

**The National
Servicemen's
Association of
Australia Inc**

Wednesday, 9 March

2016

*General Meeting
of the National Council
held in Perth, WA*

Minutes

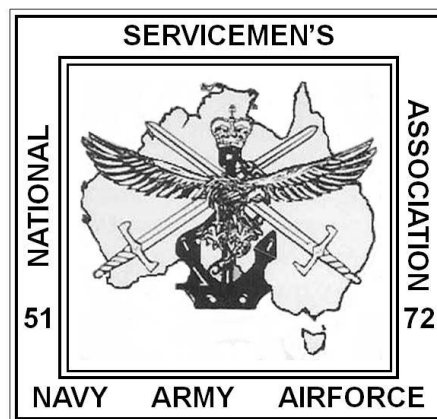


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1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 The Chairman, Earle Jennings welcomed delegates and observers from WA Branch and acknowledged the presence of previous WA members of the National Council.

2. OBSERVANCE

- 2.1 Vice President, Ron Brandy delivered the National Ode of Remembrance and observed one minute's silence.

3. GUEST SPEAKER

- 3.1 The Chairman introduced Mr Geoff Simpson, Deputy Warden of the WA State Memorial.

- 3.2 Mr Simpson spoke of his considerable military service and civilian background. He provided details of the WA State Memorial and his last five years as Deputy Warden. He acknowledged the hard working and supportive staff and gave special recognition to Brian Prangnell, an ex NSAA National Council member. He mentioned the increasing demand for services at the memorial and advised that 39 major services had been held in 2015, and as a result they are getting more support from the WA government. 2016 looks like being a bigger year again.

- 3.3 The Chairman thanked Mr Simpson for his informative address and presented him with a special plaque.

4. ATTENDANCE

- 4.1 The Chairman acknowledged 21 present as per the attendance register and reviewed the following apologies and proxies.

Apology: Mr Alan Callaghan
Proxies: SA – D Blackmore for B Presgrave
NSW – D Casey for F Boissett
VIC – A Miller for J McLeod
NT – R Strachan for M Lane

- 4.1.1 **Motion:** *That the proxy appointments and new delegates be accepted.*

Moved: T Stevenson (QLD)

Seconded: R McIvor (VIC)

Motion Carried.

5. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- 5.1 The Chairman sought agreement that standing orders be suspended to allow for Item 8 on the Agenda to be brought forward.

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

6.1 The Chairman's Address

- 6.1.1 The following points were emphasised.

- i. The necessity for change;
- ii. Future make up of the National Council;
- iii. The march of time is against us;
- iv. Non-renewable membership with the passing of time;
- v. Cost increases with failing income;
- vi. Importance of a National Association and Council;
- vii. Benefits of Executive meetings;
- viii. Executive members have carried many of the costs;
- ix. Decisions to be made on how to continue;
- x. Decisions on what form and how it's funded; and
- xi. Wisdom and common sense must prevail.

- 6.2 A discussion paper was issued entitled "Proposed Restructure of the NSAA National Council". Vice President Ron Brandy guided members through a powerpoint presentation covering the following items.

- i. Background and reasons for change;
- ii. Introduction to "Meeting the Needs of the Future";
- iii. Four options offered for consideration, debate and direction;
- iv. Other considerations and costings;
- v. Matters derived from the options; and
- vi. How would a restructure operate.

- 6.2.1 It was pointed out that this Council has an obligation to confirm and endorse a structural and management option that will enable the Association to carry on, while maintaining the capability to pursue the relevant objectives of the Association and advocate where required on behalf of all members and National Servicemen and must ensure a sustainable financial funding model is in place to support these outcomes.

- 6.2.2 Members were requested to debate, deliberate and propose a resolution to effect the required changes.

6.2.3 Mr Dabner (TAS) opened the debate with a suggested proposal. Lengthy debate and discussion continued as follows.

- i. Costs associated with meetings;
- ii. Appropriate meetings required to meet needs”;
- iii. Need for change initiated by lack of funds;
- iv. Financial concerns need to increase income;
- v. Explore funding available to run meetings;
- vi. Suggested DVA grant and Art Union;
- vii. Suggested professional fundraiser consulted;
- viii. Current structure good and meetings needs;
- ix. Meeting advised of meeting costs present and past;
- x. Future income from National Rose;
- xi. Major concern – insufficient income;
- xii. Reduced meetings and savings explored;
- xiii. Additional income from various sources;
- xiv. Number of delegates attending meetings;
- xv. Suggested option – reduce delegates from 2 to 1; and
- xvi. Affordability of 2 delegates – an issue to some.

6.2.4 Following deliberation, the below listed consensus.

- v. Agreed 2 Executive meetings per annum remain;
- vi. Agreed 2 General meetings per annum and Annual General meeting remain;
- vii. Agreed 2 delegates from each State and Member Association with proxy, if only 1 affordable;
- viii. Cut out all options from discussion paper and current system remain;
- ix. Agreed grant from DVA for September meeting in Canberra be pursued;
- x. Agreed that the running of an Art Union be investigated;
- xi. Agreed no change in AGM timing and capitation payment; and
- xii. Agreed interstate meetings be discontinued and the March meeting each year be in Sydney.

6.2.5 Based on the debate and discussion, the following motion.

6.2.6 **Motion:** *That there be no change in the current structure of the National organisation and that each member provides 2 delegates. If only 1 affordable, they attend with a proxy for 2 votes. Additionally, the September meeting in Canberra continues with a General meeting and AGM in Sydney each March. A grant from DVA be pursued for the Canberra meeting and other income investigated.*

Moved: N Freier (QLD)

Seconded: J Thorne (SA)

Motion Carried.

7. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2015

7.1 Amendments advised and new minutes issued.

7.2 **Motion:** *That the minutes of the General Meeting held Thursday, 8 September 2015 as amended and circulated be accepted.*

Moved: S Fairbairn (WA)

Seconded: F Miller (O.T.U)

Motion Carried.

7.3 Matters Arising

7.3.1 Re. Flag and finial: Victoria delegate advise flag has been found and will be transported to Canberra.

7.3.2 Re. Directional signs as NASHO memorial: ACT delegate advises they have been installed.

7.3.3 Re. Expelled Branch Debt: Secretary advised Statement of Claim issued, set down for judgement 23rd March.

7.3.4 Re. Memorial Walkway: ACT delegate provided details from ACT Authority declining a request for a memorial walkway.

7.3.5 Re. Letter to ADF emblem manager: Secretary advised no response to date. Phone contact indicates formal response will be issued. Secretary to follow up.

7.3.6 Re. NASHO Rose: SA delegate spoke of name registration of "National Pride". Cuttings are with breeder. Distribution will be to retailers in 2017. Expect reasonable income in that year and will build over time.

7.3.7 Re. Request for membership figures: QLD delegate expressed concern at figures not being provided. Discussion took place re. compliance and the need for accurate details. Following concern by the Treasurer re. budget requirements, the following motion:

7.3.7.1 Motion: *That each State and Member Association provide current membership figures to the Treasurer by March of each year.*

Moved: N Freier (QLD)

Seconded: R McIvor (VIC)

Motion Carried.

7.3.8 Re. Merchandise Survey: Secretary issued a document outlining the survey results. QLD delegate raised the matter of the red badge and referred to a letter from the QLD Secretary. The contents of the letter were acknowledged by the Chairman and

Secretary. They indicated no objection to its content. However, the Chairman expressed strong objection to QLD Secretary's contact with the Military Shop. It was pointed out that the matter of the exclusive red for QLD was advised to all members at the Military Shop presentation, at which 3 members from QLD management were present. It was acknowledged that this is not stated on promotional material. Secretary to follow up.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING

8.1 No amendments required.

8.2 **Motion:** *That the record of proceedings from the Executive Meeting of 4 February 2016 as circulated be taken as read and accepted.*

Moved: S Fairbairn (WA)

Seconded: T Stevenson (QLD)

Motion Carried

8.3 Matters Arising

8.3.1 Re. Letter from T Gartlands (VIC) about delegates reporting. Mr Brandy explained background and advised matter is in hand as far as VIC is concerned. Chairman emphasised that it is the responsibility of each delegate to report back to his State.

8.3.2 Re. Invoicing for capitation fees. Treasurer confirmed that invoices will now be issued for capitation levy based on previous year's payment.

8.3.3 Re. Media and PR activities: It was noted the new location of DVA now situated in Civic Centre, Canberra.

8.3.4 Re. TIP System: The meeting was advised that DVA now have separate welfare training and TIP training. Due to concern that many TIP training classes have been cancelled, the RSL are considering conducting their own TIP training.

8.3.5 Re. Trained Welfare Officer for National: Secretary to follow up with ACT Branch.

8.3.6 Re. Planned demonstration against DVA: The meeting was advised the National Servicemen's Association will not participate.

8.3.7 Re. General business item, President's Bulletin: A bulletin will be produced and published on the website and sent to all Sub-Branches.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Register issued to each member.

9.2 Highlighted Items

9.2.1 From Peter Nielson, Tablelands Branch, QLD, re. oblique in service number. QLD delegate informed matter in hand; disregard.

9.2.2 From Aust Recovery & Mercantile agent, re. expelled NSW debt. Advice on documents produced and filed with court.

9.2.3 From B Presgrave, SA, re. pavers for memorial walkway and request for each State to support project by buying a paver.

9.2.4 No request for other correspondence to be clarified.

10. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

10.1 The President advised Executive reports will be presented as annual reports at following AGM.

10.2 Australian Capital Territory Report

10.2.1 Presented by J Faunt, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Ageing members are a concern.
- ii. New Constitution approved by Regulatory Authority.
- iii. Fundraising donation to "Soldier on" Chapter.
- iv. National Servicemen's Day now at AWM, 5pm ceremony.
- v. September commemorative service locked in
- vi. Ladies group now control all social activities.

10.3 Northern Territory Report

10.3.1 Presented by R Strachan, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Falling membership with increasing age is a concern.
- ii. Founding member Bob Crowell passed away.
- iii. Discontinued memorabilia sales stalls due to staffing problems.
- iv. Guest veteran with K9 support dog created lot of interest.

- v. Branch conducted a raffle to raise funds to support a dog for a NT veteran. Raised \$10,000 and have applied for a grant equal to the funds raised.
- vi. Branch President, Ken Bell resigned and has been replaced by John Phillips.
- vii. AGM and election on 12 March.
- viii. Major event planned for Adelaide River War Cemetery to commemorate Centenary of Armistice day.

10.4 O.T.U. Association Report

10.4.1 Presented by F Miller, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Membership numbers slightly up – probably due to 50th Anniversary commemoration and publicity.
- ii. Regular State luncheons continue including a very successful 10th year Victoria Golf Day.
- iii. Class reunions continue with strength with four 1970 classes gathering in Melbourne on ANZAC weekend.
- iv. State Chapters will once more march on ANZAC Day under the O.T.U banner.
- v. The Association's finances remain robust with careful budgeting, matching expenses against income.
- vi. The very successful Scheyvillian magazine is published 3 times a year; as always a fascinating read.

10.5 Queensland State Report

10.5.1 Presented by N Freier, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Need to address major issues affecting the Association at all levels.
- ii. QLD gain in membership compared to other States.
 - iii. Reopened 2 major sub-branches.
- iv. Concern that other States are not gaining members. Need to explore factors that contribute.
- v. The National meeting needs to re-evaluate the interpretation between National and State bodies.
- vi. Concern re. voting rights and its effect on State members. QLD branch supports the suggestion that attendance at future meetings be reduced to one delegate per State and these delegates are awarded increased voting power.
- vii. Very successful NASHO Day church service at Wacol with over 100 in attendance.
- viii. The possible restoration of the Everyman's Hut at the Wacol precinct.

10.6 South Australia State Report

10.6.1 Presented by J Thorne, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Active membership support for all commemorative services.
- ii. November AGM very successful with a new State Treasurer being elected.
 - iii. Visit from Monash Branch, VIC.
 - iv. Very active Touring Club.
- v. Life membership awarded to Don Blackmore and Certificate of Appreciation presented to Barry Presgrave.
- vi. Executives attended Legacy functions.
- vii. Several members have passed away during the year.

10.7 Victoria State Report

10.7.1 Presented by R McIvor, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. VIC Sub-Branche s continue to prosper.
- ii. Some small country Sub-Branche s have difficulty in getting members to run for office. One has had to close.
- iii. HQ State Branch is attracting members from those Sub-Branche s that have closed.
- iv. All annual State commemorative services were well attended during 2015.
- v. VIC Sub-Branche s are strong supporters of welfare activities in the veteran and general community.
- vi. Association members have donated over 60,000 toys to the Salvation Army over 10 years.
- vii. Branch members stepped up support for the Post Traumatic Stress ward at Heidelberg Repat. Hospital.
- viii. VIC Sub-Branch members continue to display a lot of support and enthusiasm for the Association.

10.8 Western Australia State Report

10.8.1 Presented by R Palmer, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Good support from members attending AGM and general meetings.
- ii. Better support for social outings.
- iii. Finances on the improve with increased activity.
 - iv. Numbers down at National Servicemen's day at Kings Park memorial.
- v. Closure of Albany Great Southern Sub-Branch.
- vi. Most Sub-Branche s report good attendance at meetings and events.
- vii. Several prominent members have passed away.

10.9 Tasmania State Report

10.9.1 Presented by B Dabner, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Difficulty in obtaining suitable nominations for the position of State President.
- ii. Declining membership is a major concern.
- iii. Rising costs being monitored particularly insurance.
- iv. Declining membership numbers result in dwindling capitation fees with some Sub-Branches struggling financially.
- v. All major commemorative events were well attended.

10.10 New South Wales State Report

10.10.1 Presented by D Casey, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Concern with the continuing operation of the expelled Branch.
- ii. Membership renewals below expectation.
- iii. Reduced numbers putting a strain on finances.
- iv. AGM and election in May 2016.
- v. Need for a Sydney based Sub-Branch.
- vi. Concern re. the unauthorised use of the Association logo.

10.11 Motion: *That all reports as presented and circulated be received.*

Moved: J Faunt (ACT)

Seconded: F Miller (O.T.U)

Motion Carried.

10.12 No business arising from reports.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 Motion received from TAS withdrawn.

11.2 **Motion:** *That the cheque issued to Aust. Recoveries and Mercantile agents for \$165 be cancelled.*

Moved: C Adams (Treas.)

Seconded: N Freier (QLD)

Motion Carried.

11.3 **Motion from NSW:** *That the current sitting of the NSAA National Council immediately address and clarify the use and uses of what is recognised as the NASHO logo as the agreement existing in its 2000 motion and as stated in the documents submitted to the Federal Court and that the National Council immediately implement the correct use.*

Moved: C Shapland (NSW)

Seconded: D Casey (NSW)

11.3.1 Robust discussion followed including a point of order by QLD delegate. The Chairman would not accept the point of order and tabled an affidavit related to logo use submitted to the Federal Court by QLD President. Considerable discussion took place by all members. A copy of Council minutes was tabled from the year 2000 which was considered to adequately cover the use of the logo and States are authorised to use the logo. The motion therefore became unnecessary. The Chairman sought direction from the mover and seconder to proceed with the motion. Request to proceed.

11.3.2 The Chairman sought a show of hands.
Result: 3 for; 9 against; 1 abstained. **Motion Defeated.**

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 Removal of motto from Army Chaplain's badge. Submitted by VIC.

12.1.1 Discussion and referral to ADF policy confirms that the matter is not being considered and was media speculation.

12.2 Secretary tabled a think piece; the concern that the number of ex service organisations has increased significantly, many duplicating or not providing service to members. The recommendation is that a national directory be created. It was agreed that the matter be left until we receive official advice.

13. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

13.1 It was agreed the next Council meeting will be in Canberra on Wednesday, 7 September 2016 with the annual commemorative service at the AWM on Thursday, 8 September 2016.

13.2 With no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 2:45pm.