

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

Thursday, 12 March

2015

***General Meeting
of the National Council
held in Devonport, TAS***

Minutes

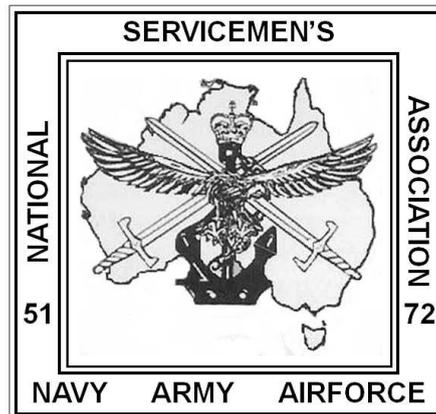


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	OPENING OF MEETING.....	3
2.	OBSERVANCE.....	3
3.	GUEST SPEAKER.....	3
4.	ATTENDANCE	3
5.	ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, SEPT 2014	4
6.	ACCEPTANCE OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING FEBRUARY 2015.....	5
7.	CORRESPONDENCE	6
8.	NASHO SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION.....	7
9.	CONSIDERATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION	8
10.	NASHO SECOND ERA COMMEMORATION 2015.....	8
11.	MEMORIAL WALKWAY PROGRESS.....	9
12.	PRESENTATION OF REPORTS.....	9
13.	MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS	14
14.	NOTICES OF MOTION	15
15.	GENERAL BUSINESS.....	15
16.	DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.....	15

1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 The Chairman, Earle Jennings welcomed delegates, observers and guests and thanked the Tasmanian members for their hospitality.

2. OBSERVANCE

- 2.1 National Ode of Remembrance by the Vice President with one minute's silence.

3. GUEST SPEAKER

- 3.1 The Chairman introduced Alderman Steve Martin, Mayor of the City of Devonport.
- 3.2 Mr Martin thanked the Association for the invitation to speak and made reference to the following:
- 3.2.1 Welcomed delegates to the City of Devonport;
- 3.2.2 Gave an overview of the history of the city and its beginnings as a Port;
- 3.2.3 Recognised the changing environment from manufacturing to commercialism;
- 3.2.4 Provided details of the history of new image and development;
- 3.2.5 Spoke of a \$250 million development of the CBD; and
- 3.2.6 Referred to his father's days as a NASHO.
- 3.3 Vice President, Bill Dabner thanked the Mayor for his address and complimented him on his efforts as Mayor.

4. ATTENDANCE

- 4.1 Total of 18 delegates present as per register.
- 4.2 Apologies from A Callaghan and both delegates from SA.
- 4.3 Written proxy appointments from SA tabled appointing WA as proxy.
- 4.4 **Motion:** *That the proxy appointments and new delegates be accepted.*

Moved: J Thorne (SA) **Seconded:** T Stevenson (QLD) **Motion Carried.**

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, SEPT 2014

5.1 No amendments requested.

5.2 **Motion:** *That the minutes of the General Meeting, September 2014 as circulated be taken as read and accepted.*

Moved: G Hand (ACT) **Seconded:** F Miller (O.T.U) **Motion Carried.**

5.3 Matters Arising

5.3.1 Info from ACNC re. ex NSW details obtained are on file.

5.3.2 Recent contact with Law Society. Advice they are frustrated with Doughty attitude; have issued another demand. No response will result in tribunal appearance in approximately two weeks.

5.3.3 Naming of NASHO naval vessel is handled by Naval Historic section. Established long term protocol of ships classes and name classifications. Process required Naval section to fit a name to a class of vessel. Advice Chief of Navy for approval then Minister followed by PM and Governor General. Advice from Naval section NASHO naming not likely. Secretary to provide details to VIC President in writing.

5.3.4 Flag and finial storage. Mr McIvor (VIC) reported that these could not be located. Disappearance still being looked into. If necessary, VIC will pay for replacement. Doug Black may have info. Secretary to follow up. Invoice for finial to be followed up.

5.3.5 Figurine sales to be followed up with Military Shop.

5.3.6 The matter of NASHOs as teachers in New Guinea was discussed at length including a negative response from DVA. Matter is to be pursued with Veterans' Affairs Minister. Secretary will again contact DVA for further clarification.

5.3.7 Directional sign at NASHO memorial AWM has not been actioned despite positive response from Dr Brendan Nelson. Matter to be followed up.

5.3.8 Charitable status of the Association and the background was explained by the Treasurer. He advised that a revocation form had been submitted to the ATO to cancel our charity status retrospective to September 2010.

5.3.9 Letter to AWM re. preservation of memorial area to be followed up.

5.3.10 Mr Stevenson (QLD) raised the matter in 16.2.3 of the minutes re. Mr Callaghan's statement "that the QLD President had advocated a President's only National Council" and Mr Jennings' endorsement "that it's in writing". Considerable discussion took place re. the accuracy of these statements and that they were not quite correct. Mr Jennings advised he had apologised to Mr Garlin and now extended an apology to

Mr Stevenson. The apology was accepted. Mr Stevenson made the point that as Mr Callaghan had made the initial incorrect comment, he should apologise for his inaccuracies.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING FEBRUARY 2015

6.1 **Motion:** *That the record of proceedings from the Executive Meeting of February 2015 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.*

Moved: C Adams (Treas.) **Seconded:** W Dabner (V/Pres.) **Motion Carried**

6.2 Matters Arising

6.2.1 Letter from DVA re. smoking was issued to each member re. DVA response. President agreed to follow up.

6.2.2 Campaign to bring back Vietnam War Deed from Terendak, Malaysia and the request for National Service Association support was discussed at length. Details of correspondence received were given including the special significance of this request. Members debated the issue for and against. The Chairman spoke on support for Richard Barry in his quest to have qualifying period in Vietnam for South Vietnam Service Medal reduced from 181 days to 90 days.

6.2.2.1 **Motion:** *That this Council supports the returned of those Vietnam War dead located at Terendak, Malaysia to be interred in Australia, according to the wishes of their families.*

Moved: T Stevenson (QLD) **Seconded:** C Adams (Treas.) **Motion Carried**

6.2.3 The Secretary and President gave details of their contact with Officers of the NSW Dept of Racing and Gaming who are investigating a complaint re. alleged missing funds from the Memorial Trust. They are aware of the AFP decision that there is no case to answer, but have to follow procedure when a complaint is lodged. During the discussions and correspondence with the officers, it was noted that information supporting the complaint was false and misleading. The meeting was also advised that the President and member States had been contacted by the AFP in relation to a complaint about their handling of the original complaint. In both cases, it was revealed the author of the complaints was Ralph Doughty. The President will provide all information to both parties.

6.2.4 The Secretary provided details of action taken to recover debt from the expelled NSW Branch including a letter of demand (unanswered) and the matter now in the hands of a commercial collection agency. The debt had been recalculated and the figure now stands at \$13,724.

- 6.2.5 The meeting was advised an application will be submitted to Government House seeking the Governor General as Association Patron. Several names were canvassed if the Government House request is not successful.
- 6.2.6 The Malay Borneo Association interest as an affiliate to be followed up.
- 6.2.7 A President's bulletin will be produced before mid-year.
- 6.2.8 The matter of merchandise being purchased from the expelled Branch was raised by the President. The Secretary reported he had contact with the Military Shop who are preparing to look at producing and stocking a range of NASHO products. Following discussion on possible wholesale and retail requirements, it was agreed. In response to a query re. ex NSW Branch debt to the Association, the Chairman advised it will be pursued after Deed of Settlement conclusion.
- 6.2.8.1 **Motion:** *That the Secretary consult with the Military Shop and investigate the production and distribution of National Service merchandise.*
- Moved:** R Brandy (VIC) **Seconded:** C Shapland (NSW) **Motion Carried**
- 6.2.9 The President provided details of a conference on conscription being conducted in Melbourne in May 2015 by the Military History & Heritage Association. Mr Jennings will attend as a principal participant.
- 6.2.10 Details of insurance was discussed and advice given re. cost savings by shopping around. It was agreed each member association individually could do better than one national scheme.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 The Secretary tabled the correspondence register listing all correspondence from October 2014 to March 2015.
- 7.2 Highlighted Items**
- 7.2.1 NSW name change and supporting details.
- 7.2.2 From Mr Garlin (QLD) re. T Stevenson concern and responses.
- 7.2.3 Repatriation of Vietnam was dead from Terendak Malaysia.
- 7.2.4 From QLD re. motion relating to logo and responses.
-

7.3 Matters Arising

7.3.1 Correspondence from NSW Fair Trading re. NSW name change following considerable discussion the following motion was made.

7.3.1.1 **Motion:** *That this Council approves and endorses the use of the name 'National Servicemen's Association of Australia NSW Branch' as evident on incorporation certificate 1201062 and this certificate confirms the organisation named as the only representative of the National Association in NSW.*

Moved: K Pages-Oliver (WA) **Seconded:** T Stevenson (QLD) **Motion Carried**

7.3.2 The Secretary raised the matter of a letter from QLD advising of a QLD motion re protection of the logo and the sharing of legal costs and his responses.

7.3.2.1 QLD delegates provided the meeting with legal advice and costings which indicated considerable expense and on a cost sharing basis with States would be unaffordable by most States. Discussion took place regarding other methods of preventing the unauthorised use of the logo and the QLD responsibility of policing its use. QLD delegates rejected the suggestion that National and State Executives get together to formulate a strategy to get a result without litigation. They spoke of handling the matter their way and not needing any help. Robust debate ensued without a firm resolution. The President tabled a letter from QLD to the expelled NSW Branch requesting they cease using the logo and simply asked QLD delegates to follow this up with another request. This suggestion was also rejected as their strategy was to ignore them and the problem will eventually go away. Following further debate, the Chairman concluded this still needs to be resolved in some form or other as there is no solution at this stage.

7.3.3 Mr Brandy (VIC) sought explanation of a letter to re-enactment group. The Secretary explained it was to do with a request to participate in the 50th Anniversary event in June.

8. NASHO SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

8.1 Ron Brandy submitted a report and issued to all members. The following items are highlighted.

8.1.1 The appointment of Castle Legal to develop legal framework including constitution, charter and applications to the ATO, ASIC and ACNC.

8.1.2 Mr Ron Brandy appointed inaugural Chairman of the company and Mr Shane Murphy, Company Secretary.

8.1.3 Holloway Productions will develop a logo and website etc.

- 8.1.4 Suitably qualified individuals have been offered pro bono board positions.
- 8.1.5 Response for donations for establishment costs has resulted in \$14,000.
- 8.1.6 The final decision of the foundation name will rest with recommendations from marketing experts.
- 8.1.7 It was agreed that one scholarship be named after Barry Vicary.

9. CONSIDERATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 9.1 The Secretary presented a paper and issued copies to members. The aim of the discussion paper is to look at key issues that will underpin Branch and Sub-Branch changes and recommend a methodology to assist to develop contractual plans and to examine possible alternative structures that will cater for change in the way ahead. Some specific items were highlighted and members were requested to analyse the document as it will be placed on the agenda for the September meeting. It was emphasised that it is a suggested policy and procedure for the planned, dignified and efficient administration of the Association for the future. Members discussed several current situations.

10. NASHO SECOND ERA COMMEMORATION 2015

- 10.1 Mr Frank Miller advised members on progress of the commemoration plans and distributed a copy of the management plan with activity time lines and costings. To date, the following activities are completed.
 - 10.1.1 Date and location agreed;
 - 10.1.2 Submission of a grant application to DVA;
 - 10.1.3 Invitation the Governor-General;
 - 10.1.4 Information brochure, invitation letter and expression of interest form printed and issued to all National and State ex-Service organisations;
 - 10.1.5 Two meetings with the AWM;
 - 10.1.6 Order of service developed and agreed;
 - 10.1.7 TV coverage negotiated – each member was issued with an information kit.

11. MEMORIAL WALKWAY PROGRESS

- 11.1 Mr G Hand spoke of frustration dealing with two government bodies, ACT and Federal government. The original and ideal site was administered by the Federal government. They had rejected our request. He was now pursuing the ACT government but getting a lukewarm reception.
- 11.2 Correspondence seeking them to recommend a suitable site is unanswered. Currently, he is attempting to have a meeting with a responsible person. After discussion, it was agreed we continue to pursue the matter and see it through.

12. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

12.1 National President

- 12.1.1 Presented by E Jennings, copies issued, and the following points were emphasised.
 - 12.1.1.1 Acknowledgement of donations made to National Service Scholarship Foundation.
 - 12.1.1.2 Contact with DVA re. health issues smoking and hearing loss.
 - 12.1.1.3 Recognition of contribution by individuals and National Service Branches to the ANZAC Centenary.
 - 12.1.1.4 On behalf of A Callaghan, the meeting was advised of updated memorial booklet, acknowledged funding contributions to the production of 1,000 copies.
 - 12.1.1.5 Spoke of Mr Callaghan's efforts and involvement in the Brisbane ANZAC Centenary activities.
 - 12.1.1.6 Advised that Council finances are in good shape. Commended good work by Treasurer and reminded members that capitation is the only income and sought efficiency, accuracy and timely payments.
 - 12.1.1.7 Paid tribute to Bill Dabner on his retirement and acknowledged his efforts and outstanding service to the Association.
 - 12.1.1.8 Tabled and read from a letter complimenting the efforts put into the memorial booklet and the work of the Association.
 - 12.1.1.9 Thanked all members of the Council for their support and loyalty.

12.2 National Secretary

12.2.1 Presented by N Moulder, copies issued and the following points highlighted.

12.2.1.1 Analysis of correspondence.

12.2.1.2 Summary of Association meeting.

12.2.1.3 Review and upgrade of website.

12.2.1.4 Nil use of Corporate Seal.

12.2.1.5 Current upgrade and review of Executive Directory.

12.2.1.6 Request for information to upgrade National Directory of Sub-Branches.

12.2.1.7 Overview of 2nd Era 50th Anniversary activities.

12.3 National Treasurer

12.3.1 Presented by C Adams, copies issued and the following documents were tabled and points highlighted.

12.3.1.1 Statement of Performance including 2015 budget, 12 months to 31 December 2014.

12.3.1.2 Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2014.

12.3.1.3 Summary of Income and Expenditure, 12 months to 31 December 2014.

12.3.1.4 Plant and Equipment.

12.3.1.5 Capitation Income.

12.3.1.6 Auditor's Report.

12.3.1.7 Treasurer advised the Financial Statement presented in a slightly unorthodox manner. To allow for a distortion in previous years because of lack of funds.

12.3.1.8 Capitation fees remain steady apart from a one off refund from the ATO. Other income was by way of commission of figurine sales.

12.3.1.9 Actual expenses paid in 2014 included obligations carried over from previous years. Payments made possible because of ATO refund.

12.3.1.10 A carefully prepared budget for 2015 shows a surplus instead of deficit in previous years.

12.3.1.11 On the question of Asset/Equity/Members funds, the only doubt is the recovery of the ex NSW debt of \$13,724. Legal action has commenced.

12.3.1.12 The stability of the National Association is in better condition than 12 months ago.

12.3.1.13 The Treasurer walked members through each item of the financial documents. Discussion resulted in agreement and disagreement where some figures should be shown and identified.

12.3.1.14 The matter of surplus funds was raised and debate surrounding investment of these funds resulted in the following motion.

12.3.1.14.1 **Motion:** *That the Treasurer be authorised to invest funds as he sees fit with a recognised financial institution.*

Moved: N Freier (QLD)

Seconded: R McIvor (VIC)

Motion Carried.

12.3.1.15 Note: Due to time constraints on a member, the Chairman moved that the meeting be suspended at 3:30pm to allow for AGM and Election to be held – agreed. Council meeting resumed at 4:15pm.

12.4 Australian Capital Territory Report

12.4.1 Presented by G Hand, copies issued and the following points highlighted.

12.4.1.1 Mr Hand advised he will not be standing for re-election at the forthcoming AGM in April.

12.4.1.2 ACT Branch continues to be enthusiastic and maintains a satisfactory financial position.

12.4.1.3 A celebration dinner will be held for their fifth anniversary.

12.4.1.4 Invitation for Branch to attend Last Post ceremony at the AWM for National Servicemen's Day in February which featured a commemoration to Errol Noack, the first NASHO killed in action in Vietnam.

12.5 Northern Territory Report

12.5.1 Presented by M Lane, copies issued and the following points highlighted.

12.5.1.1 Invitation extended to the National President to attend the opening of the Centenary of ANZAC Memorial Walk scheduled for April, date to be advised.

12.5.1.2 AGM will be held on 9 May 2015.

- 12.5.1.3 Sales of military merchandise continue to provide good funding.
- 12.5.1.4 The Borella ride from Tennant Creek to Darwin commemorating Mr Borella's determination in 1915 to join the AIF was supported by NASHOs. Mr Borella was awarded the VC.
- 12.5.1.5 Enquiry from AFP re. a complaint concerning funds (\$6,140) donated to the National Memorial by NT NASHOs. They were advised that no sum of that magnitude has been donated by NT NASHOs.

12.6 New South Wales Division Report

- 12.6.1 Presented by F Boissett, copies issued and the following points highlighted.
 - 12.6.1.1 Name change approved and registered with NSW Dept of Fair Trading.
 - 12.6.1.2 A new President, F Boissett following resignation of Mr Williams.
 - 12.6.1.3 Website page created with new Branch information.
 - 12.6.1.4 Programme of Sub-Branch visits undertaken.
 - 12.6.1.5 Concern re. unauthorised use of Association logo.
 - 12.6.1.6 Assistance from the National Council to attract more members.
 - 12.6.1.7 To maintain a presence in NSW and to move forward, financial assistance is needed.
 - 12.6.1.8 Advised appointment of Patron and Padre.
 - 12.6.1.9 Mr Boissett said they were doing their best to maintain a presence in NSW.

12.7 Queensland State Report

- 12.7.1 Presented by N Freier, copies issued and the following points highlighted.
 - 12.7.1.1 Mr Freier advised members that most items in his President's report had already been discussed during the meeting and there was no point in going over it again, but he would like to cover some other matters.
 - 12.7.1.2 QLD membership is remaining static and they are in a great position to forge ahead.
 - 12.7.1.3 Financial position in good shape allowing for improvements at the Wacol precinct.
 - 12.7.1.4 Branches are encouraged to use their funds for the benefits of their members.

12.8 O.T.U Association Report

- 12.8.1 Presented by F Miller, copies issued and the following points highlighted.
 - 12.8.1.1 Changes in the NSW chapter resulted in a new enthusiasm.
 - 12.8.1.2 The growth of specific class reunions continues.
 - 12.8.1.3 Membership numbers remain steady.
 - 12.8.1.4 The Associations Youth Development Scheme remains strong.
 - 12.8.1.5 Plans for Scheyvillians to march in ANZAC day parades.
 - 12.8.1.6 Evaluation of the Association's long term future resulting in a budget allowing for monies to be set aside in order to pursue established goals.
 - 12.8.1.7 Association finances are now at a satisfactory level.

12.9 South Australia State Report

- 12.9.1 Presented by National Secretary, copies issued and the following points highlighted.
 - 12.9.1.1 To mark the 50th Anniversary of 2nd Era National Service, a National Service memorial garden is being established in Keswick, Adelaide.
 - 12.9.1.2 The garden will feature seating, electric barbeque, dedication stone, three large garden beds with memorial plants and a memorial pathway allowing for the purchase of engraved pavers. It is anticipated at least 500 will participate.
 - 12.9.1.3 SA Branch still attracts new members; numbers are balanced by the passing of others.

12.10 Tasmania State Report

- 12.10.1 Presented by N Pulford, copies issued and the following points highlighted.
 - 12.10.1.1 Since the resignation of the State President, there is no candidate for the position. Hopefully, by the AGM someone will step forward.
 - 12.10.1.2 A successful National Servicemen's day was held at Longford.
 - 12.10.1.3 After passing of long time and well respected Tasmanian member and member of the National Council, Mr Royce Close, a memorial award in his name was established. This year a dual award was presented to Bruce Whey OAM JP and Laurie McIntee for outstanding service to the Branch.
 - 12.10.1.4 Mersey Sub-Branch celebrated 15 years in November 2014.
-

12.10.1.5 The Branch lost 18 members during the year due to their passing.

12.11 Victoria State Report

12.11.1 Presented by B McIvor, copies issued and the following points highlighted.

12.11.1.1 The Branch had a busy year with all commemorative activities in the State being well supported.

12.11.1.2 Victorian members also spent much time involved in welfare activities in the veteran and general community.

12.11.1.3 The action to recover Branch funds is slowly progressing with legal action pending.

12.11.1.4 It is unfortunate that a Sub-Branch will close due to no one prepared to step up and take office. Plans are to relocate members to other Sub-Branches.

12.11.1.5 The State Branch is making it possible for members to stay within the Association by becoming a member of the State Branch.

12.12 Western Australia State Report

12.12.1 Presented by R Palmer, copies issued and the following points highlighted.

12.12.2 Sad to report the passing of 8 members during the year – 5 from the one Sub-Branch.

12.12.3 The ANZAC Centenary event at Albany was supported by members of the National Servicemen's Association WA.

12.12.4 The AGM in January resulted in the State Committee being re-elected.

12.12.5 National Servicemen's day was well attended including the State Governor and the State President of the RSL.

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

Moved: F Miller (O.T.U)

Seconded: R McIvor (VIC)

Motion Carried

13. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORTS

14.1 No matters were arising from the reports.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

- 14.1 Motions submitted by NSW were withdrawn as requested by NSW delegates.

15. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 15.1 The established ceremony at the AWM on 8 September was discussed and the possibility of a 5 year celebration event. Following suggestions, it was agreed the Secretary write to those persons involved in the memorial project and invite them to Canberra at that time.
- 15.2 The Victorian Branch submitted several requests for consideration.
- 15.2.1 That the National Council consider how NSAA can assist students who completed military service in the gap year to form an Association.
- 15.2.2 Request that the National Council consider a proposal to approach the AWM to have a commemorative plaque installed recognising conscription of some of the first ANZACs. It was discussed that it not be in the existing NSAA memorial precinct. The matter of the wording of the plaque as submitted needs to be more accurately addressed.

16. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

- 16.1 Following discussion, it was agreed for the formal ceremony at the AWM to be Tuesday, 8 September and the Council meeting on Wednesday, 9 September in Canberra.
- 16.2 With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 5:10pm.