



NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Letter to Members from the National President 7/2018

The White Ensign Magazine is the primary means of communication with members and wider afield. The magazine has been rejuvenated with a new management team dedicated to making this stream of information relevant to new and old Veterans and the wider Defence Community. Every member is encouraged to think about drafting some worthy commentary that will enrich the magazine. Well done to the Editor and team for their considerable effort to create a creditable level of information and interest aimed at emphasising the outcomes of the Naval Association of Australia.

The four pillars are now embedded in the Constitution, they are simple pathways designed to channel our effort. Each provides an opportunity for members to contribute to the well-being of service and ex-service members, or non-members should the need arise. The purpose of focusing on the four pillars is primarily to recognise we have a responsibility to uphold the intent of our forebears. Care relates to our support of those in need. The benefits assigned to Veterans, through the Department of Veterans' Affairs are the consequence of years of bidding by Ex-Service Organisations. Our Association was one of the National organisations responsible for the existing benefits. Past effort is to be applauded, however, it is our responsibility to continue supporting Veterans and their families by whatever means at our disposal.

Growth of membership is paramount to our ability to perpetuate any united voice on behalf of the wider Navy fraternity. Retention of members is just as important as recruiting new members. In addition, our future will only be assured if we are relevant to Navy Veterans. Each of us need to ask "what are we actually doing to promote the Association through deeds not words".

Navy history also deserves attention. Many milestone events merit commemoration, occasions where a shipmate has made the supreme sacrifice. The immediate focus needs to be the HMAS *Canberra* Commemoration Service in August. The specific date is 9th August 1942 when *Canberra* was sunk with 193 casualties. Recognition of the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam with a Unit Gallantry award recently is an occasion that highlights the service and sacrifice of men and women in the Navy. They were individuals, working as team players that made a courageous effort. One of their team, Leading Seaman Noel Shipp as a gunner in his helicopter, made the supreme sacrifice whilst doing his duty. A 50 year wait is disheartening, hopefully future bravery within the ranks of the Navy will be recognised expeditiously.

The Association has a range of rules designed to maintain uniformity across the Association. Our thoughts need to be focused on proper governance, sharing information about activities supporting the four pillars, continuous improvement at all levels with the focus being on relevance to the Navy family and above all be welcoming to existing and in particular new members.

Yours aye,

5 July 2018



Terry Makings

Once Navy, Always Navy

www.navalassoc.org.au