



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

National President's Bulletin

April 2010

Presenting The National Servicemen's Memorial



The National Service Memorial set in its own Precinct at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

It stands at the right hand side of the main entrance and will be the first memorial most visitors see.

The Wondabyne sandstone used in the fountain, the outer and inner paving and the bench seats will mellow to the same honey colour as the Australian War Memorial itself. The trees are pencil pines and snow gums. The bronze ANSM and the badges of the Navy, Army and Air Force, donated by the OTU Association and the information plaque and the wooden slat seating on the sandstone benches will go on just before the dedication by the Governor-General on 8 September. The building in the background with the pillars is the new restaurant.

MEMORIAL COMPLETED

Construction of the National Service Memorial at the Australian War Memorial is complete.



Delegates to the National Council meeting on 18 March watched as the 343kg bronze bowl was lowered into place, filled with water, adjusted and then tested.

The fountain, with its water curtain falling onto a polished black granite slab, worked perfectly.

Last to go in was the triangular stainless steel insert in the bowl symbolising the three Services. Pencil pines and snow gums which border the Memorial have been planted together with the hedges behind the seating. Wooden seats will be installed on

the sandstone surrounds of the Memorial.

Once the contractors have moved out, the area will be tidied up and allowed to settle.



At left, the Memorial architect, Richard Johnson (left) shows the concept to National President Earle Jennings in June 2007.

The bronze medallions depicting the tri-service badge from the front of the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 medal and the badges of the Navy,

Army and Air Force will be affixed just before the dedication service on Wednesday, 8 September. These have been donated by the Officer Training Unit Scheyville Association. Also installed at the same time will be the plaque giving

the history of National Service which the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, will unveil to dedicate the Memorial.

TONY ABBOTT OPENS NATIONAL COUNCIL

The Federal Opposition Leader, the Hon. Tony Abbott MP, opened one of the most significant National Council meetings since its inception in 1996.

Mr. Abbott was accompanied by the Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, Mrs. Louise Markus MP.

The Council:

- Admitted the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and the OTU Scheyville Association as members;
- Finalised planning for the Parliament House reception, parade of National Servicemen and the dedication of the National Service Memorial on 7 and 8 September; and
- Recognised one of its longest serving members approved the commemorative stamp, coin and memorabilia for the dedication.

Mr. Abbott said he shared the concern of Association members about the heavy demands on regular servicemen and women in



Afghanistan due to the shortage of new recruits. This added to the problems of retaining existing personnel. The Opposition Leader, who was a volunteer member of a Bushfire Brigade, said he would look with interest at the NSAA's proposal for an Australian Home Guard similar to the United States National Guard which would be available for homeland defence, to assist with civil security and to form a co-ordinated national body for natural disasters with

standardised training and equipment. Mr. Abbott said Australians were willing volunteers and a national organisation could appeal.



He presented retiring National Councillor, Colin Bell, with a shield recognising his service to the National Council since 1997. Colin was Queensland President for a record term from 1997 until last year.

The N.S.A.A. has three new Branches following their admission by National Council. They include the Officer Training Unit Scheyville Association which trained 1600 National Servicemen as 2nd Lieutenants to command platoons in Vietnam, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Australia.

Graduates of the gruelling 6 months course include

deputy Prime Minister, Tim Fischer and Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett. The photo shows **(l to r)** Ron Strachan of the Northern Territory Branch; Garry Hand – an OTU graduate and President of the new ACT Branch; Rene Fohler, National Memorial Treasurer and Roger Nation, OTU Association National Secretary.



COMMEMORATIVE STAMP AND COIN

A commemorative coin and stamp will be issued to mark the dedication of the National Service Memorial.

The coin was outlined by its designer, Dion Buck, of the Royal Australian Mint. The stamp was designed by Lynette Traynor, of Australia Post, who is an Army Reservist. Councillors liked both designs but details can't be revealed until the official launch by the Federal Government. You'll be able to pre-order both or a combined first day cover with stamp and coin. You've only got one set of medals to leave but you can give your children and/or grandchildren a stamp and coin.

The National Council also is discussing with Australia Post a pre-printed envelope bearing the National Memorial stamp which Branches could order for everyday mail. It would be great advertising for National Service and the Association.

The Council also approved the range of memorabilia that will be available from The Military Shop. Brochures with order forms will be sent to each Sub-Branch and included in newsletters. Every purchase not only gives you something to remember of our own National Memorial but also assists your Association.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE RECEPTION, PARADE AND DEDICATION IN CANBERRA ON 7 & 8 SEPTEMBER

National Council has decided on the following arrangements for 7 and 8 September in Canberra:

PARLIAMENT HOUSE RECEPTION

- The Commonwealth Government reception for National Servicemen and their guests will be held in the Great Hall of Parliament House in Canberra

commencing at 5:30p.m. on Tuesday, 7 September 2010.

- Invitees will be requested to begin arriving as early as possible to allow time for security screening. You may wish to undertake a tour of Parliament House until the reception starts.
- Dress is NSAA blazer, white or blue shirt, NSAA tie, grey trousers and

black shoes. No headwear. Miniatures will be worn. For kindred organisations and others, the dress will be what is normally worn for a reception. For women, wear is after five.

- Men will be required to take their coats off, including miniature medals, to pass them through the metal detectors. The same will apply to purses, handbags and anything else carried. We ask for your co-operation and patience.
- There will be **no** admittance without an invitation which will be supplied by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Each State, Territory and kindred Association has been allocated its quota of the 1,000 places available in the Great Hall of Parliament House.
- State, Territory and kindred organisation management committees will now allocate their quotas.
- State Management Committees must supply the names of each National Serviceman and his guest to the National Secretary by 28 May in an electronic format required by the Department of Veterans Affairs who are managing the reception on behalf our hosts, the Commonwealth Government.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs will issue invitations to a National Serviceman and guest. The guest can be wife, partner, relative or friend. Should that guest be unable to attend at the last minute, you can substitute another guest but there will be State representatives stationed at the door with DVA personnel who must vouch for you and the substitute guest.
- This is a stand up reception. We have arranged for chairs to be placed around the perimeter of the room for those unable to stand. The chairs must not be moved away from the

walls. Finger food and drinks will be served. This is not an evening meal.

- Official speeches will be kept to a minimum.
- We ask that as many people as possible travel by bus, coach or taxi to Parliament House.
- Private parking is available under Parliament House but demand will be high. Don't rely on a parking space if you arrive late.

Further details of transport are included under the **TRANSPORT** section.

SECURITY

There will be strict security for the reception and during the parade and dedication service. As at airports, be prepared for delays and your common sense, co-operation and patience will be appreciated. The precautions are for everyone's safety. Should there be an emergency, remember your training - go to ground and wait for commands.

TRANSPORT

- The Australian War Memorial advises there will be **NO** private car parking at the parade and the dedication service at the Australian War Memorial.
- Those travelling by coach will be asked to use them for transport to and from Parliament House, the parade in Anzac Parade and the Dedication Service at the Australian War Memorial.
- If possible, the coaches will be asked to make additional runs for passengers other than those who have chartered them. The additional passengers will pay a fare of \$5 return per person to each venue to cover the cost of the additional fuel. Make sure you have the exact amount.

- For those travelling by private car for the day only on 8 September, parking and coach pick-up will be available at the **Canberra Exhibition Park** complex in Flemington Road, Mitchell, just north of the junction of the Barton and Federal Highways and at the **Brand Depot**, Spitfire Avenue, Majura Park, near the Canberra Airport. Arrangements have been made with the Centre management to permit parking beyond 4 hours. **Don't confuse the Canberra Exhibition Park (EPIC) with the Canberra Exhibition Centre at Fyshwick.** You can Google a location map. A third pickup point will be at Hawks Neck on the Federal Hwy, Northern side of Canberra for Northern participants.
- Each coach picking up National Servicemen and their guests will have a special notice on their windscreen reading "National Memorial Dedication Canberra 2010".
- Don't leave it to the last minute to arrive for the reception, parade and dedication.
- Obviously everyone can't arrive at once nor leave at once afterwards, so your patience will be appreciated.
- And remember, go before you come – there could be long waits and queues for toilets.

PARADE

- The parade will be in Anzac Parade, Canberra.
- Form up will be at 9a.m. and step-off at 10a.m.
- Arrive as early as possible so you can find your year of call-up in the parade.
- To emphasise the unity of National Service, you will form up in your year of call-up, commencing with the 1951 intake at the front of the parade. Look

for the signs at the head of each company.

- If there is a large turnout for a particular intake year, it will be broken into companies of about 100.
- There will be portable toilets along Anzac Parade.
- There will be only the Australian flag at the head of the parade.
- You will be under the command of a company commander. Listen for his orders when to come to attention and when to step off.
- You will march four abreast because ANZAC Parade and the road across the face of the Australian War Memorial are narrow.
- You will be marching to two pipes bands. One will lead up ANZAC Parade and then station itself in front of the saluting dais to play you past. The other will be stationed half way up ANZAC parade and will play you past.
- The route is up Anzac Parade, **LEFT** into Limestone Avenue, then **RIGHT** into the red gravel road across the front of the Australian War Memorial.
- There will be an eyes **LEFT** 15 paces before the saluting dais and eyes **FRONT** after the dais.
- At the end of the red gravel road, you will left wheel into Fairbairn Avenue where you will be directed by marshals to halt and fall out. Move smartly up to your seats for the Dedication service.
- The Australian War Memorial advises that for security reasons, seating will be roped off until the end of the parade so no-one will be able to claim or hold seats for anyone else.

DRESS

- This is a formal National Service parade and only National Servicemen will march.
- **For NSAA members**, the preferred dress is Association blue or black blazer; blue or white shirt; NSAA tie; grey trousers, black shoes.
- The preferred headwear is beret – National Service or unit.
- Berets should have only one badge.
- Large medals will be worn.
- Relative's medals should not be worn. You may wear the medals of a deceased National Serviceman on the right hand side.
- Service protocol is that when medals are worn, no badges should be worn other than a Returned from Active Service badge, unit citation or other officially awarded badges. We ask that coat badges be kept to a maximum of two.
- Name badges can be worn.
- **For kindred organisations or for other National Servicemen**, the dress is what your Association, unit or you would wear for a formal parade. The same would apply to headwear.
- Canberra in September can be windy, cold and wet. You should bring at least a jacket and jumper. A pocket rain coat may be a good idea if rain threatens.
- National Servicemen will be on show on this special day to Government, the chiefs of the defence forces, the media and the public. Make us proud.

DISABILITY PROVISIONS

- If you are in a wheelchair or motorised scooter, you will be able to march in

your intake year company provided you have notified the National Secretary of your intent to do so. Under our duty of care, if you are in a wheelchair, you must have a competent carer to assist you because Anzac Parade and the red gravel road mentioned above are steep and difficult.

- If you do not have a carer the unit commander may ask you to use the transport that will be provided for those unable to march.
- Transport will be provided for those with an impairment but who wish to participate. Again, please let the National Secretary know.

DEDICATION SERVICE

- **We remind you again, that for obvious reasons security will be very tight at the dedication service. Because you can't see it, don't think it isn't there nor that it won't act swiftly against anyone causing an unnecessary problem.**
- The service will begin at 11:30a.m.
- Other than for official guests, the relatives of the 212 National Servicemen who died on active service, disabled National Servicemen and the media, seats will not be reserved.
- **The Australian War Memorial advises that, for security reasons, seating will be roped off until the end of the parade. Until then, no-one can claim seats or to hold seats for anyone else.**
- Wives, partners and others will be admitted once the parade ends.
- Move quickly from the parade fall out area. We ask for your patience, courtesy and common sense to fill seats up quickly in an orderly manner.
- Each National Serviceman will be given **one** copy of the Dedication Booklet and

an Order of Service. The Order of Service should be shared with your partner.

- The compere – who is a National Serviceman – will lead you through the Service which follows the normal pattern we are all used to.
- The two padres will be National Servicemen.
- The National Anthem will be sung by a National Serviceman.
- The last wreath will be one of 212 red poppies laid by a person representing all the families of the National Servicemen who died on active service.
- You will be able to lay a personal wreath or red poppy **AFTER** the service concludes.
- The Service will be televised by Channel 7.
- The nation is recognising and thanking you for your Service. Stand tall and be proud.

FIRST AID

Under our duty of care, we will have ambulances and first aid facilities on hand during the reception, the parade and the dedication. You or your carer, where applicable, should note where they

are stationed so that you can find them in a hurry for yourself or another person. If you need help, don't hesitate to call for it.

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

Private functions, tours and similar organised by State Branches, sub-branches and unit or others is the responsibility of those organisations. All enquiries should be directed to the organisers.

NATIONAL WEB SITE

This President's Bulletin and other information about the reception, parade and dedication are on our National website www.nashoaustralia.org.au. Ours has the wording 'official website' after it.

EASTERN PRECINCT

The Minister for Veteran's Affairs, the Hon. Allan Griffin, whose portfolio includes the Australian War Memorial, opened the Eastern Precinct on 15 April. The National Service Memorial is the centre-piece of the Precinct but will be dedicated separately by the Governor-General on 8 September. Our National President, Earle Jennings AM RFD ED, represented the NSAA.