



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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A DAY OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE...

The Australian War Memorial has designated the Dedication of the National Service Memorial in Canberra as one of its Days of National Significance.

Other such days include Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.



In photo, National President, Earle Jennings and National Secretary Noel Moulder discuss the Dedication ceremony and parade with Gerard Pratt of the Australian War Memorial during the National Council meeting in Canberra.

The National Service Memorial will be dedicated at 11a.m. on Wednesday, 8 September 2010. The ceremony will follow a parade of National Servicemen up Anzac Avenue starting at 10:30a.m.

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, will be invited to take the salute. Nashos will march as one group, without regard to Service, State or Scheme, led by the Australian flag and the National Servicemen's Memorial Pipes and Drums.

The Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, has been asked to host a reception at Parliament House on the evening of Tuesday, 7 September for National Servicemen and their partners.

Intensive planning now is underway into the huge task of organising the events. National Council has appointed every one of its members to oversee a particular task, with co-opted assistants.

THE GOOD NEWS

In three exciting developments, Channel 7 will support the Dedication and will use its news, current affairs and Sunrise programs to help us find the relatives of the 212 National Servicemen who died on active service in Borneo and Vietnam. Seven's Chairman, Mr. Kerry Stokes, donated \$150,000 to the Memorial appeal. The Royal Australian Mint will strike a commemorative 50 cent coin and Australia Post will issue a special commemorative stamp. It is hoped these might be combined in a special first day cover. **The bad news is that due to size restrictions and security requirements, the invitation list to the reception at Parliament House will be limited to 1000 National Servicemen including their partners selected by their State branches.** No-one without an official invitation will be able to pass security. However, offsetting this, a site inspection has shown that all attending the Dedication at the Australian War Memorial are expected to be able to have a seat. There will be special seating for the disabled, providing you let your State Branch know when you book.

BY THE RIGHT, DRESS...

National Council, after a detailed discussion by all State delegates, have decided the following:

- The preferred dress for the Parade and Dedication is beret, blue or black blazer, white or blue shirt, grey trousers, tie and black shoes. This is a solemn occasion; you will be representing all National Servicemen and National Council asks you to dress and act accordingly.
- September is Spring in Canberra and will be cold and possibly windy. You will need at least a jumper or cardigan. If you don't have a blazer, most op shops have a range at very moderate prices.
- National Servicemen are asked to wear a limit of two badges on their jackets and one on their beret.
- The only flag will be the Australian flag – no other flags or banners will be carried.



Kindred organisations have been closely involved in the planning for the Dedication. Photo shows Mr Wal Beckhouse, President of the National Service and Combined Forces Association, one of their two representatives invited to National Council.

- The NSAA and kindred organisations will provide marshals and you are asked to follow their directions. It's one of the most important days ever for National Servicemen and you don't want to be the one who mars it.
- The Parade Commander, Bill Dabner, will decide on the day the size of companies. There will be no organised groups – the aim is have National Servicemen marching as one.
- Assembly will be in Anzac Avenue from 9:30a.m. on 8 September for a 10:30a.m. step-off. Be early – it will be a strict timetable and if you turn up late, you will be watching from the footpath.
- Only National Servicemen will march. Relatives will not be able to march. The best way to make sure you are eligible is to wear your *Anniversary of National Service 1951 – 1972 Medal* amongst those you have.
- Only able-bodied National Servicemen will march – there will be **no** vehicles for the disabled. A special area will be provided for disabled Nashos at the Dedication.
- All branches must inform their State Headquarters by June 30 of firm numbers who will be coming to Canberra.
- Allocation of invitations to the Reception at Parliament House on 7 September 2010 will be determined by the State Headquarters of the NSAA and the kindred organisations.
- Without an official invitation you will be turned away from Parliament House by security.
- Transport, accommodation and other costs in Canberra are your responsibility. Accommodation in Canberra, Queanbeyan and surrounding towns is limited and often booked well in advance by tour groups, school parties and so on. Do not delay in making these arrangements through your Branch or State HQ.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Go to our National website www.nashoaustralia.org.au for this and all future President's Bulletins and other Dedication information and updates.

The inscription on the National Service Memorial will read:

*Dedicated to all Australian National Servicemen
and in memory of those who died.*