



# NVN News

*incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

December 2015

Volume 5 Edition 12



*Merry Christmas*

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 1008*

The NVN Team wish all of our readers the very best for Christmas and the New Year. Looking back can be thought-provoking, but looking forward should be exhilarating. As we move into year 2016 we are guaranteed to have a productive year, provided we go about things in a positive way. With over 1,000 on the mailing list, NVN is encouraged as we share our collective goodwill over this festive season.

Reviewing this year's newsletters you may recall that the Spirit of ANZAC and the bravery of many as Australia became involved in war activities on the other side of the globe was an important theme. The March newsletter continued the conversation related to Gallipoli, the Bridging Party in particular. In April, a precise of a book by Captain Ian Pfennigwerth RAN Rtd (author and PhD) titled 'Under New Management – The Royal Australian Navy and the Removal of Germany from the Pacific, 1914 -15' was described. As you would have read, all of these notes expanded on Australia's participation in the War effort. These themes indicate the residual value of 'once Navy,

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**25 Dec** – Santa Claus is coming to town – Merry Christmas.

**01 Jan** – Happy New Year

**07 Feb** – RAN Recruits wreath laying.

**10 Feb** – Scrap Iron Flotilla Association wreath laying

**14 Feb** – National Servicemen wreath laying

**22 Feb** – NHS meeting (all welcome)

## Latest News

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**NOTE: The full articles of the news items listed below can be found on our website:**

<http://navyvic.net/news/news.html>

**Minister for Defence – Joint Communique – Third Australia-Indonesia 2+2 Dialogue**

*The Australian and Indonesian Foreign and Defence Ministers held the third 2+2 Dialogue on 21 December 2015 in Sydney, Australia. They had a wide ranging discussion on bilateral, regional and global issues of common concern.*

**Move to improve Veterans' Affairs systems**

*Driving information and communications technology (ICT) and systems improvements to help reduce*

always Navy'. A phrase used more frequently by many within the Navy fraternity.

One newsletter approached an entirely different perspective, a very contemporary theme describing the work of women in the Navy. Many 'old salts' have witnessed a dramatic change in the work undertaken by women in the Navy. Some find it hard to reconcile, most understand the necessity of this change and the absolute benefit that has been derived from the shift. I recall comments about not being a WRAN, but a female in the Navy. Hopefully that isn't an indication that modern Navy has forgotten the work of their predecessors.

The mid-year newsletters sought to excite you into participating in some meaningful way by being helpful to others within the Navy community. There was a good story about the various points of entry into Navy and the opportunities available to reset relations with shipmates of old. A look backwards and a look forward to see where you fit! Yes, there has been a concerted effort to get you to do something, anything, so long as it adds to the greater good. Put simply, all you have to do is attend an activity, however small, it all adds up.

This year we are a century on from WWI, 70 years since WWII, 60 Years since Korea, 50 Years from Vietnam and 25 years since the commencement of hostilities in Iraq and the world remains a place where the risk to our way of life remains, to some degree threatened. There are frequent instances in different parts of the world that highlight the need for a strong focus on security and in particular a robust defence force. We should take heed and be reminded that it is the responsibility of the ex-Navy community to support our Defence Force, Navy in particular.

Whilst we seldom witness a Warship (of our own) in Victoria, we do receive generous support from HMAS Cerberus and the Melbourne Detachment of the RAN Band. Cerberus is managed with a very lean Ship's Company these days, so much of the effort provided is from the Trainees. To assist with co-ordination of our collective requests in Victoria, it is in our best interests to make use of the NVN calendar to avoid conflict between events. This has the potential to improve the level of participation within the Navy community and also assist in delivering a fair share of resources across the wide range of activities arranged by Ship/Unit/Branch Associations. You may also see an improved

*claim processing times for veterans is a priority for the Australian Government.*

#### ***Soundings Papers: Issue No.7***

*According to some assessments, by 2030 Australia could be left with no domestic refining capacity, less than 20 days' worth of refined petroleum fuel reserves, and the reality that the Australian Defence Force will be entirely reliant on imports for its marine diesel oil, motor diesel, gasoline, jet and helicopter fuel requirements.*

#### ***Community Consultation now open for Toowoomba and Wodonga VAN Shopfronts***

*DVA is asking ex-service organisations, DVA service providers and members of the veteran and ex-service communities to have their say about how best to deliver in-person services at Toowoomba in Queensland and Wodonga in Victoria. The consultation period will run until 20 January 2016.*

#### ***Veterans honoured by French Seventy years after the end of the Second World War Two, five***

*Australian veterans were recognised with the Légion d'honneur onboard the French frigate Vendémiaire, alongside Garden Island, Sydney.*

#### ***Shipbuilding – Getting on with the job***

*Minister for Defence Senator the Hon Marise Payne today confirmed that the Competitive Evaluation Processes have now commenced for the Future Frigates and Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).*

#### ***DVA Service Arrangements for the Christmas and New Year period***

*The Department of Veterans' Affairs and Veterans' Access Network (VAN) offices will be closed over the*

level of participation by others within the Navy community, particularly if your event is a standalone occasion.

There was also a concerted effort to rekindle Navy Week Victoria – during 2015. This proved to be a demanding task, notwithstanding, there were several events that will stand us in good stead for the future. Planning will commence early in 2016, any organisation interested in participating is encouraged to contact the principal organisers, the Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria. The purpose of this exercise is to further our support of Navy, through participation and broadening the community's knowledge and understanding of Defence.

At the outset, the plan is for a bonanza social event, a dedication service at St Paul's Cathedral, a number of sporting events, a dining experience, a seminar with the finale being an Open Day at HMAS Cerberus. Each event will be a reminder of the days when we or our family were directly impacted by everyday events in the Navy.

The last newsletter advised of the unveiling of the 'Answering the Call' statue alongside Beach Street, Port Melbourne. This stands as a stark reminder of the large number of officers and sailors who departed Melbourne to do their duty. The statue is one of the best sculptures you will ever see. There is a good chance that this statue will create considerable interest from individuals who have served in the Navy, or family of those that have served.

Our purpose and thinking is simple – we wish to motivate our ex-Navy mates and their family to build public support and a willingness to discover how best to generate support of the Royal Australian Navy. The social aspect is intended to bring friends and family together to share the good times. The sporting activities are to enable individual skills to be tested against folk with similar backgrounds and interests. The educational events are aimed at broadening our understanding of Defence and the Navy so that we will be sufficiently confident to chat to our friends about Australia's Defence network.

Finally, let's return to our first objective at this time of year – to have a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year. Keep in mind, you can only catch the liberty boat if moral is sky high. We look forward to seeing greater involvement and support

*Christmas and New Year period from Friday 25 December 2015 to Friday 1 January 2016 inclusive. The Department will re-open for normal business on Monday 4 January 2016.*

***\$1.46 Million to improve PTSD treatment for current and former Australian Defence Force members***

*The Australian Government will invest \$1.46m in a research project to enhance treatment programs for current and former Australian military personnel with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in a bid to improve their mental health and wellbeing and better support their families.*

***Veterans Skype counselling pilot under way***

*The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Stuart Robert, has announced the Veterans and Veterans' Families Counselling Service (VVCS) is conducting a new study into the effectiveness of online mental health counselling services.*

***DVA due for dental and allied health check-up***

*Arrangements for a major review of the dental and allied health services provided to veterans were announced today by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC, Stuart Robert.*

***Community grants boost veteran health and wellbeing projects***

*The Government has recently awarded over \$822,000 to ex-service organisations around Australia to support community projects that will enhance the lives of many in the veteran community.*

***Air Warfare Destroyer – a clear way forward***

*The Government is putting in place long term arrangements to ensure the*

through 2016.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

## VALE

- † CPOEP R. Henwood, 15 December 2015. Aged 75.
- † WO(V) S. Hinkley, 12 December 2015.
- † SBLT G. Campbell, 07 December 2015. Aged 94.
- † POSY R.V. Goeldner, R51923, 06 December 2015. Aged 81.
- † ABETP D. Snowden, 28 November 2015. Aged 63.
- † CRS W.L. Lowe, R29727, 26 November 2015. Aged 87.
- † CPOETC D. Parker, 24 November 2015. Aged 58.

## Lest We Forget

**To all who read this:** If you hear of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know. We would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' page on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, Age and their date of passing.

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On 17th October 2015 the NCCV held the ANZAC Naval Commemorative Ball at Flemington Racecourse. All proceeds from this event went to the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. The

picture shows CDRE Jim Dickson AM MBE RAN Ret'd, CMDR John Goss RAN, Petty Officer Carmel Tom and ex-CPOCK David Dwyer presenting a cheque for \$12,317.57 to the new CEO of the Shrine, Dean Lee. David Dwyer and Carmel Tom worked tirelessly to ensure the event was the huge success that it was.

### ***NCCV's "Rogues' Yarn" attached below***

***(please note: in the Rogues' Yarn (attached below), the article referring to the 1958 JR reunion, should read the 58<sup>th</sup> JR Intake)***

*future success of the Air Warfare Destroyer project and address the legacy of unresolved issues inherited from the previous Labor government.*

### ***Applications open for 2016 Fromelles and Pozières commemorations***

*July 2016 will mark 100 years since the Battles of Fromelles and Pozières on the Western Front, and from today Australians will be able to apply to attend the services in France to commemorate these important events as part of the Anzac Centenary.*

### ***New eLearning programs to improve veterans' health care***

*A new PTSD eLearning program for mental health providers will help improve treatment for former ADF members.*

### ***'Answering the Call' statue unveiling at the Port of Melbourne***

*CN'S speech*

### ***Statement on the use of mefloquine in the ADF***

*Defence would like to reassure past and present members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who might be concerned about recent media reports on the use of the anti-malarial drug mefloquine (also known by its trade name Lariam<sup>TM</sup>).*

### ***Future Submarine program enters next phase***

*Evaluation of Australia's Future Submarine program proposals will now commence with all three potential international partners submitting their proposals in full,*

### ***NHSA(Vic) President's December Musings – [download.....](#)***

### ***NAVY NEWS – [The latest edition.](#)***

***Don't forget to visit the [website](#) as there are many more news articles that may be of interest to you but are not included in this newsletter.***





# Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

## Rogues' Yarn

### Naval Reserve Review

The Deputy Chief of Navy, RADM Mike Van Balen AO RAN has set up a review of the RAN Reserve. The aim is to develop a concept that will sustain Reserves. Many of our readers are/were or know Reservists and each will have a view that needs to be made known. Time to put pen to paper & express those ideas many of you harbour. Submissions to Captain Frank Krasse RANR, The deadline is 31MAR16, don't delay. To improve, your view needs to be expressed/heard.



### KEY DATES

**Services at the Shrine of Remembrance**  
[Everyone welcome]

**RAN Recruits**  
Wreath Laying  
7FEB16@1000

**HMAS Voyager**  
Wreath Laying  
Sanctuary  
10FEB16@1000

**Next NCCV meeting**  
9FEB16 @ 1030 at  
Melb Naval Centre.

**All Ship/Unit/Branch Associations are encouraged to be represented!**

### *HMAS Armadale - Corvettes*

On Tuesday 1DEC15 a service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance to commemorate participation of Australian Built Corvettes and in particular the involvement of HMAS Armadale in WW2. This service recognised how 56 Corvettes journeyed millions of nautical miles, across many of the world's oceans in support of the Allied Forces. Most appreciate the wide ranging activities the Corvettes were deployed on: mine warfare, escort, survey, gunnery, troop transfer, supply duties and a host of incidental jobs all aimed at supporting troops ashore. It is said that over 10,000 Officers and Sailors were posted to Corvettes, that means there are a great number of descendants out there waiting to get involved. The role and experience of these men should not go unnoticed, forgotten by us who reap the rewards on a day by day basis. Maybe the depth of our gratitude could be gauged by their effort. Take Teddy Sheean for instance: a young nineteen year old Ordinary Seaman destined to do his duty under the most catastrophic circumstances. Thirteen Japanese aircraft attached HMAS Armadale on 1DEC42, the ship eventually sunk with the ultimate loss of 100 men and boys. The order 'abandon ship' was given, those able obeyed the last command. Ray Leonard tells the story of how he watched from the sea as Teddy freed a life-raft, before moving to one of the ship's Oerlikon guns. With the ship obviously sinking, Japanese aircraft firing upon his shipmates in the water, he started shooting at enemy aircraft. He apparently shot down one aircraft and damaged two others. It was also said that tracers came out of the sea as Teddy and the ship disappeared from

sight. Sadly it was these trivial aspects of the heroic story of Teddy that enabled the more recent Inquiry to determine that Teddy didn't do enough to warrant the Victoria Cross. It was a sad day when subtle negative aspects of the witness statements outweighed the gross bravery of Teddy, prior to being swallowed by the Timor Sea. Another significant experience was HMAS Lismore departing Darwin in 1941 and returning to Australia some 1,409 days later. Lismore had steamed some 156,000 miles since commissioning. ↓ Below, students from the Star of the Sea College who add value



to the annual service, pictured with Corvette Veterans Ray Leonard (1) & Stan Yates (2). The College must be congratulated for their active involvement in the service and support of the gallant men who sailed in those small ships. Whilst there is a natural decline in the number of Veterans from WW2, at least the contribution made by the Star of the Sea students will secure the service into the future. ↓ Below is Ray Leonard after placing the floral tribute at the Stone of Remembrance.





### Disclaimer

Articles contributed are the Author's thoughts only. An article may be edited to meet the space available.

### Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is a service to the entire Navy Community.

The purpose is to share information and where possible avoid a clash with other activities scheduled by others in the Navy Community.

Log on to

<http://navyvic.net>

### Melbourne Naval Centre

MNC is an organization that has provided much needed funds to Ship Associations over many decades. In need of financial support, contact the MNC.

# President's Report

As 2015 draws to a close we can take some comfort in knowing that we did our best with respect to support for Australia's Defence Force, Navy in particular. We supported all of the commemorative services held at the Shrine of Remembrance and also organised the Flag Ship Events throughout the year. In addition, we arranged to revive Navy Week Victoria - 2015. It had been many years since Navy Week was held in Victoria and due to the minimalist approach to Navy in Victoria, it was thought to be one way of broadening Navy's exposure. We re-created a week of activities to bring some attention to the fact that Navy is important. The ANZAC Navy Commemorative Ball was the initial event for Navy Week. The Ball was a huge success and showed the appetite for a formal event where a wide demographic can participate. The Seafarers Church Service the next morning was also well attended and has been part of all Navy Weeks. The other events were reminiscent of past years. There is a need to re-think as we go forward to ensure we can

attract recent generations of ex-Navy men and women. As we have incessantly said over many years, we must do something to revitalise the appetite of those who have separated from Navy recently to become active in the ex-Navy family. It is one thing to be ex-Navy, it is another to participate and broaden our collective influence. There are probably less than one hundred individuals who keep the ex-Navy fraternity going. They can be seen at many of the organised activities, particularly the annual rituals, such as Coral Sea, Seafarers, Goorangai and they come from our member Associations, the Navy League, Naval Historical Society, Naval Officers Club and Naval Association. Next year would be a good time to take a deep breath and see what we can do to increase our collective output. NCCV will initiate something to get the ball rolling. I thank the NCCV Executive Team for their tireless effort in 2015 and commitment to continue for another year. Have a Merry Christmas and keep safe.

*Yours aye, Terry Makings*

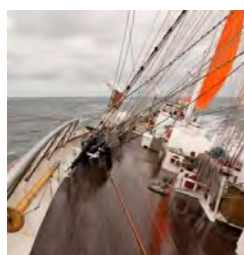
## Security of our Bases

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is undergoing a range of improvements to policy and physical security procedures and measures. These initiatives follow the recent review of base security and subsequent risk assessments that were conducted at all bases within Australia. They follow the discovery of the alleged terrorist plot to attack Holsworthy Army Barracks. Improvements include strengthening Defence's protective security alert system and improving the policies underpinning security arrangements, such as: additional patrolling presence by the Australian Federal Police and contracted security guards; and a range of physical security measures. Unfortunately these matters tend to limit the opportunity for the Ex-Service community to visit our ships and establishments, but there can be no issue with the need to ensure that all of Australia's assets, particularly our Defence arrangements are free from attack or any activity that might impede their ongoing ability to train or support the ADF. In Victoria our only dedicated Naval presence is HMAS Cerberus. Over the past year or so entry into Cerberus is via West Gate and prior notification is virtually mandatory if you wish to visit anyone or place. Like all Establishments, you just need to make the necessary arrangements with the area to be visited prior to arrival.

## Young Endeavour

Never mind the Paris Climate Change Summit that occurred earlier this month, the Young Endeavour clocked 15.6 knots under sail, a world record.

What, no more Stokers! No doubt you are well



aware of the genuine benefit young adults, between 16 and 23 years of age receive by joining in the fun as a crew member of the Young Endeavour.

A few simple things to comply with: be an Australian citizen or have permanent residency;

weigh less than 120 kg; be able to swim 50 metres and be in good health - not much to ask! There may also be some medical aspects to consider, these are to make sure participants are not put at risk. Joining in the fun is not cheap, at \$1950 for an 11 day voyage, but commensurate with the joy of being at sea. If an applicant is receiving a Centrelink payment then why not apply for a financially assisted berth, at a reduced fee of \$650. The fee is for the voyage only, you have to get yourself to the port of departure and home again. Why not have a look at their website for more details, go to [www.youngendeavour.gov.au](http://www.youngendeavour.gov.au)



## Navy Week Victoria

The success of Navy Week Victoria last October leads us to consider Navy Week 2016. There are two significant events scheduled, Seafarers Church Service on Sunday 16OCT16 and Open Day at HMAS Cerberus on Sunday 23OCT16. The call will go out seeking support from other organisations to compliment Navy Week. Can you re-schedule an event to coincide with Navy Week? The proposal is to arrange a significant social event on Saturday 15OCT16, next day at the Seafarers Church Service, sporting activities such as golf and lawn bowls, with the possibility of a seminar and other key events of interest. The purpose of Navy Week is to encourage support across the ex-Service community for the ADF and the Navy in particular. Ex-Service men and women should be able to voice an opinion on Defence, being up to date is important. The Navy's day job precludes them from arguing the case in public, but we can! Navy Week provides an opportunity for us to get together, build on common interests around which we may increase our influence when public support is necessary. If your organisation has any ideas of how to provide support during Navy Week please let NCCV know. Get serious!

## Scrap Iron Flotilla



Get your diary out and note that the Scrap Iron Flotilla Association annual lunch will be held at 1200 for 1230, on Friday 18MAR16 at William Angliss Restaurant, Lt Lonsdale Street. The guest speaker will be Captain Roy Stanbrook, Harbour Master - Port of Melbourne. Captain Stanbrook has experienced an exciting career, includes being involved in the Falklands War, aboard the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Sir Galahad. The Sir Galahad was bombed by the Argentinians. Captain Stanbrook will have a very interesting story to tell! This is always a great event and the next lunch will be no different. If you were lucky enough to be in Sydney on Thursday, 10DEC15 you may have been at the Scrap Iron Flotilla mess dinner aboard HMAS Canberra, alongside at Fleet Base East. 163 Officers attended, making the mess dinner a great success. Commander Ben Hissink RAN, organised the function. Great work Ben remembering the Warships deployed as Australia's first military commitment towards World War Two.

## Armed Merchant Cruiser / Landing Ship Infantry

The Armed Merchant Cruiser / Landing Ship Infantry held there annual commemorative service on Tuesday 15DEC15. Approximately 40 people attended, the following WW2 Veterans were present:



R - L ↑ Hiram Ristrom Co-Patron of the Association & past president of HMAS Kanimbla Association; Wally Cumberland at 96 was the elder; with Bruce Candy Co-Patron of the Association & past president of HMAS Westralia Association; Norm ← Tame past president of HMAS Assault Association, Norm's brother Allan, visiting from West Australia also attended. Gaye Lewis, Secretary of the Association organised a function after the service at the Bentleigh RSL rooms



were WW2 Veterans unable to make it to the Shrine of Remembrance attended a lunch. The Vets were Syd Atkinson, Jack Austin, Tas Luttrell, Harry Peers and Jack Quick. Pictured ↓ is Hiram Ristrom greeting



Audrey de Valliere, widow of Malcolm de Valliere a past President of the Westralia Association. With them is Neil McPhee & son Timothy. Neil's father was Arthur who served on Kanimbla & Westralia. The AMC/LSI Association is

showing the way insofar as encouraging descendants to support the legacy of their ancestors. They have been successful in bringing together Veterans and descendants of four separate ship Associations. This is a clear example to others who may wish to take up the challenge by making an effort to preserve the legacy of the Ship or Unit Association linked to your own family. The end result is about a commitment of around 20 minutes once a year, little to ask in order to preserve the memory of those that went to war so we might enjoy the freedom we experience very day!

## ANZAC Centenary

Navy milestones during WWI have largely been commemorated as they occurred during the earlier part of WWI. One unheralded activity was the withdrawal from Gallipoli. The RAN Bridging Party were the last out on 20DEC1915, not such an important milestone. Although it did cap off what was a disastrous operation with incredible loss of life, on both sides. Even so, it does facilitate a means of drawing attention to what was a substantial maritime involvement, primarily British to not only deliver and retrieve the troops, but to have provided immense fire power before and during the entire operation at Gallipoli. The incursion by HMAS AE2 is clearly recognised, although from a global perspective the AE2 doesn't enjoy the same recognition as the British submarine B11, where the Captain Lieutenant Commander Normal Holbrook received the Victoria Cross. The maritime experience was significant, with the loss of Capital Ships through to assessment of the AE2's success actually influencing Command to continue the landing at Gallipoli.

**ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!**



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## Items of special interest

### Sweetheart Badge.



The badge pictured was originally designed by Jim 'Spud' Murphy, canteen manager at HMAS Cerberus during the WW2. It was manufactured by Stokes of Melbourne. There is also a brooch type with a metal ribbon supporting the anchor. The picture is almost actual size. If you are interested in purchasing a badge, or a brooch with a metal ribbon then email Marty Grogan at [grevillethedevel@gmail.com](mailto:grevillethedevel@gmail.com) a reasonable \$15 each.

**Change of Command.** After many decades as the President of the HMAS Australia Association, Des Shinkfield has handed the batten to Grant Knox. Well done Des for caring for the Association for so many years and looking after your shipmates. Congratulations Grant for taking on this key role.

**Volunteering.** Expansion at the Shrine of Remembrance with the new Galleries of Remembrance, provides an opportunity for people so inclined to volunteer as Shrine Guides. To register go to [www.shrine.org.au/support-the-shrine/become-a-volunteer](http://www.shrine.org.au/support-the-shrine/become-a-volunteer) or research the potential to help out.

**Answering the Call.** The November NVN newsletter appropriately described the unveiling of the new statue 'Answering the Call' at Beach Street, Port Melbourne. The statue is a stunning sculpture and if you have yet to see it in person, make an effort - you will certainly not be disappointed.

**1958 Intake of JRs.** There has been a myriad of reunions over the past decade, don't let that stop you from joining in the fun. The 40th reunion of the 1958 intake of Junior Recruits is being planned and will occur at Hobart. If interested you should email [niall.baird@nab.com.au](mailto:niall.baird@nab.com.au) for more info.

**Bravo Zulu Project.** Captain Ian Pfennigwerth RAN Rtd and a few colleagues have been working for the past 6 years to complete a list of ex naval personnel who have received awards in either the Imperial Honours List or the Order of Australia. There are some 3,600 recipients, each will have their name, their award with details of the award included in one of the several volumes. To bring this to fruition, Ian will be seeking funding from those interested in purchasing one or more of the books. The next edition of Rogues Yarn will have more details relating to how to get involved.