE1 was lost with all of the Ship's Company. Each of these anniversaries warrant commemoration by the Association, with Navy's support if they are able. Keep in mind that we have a responsibility to keep the legacy alive.

Our new website is now up and running. I encourage every member to have a look at the website, your initial login may be challenging, but stick with it. There will be a champion in your Sub-section that can help. If need be, ring the Web-Master, George Mock for assistance. The new website underpins the National Membership Register, the Secretary will have access to data relating to all of their Sub-section members.

If we take full advantage of the new website, the work load on Secretaries and Treasurers will be reduced and the integrity of our processes will be substantially improved. We need your help to move into the digital age, even if just for younger veterans. Electronic payment of subscriptions is encouraged. Let's eliminate cheques, payments between members and Sub-sections, State Sections and National. Communicating by emails is also a necessity, if we are to be informed. If need be, chat to a colleague in your Sub-section (or family) to set up an email address, let's get with the times!

Terry Makings 6AUG18

Once Navy, Always Navy

www.navalassoc.org.au