



# NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## National President's Bulletin

June 2016

### NATIONAL COUNCIL DECIDES FUTURE

**The National Servicemen's Association of Australia's National Council has made changes to its structure and meetings to take account of current trends in membership and finances.**

The Council, meeting in Perth, considered a Paper put forward by the Executive which outlined that because National Service was confined to the period between 1951 and 1972, there would be no new National Servicemen; falling membership was straining finances and reductions in meetings should be considered.

The meeting also discussed the Council's finances which are derived solely from capitation fees. For the past eight years, some members of the National Executive paid their own travel and accommodation expenses because funding has been insufficient. This was rectified only by a fortuitous refund of GST payments.

The options put forward were that the Council be made up of the National President and Executive plus the State, Territory and OTU Presidents; there be only National Council meeting a year in Canberra and that the Executive meet in Canberra a day before Council meetings.

At present the Executive meets in Brisbane because two members live there and other members can get direct discount flights there from Newcastle and Melbourne.

After a long debate, the Council decided that the Council continue to be made up of two

delegates from each State, Territory and the OTU; if a State or Territory could not afford two delegates, they could send one delegate plus a proxy; there continue to be two meetings a year – one in Canberra in September to include the annual observance at the National Service Memorial and an Annual General Meeting be in Sydney in March. The National Executive will meet at the national office in Long Jetty.

The Council will seek a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs towards the cost of meetings and consider an Art union to raise funds.

#### NSAA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

**The National Vice President, Ron Brandy, presented a progress report on the National Service Scholarship Foundation.**

The Foundation will provide scholarships in health areas connected with National Servicemen and their families – medicine, dental, nursing and allied health. Scholarships will be awarded annually in the form of a cash grant or direct fee payment.

The vision to create an enduring and practical legacy to perpetuate the memory of National Service. Ron reported that a draft Constitution had been drawn up; an inaugural Board of

Directors formed and the Foundation registered with the relevant State and Federal organisations. A Logo has been adopted and the development of the Foundation website is almost complete. State Branches, Sub-branches and individuals will be encouraged to make donations and other contributions to the NSAA Foundation.

### **EXPELLED NSW BRANCH**

**The Association is continuing its action against the expelled New South Wales Branch to recover unpaid capitation fees totalling more than \$13,000.**

The former NSW State Executive collected the fees but never passed them onto the National Council.

A summons has been issued and the matter us before the Courts.

The former NSW Branch is being represented by Mr.Ralph Doughty whose allegations against the NSAA's National Council that money was missing from the National Memorial Fund were dismissed by the Australian Federal Police, the New South Wales Police, the Australian War Memorial, the Minister for Veterans Affairs and the Australian Attorney-General's Department.

### **FLAG FOUND**

**The flag carried in the Parade marking the dedication of the National Service Memorial in Canberra on 8 September 2010 has been found.**

It was taken back to Victoria after the dedication and then mislaid when the State Branch moved its headquarters. The Victorian President, Bob McIvor, reported it had been located. It has been suggested the flag be brought to Canberra and housed in the Australian War Memorial for use on our

ceremonial occasions. Eventually, the flag would become part of the Memorial's collection. And speaking of history, this



badge is an important part of the NSAA story. Our founder, Barry Vicary, saw it being worn by members of the small Ex-National

Service Association in Rockhampton in 1987.

After discussions with the Rockhampton group – now defunct - he designed the existing badge. He dropped the word 'Ex'; made it the National Servicemen's Association when the Rockhampton group declined to join; incorporated a map of Australia and put the Services in the accepted order of Navy Army Air Force. However, when the Defence Department refused him permission to use the ADF logo with the Federation Star – despite the fact that National Servicemen were members of all three Services and had Service instructors – Barry substituted a Crown.

The Queensland pocket patch and badge retain the original red but the lapel badge and the patch worn in other States are blue.

#### **NATIONAL WALK**

The South Australian Branch has received a grant of \$8,800 for 212 pavers in the National Memorial Walk in Adelaide – one for each National Servicemen killed in Borneo and South Vietnam. There's still pavers available at \$40 each to State Branches and members but time's running out. Contact Barry Presgrave on [b.presgrave@optusnet.au](mailto:b.presgrave@optusnet.au) for a paver engraved with your name and number for you and your family. The Walk will have 700 pavers when it's dedicated next year.

Earle Jennings AM RFD ED (Major Retired)  
National President