



# THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

## *President's Bulletin* No.4

April 2008

### **COIN/STAMP TO MARK MEMORIAL DEDICATION**

**The Royal Australian Mint in Canberra is considering a special commemorative coin to mark the dedication of the National Service Memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.**

The coin may be combined with a commemorative stamp and First Day Cover from Australia Post.

This follows talks between the Mint and the National President, Secretary and Media Officer during the National Council meeting in Canberra on 3 April. The Council was opened for the second time by the Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Hon. Allan Griffin. The first was in Albury while Shadow Minister after a six hour dash to and from Parliament.

The coin most likely would be a 50cent piece to enable the detail of the Memorial to be featured as the central symbol of both National Service schemes. The stamp could be similar. The National Council has appointed a joint Committee with the AWM to plan the Dedication ceremony, now expected in early 2010. It also appointed a Merchandise Committee headed by Neil Arena to consider suitable memorabilia.

### **MEMORIAL MOVES TO NEXT PHASE**

**The joint National Service Memorial Committee has recommended to the National Council and the Australian War Memorial National Council that detailed design work begin on the Memorial to enable tenders to be called for its construction.**

The architects, Richard Johnson and his Associate, Richard Rowell, will supervise this stage. The project will be managed by the Australian War Memorial on behalf of the NSAA. Richard Johnson, who is redesigning the Opera Theatre in the Sydney Opera House, has been awarded the 2008 Gold Medal of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The start of works depends on approval for the Eastern Precinct project to redesign the eastern side of the AWM. The National Service Memorial is the centrepiece.

### **GOVERNMENT THINKING ON ADVISORY COUNCIL, NATIONAL SERVICE AND CADETS**

**The Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Hon. Allan Griffin (far right), told the National Council that the proposed new Veterans Advisory Council was intended to ensure that the new Government heard the views of the veterans' community and was delivering services efficiently.** He said National Servicemen were entitled to treatment for service related illnesses but the Government did not intend to extend availability of the Gold Card.



The Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Hon. Allan Griffin MP, opens the National Council in Canberra on 3 April

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Mike Kelly AM, is considering a modern form of National Service and reforming the Cadets Service. The President, National Secretary and National Media Officer outlined to Dr. Kelly, who served with 1RAR and in trouble spots such as Somalia, Bosnia, Kenya, East Timor and Iraq, that it had put a submission on a modern form of National Service to previous Ministers. The Association also had expressed serious concerns about the problems facing Cadets. The NSAA has supplied Dr. Kelly with its submissions on both issues. The Association sponsors Cadet Units around Australia.



## AN AWARD FOR HONOURS AND AWARDS



**When you got your ANSM and your ADM, Irene Wilson is the person who oversaw them.** She's the Director of Honours and Awards and she was a special guest at the National Council meeting.

She revealed that so far less than half the eligible Nashos have applied for the ANSM and the take-up rate for the ADM amongst ex-service personnel is even lower. DHA has begun a national advertising campaign to inform ex-servicemen and women of their medal entitlements. **DHA gives awards, so the NSAA reciprocated with one to the Directorate (left) to express our appreciation for a job well done.** The turn round from application to receipt of medal now has been reduced to an average of 12 weeks. DHA has begun a very interesting and informative newsletter about all things medal. We will bring you excerpts.

## HONOUR ROLL PRESENTED

**The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Allan Griffin MP, inspects the National Service Honour Roll after presenting it on behalf of the NSAA to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island, near Melbourne.** NSAA Vice President, Bill Dabner (left) and Victorian President, Douglas Black (at right) watch. The Honour Roll, compiled by the National Media Officer, Allen Callaghan, honours the 212 Nashos who died on active service in Borneo and Vietnam. Their medals are included.



## THE 1972 NASHOS PROBLEM

**Dr Mike Kelly, Parliamentary Secretary in charge of DHA, told the National President, Secretary and Media Officer during our courtesy call that the question of the issue of the ADM to 1972 Nashos discharged on the grounds of 'exceptional hardship' by the Whitlam Government will be referred to the new Review Tribunal. This follows submissions from the NSAA using the case of Lawrie Asgill, one of our founders in 1987. The Defence Department's policy is that they did not complete their term of 'enlistment' to qualify. The NSAA maintains that National Servicemen had no say in the terms of their 'enlistment'.**