



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

National President's Bulletin

June 2010

MEMORIAL PLAQUE READY FOR DEDICATION



The Dedication Plaque to be unveiled by the Governor General on 8 September has arrived at the National Service Memorial.

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC will perform the ceremony at 11:30a.m. on Wednesday, 8 September at the Australian War Memorial. In **the photograph**, taken at the National Executive meeting on 18 June, the National President, Mr. Earle Jennings (at left) and the AWM's Head of Buildings and Services, Mr. Stewart Mitchell, inspect the heavy bronze tablet. Mr. Mitchell has been in charge of the redevelopment of the Eastern Precinct, of which the National Service Memorial is the centrepiece.

The wooden seating and bronze hand rails have been fitted on to the sandstone benches. The only elements still to be installed are the replicas in bronze of the ANSM and the three Service badges. They will go on the four corners. **The photo** at right shows the stainless



steel triangle in the bowl symbolising that National Servicemen were members of the three armed Services. Apart from its handsome appearance, the Fountain has a very pleasant sound of falling water. It looks beautiful at night with its own internal lighting against the imposing backdrop of the Australian War Memorial. Eventually, the white sandstone will turn the same honey colour as the wall behind it. It already is very popular with visitors and for them and school-children arriving by coach is the first Memorial they see.

COIN AND STAMP

The special 50 cent coin marking the Dedication of the National Service Memorial will be released in early September. This will coincide with the launch of the commemorative Australia Post stamp.

The coin also will mark the 60th anniversary of National Service in 2011. We can't show you the designs until the official launch, but you will like them. **In the photo**, the



coin designer, Mr. Dion Buck, receives from the National President the NSAA's

approval of the abstract design featuring the elements of the Fountain. The stamp also features the fountain. You've only got one set of medals to leave to your family and your grandchildren, but you will be able to give each of them the combined stamp/coin first day cover. Order forms will be in the next President's Bulletin.

THE MEN WHO GIVE YOU YOUR MEDAL

The Directorate of Honours and Awards in Canberra has praised the NSAA's project to inform National Servicemen of their entitlement to the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 and Australian Defence medals.

Devised by the Victorian Branch President, Douglas Black, it is a three-way initiative with Federal and State Members of Parliament and DHA to target the eligible age



group in their electorates through personally addressed letters.

The project has benefited all participants – the Members of Parliament through improved contact with their constituents; the NSAA through new members and the

Directorate of Honours and Awards with an increased take-up of medals. It emerged in a meeting with the Director, Mr. Pat Clark (**at right**) and his deputy, Mr. Peter Maher – who is a National

Serviceman – that many of those who applied after receiving a letter said they did not know the medals existed. **In photo, our National President with Mr. Maher and Mr. Clark, on the wall is a framed example of the production of the ANSM from the cast metal strip to the finished medal. Did you know that part of the process includes ‘burning’ the metal to give the bronzed finish?)**

The delegation also discussed with DHA, which is responsible for the issue of all Australian service medals, eligibility for the *Australian Defence Medal*. The NSAA has made representations on behalf of people such as a member of our founding Committee, Mr. Lawrie Asgill, to the independent Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal which makes recommendations to the responsible Parliamentary Secretary. We have been successful in some cases but not in others but will keep trying.

The Assistant Director also clarified two queries from the NSAA delegation consisting of the National President, Secretary and Media Officer and the President of the new ACT Branch,

Mr. Garry Hand, about who could claim a deceased relative’s medals and what was the policy on the replacement of stolen medals

Mr. Maher said a son or daughter or a grandchild of a deceased serviceman or woman could claim their medal entitlement, but would need the consent of any other siblings. In the case of stolen medals, the recipient could apply for replacements. This would be subject to a cooling off period and then the provision of proof that the theft had been reported to police, a copy of the police report and any other supporting evidence. The NSAA had raised the example of Long Tan veteran, Mr. Allen May, of Brisbane, who was the forward scout for D Coy 6 RAR and the first into the battle. His medals vanished in a brazen break and enter. DHA will give him replacements engraved with his name and service number in the same way as his originals.

However, if you lose your medals by carelessness, you will have to buy replicas. The NSAA strongly urges that you buy replicas, keep your originals in a safe place and reserve them for special occasions such as the Dedication of the National Service Memorial.

NATIONAL SERVICE MEMORIAL MEMORABILIA

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR MEMORIAL MEMORIBILIA

The stock of high quality memorabilia for the Dedication on 8 September is going fast. All the items have been carefully selected and are very good value including wood mounted silver wall plaques, medallions, ties, coffee mugs, stubby holders, polo shirts with collars and caps. All bear the Memorial or the National Service logo.

They were illustrated in your newsletter, so don't delay getting your order in either through your sub-Branch or on the order form that was enclosed.

And when you're in Canberra at any time, we recommend a visit to the Military Shop in its new, expanded premises at 65 Kembla Street, Fyshwick. There's plenty of car and coach parking space. You'll be pleasantly surprised at the wide variety of not only National Service but other items available from all three Services and individual units. The Military Shop is well worth a look. **STOP PRESS** The first to buy at the shop will receive a limited edition lapel pin depicting the ANSM medal and a pen.

MEMORIAL DEDICATION UPDATE

These are the answers to the most frequently asked questions:

RECEPTION

- This is a reception tendered by the Australian Government in the Great Hall of Parliament House.
- Contrary to the misinformation some of you have been told, it is not a meet and greet nor a sit down dinner. **There is NO charge.**
- Those nominated by their State Management Committees will receive an invitation in the mail with an RSVP address. Please reply immediately or your place could be re-allocated.
- The time is 5p.m. to 7p.m. at Parliament House.
- Dress for men is Association blazer and tie or lounge suit and for women smart day wear, Miniature medals will be worn. No headwear will be worn.
- You must have your invitation with you.
- You are asked to arrive no later than 4:30p.m. to allow time for security checks.
- The seats around the walls of the Great Hall are for infirm people. Please don't hog them nor move them away from the walls.
- Finger food and drinks will be served.
- We have kept the number of speakers to a minimum.

PARADE

- The parade will form up in Anzac Parade at 9a.m. and step off at 10a.m.
- The parade is for National Servicemen only.
- You will form up in your year of call-up. Each contingent will march behind a year sign.
- The parade will be led by the Australian Flag. There will be no other flags or banners.
- You will step off behind the National Servicemen's Memorial Pipes and Drums. The Canberra Pipes and Drums will be stationed half-way along Anzac Parade to play you past.

- Each year unit will step off in turn at the command of the appointed leader.
- Preferred dress is Association or unit blazer, blue or white shirt, tie, grey trousers and black shoes or lounge suit
- Preferred headwear is Association or unit beret.
- Large medals will be worn.
- Apart from official badges (e.g. Order of Australia, unit citation or returned from active service badge) we ask you to limit badges to two.
- There will be porta-loos along the Parade. Water also will be available.
- **If you feel ill or need first aid, don't hesitate to call for it.**
- There will be provision for wheel-chairs in the marching units.
- There will be transport for infirm National Servicemen.
- You will march up the Parade, turn left into Limestone Parade and then right into the Western Access road across the face of the Memorial.
- At the top of the Western Access Road, you will make a 90degree right turn to ensure you pass the saluting dais in a straight line.
- It will be an EYES LEFT to the Chief of the Defence Force. Listen to your unit commander's commands.
- At the end of the Eastern Access Road you will fall out and proceed smartly to the Memorial seating area.
- You will pass through two lines of tables manned by students of Campbell High School who will hand you **ONE** only copy of the Dedication Booklet. You also will receive an Order of Service.
- Wives, partners and family members will be able to watch the parade from the bank behind the saluting dais. There will be no seats apart from the official enclosure.

MEMORIAL SEATING

- There will be some 3,000 seats around the Memorial, so you can be pretty certain of getting one.

- No seats will be reserved outside the official area which will be roped off.
- Wives, partners and family members will be able to sit down on arrival if they wish.
- Please move to your seat quietly and quickly.
- **The Governor-General will arrive at 11:25a.m. and the ceremony will begin at 11:30a.m.**
- Family members will be able to lay private wreaths and poppies at the end of the service. The compere will announce when. Please remain in your seats while this happens.
- You are free to inspect the Memorial when the official proceedings are concluded.

SECURITY

- For obvious reasons security will be strong and strict.

WEATHER

- **The Parade and Dedication will proceed regardless of the weather.**
- Canberra can be cold, wet and windy in September so a coat at least is essential. A jumper or thermal underwear might also be needed.
- A pocket raincoat would be a good idea if it looks like being wet.

- Check the likely forecast before you leave for Canberra so you are prepared.

TRANSPORT

- Detailed instructions on transport arrangements for the Reception and the Parade and Dedication including the three pickup points at Brand Depot, EPIC and Eaglehawk will be issued to those sub-Branches who responded to the survey request. It will include bus identification placards. If your sub-branch has not responded to the survey request, please do so immediately. Enquiries about private functions and dinners should be addressed to the organisers.

This is your day. The Australian nation is thanking you for your service. Make us all proud.

I look forward to seeing you in Canberra on this important day for all National Servicemen.



**Earle Jennings AM RFD ED
National President**

