

NAVAL VETERAN ENTERTAINED.

Chief Gunner Kearns, late of the Royal and Australian Navies, was entertained by officers and boys of the Naval Brigade Movement and friends at Griffiths Bros. tea rooms, Little Collins-street, on Thursday evening, to celebrate his 86th birthday. Mr Kearns, who joined the Royal Navy in 1877, is the sole surviving officer of the China Contingent. With the late Mr John Cameron, he formed the Boys' Naval Brigade Movement in Victoria in 1903. It was at Mr Kearns's suggestion that the Victorian Government, when the late Mr John Murray was Premier, purchased a sailing vessel, afterwards known as the John Murray, for the training of boys in Victoria.