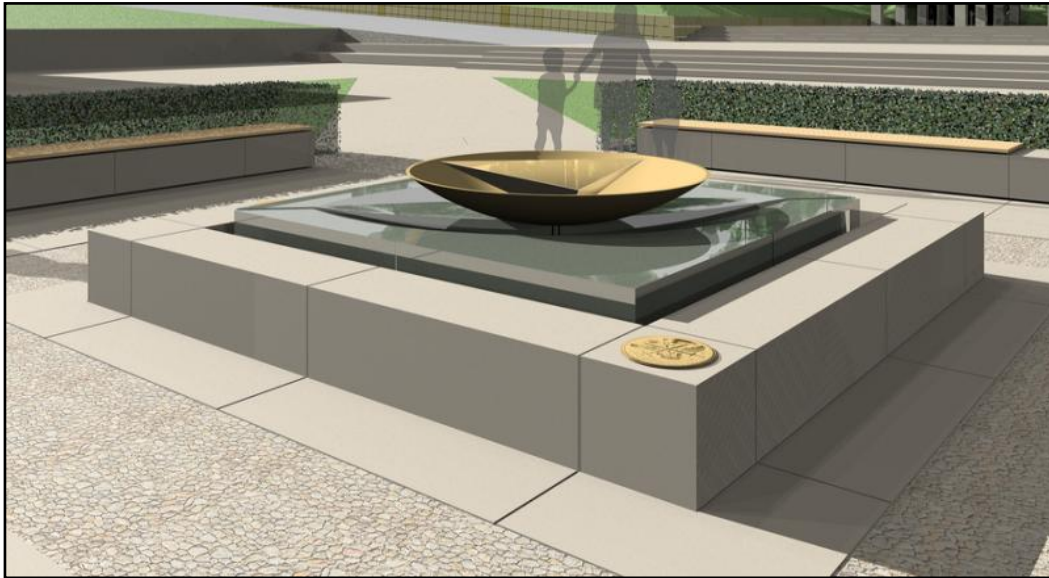


THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

President's Bulletin No. 3

February 2008



The National Service Memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra has been approved by all State Branches and our members.

This follows a mail-out by the National Council of the concept and detailed description of the design and its symbolism on the site at the right hand side of the main entrance.

The NSAA National Council will inform the AWM through the joint Memorial Committee that we are ready to proceed to the working design. That will be done by our architect, Richard Johnson and his associate, Richard Rowell.

Tenders then will be called for construction, with a target date for completion and dedication in 2009 or early 2010.

The National Service Memorial is a fountain but can stand alone as a monument should the drought continue. It will have a plinth of Wondabyne sandstone from Gosford, on the New South Wales Central Coast, matching that of the Australian War Memorial itself. This stone also will be used to pave the surrounds and for the seating. The highly polished black slab is expected to be of South Australian granite with hollowed out shapes and the bowl will be of solid cast bronze. The *Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972* Medal will



be reproduced on the corner nearest the AWM and the Navy, Army and Air Force badges on the other three sides.

The Memorial will bear the simple inscription: **In memory of the 212 National Servicemen who died on active service.** Two plaques adjoining the seats will name the Memorial for visitors and give a brief outline of National Service. The full history will be told inside the Australian War Memorial in the post-1945 Gallery.

OUR NEW MINISTER



The NSAA has a new Minister for Veterans Affairs in the newly-elected Federal Labor Government.

He's Alan Griffin MP, who has represented the Melbourne seat of Bruce since 1996.

Alan was born in Melbourne and was educated in metropolitan and rural Victoria before moving to Canberra to study at the Australian National University. After completing an Arts degree, he returned to Melbourne working in the public service, the union movement, and for members of parliament and several government ministers. He was a councillor on Springvale City Council and was elected Member for Corinella in 1993. Corinella was abolished in redistribution in 1994.

Alan is well known to National Servicemen and opened our National Council meeting in Albury, making a 6 hour round trip from Parliament to do it. He supported the award of the ANSM and the ADM to National Servicemen. Alan will open the National Council meeting in Canberra on 3 April 2008 which will formally approve the National Service Memorial concept.



Responsibility for medals and awards has been transferred to Dr Mike Kelly MP, **(left)** the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, The new Defence Minister is Joel Fitzgibbon **(right)**.

Our shadow Minister is Bronwyn Bishop, who introduced the private member's bill to make burning the Australian flag a criminal offence.



I would like to pay tribute to our former Minister, Bruce Billson, for his decision to award the ADM to National Servicemen and for his support for the National Service Memorial including a grant totalling \$150,000 towards its design and construction. He remains a Member of Federal Parliament as shadow Communications Minister.

THE MOST MEMORABLE ART UNION YOU'LL WANT TO WIN!

Twenty thousand dollars first prize in any combination you choose.

And you'll be contributing to your National Service Memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Queensland Branch, on behalf of the National Council, is conducting a nation-wide Art Union to ensure the Association has the funds in hand to begin construction on the prime site we've been given at the right hand entrance of the imposing Australian War Memorial.

Every \$2 ticket you buy not only gives you a chance to win great prizes, but also to remember your mates. All you have to do is fill out the attached application form and post it back in the pre-paid envelope to be in the draw. **Think outside the square about other groups and organisations you can ask to support the Art Union.** Hurry! The NSAA Art Union will be drawn on Anzac Day 2008.

**If you'd rather make a donation as well as or instead of buying a ticket you can do that by posting your cheque made out to the National Service Memorial Fund to c/- Douglas Black
2 Grassmere Court, Hallam, VIC, 3083.**