

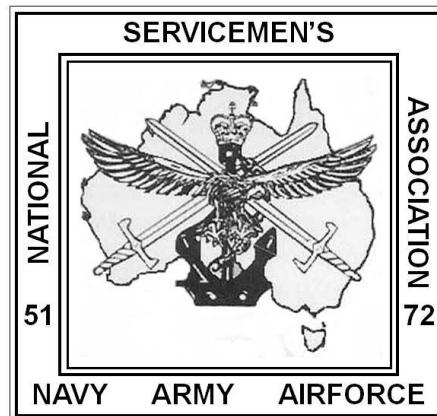
**The National  
Servicemen's  
Association of  
Australia Inc**

Thursday, 5 September

**2019**

***General Meeting  
of the National Council  
held in Canberra, ACT***

**Minutes**



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## 1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 The Vice President, Ron Brandy opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

## 2. OBSERVANCE

- 2.1 The Vice President delivered the Ode of Remembrance followed by one minute's silence.
- 2.2 Mr Frank Miller, O.T.U. Chairman gave an overview and tribute to the late Tim Fischer AC.

## 3. ATTENDANCE

- 3.1 The Secretary reported 20 present as per register.
- 3.1.1 **Apologies:** Mr Allen Callaghan (Media Officer);  
Mr Barry Presgrave (SA);  
Mr Des Casey (WA); and  
Mr Bernie Connelly (VIC).
- 3.1.2 **Proxies:** Mr John Thorne for Mr Barry Presgrave;  
Mr Ken Pages-Oliver for Mr Des Casey  
Mr Sid Sault for Mr Bernie Connelly.
- 3.1.3 **Motion:** *That apologies and proxy appointments be accepted.*

**Moved:** N Moulder (SEC)

**Seconded:** B Mclvor (VIC)

**Motion Carried.**

## 4. GUEST SPEAKERS

- 4.1 The President and Chairman, Mr Earle Jennings resumed the Chair and introduced Mr Don Spinks AM, Repatriation Commissioner for the Dept of Veterans' Affairs. Mr Spinks addressed the meeting and covered a range of topics including:
- i. Transforming of the Dept of Veterans Affairs;
  - ii. Veterans' Employment Program;
  - iii. Veterans' Covenant;
  - iv. Connecting with Veterans' families;
  - v. Mental Health; and
  - vi. The new approach "Open Arms for Veterans".
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- 4.1.1 A very informative and compelling video titled “My Service” was played to members.
- 4.1.2 The Vice President, Ron Brandy offered a vote of thanks and President Earle Jennings presented a memento and expressed appreciations.
- 4.2 The Chairman introduced Mr Ian Davenport, Secretary of the Far East Strategic War Memorial Foundation.
- 4.2.1 Ian outlined the background to the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian confrontation during the 1950’s and 1960’s in which 66 Australians lost their lives and several hundred National Servicemen participated. He gave details of a proposal to build a memorial to recognise the men and women who served in this emergency and confrontation. He sought support from the National Servicemen’s Association.
- 4.2.2 The Chairman thanked Mr Davenport and assured him of support.

## 5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2018

5.1 No amendments requested.

5.2 **Motion:** *That the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, 19 March 2019 as circulated and amended be taken as read and accepted.*

**Moved:** J Thorne (SA)

**Seconded:** B Sonter (TAS)

**Motion Carried.**

### 5.3 Matters Arising

- 5.3.1 **Item 5.3.4 – National Service Rose.** Mr Thorne (SA) spoke of his concern resulting from his discussion with the wholesale supplier who has indicated his difficulty in providing sufficient quantities to distribute Nationally. Mr Thorne will continue to pursue the matter.
- 5.3.2 **Item 10.3 – Major Peter Badcoe VC.** The Chairman advised the matter had been noted and future National Service history documents will be amended as till reference to accident fatalities.
- 5.3.3 **Item 10.3.4 – National Service Memorials.** The Secretary advised a simplified form of Register is being compiled and when completed will be forwarded to the National Register of Memorials.

## 6. ACCEPTANCE OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING

6.1 **Motion:** *That the record of proceedings from the Executive Meeting held 1 August 2019 as circulated be taken as read and accepted.*

**Moved:** B McIvor (VIC)

**Seconded:** F Miller (OTU)

**Motion Carried**

### 6.2 Matters Arising

6.2.1 **Item 3.2.2 – NSW RSL President.** The Secretary advised of pending changes in RSL Executive and will continue to monitor.

6.2.2 **Item 3.2.3 – Changes to Constitution.** The matter of external appointments at both State and Sub-Branch for Secretary and Treasurer only. The Secretary provided suggested wording for Constitutions.

6.2.3 **Item 3.2.4 – NSW Court Case.** The Chairman advised work in progress.

6.2.4 **Item 3.2.5 – Air Travel Subsidy.** The Secretary advised that quotes for grant application obtained in February differ from actual in September and that payment of air travel subsidy will be as per quotes. Accommodation subsidy will be as per payment.

6.2.5 **Item 3.2.6 – SA Productivity Commission Report.** John Thorne reported a very positive response.

6.2.6 **Item 4.1.1 – ESOs Once Voice.** The Chairman advised still attempting to get a meeting with the Minister.

6.2.7 **Item 4.1.2 – NASHO Eligibility for Medals.** The Chairman reported this matter is still being pursued. Aggressive attempts will continue.

6.2.8 **Item 4.2.2 – Executive Meeting Format.** The Chairman gave details re. consideration of internet meetings using “Skype”, or a programme “Zoom” and sought some further details from Frank Miller (OTU). Following discussion on benefits and practicality of these programmes, it was suggested that savings could be made by having a meeting the day before a Council meeting. This was debated and the Chairman concluded that the current situation should remain and investigation into savings would be undertaken.

6.2.9 **Item 5.2.2.1 – Correspondence from Ray McCann.** The contents were advised to members re. the new system for trained welfare and advocacy providers. The Chairman sought advice re. States having trained persons. It was agreed there were no current trained providers within the NSAA.

6.2.10 **Item 5.2.2.2 – Martin Forbes Request for Assistance.** Ron Brandy (VP) addressed the meeting. The matter is now in the hands of a qualified welfare person.

6.2.11 **Item 5.3.2.3 – Review of Travel and Accommodation Costs.** The Secretary advised that a survey of the most cost-effective location for Council meetings will be undertaken.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Members circulated with a copy of the correspondence register for the period. The Secretary sought any requests for information and highlighted the following items:

- i. From Dept Veterans' Affairs – re. Grant approval;
- ii. From Governor General's office – re. Approval for visit;
- iii. From Frank Miller – re. Vietnam Medal. The Chairman provided information re. progress with authorities;
- iv. From Michael Johansen – re. Concern about the Association;
- v. From Rosemary Neal – re. Request for information re. QLD State building at Sivell Park; and
- vi. From Ian Davenport – re. Malay Emergency Memorial.

## 7.2 Matters Arising

7.2.1 Re. Michael Johansen – The Chairman advised he had responded.

7.2.2 Re. Rosemary Neal – QLD delegates to follow up.

7.2.3 Re. Malay Memorial – Ian Davenport attending meeting for a presentation.

## 8. REPORTS

### 8.1 National President

8.1.1 Presented by Earle Jennings. Copies issued and the following points highlighted.

- i. Association has two options – 1. Increase membership or 2. Shut down. There is no third option;
  - ii. Noted from Branch newsletter the ever-increasing list of deceased members;
  - iii. Almost 300,000 served and the Association only attracted a small percentage. Many are unaware of the Association and its work;
  - iv. Expressed concern that Branches, and Sub-Branches are doing little or nothing to attract new members
  - v. Expressed that many Branches and Sub-Branches are having difficulty in finding people to fill Executive positions and reminded of the National Policy and procedures issued in 2017 titled "Into the Future";
  - vi. Members should be reminded of what has been achieved sometimes against opposition when they ask, "what have you done for me?"
  - vii. Advised we get out of the rut and become proactive for the inevitable end days of the Association;
  - viii. Must look after the health and wellbeing of NASHOs now as they age;
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- ix. Believes NASHOs have a strong case for benefits being considered being that their service was compulsory. It's time to exert ourselves and put forward our case for increased benefits to compensate for being forced to serve in some situations of unsuitable roles;
- x. The President proposed we develop a campaign to put forward specific examples of the effects of National Service on our lives as the National Service community ages;
- xi. He recommended that the National Council set up four groups from members to guide and develop the initiatives put forward. These groups would cover finance, service, health and wellbeing to be overseen by Vice President, Ron Brandy. Each committee will examine what the Association does in their particular group; what needs to be done and importantly, how we do it; and
- xii. The President sought volunteers for each group. Some members expressed interest. Following discussion, it was agreed time is needed to absorb the proposal and the request will be followed up after the meeting and be included on the Agenda for the March Council meeting.

## **8.2 National Secretary**

8.2.1 Presented by Noel Moulder. Copies issued and the following points highlighted.

- i. The issued correspondence register forms part of this report;
- ii. General correspondence has reduced marginally with 97% now by email. Member enquiries have reduced, other items remain unchanged;
- iii. Meetings – All scheduled meetings were organized and attended, minutes taken and distributed;
- iv. Website – Still attracts interest, most enquiries come from viewing the site. Upgrade and improvement continues;
- v. Corporate Seal – Not used during the reporting period;
- vi. Rules and By-Laws – No amendments required;
- vii. Executive & Council Directory – Currently being updated
- viii. Sub-Branch Register – Being updated for 2019;
- ix. Memorial Register – Currently being formalised into one document for submission to National authority;
- x. Grants – Grant for 2018 has been acquitted and “Grant in Aid” for 2019 application pending; and
- xi. Other matters – Planning has commenced for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Service Memorial Commemoration and Reunion in Canberra on 8 September 2020.

## **8.3 National Treasurer**

8.3.1 Presented by Carl Adams. Copies issued and the following points highlighted.

- i. Member funds continue on a downward trend;
  - ii. Capitation fees fell against budget;
-

- iii. A deficit occurred for the reason that the accounts are prepared for a period of only 6½ months and no grant has been received to date for 2019. Grant approval is expected by October 2019;
- iv. Several one-off payments affected the deficit;
- v. Council and Executive travel and accommodation is closely related to budget allocation;
- vi. Noted the financial performance summary is prepared on a cash basis, the financial position statement on an accruals basis;
- vii. Emphasised a continuing fall in members and the resulting fall in capitation fees; and
- viii. Treasurer advised with an income of less than \$250,000 the only reporting responsibility is to the Australian Tax Office. Not for Profit Commission and ASIC do not require a report.

### 8.3.2 The following reports were tabled and discussed.

- i. Statement of Financial Performance;
- ii. Statement of Financial Position;
- iii. Summary of Income and Expenditure;
- iv. Plant and Equipment Register;
- v. 2019 Budget; and
- vi. Capitation Payment Comparison.

8.3.3 The Treasurer explained each document. Several items were discussed and debated. Concern was expressed re. falling income and the ability to meet future commitments. Proposals re. increased income and reduced expenses were put forward and discussed.

### 8.3.4 Capitation Fees

8.3.4.1 Following the Treasurer outlining the concern re. meeting future financial commitments, the Chairman raised the matter of an increase to \$5 in the annual capitation fee. A table was distributed showing capitation increases over the years since 1996 indicating an increase was due. Each member State put their case. There was discussion re. reduced expenditure or increase income from grants. Following was considerable debate on the pressure to balance the National Budget with increased costs and falling income, with the outcome of future budgets showing a substantial deficit. The following motion was put:

8.3.4.2 **Motion:** *That the National Capitation Levy be increased by \$1.00 for the calendar year 2020 with a further increase of \$1.00 for the calendar year 2021.*

**Moved:** B Sonter (TAS)

**Seconded:** B Bradshaw (NSW)

**Motion Carried on  
a show of hands**



8.3.4.3 Discussion took place re. the possibility of obtaining grants and it was agreed this be investigated.

## 8.4 National Service Scholarship Foundation

8.4.1 Presented by Ron Brandy. Copies issued.

### 8.4.2 Status Report

- i. Continue to research fundraising including grants and exposure to gatherings and individuals;
- ii. Work with Barwon Health Medical Research to identify projects;
- iii. Foundation funded a partnership grant to “Impact” a Centre for Innovation in Mental and Physical Health project “Depression Assist”;
- iv. The Depression Assist project fits perfectly within the scope to fund assist research and development;
- v. The Foundation’s contribution feeds into “Impact’s” ability to seek and secure further funding;
- vi. The NSSF Audit report of August 2019 confirms the Foundation is well managed;
- vii. Request for Branches and Sub-Branches to assist the NSSF;
- viii. Initiative of the NSAA Brisbane North resulted in a considerable donation; and
- ix. Coupled with the Status report the following initiative to merge websites.

### 8.4.3 A Proposed Strategy for a Stronger and Assured Future

8.4.3.1 A Powerpoint presentation included a proposal to combine all NSAA and NSSF websites to position all organisations for a stronger future.

8.4.3.2 A purpose and method were explained for a modern consolidated website with NSAA as a lead front page with public access to all NSAA website levels – National / NSSF / State / Territory / Sub-Branches. Proposed funding from DVA grants and other sponsor support. Estimated time frame 12 months from NSAA approval and funding.

8.4.3.3 Matters and items displayed in the presentation were discussed at length with the result being a request for a motion:

8.4.3.3.1 **Motion:** *That this Council endorses the proposal as presented to proceed with the next development stage of the website merger project.*

**Moved:** B Sonter (TAS)

**Seconded:** S Fairbain (WA)

**Motion Carried**

8.5 **Motion:** *That all reports as circulated, presented and agreed be received.*

**Moved:** R McIvor (VIC)

**Seconded:** T Stevenson (QLD)

**Motion Carried**

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 The Secretary reported on his meeting with the AWM Events dept re. the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Reunion planned for 8 September 2020. The proposal to the AWM is to have a short march within the grounds of the AWM followed by a high-profile commemorative and wreath laying ceremony. Request is for a catafalque party and military band. The Events dept have no problem with our proposal and the date has been reserved. Formal request and brief are to be submitted. A guest list is to be prepared to include all those special guests who attended the original ceremony in 2010. Every Sub-Branch nationally will receive an invitation.

9.2 Other activities proposed are for a dinner the evening before to include all those persons involved in the planning and development of the memorial. Also, following the ceremony, it is proposed to have a major barbeque lunch for all attendees. It is anticipated possible 300-400 persons.

9.3 A launch programme will be developed with promotional material issues approximately around February 2020.

## 10. GUEST PRESENTERS

10.1 **Professor John Blaxland BAMA PHD PSC, Professor of International Security and Intelligence Studies at the Australian National University**

10.1.1 The Chairman introduced Mr Blaxland with a very impressive profile.

10.1.2 Prof. Blaxland showed a compelling Powerpoint presentation with considerable details relating to a geostrategic SWOT analysis of Australia's current situation outlining strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. These were graphically displayed and explained and covered both internal and external challengers. The outcome of the analysis and challenges creates some concern for Australia's security. He pointed out how deficient and vulnerable we are in some areas. As a consequence of this he has developed a recommended scheme known as the "Australian Universal Scheme for National and Community Service". It was briefly explained as a callup programme to include military service, emergency service and community service of choice. He proposed our Association to engage with communities and politicians and by giving them a convincing reason to pass the message on.

10.1.3 The Vice President, Ron Brandy acknowledged the very detailed and professional presentation and the concerning information. He thanked him on behalf of the members and the Chairman presented an appreciation plaque.

**10.2 Mr Shane Bowering, Director Red Tape Busters Pty Ltd, Consultancy and Training Services**

10.2.1 The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr Bowering who then gave an overview, background and formation of the organisation.

10.2.2 He emphasized their role as a specialist consulting service in dealing with Federal, State and Local governments with experience in sourcing government funding and preparing submissions. Also, identify possible funding opportunities and prepare a 12-month matrix which is the basis for preparing grant submissions.

10.2.3 He gave details on the success of NSAA QLD using this method and offered support and assistance to the NSA members applying for funding.

10.2.4 The Chairman thanked Mr Bowering for his informative presentation.

## **11. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

11.1 It was agreed the next meeting be held in Sydney on Wednesday, 18 March 2019 with the venue TBA.

11.2 With no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 5:45pm.