

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

Thursday, 8 March

2018

***General Meeting
of the National Council
held in Melbourne, VIC***

Minutes

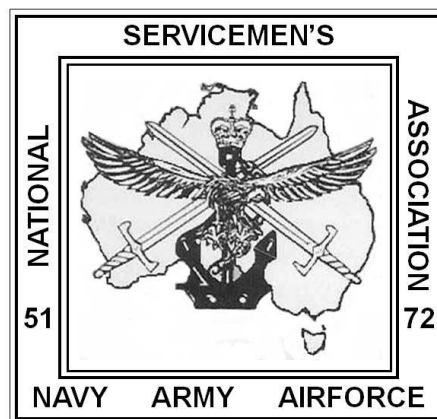


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	OPENING OF MEETING.....	3
2.	OBSERVANCE.....	3
3.	ATTENDANCE	3
4.	GUEST SPEAKER.....	3
5.	ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2017	3
6.	ACCEPTANCE OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING.....	5
7.	CORRESPONDENCE	5
8.	PLAN FOR NSAA FUTURE.....	6
9.	MATTERS AFFECTING NSW FUTURE	7
10.	COUNCIL MEETING FORMAT	8
11.	REPORTS.....	9
12.	GENERAL BUSINESS.....	14
13.	DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.....	14

1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 The National President and Chairman opened the meeting, advised of a busy day with the AGM to follow this meeting. He welcomed members and introduced each new member of the Council.

2. OBSERVANCE

- 2.1 National Ode of Remembrance (Vice President) followed by one minute's silence.

3. ATTENDANCE

- 3.1 The Secretary advised 21 present and tabled proxies and apologies.

- 3.1.1 Apologies: Mr Allen Callaghan (Executive)
 Mr Barry Presgrave (SA)
 Mr Stuart Fairbain (WA)

- 3.1.2 Proxies: VIC – D Nelson for T Eastman
 TAS – B Sonter for B Dabner
 ACT – B Harry for G Hand
 NSW – N Mallard for B O'Keefe
 WA – K Pages-Oliver for J Clark
 SA – J Thorne for B Presgrave

- 3.1.3 **Motion:** *That apologies, proxy appointments and new delegates be accepted.*

Moved: N Moulder (SEC)

Seconded: F Miller (O.T.U)

Motion Carried.

4. GUEST SPEAKER

- 4.1 The Chairman advised the Minister of Veterans' Affairs had accepted, but due to a new political appointment, could not attend.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2017

- 5.1 Amend name Rob Brandy to Ron Brandy.
-

- 5.2 **Motion:** *That the minutes of the meeting held Thursday, 7 September 2017 as circulated and amended be taken as read and accepted.*

Moved: J Thorne (SA)

Seconded: J Faunt (ACT)

Motion Carried.

5.3 Matters Arising

- 5.3.1 *Item 6.2.4, Grant available to digitise records related to the Nominal Roll:* QLD advised no action on this matter. Reference to Nominal Roll complier believes cost of approximately \$250,000 would be prohibitive. Following discussion, Chairman suggested a firm cost be established. To be followed up.
- 5.3.2 *Item 6.26, Launch of NASHO Rose:* Mr Thorne (SA) spoke of his discussions with the rose developer who is planning on it being available mid-year. Mr Thorne will follow up and advise members.
- 5.3.3 *Item 6.2.7, President's Bulletin to NSW affiliates:* Secretary reported it had been circulated, but no response.
- 5.3.4 *Item 7.3.1, Previous Veterans' Affairs Minister request for ESO's to speak with one voice:* Concern was expressed that nothing happened. It was noted that the new Minister may follow up. Discussion re. the role of the RSL and other groups offering. Secretary tabled a letter from the 'Defence Force Welfare Association' re. concern on the matter. The 'Alliance of Defence Service Organisations' (ADSO) were also acknowledged for their suggestions.
- 5.3.5 *Item 7.3.2, President's request for proper accounting procedures:* Chairman again emphasised for all branches and Sub-Branches to comply with AC NC requirements and guidelines and follow proper fundraising procedures. It was noted that the National Association is no longer a registered charity, but member Branches and Sub-Branches are registered. Several members offered matters of concern and advice re. compliance. Discussion re. definition of 'welfare spending'. Advice was given re. mixture of general funds and welfare funds.
- 5.3.6 *Item 7.3.3, Request for NSAA to take up exceptional hardship discharge on service records:* To be followed up with new Minister and Shadow Minister.
- 5.3.7 *Item 10.1, National Service Scheme Proposal WA:* Previous proposal to be refined and presented to Council meeting for consideration before submission. Mr Callaghan to action.
- 5.3.8 *Item 14.2, Request for status of figure and donation from Military Shop:* Chairman advised he had sought details. Discussion re. arrangements re sales incentives and rewards. Chairman to follow up.
-

- 5.3.9 *Item 13.1, Barry Vicary Award:* Mr Mallard offered his thanks and appreciation for the award presented in his absence last meeting.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING

- 6.1 **Motion:** *That the record of proceedings from the Executive Meeting held 1 February 2018 as circulated be taken as read and accepted.*

Moved: T Stevenson (QLD)

Seconded: B Mclvor (VIC)

Motion Carried

6.2 Matters Arising

- 6.2.1 *Item 5.3.2.3, Donation from SA Branch:* Mr Thorne (SA) explained situation, acknowledged a misunderstanding and confirmed the amount of \$5,000 was a donation, not a loan. Chairman sought matter closed.
- 6.2.2 *Item 3.2.5, Grant application:* Secretary advised acquittal for 2017 grants have been submitted and accepted. Also advised 2018 grant in aid will be submitted when applications open under new system expected at end of March.
- 6.2.3 *Item 6.2.1, Canberra subsidy payments:* Members told subject to obtaining a grant, payments will be same as those for 2017.
- 6.2.4 *Item 6.7.2, Memorial Service Canberra:* Secretary advised of proposed programme and spoke of new application requirements for AWM. Concern for dropping of numbers attending and appealed to members to encourage Sub-Branches to attend.
- 6.2.5 *Item 7.3, Monash for Field Marshall:* Chairman spoke of group supporting the efforts and sought endorsement for NSAA to support the programme. Members agreed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 Members were circulated a copy of the correspondence register. Secretary sought requests for further information and highlighted the following items.
- 7.1.1 From DVA, re. new Grant system, frequently asked questions.
- 7.1.2 From Military Shop, Bears in Schools programme.
- 7.1.3 From NSW Branch, Concern re. Bardia Barracks Ingleburn Precinct.
-

- 7.1.4 From Chief of Army, Detailed document on current status of Army.
- 7.1.5 From J Clark WA, Concern re. future of WA Branch.
- 7.1.6 From B Harry ACT, Advice re. G Hand Life Membership.
- 7.1.7 From Newcastle Branch, Invitation to President to attend Memorial Service.

7.2 Matters Arising from Correspondence

- 7.2.1 Secretary outlined the new Grant system now through an organisation known as the 'Grants Hub' under control of the Dept of Social Services.
- 7.2.2 Chairman encouraged participation in the Bears in Schools programme.
- 7.2.3 Secretary outlined information in document re. State of the Army. Members requested copy.
- 7.2.4 Members offered congratulations to Garry Hand re. Life Membership of ACT.
- 7.2.5 President requested Secretary to deputise for him at Newcastle Memorial Service.

7.3 **Motion:** *That all correspondence by register and presented be accepted.*

Moved: N Moulder (SEC)

Seconded: J Faunt (ACT)

Motion Carried

8. PLAN FOR NSAA FUTURE

- 8.1 Chairman made reference to what appeared to be a reluctance to address the issue of developing a local plan for the inevitable contraction of the Association. The matter was debated vigorously with some member States not agreeing with the assumption. It was noted that in some instances Sub-branches have faced closure and have not known what to do. It was pointed out a National suggested plan exists for member States to put into action, but in some cases, lack of leadership, guidance and assistance has not been forthcoming. Discussion took place covering the following issues.
 - 8.1.1 Sub-Branchees don't ask for assistance;
 - 8.1.2 Concern re. Executive positions in Sub-Branchees;
 - 8.1.3 Possible recruitment of outside help;

- 8.1.4 Succession Plan being developed;
 - 8.1.5 Widening membership criterion to allow women to take over some roles; and
 - 8.1.6 Member States outlined their own situation;
- 8.2 In summary, there was general agreement that each situation be considered and handled on an individual basis and that the key element in handling each situation was communicating with grass-roots members.

9. MATTERS AFFECTING NSW FUTURE

- 9.1 The meeting was given an overview of the recognition and support problems following their appointment and resulting from the expulsion of the old Branch. The following matters were raised and discussed.
- 9.1.1 Update on the previously issued Charter;
 - 9.1.2 No recognition by the State RSL;
 - 9.1.3 Outstanding closure of Federal court case;
 - 9.1.4 Limited financial resources;
 - 9.1.5 Disenchanted membership;
 - 9.1.6 Expelled Branch use of NSAA logo;
 - 9.1.7 Problems associated with name registration; and
 - 9.1.8 Entry in RSL diary shows expelled Branch.
- 9.2 Following a supportive discussion on what is needed to rebuild the Branch, it was agreed:
- 9.2.1 New and updated Charter will be issued;
 - 9.2.2 National President will meet with State RSL President;
 - 9.2.3 National President to contact Federal Court to determine procedure for closure of previous court case initiated by Ralph Doughty.
 - 9.2.4 Some financial assistance to be offered;
 - 9.2.5 National President to attend State AGM;
-

- 9.2.6 Letter to expelled Branch re. logo on Banner;
- 9.2.7 Open letter from National Executive confirming initial appointment of NSW Branch;
- 9.2.8 Invitation to NSW RSL State President to attend National Council meeting in Canberra, September 2018; and
- 9.2.9 If other matters come to hand, they will be investigated and promptly dealt with.
- 9.3 The matter of financial assistance was discussed. Chairman sought from NSW delegate what is needed. It was expressed assistance need to attract members to attend the AGM. Possible subsidy suggested also to run a recruitment campaign total of approx. \$5000. Chairman held discussion with National Treasurer and the following motion:
- 9.4 ***Motion:*** *That a donation of \$2000 be made available to the NSW Branch to assist with the conducting of their 2018 AGM.*

Moved: J Thorne (SA)

Seconded: B Harry (ACT)

Motion Carried

10. COUNCIL MEETING FORMAT

- 10.1 Chairman opened discussion and acknowledged Council had previously agreed to two meetings a year. Because of the AGM being in March, it was accepted that this is the major meeting of each year. Proposal to members was that it functions as a review of the previous year and a preview of the coming year, with the Executive and Member Associations reporting on activities and achievements from the previous year and their plans for the coming year.
- 10.2 The proposal recommended that the September meeting in Canberra be a traditional General meeting in the morning with no reports, and the afternoon a conference format with selected and applicable guest speakers, followed by a semi-formal sit-down dinner in the evening.
- 10.3 The following day would comprise of the annual memorial service at the AWM. The Chairman opened the matter for debate. Members expressed the need for an open forum at the September meeting to allow for problems and matters of concern to be tabled on behalf of Branch members. This was agreed. Following further discussion, the revised format was accepted to be introduced in September 2018.

11. REPORTS

11.1 It was noted that Executive reports be stood over and presented at the following AGM. Member Association reports issued to all present.

11.2 Australian Capital Territory Report

11.2.1 Presented by John Faunt (highlights listed).

- i. Branch members attended all applicable ceremonies at the AWM;
- ii. Assisted RSL with badge and poppy sales;
- iii. Raise funds by conducting sausage sizzles, book stalls and garage sales;
- iv. Support 'Soldier On' as their main charity;
- v. Successful three-day coach excursion;
- vi. National Servicemen's day at AWM conducted as part of Last Post Ceremony. Hope to return to a stand-alone ceremony in 2019;
- vii. Advised of change in order of March for ANZAC Day. Ideal for members;
- viii. Former President, Garry Hand, granted Life Membership; and
- ix. Ageing of members requires a shift in emphasis toward more social outlook.

11.2.2 Member question re. Combined Forces Association. Mr Faunt advised now a much small group. Activities are unknown.

11.3 NT Report

11.3.1 Presented by Mike Lane (highlights listed).

- i. Secured grant from NT government to replace equipment;
- ii. Lead role in Remembrance Day at Adelaide River 2017;
- iii. Attend Bombing of Darwin commemorations 2018;
- iv. Dedicated time capsule December 2017;
- v. NSAA Memorial Garden in Bi-Centennial Park;
- vi. Armistice Centenary funds obtained for Adelaide River War memorial Service, November 2018;
- vii. Provide support to members comradeship and visitations;
- viii. Financially strong in assets and cash with nil commitments; and
- ix. Extreme concern re. loss of members.

11.3.2 Member question re. Loss of members. Mr Lane believes through ageing, many leave the Territory. NT population has a transitory nature and is generally much younger. Efforts are being made to recruit members.

11.4 NSW State Report

11.4.1 Presented by Norm Mallard (highlights listed).

- i. Branch continues to battle on, but the future would look rosier if the decline in membership would slow;
- ii. Branch gained 51 new members, however this did not make up for the loss of members;
- iii. 60% of new members were from the expelled Branch;
- iv. Problems remain with identification of the Branch;
- v. The Federal court case initiated by Doughty still haunts the Branch with the belief that we are the appellants;
- vi. NSW RSL despite numerous contacts, will not have dealings with the Branch;
- vii. Request for the NSAA President to meet with RSL;
- viii. Began without assets and nil income in the first year. 2017 saw funds in the bank for the first time;
- ix. Out of pocket expenses since inception have been paid by individuals;
- x. In May 2018, Sub-Branches will assemble as a Council and hold an AGM and Election;
- xi. Executive members visit Sub-Branches and receive good reception;
- xii. Members continue to criticise expelled group's use of the logo. Action required;
- xiii. Financial assistance required for AGM and recruitment of new members.

11.4.2 Member question re. What is needed to rebuild the NSW Branch. Mr Mallard responded that the offer and assistance in the previous agenda item will do a lot to help the situation and expressed gratitude.

11.5 O.T.U Branch Report

11.5.1 Presented by Frank Miller (highlights listed).

- i. Association largely comprises members of a definite range in ages who trained at Scheyville and are now in between 66 and 73 years old;
 - ii. Membership remains robust and are able to enjoy the fellowship of those who shared the Scheyville experience;
 - iii. Fifty year Anniversary of March Out now being celebrated by different class reunions;
 - iv. Regular annual functions have been modified to take in the increasing number of retirees;
 - v. Financially, the Association is in a strong position;
 - vi. The development of Australia's youth is a key objective of the O.T.U Association;
 - vii. It was recently agreed to offer more funding to States toward specific youth development issues;
 - viii. VIC O.T.U supports Lord and Lady Somers camps. SA supports Operation Flinders. ACT supports Rotary's RYLA programme. QLD pursues the VITAE
-

programme. Many of these programmes are directed towards young people regarded as being at risk of developing problems;

- ix. To ensure the O.T.U legacy remains, pavers commemorating Scheyville have been included at Vietnam Memorial VIC, NSAA Memorial SA and North Head Memorial NSW;
- x. Affinity with National Servicemen's Association of Australia remains strong with many positive benefits;
- xi. Members are being encouraged to join the Duntroon Society – a body open to all Army Officer graduates;
- xii. Three editions of the 'Scheyvillian' magazine have been issued; and
- xiii. Activities are being directed toward holding a National reunion in 2020 marking 55 years sine the opening of Scheyville Officer Training Unit.

11.6 Queensland Report

11.6.1 Presented by Neal Freier (highlights listed).

- i. Executives visit DVA and RSL seminars re. White and Gold card eligibility;
- ii. Advice that white card can now be obtained for deafness and skin cancer. Other related illnesses to be followed up;
- iii. Extensive visits t Sub-Branche throughout the State;
- iv. Some Branches celebrating 20th Anniversary;
- v. Two major events attended – Navy Day and National Servicemen's Day, supported by senior dignitaries and over 200 NASHOs; and
- vi. Nominal Roll well supported with 90,000 names and growing.

12.1.1 Member question re. Explanation of white card eligibility. Mr Freier provided information.

12.1.2 Member question re. Purpose and value of Nominal Roll. Chairman and Mr Freier provided information.

11.7 South Australia Report

11.7.1 Presented by John Thorne (highlights listed).

- i. Image of the Branch enhanced by member's enthusiasm and attendance at planned events;
 - ii. Annual General Meeting conducted with no change to Executive positions;
 - iii. Special Christmas lunch attended by 85 people;
 - iv. Remembrance Day and National Servicemen's Day services held at Branch Memorial;
 - v. President attended Sub-Branch service at Port Elliot Memorial;
 - vi. Very active Branch NASHO touring group;
 - vii. Understanding but concern at loss of members through age and illness;
-

- viii. Limited recruiting of second era NASHOS;
- ix. Application of grants is being monitored; and
- x. Memorial Walkway /pavers still available.

11.7.2 Member question re. Indication of funds obtained from Memorial Walkway. Mr Thorn advised papers supplied by Signature Tiles and Bricks from VIC with reasonable profit margin. Have to be laid and installed by Branch. Finances at Branch limited resulting in increase in member fee to \$30 pe year.

11.8 Tasmania State Report

11.8.1 Presented by Neville Pulford, copies issued (highlights listed).

- i. Noted the retirement of long-standing State President, Bill Dabner;
- ii. AGM to be held in April at which time, there will be a nomination for the position of State President;
- iii. Decrease I membership over the year of 16 members with 5 members passing away during the year;
- iv. National Service commemorative ceremony held at Longford, with Air Vice Marshall Gavin Marshall AM presenting the address;
- v. The Royce Close Memorial Award was presented as a dual award to Mr & Mrs B Stephens for their service to the NASHO organisation;
- vi. The Devonport RSL s recognised for their generous donation to the Longford occasion; and
- vii. The Branch is in a financially sound position and able to meet all financial commitments.

11.9 Victoria State Report

11.9.1 Presented by Bob McIvor, copies issued (highlights listed).

- i. Sub-Branches remain active with 10 and 20 Year Anniversaries being celebrated;
- ii. Total membership down a little. Small number of new members;
- iii. Strong emphasis on welfare. Most Sub-Branches support welfare progress in the Veterans' community;
- iv. Outstanding support for Ward 17 at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital;
- v. Special plaque erected at the Heidelberg Hospital in recognition of NASHOS;
- vi. NASHO Toy Drive has been going for 13 years and has contributed 77,000 toys to the Salvation Army;
- vii. RSL Victoria is a strong supporter of National Servicemen. State President is a Vietnam Vet National Serviceman;

- viii. 2018 National Servicemen's Day celebrated at the Shrine of Remembrance with Keith Payne VC as guest of honour; and
- ix. Puckapunyal Memorial Day Service planned for 18 March 2018.

11.9.2 Member question re. funding of support for Heidelberg Hospital. Response: Funds obtained from Sub-Branch contributions and donations.

11.10 Western Australia State Report

11.10.1 Presented by Ken Pages-Oliver, copies issued (highlights listed).

- i. President, John Clark predicted that the Association in the West would probably last another 2-3 years;
- ii. Originally established with five active Branches, two have recently closed with another well down on membership;
- iii. State Branch membership fallen by 40%;
- iv. Remaining Sub-Branches very active and alive and in a sound financial position;
- v. WA does not have a club mentality. This does limit the ability of clubs to fundraise. This also applies to RSL Branches;
- vi. Conundrum... Where does this leave the remaining alive and viable Branches? Should the State Branch fold or when;
- vii. Remaining Sub-Branches wish to continue bearing title and traditions, but do not have the desire to assume mantle and responsibilities of a State Branch;
- viii. Can they continue as semi-associated Sub-Branches with no State Branch:
- ix. Can they dis-associate but continue to use the title? and
- x. They have a good relationship with local RSL for commemorative activities.

11.10.2 Member Discussion: Structure and relationship between State Branch and Sub-Branches. Need to explore restructure of total Branch Sub-Branch administration. State Executive only (with no members) who administer Sub-Branches. Following discussion, it was agreed National Executive to consider options.

11.11 National Service Scholarship Foundation Report

11.11.1 Presented by Ron Brandy, copies issued (highlights listed).

- i. Progress, Business Plan, case for Philanthropic Support Strategic Plan, NSSF launch;
 - ii. Board completed both documents, assisted by MFIA marketing communications and fundraising consultant and Peter Dalton of 'Fundraising Futures';
-

- iii. Working with Barwon Health Foundation to identify research projects;
- iv. Discussions with Epworth Hospital Foundation and Monash Medical Foundation;
- v. Seeking out individuals or organisations such as University hospitals, medical research centres that could be receptive to our Foundation as partners or donors; and
- vi. Planned public launch of foundation on 9 March 2018.

11.11.2 Member discussion on launch activities

11.11.2.1 Motion: *That the cost of the launch event of the NSSF be supported by the National Servicemen's Association with a contribution of 50% of costs.*

Moved: J Thorne (SA)

Seconded: B Harry (ACT)

Motion Carried

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

Moved: B McIvor (VIC)

Seconded: M Lane (NT)

Motion Carried.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 Excel Spreadsheet Workshop

12.1.1 Mr Mike Lane (NT) provided details re. the complexity of preparing spreadsheets and the need for their use. He offered to conduct an instructional workshop in association with other activities at the forthcoming Canberra meeting in September. Members to consider and contact Mr Lane.

13. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

13.1 Thursday, 6 September 2018 at the Mercure Hotel, Canberra.

13.2 The Chairman reminded members of the AGM to follow. With no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 3:00pm.