



NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

National President's Bulletin

2017

ADELAIDE WALKWAY HONOURS NASHOS

A Memorial walkway dedicated by the Governor of South Australia honours all National Servicemen.

His Excellency, The Honorable Kieu Van Le A.C., performed the official opening of the walkway in Kesmond Reserve, Surrey Road, Keswick, on 17 March, 2017.

Members of the NSAA National Council and the South Australian Branch were present.

The walkway consists of some 1000 engraved pavers bearing the service details of many who served plus donated pavers from ex-service groups, RSLs, families and our membership.

There also are 212 gold pavers bearing the names of those young men who died on active service in Vietnam and Borneo between 1965 and 1972.

Grants from both the Federal and State governments & others have assisted in making this memorial possible.

NASHO ROSE AVAILABLE

A living memorial to Nashos also will be available later this year. Corporate Roses

of Myponga, through Kim Syrus, have developed a rose named '*National Pride*'.



If you're a gardener or just like roses, this one is special. It will be released nationally in time for Spring.

NSAA OBTAINS MEMBERSHIP FEES JUDGEMENT

The National Servicemen's Association of Australia has obtained a Court judgement requiring the expelled New South Wales Branch to pay membership fees it has withheld.

The fees were collected by the former Branch but never forwarded.

The judgement is for \$13,000 plus costs making a total of \$19,000.

The former Branch changed its name to National Servicemen's and Affiliates, giving initials that resemble the NSAA.

During the protracted proceedings, the expelled NSW Branch's honorary

solicitor, Ralph Doherty, made serious untrue allegations of embezzlement and misuse by members of the National Council of the NSAA of funds raised for the National Service Memorial at the Australian War Memorial. It has since emerged that he is not entitled to use the title, Doctor, and his Practising Certificate has been suspended by the NSW Law Society.

THE REAL NSW BRANCH

The New South Wales Branch of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia can be contacted at P.O.Box 6187 Long Jetty NSW 2261. The President is Barry O'Keefe on 02 4333 4196 and the Secretary is Col Shapland on 02 6337 8378

ANNUAL SERVICE

The NSAA will hold its annual Service at the National Service Memorial on Friday 8 September 2017. The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Marise Payne, has been invited to deliver the Address.

NASHO HAT



Ever been at an outdoor function or ceremony where you need head protection from sun or rain but the Nasho beret or slouch hat are too formal?

The new Nasho hat is the answer.

Based on the Vietnam bush hat, it is of quality material; authentic, neat and bears the ribbon bar of the Australian Defence Medal and the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal. One with the

Vietnam ribbon bar is also available for vets. It comes in small, medium and large.

In conjunction with The Military Shop, the hat will be available from their Canberra store this month. Cost, including package and postage is \$20. The Military Shop is a good friend of the NSAA and a percentage of its sales goes to our funds. It stocks high quality merchandise backed by money back guarantee of quality and service. Look it up on the Military Shop's website sales@militaryshop.com.au



**NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION LTD**

The National Service Scholarship Foundation Ltd (NSSF) is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ABN 97 612 049 382

A Living Memorial

NATIONAL SERVICE 1951-1959 and 1965 - 1972 "SERVICE TO THE NATION"

Introduction

In recognition of the unique nature of our service to the nation and finite nature of our existence, we therefore seek to describe our project to ensure the perpetual memory of National Service is sustained in society.

In order to preserve and honour the memory of National Service, we have created a Scholarship Foundation. The following explains the concept of - A Living Memorial'

Our Vision

To create an enduring and practical legacy to perpetuate the memory of the Australian National Service Programs 1951-1959 and 1965-1972, honour our fallen and to recognise the contribution which all National Servicemen made to the Defence of Australia and to society in general during that period and beyond.

Our Mission

To advance The National Service Scholarship Foundation, through *individual donations, bequests, benefactor contributions, philanthropic trusts contribution, fundraising and National Serviceman's Association of Australia Branches, Sub-branches and individuals.*

Our Purpose

The express purpose of this legacy is to fund scholarships as a direct contribution towards the advancement of the wellbeing of the nation and therefore be an ongoing living memorial of our Service to the Nation.

Corporate Governance

The NSSF has a founding Board of Directors and is a registered charitable entity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC), with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status and is registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

What will the scholarships be or provide?

These scholarships will be awarded to selected individuals or groups for targeted Australian based research in medical, dental, nursing, allied health, further education or enhanced skills training which are responsive to health needs of both the veteran community and the Australian population in general.

Scholarship Foundation - Beneficiaries

Providing scholarships in the areas of medicine, dental, nursing and allied health was considered by the Board to be both beneficial to the recipient and ultimately the community at large.

Implicit in the Boards considerations were that, as National Servicemen provided a "Service to the Nation" and by making available these scholarships within the fields described above, they will not only be beneficial to the wider community, but have the potential to directly assist former National Servicemen, current and former

members of the Australian Defence Forces, their families and descendants.

NSSF Web Site

With the very generous seed funds contributions from Members and Member Associations of the NSAA, the NSSF web site has progressed to the final stages of development. Following rigorous testing we will authorise access to the site to selected individuals and groups for their evaluation and feedback. Once the feedback and adjustments have been incorporated, we will release site access of the public.

Technically, the web site will be user friendly, accessible on all mobile devices with features that will enable easy access to information about the NSSF. It will allow contributions to be made in a variety of ways, for example; by Credit Card, either on line or paper based application, Electronic Funds Transfer(EFT), Personal or Bank Cheque and PayPal. Provisions will also be made for those who may wish to leave a Bequest in their will.

In addition, the web site will offer a prospectus like information whereby potential sponsors may assess their interest and contact the foundation.

While technology will be of benefit to many, we have not forgotten those who prefer a paper based approach to making donations and or bequests. Assistance for application general information and donation forms will be available by telephone where needed.

Conclusion

In providing this background information, it is hoped you, and or your organisation, will be able to assist us in bringing the National Service Scholarship Foundation to fruition. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and consider your ability to contribute.

For any further information, clarification or information for which to make a donation, please contact:
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Mobile 0415 256 167, email
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Mail - PO Box 426, Geelong Victoria
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YOU'RE FIRED



Speaking of Nashos, what is this fearsome looking weapon?

A lot of National Servicemen – Queensland's former State President, Bill Morriss, for one – fired it. It's a PIAT anti-tank gun. It was used in World War Two, required a two-man crew and had a kick like a mule. It preceded shoulder -fired weapons such as the Bazooka. The PIAT reminds us that 18 and 20 year olds 'invited' to serve in the Army via a compulsory call-up, fired more heavy weaponry than any Police SWAT team. Consider the arsenal – the .303, SLR and Armalite rifles; the Owen gun; Tommy gun; Bren gun, Vickers and M-63 machine guns; grenade launchers; two and four inch mortars and the PIAT which was not in general use. That's not to mention artillery, tanks, scout cars, armoured personnel carriers and naval guns. Eat your heart out Dirty Harry.....

THE END DAYS

The National Secretary, Noel Moulder, presented a paper for the National Council on planning for the eventual winding up of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia.

The Association was founded by the late Barry Vicary in Toowoomba in 1987 to seek a better deal for second scheme National Servicemen who did not see active service and thus did not qualify for medals, gold cards of home loans. When he learnt of the 1950s Nashos, he widened the Association to include them. Most members now are in their late 60s, 70s or early 80s. His paper outlines the trigger points for winding up the Association and an orderly procedure that could be followed:

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE FUTURE: WE DO IT OUR WAY

POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR THE PLANNED, DIGNIFIED AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC. INTO THE FUTURE

Policy for the Contraction of the Association

Thanks to the foresight of the founder Barry Vicary the Association was established to meet the needs of a specific group of ex servicemen within a recognised time frame.

It is acknowledged that the Association has a finite life span, this will occur due to a range of factors including but not restricted to the following.

- Satisfaction on achieving original goals and objectives.

- Changing attitudes
- Irrelevance of the Association due to the passage of time.
- Loss of membership due to a desire to pursue other activities.
- The passing on of that group for which the Association was established.
- Limited funds due to declining membership

Despite the best intentions of interested and dedicated people to keep the organisation viable the Association will eventually wither on the vine as the key motivators cease to be involved and the original establishment group die out. It has been shown that organisations neglect to confront their own mortality and make preparation for their ultimate demise, choosing to hang on, if possible without change. Ultimately this will lead to a wrapping up of affairs with outsiders left to clean up and make inappropriate decisions regarding the disbursement of assets and memorabilia. This in turn will impact on the reputation and goodwill of the Association. This policy guidance is designed for an organised, efficient and dignified re-structure process for the Association into the future, in terms decided by the Association.

The aim of this Policy Document is to outline key issues that will underpin Branch and Sub-Branch changes and advice a methodology to assist in the development of close down plans.

POLICY ITEMS

It is recommended that sooner rather than later at a State General Meeting members should be encouraged to discuss and debate the future of their State Branch and to examine possible alternative structures that will best suit their circumstance and cater for changes in the way ahead. The following points should be considered for discussion.

- (A) The state branch should remain part of the national entity until the entity is no longer viable.

Rationale: Remaining with the existing organisation is seen as being more able to project a unified voice on behalf of members and continue to present the association as a national and unified group for as long as possible.

There are examples of organisations that have changed in order to attract a broader class of members as an attempt to halt a flagging membership but does not address the issues of a decline, but results in alienating existing members. This leads to resignations, confuses the public and authorities as to the aims and purpose of the association as well as the reason for its existence. If a decision is made to leave the national entity members should be consulted on the need to change and that all alternatives have been exhausted. Then put to a vote of the entire State membership.

- (B) Membership criteria should remain as per the state constitution.

Rationale: National Service culture and influence must not be diluted as nasho numbers decline. If there is an introduction of other classes of membership it is strongly recommended to have the majority of decision making executives from a Nasho background. Significant differences exist between national servicemen and other ex servicemen in relation to their military service, social interests, age, family dynamics, bonding and sense of association. These differences result in a basic incompatibility in wants and needs. At a point when Nashos cannot form a majority on an executive in a Branch or Sub Branch the entity should amalgamate or close.

- (C) Amalgamating with another organisation is not recommended unless with the same set of values and intents as the national association

Rationale: There is the risk of losing identity and focus on National Service issues and becoming a broad based identity

trying to be all things to all people. Each branch reserves the right to join with another branch at a time when the contraction of the national group reaches a point when a neighbouring state is no longer viable, but wishes to retain a national service focus and must be only undertaken with the approval of members from both states.

(D) The maintenance of member support and welfare services must be continued.

Rationale: Particularly during a potential unsettling and uncertain period prior to change. There will be a need to ensure that sufficient funds and support persons are available to meet member needs. As contraction takes place the ability to raise funds and obtain grants will diminish. Welfare support will become a key responsibility and activities aimed at remaining in contact with members will be critical. Social isolation and loss of identity will be particular issues.

(E) A formal plan should be developed that is based on an orderly and agreed contraction leading to efficient and effective change.

Rationale: At some point in time membership numbers will contract to a level where an entity is no longer viable. The formal plan should be a guide, by which there is a process for eventual closure and disposal of assets, ensuring that the history, achievements and legacies are passed to appropriate entities. An assets and memorabilia disposal programme should form part of the plan considering regulations on how patriotic funds may be disbursed.

It is recommended that assets obtained from any welfare related fund raising should remain within the national service entity and not dispersed to other organisations. In the case of an amalgamation the plan should allow for agreed asset sharing and participants should retain the right to disperse memorabilia according to the members or owners wishes.

REQUIREMENTS

- That the State Branch creates an executive group Futures Committee in some form to provide support and guidance during any contraction activities.
- That constitutions will be amended as necessary to allow for contraction activities.
- That a Branch will have approval to amend it's constitution in relation to contraction or amalgamation without recourse to the National Association
- That existing rules relating to disposal of assets will remain until the plan is endorsed.
- That a Branch will negotiate matters relating to contraction activities with their State Consumer Affairs Dept.

PLAN FOR CHANGE GUIDELINES

The plan should embrace key factors and provide broad based guidelines for all levels in relation to planning for and managing change it should be easily understood, simply applied, include current rules for executive management and be adaptable to changing circumstances.

No time frame is envisaged, the contraction of a Branch will likely commence when a significant number of sub-branches close or amalgamate, which will lead to major changes in the Branch structure and their method of operation.

This situation will be reached because of a wide range of factors that impact on the ability of the branch to function. These factors are known as "Trigger Points" and will require direct action to be taken initially at sub-branch level.

Following are trigger points (not necessarily restricted to) that will arise to cause a sub-branch to contemplate closure.

- Loss of members to a level that is not sustainable
- Inability to raise a workable minimum executive committee.
- Lack of member interest to engage in normal sub-branch activities.
- Insufficient funds to operate.
- Inability to provide suitable meeting venue.
- Request from a majority of members to cease activities.

Before any action is undertaken a range of alternatives must be considered. eg.

- Formation of a State Branch for unattached members
- Amalgamate to create regional or district national service branch
- Amalgamation with another sub-branch
- Form an amalgamation with other ex service groups to create a district ex service organisation.
- Broaden membership criteria to accord with section B
- Transfer members to other sub-branches
- Vigorous campaign to attract members who have not renewed
- Remain as a social group.
- Timing of actual closure.

Other matters for consideration.

- Preferred outcome
- Time frame for completion
- Process for members to approve actions
- Method for keeping members advised.
- Review membership recruitment policy
- Roles and tasks for executives
- Disposal of memorabilia and other assets

- Dispersal of finances
- Discharge of liabilities
- Items to be archived
- Individual member responsibilities and right of choice.
- Liaison with state executive and other sub-branches.

All plans and actions regarding contemplated change must be undertaken and developed with the full knowledge of the total membership not just those who attend meetings. However changes need to be approved and minuted at a sub branch meeting

Whatever the course of action, plan for change before closure. Doing nothing is not an option. The way forward must be dignified and efficient to maintain the professional image and goodwill of the Association. Change will happen. Plan for it.

Noel Moulder
National Secretary
February 2017

HOW SWEDE IT IS...

Sweden, a neutral left wing socialist country, has reintroduced National Service.

A total of 90,000 men and women aged 18 will be called up and then winnowed down to 4,000 to fill mainly specialists positions in the Armed Forces.

Sweden rejoins the 64 countries around the world who have National Service in various forms. In some, such as Germany and the United States, the draft is inactive but young men must still register at 18.

The reintroduction of compulsory service has been triggered by concerns about the aggressive build-up of Russian forces on Scandinavia's doorstep. Denmark, Norway

and Finland still have National Service with heavy penalties for failure to register.

Other countries with it include Switzerland, Austria, Russia, and Israel and in Australia's neighborhood, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, North and South Korea and China.



Israeli women are conscripted but do not serve in combat roles. And yes, we looked just as young....

Australia had conscription during World War Two and reintroduced it as National Service in two schemes - 1951 to 1959 for 18 year olds for the Navy, Army and Air Force and 20 year olds via a selective ballot for the Army between 1965 and 1972. Of them, 212 died on active service in Borneo and Vietnam.

Most call-ups in the 64 countries are for 18 year olds who serve between one and two years in the Armed Forces. Only Israel and now Sweden call up women. The usual aim is not only to fill shortfalls in recruiting but to ensure a large pool of trained Reservists who can be mobilised quickly.

QUICK FACT



This year marks the Centenary of the charge of the Australian Light Horse to take the wells of Beersheba in Israel on 31 October 1917. The charged across 6km of open ground into the concentrated fire of 1,000 Turkish infantry, machine guns and artillery. A total of 31 Australians were killed and 36 wounded but the wells, the only available water in the area, were captured. The charge ended 4,000 years of the partnership between man and horse as a major force in war. The poet, Banjo Paterson, was present as the commanding officer of the 2nd Australian Remount Unit in Egypt.