

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

Thursday, 16 March

2017

***General Meeting
of the National Council
held in Adelaide, SA***

Minutes

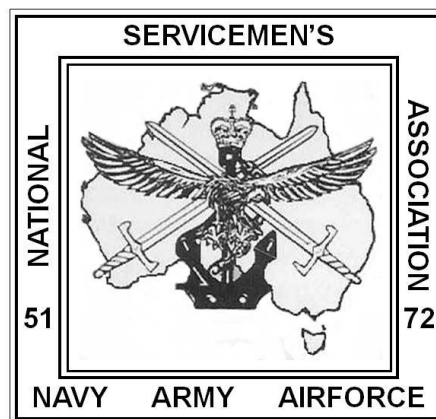


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1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 The Chairman, Earle Jennings welcomed delegates and observers. He introduced special guest LTCOL Bill Denny, AM BM.

2. OBSERVANCE

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

3. ATTENDANCE

- 3.1 The Chairman acknowledged 20 Council members present as per the attendance register and sought apologies and proxy appointments.

Apology: Mr R Strachan (NT)
Proxies: SA – R Halliday for Mr Presgrave
VIC – Mr E Eastman Mr McLeod
WA – R Clark for Mr Palmer

- 3.1.1 **Motion:** *That apologies, proxy appointments be accepted.*

Moved: J Thorne (SA)

Seconded: J Faunt (ACT)

Motion Carried.

4. GUEST SPEAKER

- 4.1 The Chairman introduced LTCOL Bill Denny and gave a brief profile and background.

- 4.2 Mr Denny spoke of his association with the SA National Service group. During his address, he covered the following points:

- i. Challenges facing ex-service organisations;
 - ii. The impact National Service had on him;
 - iii. His experience with NASHOs under his command;
 - iv. The challenge National Service was to Officers;
 - v. There being very little difference between volunteer and conscript;
 - vi. The contribution made by NASHOs because of their background;
 - vii. Reference to the casualties of accidents in training often overlooked;
 - viii. The impact National Service had on the military; and
 - ix. All NASHOs should be proud of their service.
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- 4.3 Vice President Ron Brandy extended a vote of thanks. Chairman Earle Jennings presented several items of memorabilia to Mr Denny.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2016

- 5.1 **Motion:** *That the minutes of the General Meeting held Wednesday, 7 September 2016 as amended and circulated be accepted.*

Moved: C Shapland (NSW)

Seconded: G Hand (ACT)

Motion Carried.

5.2 Matters Arising

- 5.2.1 *Ex NSW Debt:* The Chairman gave an update and advised a judgement had been obtained and will be enforced.

- 5.2.2 *Invoice for Capitation Fees:* Reminder that at last meeting advice that invoices will be issued based on last payment; these have been issued.

- 5.2.3 *Military Shop Report:* The Secretary advised details of the report and expressed concern that few Sub-Branches were purchasing. Discussion re. State Branches purchasing rather than Sub-Branches. General comment re. Military Shop support.

- 5.2.4 *Chairman's request for change:* The matter is to be held over for item in General Business.

- 5.2.5 *Request to develop Welfare Program:* The Chairman acknowledged the excellent programme in QLD and urged others to develop similar programmes. Discussion re. establishing Welfare funds and complying with ACNC requirements.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING

- 6.1 **Motion:** *That the record of proceedings from the Executive Meeting held 2 February 2017 as circulated be taken as read and accepted.*

Moved: B O'Keefe (NSW)

Seconded: G Hand (ACT)

Motion Carried

6.2 Matters Arising

- 6.2.1 *Registration of Association Name:* The Secretary advised that enquiries had been made with IP Australia and the name can be registered at a cost of \$650. Executive decision to wait until funds are available to cover the cost.
- 6.2.2 *President's Bulletin:* Members advised it will be produced following this meeting. Discussion re. email to members or hard copy. Meeting agreed preference is for hard copy.
- 6.2.3 *Canberra Memorial Service:* The Secretary advised that the service will be held on Friday 8 September with the Council meeting the day before on Thursday, 7 September 2017.
- 6.2.4 *Signage at AWM:* Document was tabled from Brendan Nelson advising of the new signage supported by a photograph.
- 6.2.5 *DVA Grant:* Following the September meeting with Simon Lewis, the Secretary received a call from a senior Grants Officer who explained the grant available to National Associations to fund national conferences. An application has been submitted for the September Council meeting. Members discussed other sources of grant funding. The Secretary requested details.
- 6.2.6 *Insurance:* Members were advised that the Executive is reviewing insurance needs. Currently, ANSVAR cost \$3,000 per year and this is felt to be an overkill as delegates are covered by their State insurance. Several organisations have been considered. Currently, the best value is with Local Community Insurance Services from Adelaide with a saving of over \$1,000 per year. ANSVAR is due in three weeks. QLD provided details re. their broker.

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- 7.1 Mr John Thorne (SA) introduced Mr Kim Sirius, Managing Director of the organisation developing the National Service Rose. Mr Sirius explained the background and system involved in developing the rose. He advised it will be pure white with a yellow gold centre and will grow to a little over one metre in height. Because of the need to have licenced growers with distribution networks, it will not be available until 2018. An official launch is being planned. A sales commission will be available to the Association by way of a donation paid in two payments per year. The Chairman thanked Mr Sirius for his efforts and looked forward to the launch in 2018.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- 8.1 Members were issued with a copy of the correspondence register. The Secretary sought any requests for information.
- 8.1.1 QLD delegate asked for clarification of request for logo artwork. He was advised it had been for a Sub-Branch of NSW affiliates and was denied.
- 8.2 The following late correspondence was tabled.
- i. To Robert Mills: Invitation to Council meeting;
 - ii. From Local Community Insurance: Policy details and quote;
 - iii. From Boer War Association: Invitation to Memorial Dedication;
 - iv. From Concerned Member: Army participation in Sydney Gay Mardi Gras;
 - v. From ARMA: Current details re. debt collection; and
 - vi. From DVA: Acknowledge grant application.
- 8.3 **Motion:** That all correspondence as presented be accepted.

Moved: B McIvor (VIC)

Seconded: S Fairbairn (WA)

Motion Carried

9. CONSIDERATION TO AMEND RULES AND BY-LAWS

- 9.1 The Secretary spoke regarding the problem associated with the March Council meeting timing and funding and the possible need to amend the By-Laws to allow for re-scheduling of meetings.
- 9.2 The Chairman sought Council member's debate on the matter. The following were raised and discussed.
- i. Review of Council meeting schedule;
 - ii. Cost pressure on March meeting because of relying on payment of capitation fees;
 - iii. Consider restructure meetings to meet available fund;
 - iv. September meeting funded by DVA grant;
 - v. Noted March meeting includes AGM. By-Laws require this to be held in first half of year; and
 - vi. Can we afford two meetings a year.
- 9.3 Chairman explained background of meeting schedule and costing over the years. He suggested there be no change and reminded that the March meeting is necessary and affordable if capitation payments were paid on or before the due date.
- 9.4 Members discussed the timing of capitation payments and agreed that every effort will be made for timely payment of fees and that the meeting schedule remain unchanged.
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10. NATIONAL COUNCIL INSURANCE

- 10.1 Following the earlier discussion on insurance, further debate and discussion took place re. the extent of cover and cost. It was agreed that there is no requirement to cover delegates as their State insurance is adequate and the new policy should cover the National Executives only. Secretary to action.

11. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

- 11.1 The President sought approval to carry over the Nation Reports to the following AGM.

11.2 Australian Capital Territory Report

- 11.2.1 Presented by John Faunt, copies issued and points noted as follows.

- i. Meeting once a month;
- ii. Membership decreasing due to age related issues;
- iii. Participated in AWM ceremony for National Servicemen's Day in February
- iv. Committee active in promoting Branch activities;
- v. Member's wives and widows meet monthly to maintain connection; and
- vi. Active in the fundraising to support "Soldier On" Charity with poppy and badge sales in support of the RSL.

11.3 Northern Territory Report

- 11.3.1 Presented by Mike Lane, copies issued and points noted as follows.

- i. Membership stable except for two losses to QLD;
- ii. In 2016 \$23,174 was collected through raffles, donations and grants for companion dogs for veterans. This was handed to Darwin RSL to further the cause;
- iii. Branch participated in commemorative event at Adelaide River War Cemetery on Remembrance Day and the 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin on 19 February 2017;
- iv. The Branch sought guidance whether capitation fee payment to National, covered public liability insurance;
- v. Welfare and community activities limited to small grants to local organisations and community groups;
- vi. Due to lack of volunteers, the sale of memorabilia ceased in 2016; and
- vii. The Branch remains solvent as at 31 December 2016.

11.4 New South Wales Report

11.4.1 Presented by Barry O'Keefe, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. The Branch has secured an insurance policy representing considerable saving and better coverage more suited to the Branch size;
- ii. A new and more flexible bank account has been opened with a major bank allowing Sub-Branches to direct deposit eliminating the processing and use of cheques;
- iii. State Executives attended a National Servicemen's Day memorial service in Central Western NSW at Orange. This event was well attended by local and regional Sub-Branches;
- iv. Three State Executives attended a meeting with the CEO of the Sydney City Council to put a proposal for a National Service memorial pathway within the City of Sydney. An informative presentation was submitted for consideration;
- v. A NSW Branch website has been created and is up and running – visit us on “www.nashonsw.org.au”;
- vi. Membership as at the beginning of March is well down on 2016. This is of concern and will be followed up.

11.5 O.T.U. Association Report

11.5.1 Presented by Frank Miller, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. October through to February was a quieter period for the Association;
- ii. Membership remains steady, lifting marginally;
- iii. Having been so successful over the last eight years National administration will remain with Victoria for a foreseeable future;
- iv. One of our principle goals is the development of youth in Australia. This year, a total of 18 young people experienced a week long camp being fully or partially funded by the O.T.U Association;
- v. National finances remain robust. Progress against long term financial protection so far is on track;
- vi. The strength of different State/Territory chapters varies with Victoria being the most active;
- vii. On ANZAC Day members will march under the O.T.U banner in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth; and
- viii. Three fine editions of Association's magazine, the “*Scheyvillian*”, will be issued this year.

11.6 Queensland Report

11.6.1 Presented by Neal Freier, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. There are currently 33 Sub-Branches in QLD;
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- ii. Loss of one Branch during the year;
- iii. The restoration of the Everyman's Centre at Wacol undertaken as a community project;
- iv. The following commemorative events planned. The opening and dedication of the Everyman's Centre; also several services at the Wacol Solider's Chapel;
- v. \$10,000 donated to the Companion Dog Training programme for PTSD Veterans. \$5,000 sent to drought areas of western QLD to help support veterans' families. The distribution of drought funds is undertaken by the CWA;
- vi. Concern by members at the cost of travel to National meetings;
- vii. Members state-wide wish to see the National body resolve the NSW problem;
- viii. Benefits to members include the providing of taxi vouchers for member's wives and widows for hospital and doctor's appointments as well as engaging a contractor to cut lawns of ailing members;
- ix. The lowering of the membership fee was well received by members; and
- x. Branch finances remain strong and statutory returns to authorities have been completed.

11.6.2 Addendum to QLD report

11.6.2.1 Australian Nominal Roll Report Overview

- i. A card index located in the National Archives is being accessed on a State by State basis. QLD is complete, next will be SA. followed by NSW etc. There are 7 volunteers working at the National Archives in Brisbane, working 1-2 days a week.
- ii. As at 14 March 2017, the number overall are:
 - a. Army – 51,480
 - b. RAAF – 11,759;
 - c. Navy – 7,062
 - d. Alternative Service – 1,602
 - e. Total: 71,903.
- iii. Request that members are aware of the Roll.

11.7 South Australia Report

11.7.1 Presented by John Thorne, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. The Branch is permanently located in Surrey Rd, Keswick. The building is owned by the Council and leased by the Branch;
 - ii. There have been no changes in the State Executive;
 - iii. There are currently 9 Sub-Branches across the State;
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- iv. Membership numbers are decreasing in some Sub-Branches. They remain active and viable organisations;
- v. The major community project has been the Memorial Pathway adjacent to or State Office. This has been the largest project undertaken by the SA Branch since it started;
- vi. The next project is to develop a garden of Remembrance adjacent to the Memorial Pathway;
- vii. National Servicemen's Memorial Day was conducted in February with an excellent turnout of approximately 200 in attendance;
- viii. Concerns by members have been managed at either a local or State level;
- ix. The State NASHO News remains an excellent format for keeping members informed;
- x. Both State Council and General meetings were held during the year with excellent attendance by members;
- xi. The Friday lunches are still a popular event with an average of 40 attending each week; and
- xii. In conclusion, the SA Branch is functioning efficiently and is a productive and viable organisation.

11.8 Tasmania State Report

11.8.1 Presented by Bill Dabner, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Mr Dabner continues as State President;
- ii. A single member from TAS will attend Council meeting with an authority for a proxy vote;
- iii. Membership is still on a decline but not in the proportions seen in 2015;
- iv. Burnie, one of the oldest Sub-Branches, has decided to close due to lack of participating members. Other Sub-Branches are stabilising;
- v. TAS has difficulty in obtaining grants;
- vi. National Servicemen's Day on 12 February was attended by LTGEN Angus Campbell DSC AM, Chief of Army. Membership representation was well down but a good local crowd was in attendance; and
- vii. At the State Executive meeting in April, it will be discussed whether we should continue commemorative days as a State or revert to local Sub-Branch events.

11.9 Victoria State Report

11.9.1 Presented by Bob McIvor, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. The Branch has 1,733 fully paid members;
 - ii. Unfortunately, 2 country Sub-Branches have closed;
 - iii. All established commemorative services in the State were well attended by members;
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- iv. Community activities include Salvation Army Toy Drive, Legacy, RSL Appeals and visiting of veterans;
- v. The Branch is a strong supporter of Ward 17 at the Heidelberg Repat. Hospital;
- vi. A State Headquarters Sub-Branch has been established for members of country branches that have closed and now have approximately 100 members; and
- vii. With a strong emphasis on community activity and welfare, we have lifted the profile of the Association throughout Victoria.

11.10 Western Australia State Report

11.10.1 Presented by John Clark, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Mr Clark acknowledged his first time at a Council meeting and saw it as a privilege;
- ii. Concern that time and age create a problem of few volunteering to participate in association activities;
- iii. Possible need to recruit outside for administrative responsibilities;
- iv. WA members support re-introduction of a form of National Service. Changing times indicate a need;
- v. Members support the experience and knowledge of the National Executive;
- vi. Need for welfare and an attitude of caring. Aging members have a need to belong and feel they are part of a brotherhood;
- vii. State Branch has appointed their Chaplain as a Welfare Officer;
- viii. State finances are considered to be reasonable and stable; and
- ix. A new approach to meeting to be introduced with strict timings allowing for more time for the important matter of fellowship.

11.11 National Service Scholarship Foundation Report

11.11.1 Presented by Ron Brandy, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. The express purpose of this legacy is to fund scholarships as a direct contribution toward the advancement of the Nation and therefore be an ongoing living memorial of our service to the Nation;
 - ii. Provide scholarships in the areas of medicine, dental, nursing and allied health;
 - iii. By selecting the broad and diverse areas of health, scholarships will be available to men, women and groups whose areas of expertise will assist the whole of society;
 - iv. The National Service Scholarship Foundation is fully constituted as a Company limited by guarantee and comprises a Board of Directors;
 - v. The Foundation is registered with statutory authorities including a registered charity with deductible gift recipient status;
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- vi. A website has been developed with a planned completion date of April 2017. The site will be user-friendly, accessible on all mobile devices with features that will enable easy access to information including contributions that can be made in a variety of ways;
 - vii. The Board continues to reach out to organisations and individuals to may be able to support the Foundation in a variety of ways; and
 - viii. Advice and input from members and associates re. individuals and organisations they believe could be receptive to the Foundation as donors would be appreciated.
- 11.11.2 Discussion, questions and debate took place re. matters relating to the Foundation website.

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

Moved: F Miller (O.T.U)

Seconded: B O'Keefe (NSW)

Motion Carried.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 Association Future

- 12.1.1 The Secretary circulated a revised paper relating Policy and Procedure associated with the contraction of the Association. Items within the document were debated at length with general agreement that the paper is workable, but needs to be interpreted and introduced on an individual Branch or Sub-Branch basis.
- 12.1.2 QLD delegates sought discussion regarding white card and gold card for National Servicemen. Details were provided with examples of those who had received the benefit. Delegates were urged to advise their members to seek and apply if appropriate.

13. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

- 12.1 It was advised the location would be Canberra with a meeting date of Thursday, 7 September 2017 followed by a memorial service at the AWM on Friday, 8 September 2017.
- 12.2 With no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.15pm.