

**The National
Servicemen's
Association of
Australia Inc**

Tuesday, 8 September

2015

***General Meeting
of the National Council
held in Canberra, ACT***

Minutes

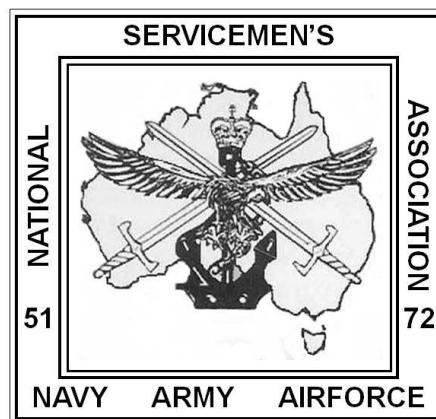


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1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 The Chairman, Earle Jennings welcomed delegates and the two observers from QLD and NSW. He acknowledged special guest, Mr Kel Jones from the Governor General's office. He explained the change of date to comply with AWM programme for our memorial service, rescheduled for Wednesday, 9 September 2015.

2. OBSERVANCE

- 2.1 National Ode of Remembrance by the National Secretary with one minute's silence.

3. ATTENDANCE

- 3.1 The Chairman acknowledged 19 present as per the attendance register.
- 3.2 Apologies from Mr Ron Brandy, Vice President, Mr Mike Lane, NT. Proxy appointments for SA and TAS were tabled.
- 3.2.1 **Motion:** *That the proxy appointments and new delegates be accepted.*

Moved: N Moulder **Seconded:** T Stevenson (QLD) **Motion Carried.**

4. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

- 4.1 In his presentation Mr Jennings emphasised and highlighted the following points:
- 4.1.1 The current, significant military milestones and anniversaries being celebrated and those to be acknowledged in the coming years.
- 4.1.2 That part of our brief is to ensure our veterans receive the help they may need.
- 4.1.3 The realisation that the median age of association members is now 77 years.
- 4.1.4 The need for the association structure to be examined to meet the needs of a changing membership.
- 4.1.5 Two of the structural changes will be the formation of the National Service Scholarship Foundation and the proposal to restructure the National Council.
- 4.1.6 The achievement of association objectives including two medals, a national memorial and the recognition of National Service as part of military history.
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- 4.1.7 The further development of the Nominal Roll by computerising the national archive files which would be a wider and more permanent project available to all families and future researchers.
- 4.2 The President concluded by suggesting some serious thinking and welcomed the views of Council members.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 2015

- 5.1 No amendments requested.
- 5.2 **Motion:** *That the minutes of the General Meeting, March 2015 as circulated be taken as read and accepted.*

Moved: J Faunt (ACT) **Seconded:** B Dabner (TAS) **Motion Carried.**

5.3 Matters Arising

- 5.3.1 Doughty & the Law Society: The Chairman advised the matter of Doughty is being investigated by Commonwealth Solicitors.
- 5.3.2 Update on missing flag and finial: Mr R McIvor (VIC) advised it could not be found and offered to compensate by replacing / paying for missing items.
- 5.3.3 NASHO Teachers in New Guinea: The Secretary advised that contact with authorities show at the time of their service New Guinea was an Australian Territory and not seen as an active service zone and therefore the same benefits apply as those on the mainland.
- 5.3.4 Directional signs at NASHO memorial: This matter to be discussed with Mr Nelson at a forthcoming meeting.
- 5.3.5 Association charitable status: The Treasurer circulated documents re. the revocation of the status and presented details.
- 5.3.6 War dead at Terendak Malaysia: The Chairman advised of the success of the project and the association support.
- 5.3.7 NSW Racing & Gaming: The Chairman provided details of contact with the department who had concluded there was no case to answer.
- 5.3.8 Expelled NSW Branch debt: The Secretary advised of actions by collection agency who will continue to pursue if necessary.
- 5.3.9 Military Shop merchandise: Members were advised of a presentation later in the day.
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- 5.3.10 Second era commemoration: Mr Frank Miller (O.T.U) gave a brief overview of activities and reported a very successful event attracting over 600 who participated.
- 5.3.11 Site for memorial walkway: Mr Hand (ACT) gave a brief background and advised that there is conflict with ACT and Federal government locations. Contact with ACT government re them advising a suitable site has not been forthcoming. A site in Queanbeyan is a possibility. The Chairman gave details of the SA walkway and suggested this, with the support of other states could be seen as a national walkway. For discussion at next Council meeting.

5.4 Other Matters

- 5.4.1.1 The Chairman gave details of a new proposal using Mr Laurie Asgill as a test case for the awarding of medals to those who have had the applications denied. Also, he gave details of the association support for the reduction of qualifying period for the Republic of Vietnam medal from 181 day to 90 days.
- 5.4.1.2 Mr Shapland (NSW) sought a follow up to a letter (to QLD) re the association logo. After discussion, it was agreed the matter had been well covered at the last meeting and no further debate was necessary.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING

- 6.1 **Motion:** *That the record of proceedings from the Executive Meeting of 5 August 2015 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed.*

Moved: F Miller (O.T.U)

Seconded: G Hand (ACT)

Motion Carried

6.2 Matters Arising

- 6.2.1 The Secretary provided information re the introduction of the Army Remembrance pin copy to each state.
- 6.2.2 The matter of plaque at AWM for WWI conscripts. Investigations show no WWI conscripts and concerns expressed re. AWM attitude. The Secretary to write to VIC with explanation.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 The Secretary issued a register listing correspondence.
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7.2 Highlighted Items

- 7.2.1 From NSW Dept of Land & Property, re naming of NASHO gardens in Albury.
- 7.2.2 From Sandra Hill, Albury/Wodonga, re National Service Ode.
- 7.2.3 To Emblems Manager, ADF, re request to use image of ADF badge.
- 7.2.4 From Acting Chief of Army, re apology for non-attendance at 50th Anniversary ceremony.
- 7.2.5 From AWM, re letter from Doughty.

7.3 Matters Arising

- 7.3.1 Approval of name NASHO gardens, Albury. Name to be assigned by end September 2015.
- 7.3.2 Background to National Service Ode explained.
- 7.3.3 Waiting for response from ADF for approval to use image of ADF emblem.
- 7.3.4 Two letters written to Chief of Army re non-appearance at 50th Anniversary ceremony.
- 7.3.5 Doughty letter to AWM now in the hands of the Commonwealth Solicitor.

8. CONSIDERATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 8.1 The Secretary presented two papers for discussion.
 - 8.1.1 The need to address change as Sub-Branch as membership numbers fall: An overview was presented for discussion and consideration. It covered trigger points which will need to be monitored; these will indicate when change is required to meet the needs of a falling membership. It was emphasised that if change is not necessary at this time, a plan needs to be in place, at least at Sub-Branch levels. The management of the changing association must be handled in a dignified and efficient manner was the key message.
 - 8.1.2 As there is a need for change at Sub-Branch level, the Secretary presented a paper recommending change at the National Council level. It was recommended that the Council change from being a Council of Delegates to a Board of Management made up of state, territory and member association presidents. A brief method of operation was presented. Several alternative structures were also suggested. Members were requested to consider these matters for final discussion, debate and conclusion at the
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forthcoming March 2016 Council meeting. Discussion took place re the cost pressures and the relevance of change.

9. NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION (NSSF)

- 9.1 With the absence of Mr Brandy, the Chairman presented the report. The following items are highlighted.
 - 9.1.1 The completed design of a logo. Images and explanation of the design were issued to members.
 - 9.1.2 The development of a website that will contribute and promote the administration of the foundation.
 - 9.1.3 The development of a draft constitution and charter to allow for relevant applications to ATO, ASIC and respective registration and incorporation requirements.
 - 9.1.4 Communication with high profile individuals who can assist in the development of the foundation has resulted in the Hon. Tim Fischer AC offering to assist as Ambassador or Patron. Others will continue to be canvassed.
 - 9.1.5 A brief financial report indicating expenditure for logo development, legal and administration.
 - 9.1.6 Members were requested to provide details of any high profile persons who could assist in the development of NSSF. Suggested Kerry Stokes.
 - 9.1.7 QLD delegate advised of the enthusiasm of their members and requested financial status and contribution details. Also, some form of development program. Chairman to follow up.
 - 9.1.8 The Chairman sought acceptance of logo design. Member's indication very positive.
 - 9.1.9 Question: Will areas of research assist NASHOs and their families. Chairman to follow up.

10. SA PROPOSAL FOR ROSE NAME

- 10.1 Mrs Marlene Blackmore (SA) presented a paper re the naming of the National Service Rose. Details were provided as follows.
 - 10.1.1 The organisation 'Corporate Roses' have been involved in many projects where the concept of having a rose named in honour of an organisation has been highly successful. The breeder Meilland International would provide a variety that has not previously been released in Australia.
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10.1.2 Mrs Blackmore provided members further details of the concept including colour and type of rose, timetable and administrative requirements.

10.1.3 Details were also given of a presentation by Corporate Roses at a SA general meeting. This included pricing (with a commission payable to the NSAA), colour selection and variety. It was noted that a rose chosen in late 2015 would not be available for sale until mid year 2017.

10.1.4 Following discussion, a motion was put by SA.

10.1.4.1 **Motion:** *That the National Council accept the proposal for a National Service rose.*

Moved: M Blackmore (SA)

Seconded: T Stevenson (QLD)

Motion Carried.

10.1.5 Further discussion took place re an appropriate name selection. It was suggested that delegates consult with their Branch members. The Secretary will communicate with each Branch Secretary, obtain recommendations and pass to SA for final decision.

11. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

11.1 National Secretary

11.1.1 Presented by N Moulder, the following points emphasised, and copies issued.

11.1.1.1 Analysis of correspondence.

11.1.1.2 Summary of meetings attended.

11.1.1.3 Status of website.

11.1.1.4 Nil use of Corporate Seal.

11.1.1.5 No amendments to Rules & By-Laws.

11.1.1.6 Upgrade of Executive Directory.

11.1.1.7 Request for information to upgrade Sub-Branch register.

11.1.1.8 Status of Memorial register.

11.1.1.9 Report on the success of the 50th Anniversary of Second Era National Service activities.

11.2 National Treasurer

11.2.1.1 Presented by C Adams, the following documents were issued and points highlighted.

11.2.1.2 Summary of Income and Expenditure.

11.2.1.3 Statement of Financial Performance.

11.2.1.4 Statement of Financial Position.

11.2.1.5 Plant and Equipment Register.

11.2.1.6 Summary of Capitation fee payments.

11.2.2 Matters relating to the above documents were discussed including shortfall in anticipated capitation income resulting in a budget over-run. Concern expressed in meaningful membership figures submitted before an updated budget for 2016 can be provided. The Chairman made a request for accurate membership figures. Further discussion took place on membership numbers being submitted on an annual basis.

11.3 Media & PR

11.3.1.1 Mr A Callaghan provided a brief overview of part of his role. He drew attention to the presence of Mr Kel Jones from the Governor General's office and emphasised the importance of intelligence, of having good contacts and understanding of how the Canberra culture works. He made mention of certain false allegations levelled at the association and how this had been kept under control because of our credibility which is a result of the hard yards put into establishing those Canberra contacts.

11.4 Australian Capital Territory Report

11.4.1 Presented by J Faunt, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

11.4.1.1 Canberra Irish Club venue for meeting first Saturday each month.

11.4.1.2 J Faunt new President, G Hand retired for personal reasons.

11.4.1.3 Constitutional changes to allow for women members, thus permitting a female Secretary.

11.4.1.4 Celebrations planned for October to recognise the 5th anniversary of the Branch formation.

11.4.1.5 A healthy financial situation allowing for donations to ACT Cancer Council and Snowy Hydro Care Flight.

11.5 New South Wales Report

11.5.1 Presented by F Boissett, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

11.5.1.1 Minor committee change with Mr Des Casey filling a casual vacancy as Vice President. The appointment of two Patrons, retired Brigadier Ray McCann and retired Brigadier David Webster, both Vietnam veterans.

11.5.1.2 Visits to all Sub-Branches by committee members was met with appreciation and support.

11.5.1.3 Closure of the Macleay Valley Sub-Branch due to harassment and interference from the expelled group resulting in committee positions not being filled.

11.5.1.4 Some fall in membership due to health, deaths, relocations and the fallout from uncertainties resulting from events concerned with the 2012 expulsion. The new website has resulted in membership enquiries, particularly from second era NASHOs.

11.5.1.5 The Branch is currently involved in re-establishing the respect and good name the organisation needs in NSW with Sub-Branches providing support in their regions. The NSW Branch has taken a modernistic approach in its administration and communication; to date this system of governing does not appear troublesome.

11.5.1.6 The NSW membership have strong concerns re the outcome of the 2012 expulsion and answers most consistently required are why is the expelled branch allowed to remain operating?

11.6 O.T.U. Report

11.6.1 Presented by F Miller, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

11.6.1.1 The highlight of the last six months has been the 50th anniversary second era scheme commemoration on 30 June and associated events including a dinner at the Canberra Golf Club on the evening of the 30th. A special reunion dinner was held in Brisbane two weeks later to commemorate 50 years since the first O.T.U class.

11.6.1.2 Scheyvillians paraded behind their own banner on ANZAC Day in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane.

11.6.1.3 The association National Council meeting was held in Melbourne on 30 May 2015. Delegates from all states attended. A financial projection was prepared for the next ten years to provide the basis for ensuring national funds will further the association's stated objectives.

11.6.1.4 Membership remains steady and financially the association is on a sound footing.

11.6.1.5 The tenth annual Geddes dinner was held in Melbourne with guest speaker Dr Ross McMullin.

11.6.1.6 All aspects of the association continue to run smoothly.

11.7 Queensland State Report

11.7.1 Presented by A Garlin, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

11.7.1.1 The state management committee continue to work with branches to ensure that membership and welfare are of utmost importance.

11.7.1.2 A new branch at Deception Bay held a membership drive resulting in six new members plus some additions to the Nominal Roll.

11.7.1.3 Branches organised successful special events. Particular mention of an 'Afghanistan Avenue of Honour' constructed at Yungaburra. Nth QLD branches celebrated ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Long Tan Day and National Servicemen's Day. In July an induction day was held at Wacol chapel followed by lunch. Both events were well attended.

11.7.1.4 Gold Coast branch in conjunction with a Light Horse unit have created a museum to inform school children about National Service.

11.7.1.5 It is reported QLD branch is financially sound and moving ahead.

11.8 South Australia State Report

11.8.1 Presented by D Blackmore, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

11.8.1.1 SA an active branch with large participation in ANZAC events, particularly support for Garden of Remembrance.

11.8.1.2 Branch Friday get-togethers continue to be popular with good attendances.

11.8.1.3 The NASHO Garden of Remembrance continues to be developed including a memorial walkway with remembrance pavers for purchase.

11.8.1.4 State President attended many functions including by invitation to the RSL State Conference and the Tanunda Annual event organised by second era NASHOs. There is the possibility of Sub-Branch in the Barossa Valley.

11.8.1.5 The State newsletter continues to be the best form of communication to members.

11.8.1.6 SA remains a very active and strong supporter of the association.

11.9 Tasmania State Report

11.9.1 Presented by B Dabner, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

11.9.1.1 The state is having a difficult time finding a replacement for their retired president, Mr Roy Payne. Currently, Mr Dabner fills the role temporarily until Mr Clare Smith will take over in 2016.

11.9.1.2 The state is suffering a decline in membership. The second era NASHOs are not joining as was anticipated with declining numbers, two Sub-Branches are amalgamating. Others are surviving.

11.9.1.3 The annual commemoration day continues to be very successful as in previous years and attracts senior members of the ADF.

11.9.1.4 Mr Dabner represented TAS NSAA at the 2015 ANZAC Day service in Burma and was acknowledged by the National press.

11.10 Victoria State Report

11.10.1 Presented by R McIvor, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

11.10.1.1 Reserve Forces day, Lone Pine ceremony were both well supported by National Servicemen. Upcoming events include Navy Service at HMAS CERBERUS and Airforce Day at Point Cook.

11.10.1.2 National Servicemen continue to support Ward 17 at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital which specialises in post traumatic stress.

11.10.1.3 The NASHO Toy Drive contributed two truck loads of toys to the Salvation Army.

11.10.1.4 Throughout VIC there is a lot of energy, enthusiasm and support for the National Servicemen's Association.

11.11 Western Australia State Report

11.11.1 Presented by R Palmer, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

11.11.1.1 Mr Palmer and the State committee were re-elected at the 2015 AGM.

11.11.1.2 Branch executives attended major functions including American Remembrance day at Kings Park, York Sub-Branch Friendship day and Vietnam Veterans day at Mandurah.

11.11.1.3 A sad occasion was attending the Albany Sth Sub-Branch meeting at which a decision was made to close the Sub-Branch in November 2015.

11.11.1.4 The WA Branch look forward to hosting the executive and Council meeting to be held in Perth in March 2016.

11.12 **Motion:** *That all reports as presented and circulated be received.*

Moved: R McIvor (VIC)

Seconded: C Shapland (NSW)

Motion Carried.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

12.1 SA made the request for the September 2016 meeting be held in Adelaide with a service at the new garden of remembrance. The matter was discussed. It was pointed out that the association have a commitment with the AWM to conduct an annual commemorative service at the National Service memorial Canberra in September each year. Following further discussion, it was suggested that a proposal for March 2017 could be considered.

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

13.1 From NSW, a request that the date of birth shown on the Nominal Roll be removed.

13.1.1 The matter was discussed at length including the difficulty with such a large number and procedure to obtain formation from national archives. It was also pointed out that when nominal roll details are received, they contain the DOB placed on the document by the members. Following further debate, the following motion was made.

13.1.2 **Motion:** *That the custodian of the Nominal Roll of NASHOs at the request of a member, amend the roll to remove from public viewing the date of birth of that member.*

Moved: C Shapland (NSW)

Seconded: T Stevenson (QLD)

**Motion Carried
(16 for, 2 against)**

13.1.3 As a result of the motion, it was agreed that the individual member should write to the custodian care of QLD Branch to request the removal of his DOB.

13.2 From NSW, protection of National Servicemen's Association brand name.

13.2.1 Mr Shapland presented details including suggestions from NSW Fair trading that the name 'National Servicemen's Association of Australia' should be registered with IP Australia. After discussion, it was agreed the Secretary should investigate the matter.

14. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

- 14.1 Western Australia delegates submitted a proposal that the March 2016 meeting be held in Perth. Following discussion, it was agreed the meeting be held on Wednesday, 9 March 2016 at the WA RSL State office. The Secretary to make arrangements for meeting and accommodation.
- 14.2 The Chairman closed this part of the meeting at 4pm and requested that members proceed and reconvene at the Military Shop, Fyshwick for a presentation of NASHO merchandise.

15. MILITARY SHOP PRESENTATION

- 15.1 Staff of the Military Shop presented a range of merchandise for members to consider. Individual items were discussed. Pricing suggestions and marketing concepts were proposed and each member was provided with a brochure showing images of items.
- 15.2 The Chairman sought agreement from members present that the items as displayed would be acceptable and the Military Shop should proceed with development. Following some discussion re pricing, profit margins and distribution, members agreed to proceed.
- 15.3 The Chairman requested that each member deliberate on what had been presented and respond to the Secretary with their preferences to allow for items to be put into the market by end 2015.
- 15.4 With no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 6pm.