

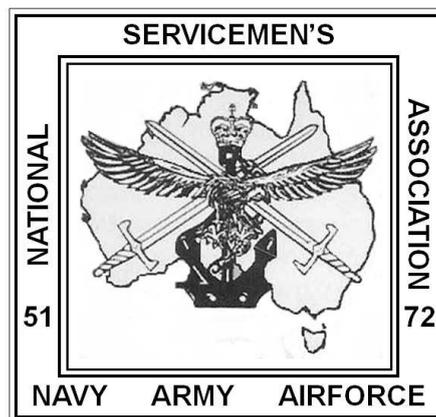
**The National  
Servicemen's  
Association of  
Australia Inc**

Tuesday, 29 March

**2022**

*General Meeting  
of the National Council  
held in Sydney, NSW*

**Minutes**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	OPENING OF MEETING.....	3
2.	OBSERVANCE.....	3
3.	ATTENDANCE .....	3
4.	ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING HELD MAY 2021 .....	4
5.	ACCEPT RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING .....	5
6.	CORRESPONDENCE .....	6
7.	ANNIVERSARY REUNION – 8 SEPTEMBER 2022 .....	7
8.	PRESERVATION OF ASSOCIATION HISTORY .....	8
9.	REPORTS.....	8
10.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM REPORTS.....	12
11.	NOTICES OF MOTION .....	12
12.	GENERAL BUSINESS.....	12
13.	DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.....	12

## 1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 The National President Ron Brandy (Chairman) acknowledged those present and thanked all for their attendance. He advised the meeting will contain important topics that will require frank input and difficult decisions. He referred to concerns re. complacency since Covid coupled with the age demographic both of which have had an impact on the association. He advised of apologies from patrons Brendan Nelson and Earle Jennings and advised of Barry Presgrave's medical situation.

## 2. OBSERVANCE

- 2.1 The Chairman delivered the Ode of Remembrance followed by one minute's silence. Reference was made to the passing of Allen Callaghan and Vern Delaney.

## 3. ATTENDANCE

- 3.1 The Secretary reported 10 present as per attendance register.

- 3.1.1 **Attendees:** Mr Ron Brandy (President);  
Mr Noel Moulder (Secretary);  
Mr Richard Tregear (Treasurer);  
Mr Frank Miller (OTU Association);  
Mr Tony Stevenson (QLD);  
Mr Neal Freier (QLD);  
Mr Stuart Fairbairn (WA);  
Mr Barry Sonter (TAS);  
Mr Bernie Connelly (VIC); and  
Mr Bob McIvor (VIC).

- 3.1.2 **Apologies:** Mr Barry O'Keefe (NSW);  
Mr Norm Mallard (NSW);  
Mr Neville Pulford (TAS);  
Mr Barry Presgrave (SA);  
Mr John Thorne (SA);  
Mr John Faunt (ACT);  
Mr Garry Hand (ACT);  
Mr Jim Duquemine (WA)  
Mr Mike Lane (NT); and  
Mr Ron Strachan (NT).

- 3.1.3 **Proxies:** Mr Barry Sonter (TAS) for Mr Neville Pulford (TAS);  
Mr Bob McIvor (VIC) for both SA delegates; and  
Mr Stuart Fairbairn (WA) for Mr Jim Duquemine (WA).

3.2 **Motion:** *That attendance, proxy appointments and apologies be accepted.*

**Moved:** F Miller (OTU)

**Seconded:** T Stevenson (QLD)

**Motion Carried.**

## 4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING HELD MAY 2021

4.1 No amendments requested.

4.2 **Motion:** *That the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, 25 May 2021 as circulated be taken as read and accepted.*

**Moved:** N Moulder (SEC)

**Seconded:** B McIvor (VIC)

**Motion Carried.**

### 4.3 Matters Arising

4.3.1 **The National Service Rose.** The Chairman advised of contact with Kim Sirius and his support of the NSAA and update on sales. Member discussion re. limited availability, only available in SA and VIC. QLD attempted but could not get delivery.

4.3.2 **Website Links.** The Secretary gave information re. proposal to develop some State pages on the National website. Those with functioning up-to-date sites can remain as is. Cost to be discussed with Vicki Blundell. The Chairman advised the earlier proposal to merge sites is no longer viable. There is still concern re. Hugh Williams' involvement, this was discussed. VIC Branch will follow up.

4.3.3 **Mint 50c Coin.** The Secretary provided details of his contact with the Australian Mint in Canberra who had advised that due to Covid close down, were at least one year behind any new projects and could not give a timeline.

4.3.4 **The Military Shop Affiliates Program.** The Chairman gave details of his contact. He noted that the much earlier negotiated program is no longer operating, and the new program was then explained. However due to the IT element of this program and the current poor sales, it was considered not viable on a national basis. It was suggested each State look at the program and decide their involvement.

- 4.3.5 **RVCM Eligibility.** The Chairman explained his contact with Richard Barry and communication with government ministers with a positive response; described as in hand and will be taken further. Noted re. election outcome there is bi-partisan support.
- 4.3.6 **Don Spinks Invitation.** The Secretary explained the invitation outcome from the 2020 event and advised Mr Spinks will be invited to the 2022 event.
- 4.3.7 **White Card.** The members discussed examples of white card eligibility. It was agreed that there is a lot of misinformation being circulated and NASHO entitlements are not fully understood. It was also noted that much of this is coming from RSL advocates who themselves don't understand NASHO entitlements. Whenever possible, RSL Sub-branches should be updated, and NASHO members informed.

## 5. ACCEPT RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING

- 5.1 **Motion:** *That the Record of Proceedings from the Executive meeting held Monday, 21 February 2022 as circulated be taken as read and accepted.*

**Moved:** N Moulder (SEC)

**Seconded:** F Miller (OTU)

**Motion Carried.**

### 5.2 Matters Arising

- 5.2.1 **Future of the Association.** The previous policy document re. contraction of the Association was discussed. The Chairman tabled his suggestion for amendments including a new approach with emphasise on restructure and he encouraged discussion. The Chairman opened debate by putting to the meeting that the association can't function in its present form with declining membership and persons not prepared to undertake executive positions at any level. He put to members that the question is "*do we want the Association to continue and in what form?*" He sought contributions to the discussion from each member delegate. The OTU Association advised of their structure and member involvement, and explained the strength in their quarterly magazine, noting their membership is increasing and despite this they are considering closure in 2026. Each State delegate gave examples of their difficulties and suggestions for change. As these suggestions for restructure and change were presented, the practicality was debated. It was agreed that the future had to rely very heavily on communication, support, camaraderie, and identification. These elements had to be foremost in our thinking but know a simple and practical format must be agreed on. It was however acknowledged that first, a closure date also had to be agreed on. The Chairman requested each delegate to nominate a time frame - the majority including proxies selected 2026, thus the following motion.

**5.2.1.1 Motion:** That this Council has agreed that the NSAA work toward formal closure by 31 December 2026.

**Moved:** B Sonter (TAS)

**Seconded:** S Fairbairn (WA)

**Motion Carried.**

5.2.1.2 Discussion following the motion agreed that the Council meeting in September 2022 should examine the existing structure and how to unwind it and discuss and agree on guidelines for a new informal structure post closure.

5.2.2 **Future Capitation.** The Chairman outlined the need for a better way of determining the annual capitation fee and proposed that a formula should be considered using the CPI as a basis. During discussion members were in general agreement but determined that at this time there is a doubt if another increase will be necessary.

5.2.3 **Meeting Location.** The Secretary provided details re. current hotel venue costings at various locations and outlined the importance of convenience and price stability with regards to air fares, room rates, meals, and meeting rooms. Following member discussion, it was established that Canberra offered a favourable option for both Executive and Council meetings.

**5.2.3.1 Motion:** That all future Executive and Council meetings be held in Canberra ACT.

**Moved:** F Miller (OTU)

**Seconded:** B McIvor (VIC)

**Motion Carried.**

5.2.4 **The Late Allen Callaghan.** The Secretary expressed concern that very little recognition had been given to the late Allen Callaghan for his outstanding dedication and work done for the Association over many years. QLD delegates advised that the Covid situation had prevented any formal tribute. It was agreed recognition and a tribute to Allen be tabled at the September meeting in Canberra. The Secretary to action.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Members issued with a copy of the Correspondence Register the following items highlighted.

- i. From: K Elphickle, DVA. re. article in DVA magazine.
  - ii. From: Royal Commission Veterans Suicide "Notice to Give Information."
  - iii. To: Royal Commission Veterans Suicide "Submission of Information."
  - iv. To: Minister for Defence. Republic Vietnam Medal submission.
  - v. To: Minister Veterans Affairs. Republic Vietnam Medal submission.
-

- vi. To: Geoff Parkes, advise re. project and survey questionnaire.
- vii. From: CAPT Conroy, Army History Unit. Request NASHO History Info.
- viii. From: Lawrie Askill. Concern incorrect website info.
- ix. From: The Military Shop. Anniversary Medallion.
- x. From: Kim Syrus. Update on NASHO rose.
- xi. From: Bob McGuire, WA. Request website link.

## 5.3 Matters Arising from Correspondence

- i. **Re. Geoff Parkes survey.** The Chairman explained the background to contact and outlined his attitude to the request from Mr Parkes. He questioned the method and outcome Mr Parkes was hoping to achieve and believed it was not in the best interest of the Association to be involved. Members supported his decision.
- ii. **Re. Lawrie Askill website concern.** QLD delegates advised this was an ongoing problem with a particular QLD website.
- iii. **Re. The Military Shop Anniversary Medallion.** The Chairman tabled details of a proposal from Stephen Davie, CEO of the Military Shop. It gave several options and costings for a medallion to be produced and distributed relating to the 50th and 70th National Service anniversaries. Options were discussed including costing, distribution, timing, and funding. It was agreed funding would be prohibitive and the certificate available from QLD was the better option. Advised these are in short supply. Suggestion from TAS delegate that a similar certificate to that of the Nominal Roll could be issued. Advise this is only available if enrolled on the NASHO Nominal Roll.
- iv. **Re. Bob McGuire website link.** Discussion with the WA delegate giving background to request. It was agreed existing links on the National website provide similar information and would only be a duplication.

## 7. ANNIVERSARY REUNION – 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

- 7.1 The Secretary gave details of meeting with Australian War Memorial staff and advised the commemorative service is locked in with the AWM. A lead up plan and timelines were issued and discussed. Concern was expressed re attendance numbers. A promotional brochure and expression of interest will be updated and issued to Sub-Branches. Plans for attendee luncheon following the service is subject to numbers and a suitable venue for this is being investigated. A start time for the service was discussed and agreed should be 11:00am.

## 8. PRESERVATION OF ASSOCIATION HISTORY

- 8.1 Members were reminded of the decision to archive material with the National Library following our previous contact. This will require collection and storage of documents. This has commenced with the planned collection of documents going back to 1994 from Earle Jennings, Carl Adams, and the Secretary. These will be housed in a central location, inspected, and collated according to National Library requirements. Unwanted documents will be destroyed. It is anticipated this will be at least a twelve-month project. The advice is that a grant is available from the National Library which may allow for a person to be retained to help with the project. Following completion of National documents, States and Sub-Branches will be asked to provide any documents they wish located in the National Library.

## 9. REPORTS

### 6.1 The ACT Branch

- 6.1.1 Presented by the Secretary and the following points highlighted.

- i. 2021 - a disrupted year due to the ongoing Covid restrictions.
- ii. In April we were able to hold our combined General meeting and AGM and elected office bearers for the next 2 years.
- iii. Normal meetings conducted May to July. Covid shut down August to October.
- iv. Returned to normality for November-December.
- v. ANZAC day proceeded with restrictions, the march past was limited to a two-person banner party and public participation was restricted to a ticketed requirement.
- vi. Very little social activity has been organised. We have found that the age of members has impacted on their willingness to risk activities.
- vii. Our first meeting for 2022 failed to get a quorum.
- viii. On a brighter note, our membership numbers are holding up well.

### 6.2 New South Wales Branch

- 6.2.1 Presented by the Secretary and the following points highlighted.

- i. Successful AGM held in May 2021 in Wallsend, Newcastle.
  - ii. Membership fallen by 15%.
  - iii. Expelled NSW Branch President Ron Brown passed away.
  - iv. Enquiries from expelled group re. possible amalgamation.
  - v. Increasingly hard to fill committee positions at State and Sub-Branch levels.
  - vi. 2022 AGM held in May at Tamworth coincide with Tamworth 25-year anniversary.
  - vii. Finances are ok despite falling membership and reduced income.
  - viii. Future of some Sub-Branches are biggest concern.
-

- ix. The Hon. Andrew Gee MP, local member, Patron Mid-State also Veterans' Affairs Minister.
- x. Tweed/Murwillumbah Sub-Branch sponsoring 2 cadets to walk the Kokoda Track.
- xi. Reasonable interest in September's events in Canberra.

## 6.3 OTU Association

6.3.1 Presented by Frank Miller and the following points highlighted.

- i. Covid had a major impact on activities with some States unable to participate in ANZAC marches. Many luncheons and dinners did go ahead.
- ii. October 2021 National Reunion re-scheduled to 2022.
- iii. Lease of Scheyville National Park to Hunter Valley ANZAC Memorial Group favourable to OTU Association.
- iv. Serious consideration for mechanism for closure in 2026 due to likely inability to form management committee. Financial projections, retention of memorabilia and possible commemorative monument being considered.
- v. Many youth development programs abandoned due to Covid.
- vi. Financially, the Association remains in a strong position.
- vii. National Executive AGM and Council meetings successfully held via Zoom.
- viii. Membership numbers remain stable – the highest in over 12 years.
- ix. Dedication of Neil Leckie have seen three publications of Scheyvillian magazine.
- x. Neil and Association's close liaison with RMC Museum is appreciated.

## 6.4 Queensland Branch

6.4.1 Presented by Neil Freier and the following points highlighted.

- i. 2021 a special year in many ways.
  - ii. 70 years since first NASHO into RAAF base Garbutt, Townsville.
  - iii. 70th anniversary certificates issued at State conference Wacol September 2021.
  - iv. Request for certificates from interstate.
  - v. QLD Premier visits Wacol precinct and presented plaque from QLD parliament.
  - vi. Land at Wacol precinct legally acquired from Brisbane City Council.
  - vii. Buildings at Wacol require work, will apply for grant.
  - viii. Branch in a comfortable financial position.
  - ix. NASHO News features increasing number of deceased NASHOs.
  - x. 2022 State conference at Hervey Bay from 30 September.
  - xi. Ten smaller Sub-Branches in need were given \$2,000 each to be used for welfare.
  - xii. Special awards issued to encourage Sub-Branch Executive committees.
  - xiii. Plans being developed to recognise 65/72 NASHOs who died in training accidents.
-

## 6.4.2 Nominal Roll

6.4.2.1 Copy issued and the following points highlighted.

- i. Reference to objective of Nominal Roll.
- ii. Contingent of volunteer supporters; long hours updating information.
- iii. All Eastern states involved providing personal details to complete database.
- iv. Attention now to South Australia with request for assistance from State Executive for details of their members.
- v. South Australia support will contribute to a roll where all NASHOs who served are recorded and registered for posterity.

## 6.5 South Australia Branch

6.5.1 Presented by the Secretary and the following points highlighted.

- i. Loss of several Sub-Branches with diminishing membership base.
- ii. Membership down to 400 with obvious financial constraints.
- iii. Financial bonus due to State electoral body renting premises for polling possible same for Federal election.
- iv. 2021 saw completion of State Memorial Garden with \$70,000 raised and spent on the project.
- v. City of West Torrens plan accepted for veteran's hub for several ESO's on the site of the current building, for completion 2023.
- vi. Encouraged by new members coming aboard.
- vii. Friday get-togethers and luncheon resumed with good visitor and NASHO attendance.

## 6.6 Tasmania Branch

6.6.1 Presented by Barry Sonter and the following points highlighted.

- i. 2020/2021 not varied with shutdowns cancellations postponements all at a moment's notice.
  - ii. Steady decrease in membership since 2019 this year down to approximately 95.
  - iii. Only one delegate to National Council due to reduced membership and funds.
  - iv. No possibility of increasing membership fees.
  - v. All functions to be Sub-Branch based with no State events due to ageing.
  - vi. One rebel Sub-Branch refuse to take part in any meetings/functions with intentions unknown for 2022.
  - vii. Some Sub-Branches largely social with periodic luncheons.
  - viii. Endeavour to encourage to continue normal Sub-Branch activities.
  - ix. Hopeful of some downsizing policy.
-

## **6.7 Western Australia Branch**

6.7.1 Presented by Stuart Fairbairn and the following points highlighted.

- i. During the pandemic Sub-Branches have managed to continue with scheduled meetings and events. Only minor cancellations.
- ii. Conducted National Servicemen's Day ceremony with all Branches in attendance.
- iii. State Council continues to consider options for the future.
- iv. Notable members of State Council passed away, Ken Pages-Oliver, Des Casey.
- v. Ageing membership recognised as a problem.
- vi. Two Sub-Branches, York and Mandurah meet monthly and have very strong affiliation with local RSL.
- vii. York widespread membership in mid-west working with local councils have erected memorials in several country towns.
- viii. Fremantle Sub-Branch has dwindling membership and is seriously looking at closure.
- ix. Looking to the future, we need to hold the torch and continue to engage with politicians to properly invest in our country's defence.

## **6.8 Victoria Branch**

6.8.1 Presented by Bob McIvor and the following points highlighted.

- i. A difficult year with repeated lock downs; hopefully now back to normal.
- ii. State Branch is holding up well. Some Sub-Branches have difficulty filling committee positions and are considering people from outside the Association.
- iii. Members assembled at shrine on 13 February 2022 for National Servicemen's Day.
- iv. Committee and Sub-Committee meetings conducted via Zoom for continuity of Branch business.
- v. Branch finance review committee considered all elements relating to 2022 responsibilities, where the outcome of these deliberations was positive.
- vi. Very successful production and distribution of souvenir NASHO News was undertaken.
- vii. With the exception of Puckapunyal Memorial service all other activities were cancelled for 2021.

## **6.9 National Service Scholarship Foundation**

6.9.1 Presented by Ron Brandy and the following points highlighted.

- i. Activities for 2021 constrained because of Covid. Board's enthusiasm however is not dampened.
- ii. Efforts to pursue aims and objectives continue throughout 2022.

- iii. The NSSF/Deakin University and Barwon Health partnership remains dedicated with other projects being considered.
- iv. Engagement with prospective Victoria based donor interest is ongoing. The organisation remains committed to its intended support of the NSSF.
- v. Second application to DVA for grant to merge websites was rejected causing a review into the viability of the intended merger.
- vi. Other funding options are being pursued progress to be advised.
- vii. Current NSSF website has been health checked and is operating effectively.
- viii. Advice when donating by credit/debit card using the website ensure card details are up to date.
- ix. The foundation statement of financial position for 20/21 financial year has been signed off.

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

**Moved:** B McIvor (VIC)

**Seconded:** T Stevenson (QLD)

**Motion Carried**

## 10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM REPORTS

10.1 There were no issues arising from the presented reports for discussion.

## 11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 There were no notices of motion for discussion.

## 12. GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 There were no additional general business items for discussion.

## 13. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

9.1 It was agreed the next meeting be held in Canberra on Wednesday, 7 September 2022 with the venue TBA.

9.2 It should be noted that Thursday, 8 September 2022 is set for the Commemorative Service to be held at the Australian War Memorial.

# Minutes

*General Meeting of the National Council  
held Tuesday, 29 March 2022*

---

9.3 With no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 3:00pm.