

The National
Servicemen's
Association of
Australia Inc.

Thursday, 18th September

2025

General Meeting of the
National Council held in
the Mercure Hotel,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Minutes



Council Minutes

*General Meeting of the National Council
Thursday 18th September 2025 at
Mercure Hotel, Canberra*

These minutes include associated documents as follows:

- Annex 1 - MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING 6th MARCH 2025**
- Annex 2 - MINUTES FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING 4th AUGUST 2025**
- Annex 3 - PROPOSED NSAA RESTRUCTURE POST 31st DECEMBER 2026**
- Annex 4 - THE NSAA RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER EX-SERVICE ORGANISATIONS**
- Annex 5 - PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE NSAA NATIONAL LEVY From 1/1/2026**
- Annex 6 - CONCEPT PAPER FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 On time at 10 AM

1.2 National President and Chairman Ron Brandy welcomed 14 delegates, all who signed the attendance register as per the appendix. NT Delegate Mike Lane had previously advised that he would arrive late.



(Tony Stevenson missed the photo)

1.3 There were no observers or guests.

1.4 Chairman Ron advised that the agenda was timed for a 1:30 PM online 'virtual' presentation from Perth WA, by DVA's Joanne Maclean.

2. OBSERVANCE

2.2 Ode of Remembrance and one minute silence was observed.

3. ATTENDANCE and PROXIES

3.1 Apologies: Pre-registered by Jim Duquemin WA, Neal Freier Qld and Garry Hand ACT.

3.2 Proxies: There were no proxies as every NSAA member association was represented.

3.3 The Chairman acknowledged those present and noted the apologies.

3.4 Motion: To accept attendance, apologies and proxy appointments.

Moved: Stuart Fairbairn Seconded: Tony Stevenson Dissent: Nil Outcome: Carried

4. MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING 6th MARCH 2025 – (Refer Annex 1)

4.1 The minutes were distributed by email on 12/3/2025.

4.2 Receipt of any amendments: There were none

4.3 Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 6th March 2025 as circulated as Annex 1 be taken as read and accepted.

Moved: Jeff Gray Seconded: Darrell Suter Dissent: Nil Outcome: Carried

4.4 Matters arising from the previous Council Meeting 6th March 2025:

Item 9.2 from previous minutes.

That ex-NT Branch and now Direct National Member Mike Lane be appointed as Delegate representing **ex Northern Territory** National Direct Members, and that he be funded for attendance at Council Meetings from the DVA Grant-in-Aid program as is already the case for “states/territories in need” of financial assistance. Should any other Member Association surrender its charter before 31/12/2026, a Delegate should be recommended by the retiring Executive and/or Patron to continue to represent their National Direct Members. A simplified succession regime should be enacted if a Direct National Member Delegate leaves office.

Moved: John Faunt ACT Seconded: Garry Hand ACT Dissent: Nil Outcome: Carried

There have been no closures of any other member associations, so this matter is just parked for the time being.

There were no other matters arising from the Council meeting on 6th March 2025:

5. MINUTES FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING 4th AUGUST 2025. (Refer Annex 2)

5.1 Acceptance of the Record of Proceedings from Executive Meeting 4th August 2025:

5.2 Motion: That the minutes of the Executive meeting held Thursday 4th August as circulated be taken as read and accepted as a true record of proceedings by the National Executive

Moved: Tony Stevenson Seconded: John Thorne Dissent: Nil Outcome: Carried

- 5.3 Actionable items from the Executive meeting, as follows, all were addressed elsewhere in the agenda.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION :

To be put to Council on 18/9/2025, if any

- 12.1 Refer 6.3: Secretary Pete to prepare an agenda item for Council consideration to continue the current S.A. jurisdiction and retain the current constitution 2027 and beyond.
- 12.2 Refer 7.1 item 3: Secretary Pete to prepare agenda item for Council consideration to endorse the Executive's softening of the relationship with Nasho Fair Go, in operational matters (not policy matters).
- 12.3 Refer 10.3: Barry Vicary Award nominations. Secretary Pete to agenda for Council consideration: Three nominations have been agreed by the Exec. Their names are agreed but are not disclosed in these minutes.
- 12.4 Refer 10.9: National Levy increase. Secretary Pete to prepare a paper for Council consideration to acknowledge erosion of the current \$5.00 pa by inflation, and to future-proof it by a reasonable and justifiable increase of \$2.50 up to \$7.50

6 PRESENTATION OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

6.1 NSAA NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE NSAA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING:-

Members of the National Council

Members of the NSAA National Council welcome to our September 2025 Council meeting. Your individual and collective presence and participation is both welcome and appreciated.

Our Agenda today takes us through important matters that will help us shape the future of the association up to and beyond 1 January 2027, particularly in the areas of financial suitability, and management of the association.

The agenda and the associated attachments are designed to inform and guide us through issues, plans, and offer some associated thoughts relevant to the future of our association as we transition beyond January 2027.

Your input to these deliberations is critical and I welcome the collective wisdom of this council as we debate and agree the best outcomes for our members now, and into the future.

Issues facing the NSAA

Longevity and capabilities of the NSAA-Shaping the Organisation and Administration. The AGM/GM outcomes of March 2025 provide us with the authority to determine the best way ahead in all measures, physical, financial, and operational. We had direct and forthright advice from General Barry which was clear and well-intended. However, on reflection we have had to challenge some aspects of that advice that will have to be revisited at our September GM.

I make the following remarks as a lead into our Agenda deliberations.

1. The Council's agreement to motion to have the NSAA re-registered from the SA Associations Incorporation Act to the ACT Associations Incorporation Act. Having done some investigation Secretary Peter has raised and shared his concerns that this is unnecessary, costly and will require us to find a volunteer Public Officer in the ACT. We need to assure ourselves that a change is necessary. Should the Executive decide that change is unnecessary, we will have to take the issue back to Council for a decision to rescind the existing motion and vote on a new motion.

Discussion: There was general support for the retention of the SA jurisdiction and therefore the current constitution, both of which will continue to operate both sides of the transition date 31/12/2026. A motion will be put later in the meeting if deemed necessary.

2. We addressed the subject of continued service of our executive membership beyond the AGM of March 2027.

Discussion: Nominations for Executive positions, (i.e. the "light" management committee post 31/12/2026) will be called during 2026 for consideration at the 2027 AGM.

3. NSAA Council delegates have been requested to have their respective Councils determine who will represent them as the member representative to the NSAA 'eminent persons group' and recruit, confirm, and nominate their State/Territory volunteer representative(s) who will be responsible for feeding 'local' information to the NSSA National for collation into newsletters and maintain interactive communication throughout the membership. We look forward to your advice.

Discussion: To be discussed further during the course of the meeting.

4. To be clear delegates, our intention to seek commitments to fund first, possibly second year fees for members moving to individual member status to enable the NSAA National Executive to stabilise its financial position beyond 1 January 2027.

Therefor we seek delegates view of Member Associations offering current their financial members, in 2026, full or subsidised membership for year one and or two, into 2027 and beyond as individual National members of the NSAA?

Discussion: The theme that member associations should look after their members by paying their subscriptions for the first year 2027 is strongly encouraged as a priority for disbursement of surplus 2026 cash assets,

4. To ensure the sustainability of our post 1 January 2027 operations and commitment to maintaining a viable newsletter we need to firstly acknowledge that a \$15.00, possible \$20.00, annual membership fee will probably be insufficient to deliver what we want in the form of a quality National Newsletter three times a year.

Discussion: possible fee increase deferred to later in the meeting.

5. The Associations ability to access welfare related advice and information to members via newsletters. Sadly, we lack qualified advice for our membership around the current and soon to be enacted Veterans Simplification and Harmonisation Act 2025. (VET Act 2025) The National Executive would appreciate any advice on any individuals willing to provide us with ongoing, high-level advice only. We would not anticipate an individual would act as an active advocate unless they were, a. appropriately trained and registered as such, and b. volunteer to do so on a scale suited to the individual.

Discussion: This matter will come into sharper focus during the DVA virtual presentation from Perth at 1:30PM.

7. NSAA – Other National Service orientated interactions. Recently I wrote to Executive members outlining that I had an invitation to meet with the NFG President Geoff Parkes and the NFG State Coordinator Peter Lanigan. I made no commitments but seek your feedback and guidance on the degree to which we may, or may not, share information of mutual interest and benefit to all National Servicemen. Further, whether the Council endorse an open invitation status for all National Servicemen being welcomed to nil cost activities and commemorative services arranged by the NSAA. My explanation and feedback from the July 2025 meeting with NFG are at Annex 4.

Discussion: Ron explained that in the pursuit of the best outcomes for all Nashos regardless of ESOs, dialogue without rancour is a necessary requirement for now and the future. We will agree where we can and disagree where we must, without antagonism. There are several ESOs invited to attend the dinner tonight (at their cost) and to attend the AWM commemoration tomorrow. This approach is expected to be a positive example that the NSAA is open and welcoming of all Nashos regardless of ESO. Further discussion will be dealt with later in the meeting today. For official events, the matter of ESO banners remains a potential problem, which could be obviated with a generic banner “National Servicemen 1951-1972”.

8. ASIC. Current Registered Body Extract- Currency/Update Status.

9. NSAA Archives – Vice President Noel Moulder and I have plans in place to meet in Brisbane (Wacol) in October to finalise the sorting of files, collate, record , and box, the material for the National Library of Australia (NLA). We remain grateful to the QLD Branch for their cooperation and good will in providing storage for the records collocated there.

Discussion: Deferred for discussion later in the meeting.

10. Barry Vicary Fellowship Award (BVFA). The National Executive has received three nominations in response to our request to Member Associations. Each of the three nominations more than met the criteria for the award of the BVFA and the National Executive will be pleased to share our decisions with you at the 18 September 2025 GM.

Discussion: Deferred for discussion later in the meeting.

NSAA National Executive

My thanks to the members of the National Executive, Vice President Noel Moulder, Secretary Peter Norman, Treasurer Richard Tregear, and Public Officer, John Thorne for your ongoing efforts and leadership in your respective roles. Thank you for supporting me and the association through the work you do on behalf of the Council, our membership, and all National Servicemen.

Ron Brandy
National President
National Servicemen's Association of Australia

September 2025

6.2 NSAA Secretary's Report to NSAA National Council 18th September 2025

Planning for NSAA Mk 2 – Beyond 31/12/2026:

Although the decision to close the NSAA in its current form has been well known for some time, progress and status from the Member Associations is not yet consolidated. It would be of benefit to everyone if each Member Association is requested to provide a status report to National Council at half yearly intervals. The Executive Committee needs to define the key parameters, via a reporting framework, so that we have apples/apples comparisons. The minimum key parameters for each Member Association are:

- Will the Member Association close down completely after all statutory/administrative obligations for 2026 are satisfied? If not
- Will the Member Association reconstitute and continue operations from 2027 without an overarching NSAA? (because from 2027 the NSAA will not be hierarchical but will instead operate under a Direct Members model).

Discussion: Because a couple of our member associations have indicated that they may incorporate to retain an overarching framework for their members, the Direct National Model may need an additional layer factored into the planning process.

- Will the Member Association be able and willing to fund, from surplus 2026 assets, the National \$15 pa Membership Fee for every member for at least the first year 2027?
- Will the Member Association nominate a representative for liaison purposes with the National Executive, including contributing to the NASHO newsletter three times per year.

There may be other key parameters (invited).

Regardless of the points above, Member Associations will still be looking towards NSAA National for top-down instruction about guiding their futures.

Many sub-branches within the Member Associations are (perceived by me) to be operating in a sub-standard way (because age has wearied them) and they now do not have the leadership capabilities to advance quality decision making.

Pete Norman
Secretary
9/9/2025

6.3 National Vice President's Report

Noel's major project has been with archiving and preparing material for lodgment with the National Library. This included the assembly of a chronological list of NSAA national achievements gleaned from the minutes of meetings, particularly AGMs, and more particularly from the various reports submitted to AGMs. This continues as a work-in-progress.

Noel is continuing to apply for grants-in-aid from DVA and has identified a change of process required by DVA which has consequential timing issues, as covered in the Treasurer's report.

6.4 Treasurer's Reports to NSAA National Council 18th September 2025:

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC
ABN 67 616 9646 832

Treasurer's report to National Committee 18th September 2025

Income
 Capitation is well short of Budget as per the summary below. There may be further payments from Queensland and Victoria but not the other States.
 Direct membership is disappointing so far.

I have removed from the Budget figures the expected Grants in Aid of \$ 11 9900 to show the effect if the Grant is not received within the financial year and the payments are still made.

Capitation Fees	2025	Variance	2025 Members	
	\$		Actual	Budget
Aust. Capital Territory	130	1	26	25
Officer Training Unit	2690	28	538	510
Queensland	4915	-117	983	1100
South Australia	360	-108	72	180
Tasmania	140	-20	28	48
Victoria	2280	-124	456	580
Western Australia	390	8	78	70
	<u>10905</u>	<u>-332</u>	<u>2181</u>	<u>2513</u>
Northern Territory		-6		6
Direct National Members	<u>400</u>	<u>-23</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>50</u>
	<u>11305</u>	<u>-361</u>	<u>2208</u>	<u>2569</u>

\$

Value	
2513 @ \$5	12565
6 @ \$20	120
50 @ \$ 15	750
	<u>13435</u>

Richard Tregear CPA
 Honorary Treasurer
 4 September 2025

Richard advised that capitations are currently short of budget, with just a few more from Queensland expected. There is also a likely current-year shortfall with the timing changes associated with the DVA Grants-in-Aid program. Because this means an unfunded liability for year 2025, ex-gratia payments to the states-in-need are essential so that they are not out of pocket and that NSAA's accountability remains compliant with DVA reporting requirements.

Motion: That ex-gratia payments to Tas, WA and SA, to cover accommodation and airfares for one meeting only, be funded from the National reserve, limited to 2025 only. These changes will keep the NSAA compliant with DVA reporting requirements.

Moved: Richard Tregear Seconded: Tony Stevenson Dissent: Nil Outcome: Carried

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC						
ABN 67 616 9646 832						
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE						
FOR THE EIGHT MONTHS ENDED 31st August 2025						
ASSUMING NO GRANTS						
2024				\$	Budget \$	
	INCOME					
13995	Capitation Fees		2181	10905	13357	
825	Direct Members		27	400	750	
425	Commission on Rose Sales			225	200	
565	Donation Military Shop			357	350	
	Donations			25		
9888	Grants in Aid				0	
266	Sundry			1	100	
25964				11913	14757	
	LESS EXPENDITURE					
	Executive meeting	Accomodation February		613	600	
	Melbourne	Travel		481	400	
1604	Council meeting	Accomodation March		934	1700	
1645	Canberra	Function		1191	1700	
972		Travel		465	1000	
563	Executive meeting	Accomodation August	Zoom	0	600	
1065	Melbourne	Travel	Zoom	0	400	
2967	Council meeting	Accomodation September			2100	
1829	Canberra	Function			2170	
406		Travel		948	250	
11051				4632	10920	
971	Archival Expenses			7	500	
660	Audit			660	660	
5009	Branch expenditure re-imbusement (Grants in Aid)				5378	
1302	Insurance	14/03/2026		1115	1400	
385	National Member Expenses			227	500	
116	Postage				250	
132	Printer and software maintenance			50	200	
180	Printing and stationery			285	400	
	Secretarial services			540	300	
374	Storage				0	
1720	Sundry				500	
	Telephone				250	
	Travel local				200	
219	Web hosting				400	
546	Wreaths				250	
2611	Write off Plant & Equipment				0	
25276				7516	22108	
688	Surplus/Deficit for the period			4397	-7351	
	Bank Accounts					
29718	Opening Bank balance 1st January 2025			33258	33258	
688	Surplus /Deficit as above			4397	-7351	
2812	Balance sheet movements Receipts			682		
-2571	Balance sheet movements Payments			-1194		
2611	Non Cash Item (Plant Write Off)					
33258	Closing Bank Balance 31st August 2025			37143	25907	
	Richard Tregear CPA					
	Honorary Treasurer					
	4th September 2025					

Motion: That the Treasurer's reports on 2025 expenditure and budget be accepted.

Moved: Richard Tregear Seconded: John Thorne Dissent: Nil Outcome: Carried

NT Delegate Mike Lane joined the meeting at this juncture, 10:25AM

7 PRESENTATION OF DELEGATES' REPORTS

Written reports were optional for this meeting.

Additional documents and/or verbal reports were invited ... as per blue text in these minutes.

- 7.1 **Northern Territory:** Hi, Pete, Good yarns in the newsletter, well done! I had earlier described our NAASA (NT) Inc. as "9 remaining members in contact". We now seem to have none in contact, as we drift further into older age, widowerhood and failing health, shared by all of us around the nation, of course. I shall send this newsletter around to see whom I can find , these days. There is, thus, nil report from NT. Nowadays I fall in with Legacy for the ANZAC Day March. I hope for several more! I am unable to make the September meeting in Canberra, given our attendance at the youngster's graduation ceremony in Darwin, however, I plan to accept Noel's invitation for the wreath-laying on Friday 19 September. At best we shall likely arrive some time on Thursday, subject to travel bookings. I look forward to seeing you and the cobbers shortly. Best Regards, Mike Lane.

The NSAA NT Branch still needs to complete statutory requirements to formally shut down the branch. No more projects are planned, with the successful Pavers Project, our last hurrah, giving former NT members relevant closure from their successful years of operations.

All such former NT members were funded from uncommitted cash assets for two years of Direct National Membership.

There are only three members likely to meet occasionally, including a OTU-A (Scheyville) graduate. I march with the Legacy contingent of Anzac Day.

- 7.2 **A.C.T:** As from August 2025, the stance from the ACT Branch of the NSAA has not changed on the post 2026 closure of the National Council. We will continue to function as a stand-alone branch subject to the rules and regulations of the Incorporated body. Should our numbers fall below the prescribed levels or that we are unable to hold regular meetings, the members have indicated that we may morph into a form of social group.

We do have a dedicated number of members who will provide a presence at several commemorative services during the year.

- Members attend the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on February 14th dedicated to honour fallen Nasho's.
- Members attend the Long Tan Day service at the Vietnam Memorial on August 18th each year, again honouring the sacrifice made by National Servicemen during the Vietnam campaign.
- A service is to be held in Canberra this year on August 31st commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Malayan Emergency.

- The Battle for Australia Day which is held on the first Wednesday in September.
- The 15th anniversary commemoration of the dedication of the National Servicemen's Memorial on September 8th.

The Canberra members wish to remain members of the NSAA National body under the current arrangements. We will continue on after 2026. The Branch has the funds to do so. We will provide a representative for liaison purposes and continue support for the NSAA.

Kind regards, John Faunt and Brian Harry

John further advised that the Branch has 39 members and remains viable. He also advised that he has attended all ACT DVA functions he has been invited to attend. The members wish to continue their present M.O. past 31/12/2026.

7.3 **The Officer Training Unit Association** has been in existence for some forty years. It consists of a Chapter in each State and the ACT and an overarching National Committee. There is also a National Council, with representatives from all Chapters, that meets yearly to discuss National and Chapter activities and pass on direction to the National Committee. This year the first members of the later version of National Service have turned 80. At national level, it was decided that due to the age of the participants, there would be no more national activities. Consequently, the need for a national organisation no longer exists.

The states have been running state-based activities, mainly in the capital cities, with no real input from national. The state chapters can therefore continue to run without the need of a national body. Individual classes, with members in all chapters, have been running their own activities for decades and can continue to do so without the need for a national body. From 1 July 2026, the National Committee will cease to exist. The State Chapters will continue, with little change in their operation. The association website will be funded for the next few years and will eventually be handed over to a like-minded organisation. Between them the Chapters will arrange the production of a combined newsletter.

Neil Leckie, Editor "The Scheyvillian", Newsletter of The Officer Training Unit Association.

OTU-A Chairman Frank Miller elaborated by confirming that the national organization will cease effective 30/6/2026, and from 1/7/2026 all state chapters will operate as distinct incorporated bodies. Frank also advised that he had recently attended the 60th Anniversary Reunion of the first OTU Class of 1965 and noted that the Scheyville experiment was retrospectively acknowledged as successful and necessary for the times. Opinions back then that no NS officer was likely to rise above Major were demonstrably wrong, because at least 15 Brigadiers, a major-general, and many Colonels and Lt. Colonels achieved high rank on their own merits.

Ron Brandy reinforced this notion by his belief that NS officers raised the bar by several notches compared with the general intellectual standard of the career ADF officers at the time. No disrespect intended, but the NS cohort was an injection of new intellectual blood of great benefit to the ADF and Australia's ability to achieve its military obligations.

- 7.4 **TASMANIA:** Our two remaining sub-branches are just 'hanging out' until they both close at the end of 2026 and become unincorporated social groups, to maintain some social contact for existing members. This means that our State Branch will also cease to exist after the end of 2026. There will be no formal NSAA in Tasmania after the end of 2026.

Mersey Sub-Branch has 20 members and Hobart has 8, 28 total state-wide. Jeff spoke a little more about some of the recent history of NSAA Tasmania.

Cheers, Jeff Gray.

- 7.5 **SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** I remember back in 2023 when I attended a meeting at The Shed, for ex Servicemen located at Port Adelaide. After only a few meetings I knew, it wasn't for me. A good friend and myself asked if we could join The National Servicemen's Association at Keswick. We were welcomed with open arms and thoroughly enjoyed the following meetings. As time continued, I was asked to consider if I would like to stand for President. The rest is history. We have a regular group of fantastic Servicemen, who all look forward to our weekly meetings. Currently we have between 20 and 25 members. In the near future we will be having the Cyber Crime Unit of the S.A. Police at our meeting, to discuss issues to protect our members, now and into the future. Early next year, our current facilities will be demolished, and a brand-new community hub will be built by the local West Torrens Council & The Federal Government. Temporary accommodation for our weekly meetings will be provided. We have lost a few more members this year, and a few more going into nursing homes. We will carry on as per usual and expect to still be around in 2027. I look forward to meetings every week and will be standing for President again in 2026, as is John Thorne for Secretary. John Thorne & myself will be attending the National AGM & War Memorial in September.

Best Regards to all Members
Darrell Suter, President
NSAA Adelaide

Darrell advised that the SA Adelaide group are still meeting most Fridays with 20+ members participating. The new building project at Keswick is advancing well, with anticipated completion 2027. Darrell contrasted the MO of NFG in SA compared with NSAA, noting substantial differences, but we are all Nashos and should work together on the common ground where we can.

- 7.6 **WESTERN AUSTRALIA:** The WA Branch is due to close at the end of this year and we are proposing to pay for National Membership for all our people for 2026. Just need to get my head around a few things and I hope to talk with you next month in Canberra to work out the best way to achieve this.

Kind regards, Stuart Fairbairn

Most WA members are from the 1951-59 cohort. My fellow WA delegate Jim Duquemin is struggling and the WA Patron aged 90+ is also wearied by age. Many Nasho wives are keeping the sub-branches alive. There have been some anomalies between Nasho ESOs on Anzac Day, mostly regarding banners. Stuart's discourse about NSAA members and sub-branches is typical of all our branches. NSAA WA will close one year earlier than most. i.e. the end of 2025.

7.7 VICTORIA:

As the news spread that the Victorian Branch will close at the end of 2026, many members asked what will happen with annual Nasho state events from 2027. The Victorian NSAA Executive Committee was pleased to advise them that the four major events, being National Servicemen's Day at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, Army Nashos Day at Puckapunyal, Navy Nashos Day at HMAS Cerberus and Air Force Nashos Day at Point Cook, now have "event champions" to carry them forward for another five years. The event champions, being representative Nashos from the NSAA, The Air Force Association, Nasho Fair Go, the Officer Training Unit Association and the Vietnam Veterans Association, have already met for the first time as an unconstituted committee, and will meet again in November to flesh out the details. These four main events are all being opened up to all National Servicemen, regardless of whichever ex-service organisation they may belong to.

The majority of current Victorian sub-branches will all cease to exist after the end of 2026. Some may reconstitute as standalone entities, but most will fold into their local RSLs as unconstituted social groups, to continue to meet regularly for mateship.

Victorian President Bob McIvor tabled a supplementary report, as follows:

Fellow members, Victoria is like the rest of the nation, time is wearying us all. As most of our members are from the first EPA call up and numbers are dropping off. Our association has been so good for all of us over the years and our members have left their mark with our good work within our community, with our memorials and welfare work within the general and veteran community. Our National Service memorial at the Australian War Museum is a wonderful gift to our nation, and we are all so proud of our National Service memorial. We are still conducting our memorial services around our State and National Servicemen's day at the Melbourne Shrine, our Pucka memorial day, Navy memorial day at HMAS Cerberus, and Air Force memorial day at Pt Cook air base. Our welfare work in the veteran and general community continues, our Victorian State toy drive in support of the Salvation Army has been going for 22 years. Our grand total of toys donated by Victorian National servicemen is now over 125000 to support the Salvation Army with their good work in the support of under privileged children within Victoria. Our good work around our State and at the Repat Hospital and within ward 17 PTS ward has helped many veterans in their time of need, our support for underprivileged families around Victoria with food and care has just been wonderful. At our Pucka memorial the Army looked after us so well on this memorial day. They had soldiers to support us, tents erected, buses to transport all in attendance from our wreath laying service to lunch at the SRG mess supplied at no cost to us. This is always a good day, but so sad to see all of those crosses in honour of our members

who have passed on during the year. Major David Adams, a regular army officer with DVA backing had written a book National Service Training at Puckapunyal 1951 – 1972. This book was available to all Nashos in attendance and was very well received by all, and made this year's Pucka memorial day a great day to attend.

That is a short report on Victorian National Servicemen.

Victorian State President

Robert McIvor OAM

7.8 NSW

VP Noel Moulder and delegate representing NSW Direct National Members advised that all statutory responsibilities to formally close the former NSW NSAA Branch have been completed. Some of the smaller sub-branches such as Forbes and Parkes have ceased to operate in any form, while some of the larger sub-branches such as Tamworth and Bathurst have integrated into their local RSLs. Air Force Nashos in NSW continue to be represented by the Air Force Association, with nuclear testing and British recognition being currently a topical subject.

7.9 QUEENSLAND

Tony Stevenson advised that his own Brisbane South Branch has about 100 members and still with a solid bank balance. They are now incorporated and are looking to maintain ties with the Association for as long as possible. All Qld branches have been encouraged to incorporate so that those wishing to continue post 31/12/2026 can continue to operate if they so wish. The original 33 branches with 4,000 members have now reduced to 9, with approx. 750 members. The Qld edition of Nasho News continues as the primary vehicle to keep members informed of all NS issues.

Tony also outlined Neil Frier's circumstances in not attending today's meeting.

Motion: That all written and/or verbal reports by Executives and Delegates be accepted.

Moved: Frank Miller Seconded: Richard Tregear Dissent: Nil Outcome: Carried

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Date	Item Number	From Sender	Letter or eMail	To Receiver	Needs Action ?	Subject
27/02/25	25.117	Request to use NSAA Logo on deceased's grave plaque George Lockman	E	Originally to Noel Moulder, then referred to Secretary Pete Norman	Y	awaiting investigation bt Vicki
13/03/25	25.118	Request to use NSAA Logo on deceased's grave plaque Ralston Wood	E	Originally to Noel Moulder, then referred to Secretary Pete Norman	Y	Request approved - NSAA Member at date of death
22/04/25	25.119	Peter Norman as Secretary	E	Australian Charities & Not-for-Profits Commission	N	annual rept for 2024
22/04/25	25.120	Request to use NSAA Logo on deceased's grave plaque Graham Ross Burzacott	E	Peter Norman as Secretary	N	Request approved - NSAA Member at date of death, confirmed by SA Darrell Suter
6/05/25	25.121	Reformation of National Service enquiry	E	Peter Norman as Secretary	Y	Response to enquiry
4/07/25	25.122	Peter Norman as Secretary	E	States, Territoies & OTUA	N	President's bulletin re Jeff Rickerby ADM
7/07/25	25.123	Greg Mawson Gosford City	E	Peter Norman as Secretary	Y	Registration for Canberra 19/9/2025
10/07/25	25.124	Gary GDVVAA <gdrvaa@gmail.com>	E	Ron Brandy as Nat President	y	Invitation and acceptance to attend annual GDVVAA service 17/8
14/07/25	25.125	Brandnet (Military Shop)	E	Ron Brandy as Nat President	N	Thanks for donation.
25/07/25	25.126	Corporate Roses	E	Ron Brandy as Nat President	N	Thanks for donation.
22/07/25	25.127	DVA	E	Ron Brandy as Nat President	y	Several emails re Vets Act. Re presentation to Nat Council
22/07/25	25.128	Joe Dennis NSAA Member SA	E	Peter Norman as Secretary	y	Request for Nasho Mags
28/07/25	25.129	Graeme Young	E	Peter Norman as Secretary	y	Request to join NSAA, referred to NSAA SA
31/07/25	25.130	Ron Brandy as Nat President	E	Minister Keogh Veterans' Affairs	N	Recognising Their Sacrifice
31/08/25	25.131	Noel Moulder as VP	E	Exec members	N	invitations to attend AWM NS Ceremeony 19/9/2025
22/08/25	25.132	AWM, Diann Castrissios	E	Ron Brandy as President	y	Wreath laying on 19/9/2025
8/08/25	25.133	Peter Norman as Secretary	E	all Council Delegates	y	re 2027 operating model
all above 24.117 to 25.133 submitted to National Council 18th Sep 2025						

Links to this correspondence were provided to all delegates via email on 9/9/2025.

Secretary Pete elaborated on Items 25.128 and 117/118/120 as follows:

25.129 Professor Graeme Young AM (and other post nominals) is a National Serviceman who served in TPNG as a Regional Medical Officer, along with other NS Doctors and Dentists, in the era when Australia was assisting TPNG to prepare for PNG independence. Graeme, recently retired, has applied for membership of the NSAA. Both Ron and I discussed his circumstances and formed the opinion that Graeme could best serve himself and the NSAA if he is inducted into Direct National Membership, rather than being lost in a sub-branch. We put it to him that he might develop the case for all NS doctors and dentists to achieve better recognition. There was no dissent, so his National Direct Membership will now proceed.

25. 117/118/120 re NSAA insignia on grave headstones. Pete responded to such requests in the affirmative if the deceased was an NSAA member, or in the negative if not an NSAA member. The premise for denial of permission is that NSAA insignia should not be used as a backdoor way of obtaining recognition.

Qld Delegate Tony Stevenson asked about the future use of the NSAA logo as worn on uniforms and berets, with Qld until recently being the registered trademark owner. Due to the substantial annual cost of retaining trademark registration, Qld has decided to discontinue registration. Whether this is a matter of concern for the future operation of the NSAA post 2026 was not resolved.

8.1 Motion: That the correspondence as listed and as circulated be taken as read and accepted

Moved: Bob McIvor Seconded: Stuart Fairbairn Dissent: Nil Outcome: Carried

8.2 Business arising from the correspondence – as may be raised at the meeting. There was none.

9. BUSINESS WITH NOTICE

9.1 Call for nominations for a Barry Vicary Fellowship Nomination.

Previous recipients:

- 2007 Doug Black Vic,
- 2008 Earle Jennings Qld,
- 2009 Allan Callaghan Qld,
- 2011 John Kelly S.A,
- 2011 Noel Moulder NSW,
- 2013 Bill Morris Qld,
- 2017 Norm Mallard NSW,
- 2021 Carl Adams Vic.

Three nominations were received and were agreed by the Executive as follows:

- Tony Stevenson OAM (Qld),
- John Hardy OAM (Qld) and
- Peter Norman (Vic).

These three nominations, as recommended by the Executive, were endorsed by all Council members and will now be advanced to the National AGM on 5/3/2026 for them to be inducted.

9.2 Proposed NSAA Restructure Post 31 December 2026 (refer Annex 3 of agenda) continuing as a work-in-progress.

Based on President Ron's recommendation, it was the Council's decision is to retain the status quo (i.e. retention of the South Australian Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and the NSAA constitution framed under that Act), A motion is not necessary because there is no change from the status quo.

9.3 NSAA Relationship with other ESOs: (Refer to Annex 4 of agenda)

Motion: The NSAA National Council authorizes the NSAA President to engage with any ESO where it is perceived that such interactions have the potential to be in the best interests of all Nashos. In particular the motion of 9th September 2023 relating to NFG is now superseded.

Moved: Bob McIvor Seconded: Darrell Suter Dissent: Nil Outcome: Carried

9.4 Inflation / CPI: National Levy Increase (Refer to Annex 5 of agenda)

Secretary Pete described the history of the National levy since it was initially set in 1996 @ \$1.00 per member, increasing in periodic increments up to \$5.00 per member in 2021, where it remains, but seriously eroded by inflation. Three scenarios were examined by the Executive at their meeting on 4/8/2025, as follows:

- Option 1 - Catch-up only: From \$5.00 to \$6.00, an increase of \$1.00 per year.
- Option 2 - Pro-active: From \$5.00 to \$7.50. an increase of \$2.50 per year.
- Option 3 - Future Proofing: From \$5.00 to \$10.00, an increase of \$5.00 per year.

Qld Delegate Tony spoke against any increase on the basis that there is only one more year to go, 2026, thus a waste of time? Several other delegates spoke in favour of an increase, but the delegates' consensus was that all our member associations consider the proposals and come back to Secretary Pete by the end of October. Accordingly, the motion below was not put.

~~**Motion: That the annual Levy per member be increased from \$5.00 to \$_____ effective from 1/1/2026.**~~

9.5 CONCEPT PAPER FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL CONSIDERATION: (Refer to Annex 6 in the agenda)

The paper was an information and discussion paper only, intended to encourage personal consideration by delegates for what any future NS scheme may look like. Both sides of the argument for a name change

from.... **National Servicemen's Association of Australia (the NSAA)**
to **National Service Association of Australia (the NSAA)**

..... were debated in a very shallow sense, without any decisions being taken by the Council.

10. BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE

10.1 Qld Delegate Tony Stevenson submitted a discussion paper sourced from the Treasurer of the Brisbane South Branch regarding establishing themselves as an incorporated entity and becoming “affiliated” with the NSAA Mk 2, post 31/12/2026. They see this as a possible means of a local body providing local services to their members who will all be National Direct Members under the new arrangements. This scenario needs to be fully canvassed and developed by the Executive and reported at the 5th March 2026 Council Meeting.

President and Meeting Chairman Ron Brandy then suspended standing orders at 12:45PM for a desktop light lunch and to set up the necessary technology for the DVA interactive presentation scheduled for 1:30PM.

10.2 DVA presentation: President and meeting chairman Ron Brandy introduced and welcomed the DVA guests seen by our Council members on a big screen.



The slide show will also be emailed to Councilors by Ron, so details of the presentation are not recorded in these minutes.

10.3 Leave-of-absence. National Treasurer Richard advised that he is taking a leave-of-absence for overseas travel between 19/2/2026 to 6/3/2026. Therefore, he will not be in attendance at the AGM and Council meeting on 5/3/2026. All relevant financial papers will be included in the agendas.

10.4 Secretary Pete reminded Delegates that he had been occupying the position on NASHO newsletter on a pro tem basis since the ex-NT cohort transferred into Direct National Membership in 2023. When in Queensland recently for the VP Day+80 commemorations, Pete approached John Hardy, Editor of Qld Nasho News, for John to possibly take over as NASHO editorial/publisher on a permanent basis, with all details and mutual due diligence to be teased out. Delegates supported the proposal and authorized Pete to formally write

to John with the offer. Should John decline. then a similar approach may be made to Neil Leckie, Editor/Publisher of The Scheyvillian.

10.5 Archiving of NSAA state/territory records. VP Noel confirmed that NSAA national records are a work-in-progress which is well advanced by Ron and Noel, and is approaching the end with remaining activity taking place at the Wacol facility, courtesy NSAA Qld. Noel encouraged states/territories to tackle their own records before they formally close with effect from 31/12/2026. Some have already taken the appropriate action.

10.6 National Direct Members ... poor annual subscription renewal rate: There are perhaps several reasons, some as follows:

- Age has wearied them to the point that they do not, or cannot, maintain an interest in membership and in renewing their annual membership.
- The current requirement for each member to submit a fresh form each year is a very big turnoff and disincentive compared with the simpler expedient of just paying their subs. (Vicki already has their information in the membership database).
- The societal shift towards EFT is a turnoff for members who are not keeping pace with technology. News that cheques will disappear soon, postage increases and similar factors all come into play, all of which are part of the push by Big Tech and Big Business for their selfish purposes, rather than the plebs.
- For those member associations which prepay their members into Direct National Membership for at least the first year 2027, that their records be bulk-transitioned across with zero or minimal data entry.

10.7 DVA has a plan for a 75th anniversary of the commencement of the 51-59 Scheme Ministerially approved and scheduled for 14 Feb 2026. Granular detail is TBA.

11. DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5th March 2026 at the Mercure Hotel Canberra. AGM same day. (Into Mercure 4/3 and out 6/3).

12. CLOSE OF MEETING at 3:35PM

Appendix: Attendance Register.



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

ABN 67 616 946 831

Patron: Matt Anderson PSM, Director Australian War Memorial

Office of the National Secretary

1 Deborah Street, Kilsyth, Vic, 3137

Mob: 0458 646 594

Email: pdnorman1945@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

National Council Meeting 18th September 2025, Mercure Hotel Canberra

Name	Position	Council Member ✓	Observer ✓	Guest ✓
Pete Norman	Secretary	✓		
JOHN THORNE.	Public Officer	✓		
DARRELL SUTER.	S.A. President	✓		
TONY STEVENSON	J. Norman	✓		
NOEL MOUNDER	M. Moulder	✓		
RON BRANDY	Brandy	✓		
JOHN FAUNT	ACT PRESIDENT	✓		
Richard Tregear	Treasurer	✓		
ROBERT McIVER	VIC PRESIDENT	✓		
John Kemp	VIC. VICE PRESIDENT	✓		
JEFF GRAY	TAS PRESIDENT	✓		
FRANK MILLER	OTU Assn Chairman	✓		
MIKE LAHE	LIT DIRECT MEMBER	✓		
STUART FAIRBAIN	WA SEC/TREAS	✓		