



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

National President's Bulletin

January 2011

NATIONAL DISASTER FUND ESTABLISHED

The National Council has established a National Fund to help National Servicemen and their families in natural disasters.

The Fund, based on the successful Queensland model, will give immediate disaster aid such as food, clothing, bedding and cooking utensils followed by longer term aid in kind.

In Queensland, when Innisfail was devastated by Cyclone Larry in 2006 the State Management Committee asked the NSAA's Innisfail Branch what immediate

aid members might need. The reply was portable generators because power supplies would not be restored for several months. Queensland brought a dozen generators, trucked them to Innisfail and when the crisis was over, sold them.

National President, Earle Jennings, said the National Disaster Fund would not provide money, except in special cases



Queensland President, Bill Morriss, was an eyewitness of the Toowoomba tsunami that raged through the city's main street after an intensive thunderstorm sweeping cars and debris before it. His house, only one street away, had 30cm of water through it. Bill said he had never seen anything like the flash flood and never wanted to again.



funds with its own management committee drawn from the entire Association and its own Treasurer and administered as an Association Welfare Trust as per the motion as the September 2008 National Council meeting.

It will be linked by computer and telephone so that the management committee can make quick decisions and communicate them to affected Sub-Branched and regions.

The floods began in New South Wales, spread to Queensland, back to northern and western New South Wales, through northern and north-western Victoria into Tasmania and then South Australia.



In Queensland, the towns of Condamine and Dalby were the first flooded, followed by Emerald, Rockhampton (below left) Bundaberg (above left) Maryborough, Gympie and then the flash floods that took 20 lives and forced thousands out of their homes in the Lockyer Valley, Ipswich and Brisbane.



The New South Wales Floods began in October 2010 in the mid-west and then spread to the northern rivers and the north-west in January this year. They were not the raging torrents of the Brisbane region with the Wivenhoe Dam threatening to overtop and send a wall of water through Brisbane but they caused wide spread evacuations and huge crop and stock losses.

and was not intended to replace disaster aid given by local State and Federal Governments.

The National Council has donated an initial amount of \$1000. Each Member Association, State and Sub-Branch Management Committees will be asked to make a donation. The Fund will be separate from the National Council's

In Victoria, many areas had in one day their monthly rainfall and rivers in the north-west flooded homes, businesses and farms including Horsham and Charlton. Evacuations were needed and crop and stock losses will run into millions of dollars adding to nation-wide shortages. Tasmania has been hard hit and suffered major crop and stock losses.



The National President has called on all State Branches, Sub-Branches and members to support the new National Disaster Fund with donations. “Australia is a land of droughts, fires, floods, storms, cyclones, tornadoes and earthquakes – let us not forget those affected in the Newcastle earthquake. Every dollar raised will be used to help fellow Nashos and their families when they need it most. I ask all Nashos to dig into their pockets. We will ask each State Branch to tell us what immediate aid in kind might be needed and we will ensure that it reaches those in distress”, Mr. Jennings said.

Earle Jennings AM RFD ED
National President

**THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S
AUSTRALIA DISASTER EMERGENCY FUND**

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