



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

National President's Bulletin

December 2009

NATIONAL SERVICE MEMORIAL UNDERWAY



His Excellency Michael Bryce AM AE declared the first stone of the National Service Memorial 'well and truly laid' at the Australian War Memorial on 24 November 2009.

Mr. Bryce, an Air Force National Servicemen, used an entrenching tool that saw service in Vietnam handed to him by Mr. Earle Jennings AM RFD ED (**at left**), the National President of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia.

The symbolic stone lying was seen live around Australia on Channel 7's morning



programme, 'Sunrise'. The host, David Koch, revealed that his father was a National Serviceman. So is the father-in-law of the site supervisor, Peter Carter. 'The Australian' newspaper carried a story beforehand and the stone laying ceremony got good coverage in other media including the ABC (**on page 1**). Work is progressing rapidly on the fountain and its surroundings including

This photo (**below**) gives an idea of the size of the National Service Memorial. The fountain is in the centre of the pathways which will be paved in matching sandstone. The large walled areas are the lawn holders which will be filled to the top with soil – you can see the black waterproof membrane already in place. There will be seating and box hedges around the fountain. Pencil pines and selected gum trees



paving, planter and lawn boxes and tree holders. The entire Easter Precinct is due to completion before ANZAC Day 2010 to give it time to settle for the unveiling of the National Service Memorial by the Governor-General, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, at 11:30a.m. on Wednesday, 8 September 2010. All National Servicemen are invited to the ceremony.

will be in square planter boxes and cone shaped holders set into the concrete. In the background are the columns of the new cafe complex. Our Memorial will be the first most visitors will see, particularly those arriving by tour buses.

YOUR MEMORIAL NEEDS YOU

Over the past five years, National Service branches throughout Australia have donated more than \$500,000 to external charities such as hospitals, old people's homes, children's causes and so on. Some donations have been up to \$20,000.

Yet when your own Association asked for more urgently needed funds for the National Service Memorial, the response is a fraction of that. We need the additional funds because the economic boom ate up our surplus. The extra funds are for the dedication and associated costs. For example, we have to provide buses to transport you to and from the reception at Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial. So we ask you to remember that the primary purposes of your welfare funds are the welfare of Nashos; the construction and upkeep of memorials and education programs.

Your Memorial is one of the most important events in National Service history for you, your children and your grandchildren. It is dedicated to all Australian National Servicemen and in memory of those who died. We are seeking \$500 or more from each of our 136 Branches. Charity begins at home. Please make cheques out to NSAA Memorial Fund. Post to: D Black, NSAA Memorial Fund, 2 Grassmere Court, Hallam VIC 3803.

Douglas Black

Chairman

National Service Memorial Fund Raising Committee