

# NASHO



*An Official Journal*  
of the  
**NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

ABN: ABN 67 616 946 831

Patron: Matt Anderson PSM, Director Australian War Memorial

President: Ron Brandy

Editor Pro Tem: Peter Norman, National Secretary

## ***2025 2nd Trimester Edition***



**ANZAC DAY**

**14yo scores role of 'The Last Post' at ceremonies in Merimbula, NSW**

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## THE MILITARY SHOP:

The Military Shop in Canberra is undoubtedly the best place to find personal military apparel, hats and berets, badges, replica medals, memorabilia and all sorts of things navy, army and air force. The Military Shop also makes a good donation to the NSAA each year based on commission of sales of Nasho gear. Keep The Military Shop in mind if you have a need for any of this stuff. You don’t need to go to Canberra, because their catalogue is online. A Google search for “Military Shop” will get you started. Tell ‘em you’re a 1951-1959 or 1965-1972 Nasho. The logo of the Military Shop is displayed in the Nasho newsletter as quid pro quo for annual donations received from the Military Shop.

## THE NATIONAL PRIDE ROSE:

The National Pride Rose was created exclusively for the National Servicemen’s Association of Australia. It is available for purchase Australia-wide from rose stockists, but it may need to be ordered in for you. Google “National Pride Rose” for more information. Every rose sold generates a donation from Corporate Roses to the NSAA, so make sure you tell them you’re a Nasho when you place your order.

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT RON BRANDY'S REPORT:

NSAA National Council Communication – NSAA Transition Post 31 December 2026

This communication is to inform all members of the association nationwide of the decision taken and motion unanimously passed by the NSAA National Council of Delegates, 6.3.2025.

The motion adopted confirmed that the NSAA would transition from one which has 'Member Associations', comprising QLD, VIC, SA, WA, ACT and the OTU, complete with their constituent members and representative delegates, to one that has a National Executive and individual financial members from all Australian States and Territories.

This new structure will cater for those National Servicemen who have, and will be, disenfranchised at the National Level by the planned or already actioned closure of their State or Territory Branches and Sub-branches of their respective Member Association(s) post 31 December 2026.

The new structure will have a Patrons and Eminent Persons Council, designed to provide guidance and oversight to the National Executive, and facilitate communication between State and Territory members, and high level representation to the Federal Government and Government Departments.

This restructure recognises the need for National Servicemen to continue to have an organisation that is able to offer current and future members the following:

- maintain a 'home' for National Servicemen at the National level,
- communicate with National Servicemen, and their families, across Australia via newsletters at a reasonable annual cost,
- maintain the camaraderie and connection enjoyed by all National Servicemen across Australia,
- maintain and deliver the annual Commemorative Service at our National Nasho Memorial for all via the Australian War Memorial,
- maintain the ability to represent all National Servicemen at the highest level of the Federal Government, or its agencies.

Ron Brandy

National President, National Servicemen's Association of Australia

## THE FUTURE OF THE NSAA AFTER 26/12/2026:

At the NSAA National Council meeting conducted on 5/9/2024 in Canberra, the delegates considered three options for the future of the NSAA national organisation, for after the target end date of 31/12/2026. This date was given the temporary label of D-Day.

The three options considered by the National Council were:

- Option 1 - Reform as an individual nation-wide member organisation,
- Option 2 - Retain NSAA as currently structured and managed,
- Option 3 - Disband completely: States and Territories revert to social, or State or Territory constituted entities.

Option 1, to 'Reform as an Individual Nation-Wide Member Organisation with a National Management Team' was unanimously endorsed with the request to delegates to canvas support at state and territory level and report the responses to the Secretary by 31 December 2024.

### Sustaining a NSAA National Presence – Progress Report

Our ongoing challenge is to now fully work up a sustainable plan to deliver what Option 1 offers, Individual State and Territory based representation and communication to and from NSAA National.

It is fair, reasonable, and important that individual ordinary members have a means to channel information and queries to the National body without the need for formal committee level management, if that is the wishes of the individual membership. To achieve this, it is important that inputs to the proposed National newsletters be filtered through local focal points i.e. a member or small group of members willing to act voluntarily as a conduit between member groups and the National body.

Equally, we need to determine what level of higher level of state and territory 'top cover' is desirable to assure members that they have an experienced person able to represent them to either NSAA National, or Government, via the National team.

In this context the National Executive offers the suggestion that, where possible, states and territories retain their current Patron in that role. In doing so members should feel well served by these eminent persons that could act for them/us should it be necessary and be able to jointly provide oversight across the organisation, in the members interests.

## “NASHO” NEWSLETTER - TARGET AUDIENCE EXPLAINED:

“Nasho” is the newsletter for Nashos who were previously members of NSAA states and territories branches which have closed along the way. Two have has closed so far, Northern Territory and New South Wales, with possibly more to follow as age wearies us all.

Many such disenfranchised members may wish to remain with the NSAA, so a special category was set up in late 2023. These members are referred to as “National Direct Members”.

The National Direct Members will receive a copy of “Nasho” three times per year. Courtesy copies are also sent to states and territories secretaries, and to the Officer Training Unit (Scheyville) Association.

If there is anything published in any edition of “Nasho” which needs clarification, a letter to the editor is appropriate.

This is the third edition of “Nasho”, the newsletter for Nashos who were previously members of NSAA states and territories which have closed along the way. Former Northern Territory members joined in 2023 and New South Wales members joined for 2024. “Nasho” will achieve the best take-up if readers make comments and suggestions for subsequent editions.

Pete Norman, NSAA National Secretary, “Nasho” Editor Pro Tem.



Meilland Roses for Australian gardens:

## 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF 2<sup>ND</sup> ERA NASHOS MARCHING IN:

2<sup>nd</sup> Era Nashos marched-in on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1965. However, “marching in” is a misnomer because most such recruits were still a rabble of sheep, not knowing what to do or where to go, unless guided by barking sheep dogs, nipping at their heels. But three months later they certainly knew how to march, and some. They were changed from a miscellany of individual young men into bodies of trained soldiers, lives turned upside down, and taught new skills they could not imagine in civilian life.



This is a photograph of the ballot balls (marbles) that were used by the Australian Government as part of its National Service Scheme between 1965 and 1972. The ballot was used to select men to be conscripted into the Australian army. In the ballot, 181 marbles, each representing a date between January 1 and June 30, were placed in the barrel. Ninety-six marbles were drawn out.

January 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 21, 23, 27, 28

February 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26

March 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

April 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 29

May 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, 19, 22, 23, 26, 30

June 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 25, 26, 29

The pendulum of your destiny swung widely and wildly if this was your marble

Those who are still with us have just celebrated their 80th birthdays, or will do so before the end of June. They were National Servicemen who were called up for compulsory military service for two years between June 1965 and June 1967. There were about 2,100 of them. They were selected because their birthdates were randomly pulled out of a lottery barrel. None of them knew about it at the time, but the government had commissioned Tattersall's to conduct a ballot to conscript men to bolster the size of the Australian army to 33,000, at a time of military instability in our corner of the globe.

It changed their lives in many ways, some good, some not so. But most men who were called up discharged their obligations graciously, in the service of our great country, at a time when our country needed us. From the date of receiving their call-up notices on 11th June 1965, they were given three weeks to mothball their civilian lives and report for duty.



Drawing the numbers corresponding to birth dates.

The first draft, on June 30th 1965, sent 1,350 young men to Puckapunyal in Victoria and 750 to Kapooka in New South Wales for recruit training before they were drafted to regular army units to complete their two years' service. The plan aimed to provide a constant strength of 13,800 young national servicemen in Australia's military forces. That was the plan, and it was followed for seven years before yielding to huge political and social influences during what became an very unpopular war in Vietnam. There has been no National Service scheme for over 50 years. It was all over in 1972, 53 years ago.

## ONE NASHO'S RECOLLECTIONS FROM 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1965:

There were 1200 of us bound for Pucka. Another 1200 were bound for Kapooka NSW. We have lost a few of our mates along the way. Those of us left are now all 80 years old or will be by 29<sup>th</sup> June.

It was 30th June 1965. All conscripts were required to assemble at the Swan Street Depot, an Army site now supplanted by Melbourne's rectangular stadium. It was very rare for any two blokes to be known to each other. We were all running solo. We boarded a large fleet of buses to be conveyed to Puckapunyal, the site of 2 Recruit Training Battalion. On board each bus was a non-commissioned officer who was supposed to give us a brief induction course in transit, but which degenerated into ever worsening horror stories about Army life.

We arrived at Pucka in time for lunch. The large mess was unable to accommodate us all, so we ate in shifts. It was a cold lunch of make-your-own sandwiches, followed by cakes and tea or coffee. I was happy with the sandwich fillings and so ate my fill with surprised enjoyment. One of my worst fears was food. I was a very picky eater and was horrified at the thought of having to eat porridge which I had not even tasted. But I soon got over my food fears.

After lunch, we were lined up as a complete rabble, with pandemonium everywhere as orders were barked for Attention, Left Turn and Quick March. At least I could differentiate between left and right, but some blokes had no idea. We were marched off to the Q-Store to be fitted with uniforms and kit.

There was a lot of kit to struggle back with to our assigned huts. About two sets of all clothing except berets, hats and greatcoats. Boots and shoes were in their raw state and would require much work over coming weeks to spit polish to the required standard. Hats needed to be "bashed" into classic slouch hat style. There were four uniforms. The first was the WW2 vintage khaki battle dress, then jungle greens, a modern walking out dress and P.T. gear to complete the outer layers. Underwear was vintage Boer War long-johns just like our great-grandfathers wore. The rest of our personal kit included cooking and eating irons, a housewife sewing kit and a canvas kit bag to contain it all. Service kit and hardware were issued separately.

I was assigned to 6-Platoon in B-Company. There were sixteen of us in each hut. The huts were WW2 vintage . They were lined but not insulated, so the winter nights of July were very cold. Furniture was new as was our bedding. We were issued with four woollen blankets and we mostly had all of them on the bed, topped with our great coats, and we were still cold.

At 6 a.m. Reveille was sounded, and we tumbled outside onto parade in pyjamas, great coats and anything we could get our feet into. It was freezing, literally. On one extremely cold morning a couple of recruits fainted and fell, and were left where they fell. I started to lose my eye-sight and was falling down when our Corporal dismissed us. The two that fainted, as well as me who nearly fainted, were marched off to the Regimental Aid Post (or R.A.P. for short) for assessment by the duty first-aider. The diagnosis ... extreme change of temperature causing faints. Prognosis ... take your time leaping out of bed to be on parade. The issue here is that nobody wants to be the last on parade, because the late arrivals will be on guard duty or washing dishes in the mess. We all copped such duties, but some copped disproportional loads of extra duties for being first or last.

Over the next six weeks we were confined to barracks. No leave at all. Our days were spent learning and perfecting all the soldierly drill, bush craft and weaponry. Our evenings were spent working on the spit polishing of our boots, gaiters and belts. This is an art that took some time to master, but after about three nights somebody yelled "Hey, look, I've got a shine". So now it became a race for the best shine on boots and shoes. I think we had two pairs of boots so that after a day in the mud of the bush, we had a dry pair for tomorrow. It's not easy to spit polish wet boots.

At 10 p.m. it was lights out. We were ordered to bed and told to maintain silence until 6 a.m. But as soon as the lights were extinguished, the silence did not last long. Someone would tell a joke, to soon be followed by other jokes. We had one bloke in our hut who told numerous jokes every night, without repeating himself once, and all from his memory. Some nights, after jokes, various stories were told. Some were funny, some were quite sad with some of the recruits having some harrowing tales to tell. One night when we thought our Corporal had gone home to his own bed, he suddenly burst through the door again, spluttering his rage. Every one of us copped some sort of penance to perform. We were certain that he had some jobs to resource, so he solved all his problems in one fell swoop.

Some nights, after lights out, we were raided by the members of adjacent huts. I remember one such night waking up in the vertical position, as did many others of my hut mates. Our adversaries swarmed through our hut en mass, tipping up the bed-ends so that all our beds were standing to attention with all occupants slithering over their pillows and bed-head, gravitating to the floor. We planned revenge the next night, but they anticipated our visit, with the result that we came off second best.

There were about 1,200 recruits in the camp, and after three weeks nobody went to sleep until well after midnight, and it wasn't really safe then. It all came to an abrupt end when somebody stole E-Company's ceremonial cannon from their parade ground. While it was possible to offend anyone by questioning their parentage, knocking off their cannon was another matter entirely. After some days, an amnesty was called, but still no cannon reappeared on its pedestal. The Commanding Officer then became involved and threatened the whole camp with denial of leave if it was not returned forthwith. At the eleventh hour, somebody returning to camp saw it in a very obvious position on the side of the road between Seymour and Pucka. All's well that ends well.

Amidst all this fun and games, we were trained up as effective soldiers. We had frequent target practices with the standard Army rifle of the era ... the SLR (self loading rifle). Most of us gained a reasonable proficiency with this rifle, but not so with the automatic version, the L2A1. As soon as one pulled the trigger the recoil pulled the weapon upwards to the left. If anyone could get three bullets into the target, then they were marksmen. The tendency of this automatic weapon to perform in such a manner was a serious deficiency, although never officially acknowledged as such. For target practice, while we recruits fired the contents of our magazines unwillingly to the heavens, all our NCOs, drivers and cooks' assistants fired their ordinary rifles into our targets, on our behalf. We all passed the automatics range practice by the barest minimum.

The third firearm we used was the WW2-era Owen sub-machine gun. When you pulled the trigger, there was virtually no recoil. The recoil action loaded the next round. At the range on my first outing with the Owen gun I thought that I had had a stoppage, common enough, no shots fired. But when I checked the magazine it was empty. I did not feel the recoil on my shoulder of even one firing, let alone the whole twenty-or-so rounds.

We also spent a lot of time route marching along the road towards Tooborac and back, a return trip of twenty miles, with rifle and full pack. We had a five-minute rest break every hour, when we all rushed over to the nearest roadside fence to get our feet up on the top wire for some relief for our aching and sometimes blistered feet.

On other occasions our forays far and wide were through the bush, with compass and map. All distances had to be estimated as we were not allowed any distance measuring apparatus. The usual procedure was to fill one of our pockets with small stones which we would transfer to the other pocket every one-hundred-feet of our estimations. When any directional change was imminent, we would individually count our stones and use the median as the most reliable measure. We also did this on nights of pitch black. The only way you could see the man in front of you was if he pinned a white handkerchief to his back, and that was only good for three feet of night vision. All of these day and night excursions were conducted at squad strength, with about 16 men per squad. Inter-squad competition was fierce, with complete failure to reach the correct destination incurring the wrath of the NCO and the derision of all the other squads and platoons.

In a hut of sixteen young men, an unconscious code of conduct prevails to sort out under-performers. Some of this was delivered as helpful advice; some with minor brutality. One of our blokes came to the attention of the group when it was observed that he had not showered for several days. All the rest of us showered daily, even when there was no hot water, which was mostly the case. Of course it was quick, but it was a team expectation. Our reluctant non-showerer was hauled off to the shower block and given a quick but token scrub down with a yard broom. After that, he joined the daily queue at the shower block, and looked and smelt better than he had.

Midst all the basic training as soldiers, there was one afternoon per week set aside for sports. There were three codes played: Aussie rules, soccer and rugby. I was not keen on football, as I was still a skinny bloke weighing in at eight and a half stone. I always heard the footsteps coming as soon as the opposition team jumped from the back of their army truck. As it had been at school, I was also amongst the last picked for the sports at Pucka, not for the Aussie rules or soccer, but for the rugby. This was a game I was totally unfamiliar with, it being rarely played in Victoria at that time. I had no idea about the rules, and just ran hither and thither about the pitch avoiding everyone in sight. Next thing, I was in a scrum! What in hell is going on here, a mass cuddle or what? After getting my ears almost wrenched off I hobbled off with a fake ankle sprain, thus averting being

killed. On sports days thereafter, I was first volunteer to be the goal umpire (Aussie Rules), the linesman (Soccer) or orange boy (Rugby).

Two of my hut mates at Pucka went on to become prominent in their post-army civilian pursuits. Ted Demmler became Australia's most successful harness racer of the post 1965 era, and Barry Vicary became the founding president of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia.

Guard shifts, also called fire picquets, were generally two hours on duty and two hours off. Pucka in July is freezing, so marching around the camp at 3AM was not fun. I made the time go as quickly as I could with mental arithmetic, which some of my friends will laugh at. My approach was this: 1 minute out of 120 minutes, a simple fraction of  $1/120$  and one minute ticked off. Next fraction  $2/120$  reduced to  $1/60$ , and so on. So, by the time I was in my 17th minute my fraction was  $17/120$  and by the time I had mentally examined how to break it down to its lowest denominators, 23 minutes of my duty had passed. Although my mental arithmetic was not all that flash, I was too mentally occupied wrestling with it to notice how cold and miserable I was, and thus before I knew it I was back in the warmth of the guard-house. Time-consuming mental exercises were much better than shivering and looking at my watch every two minutes.

As well as guard duties we also copped mess duties on a regular basis, either helping the cooks with the preparation of food, or the washing of dishes. The thing that I hated most was washing up after breakfast if fried eggs were on the menu. Getting the egg yolk off plates and cutlery was like getting shit off a blanket. As you can imagine, bulk cooking requires very large pots and pans, so the washing-up sinks were about bath-tub size. For a couple of my cook-house duties I was assigned to the spud peeling machine. This was state of the art in 1965 compared with how the WW2 diggers peeled spuds. It was like a very large spin dryer. A hessian bag of spuds was tipped into it, and as the spuds bounced around the inside, various cheese-grater type apertures and protrusions bruised the skins off, with all the waste being flushed away with sprayed water. It worked well. My next assignment was a hessian bag of carrots emptied into the same machine, but this time with unwanted results. Carrots have thinner and softer skins than potatoes. When I stopped the machine all that was left of the carrots was the inner hard core. All the best flesh had disappeared down the drain. The cook was not happy and stormed off to get another veggie. The cook's assistant with the same rank of Private like me, just shrugged

and said, “don’t worry mate, Cookie will get over it”. We Privates, being the lowest of the low, had to look out for each other.

Towards the end of our three months of training at Puckapunyal, I came down with measles. On Sunday, when it was compulsory to attend church parade, I could not attend (Yeh!) and had a chit to prove it, signed by the medical officer, confining me to my hut. When the church parade was about halfway through, an NCO started to check the various huts for absentees from the church parade. “What are you doing here Private Norman, you should be in church!” His question was rhetorical. I showed him my chit upon which, satisfied, he departed to inspect the next hut. After an elapse of a couple of minutes I did an internal circuit of our hut and unlocked all the wardrobe doors to allow all my hutmates out to enjoy the rest or their godless holiday.

In the final days at Pucka, we spent our time rehearsing our graduation parade, to which all our relatives and friends were to be invited to witness. I was mostly over my illness by this stage, so I was able to rejoin my mates for the celebration of the completion of our basic training.



Our hut at Pucka July-Aug 1965.

We moved to the new huts after two months.

That’s me Pete Norman bottom Left. Also in the photo are Barry Vicary (founder of the NSAA) 2<sup>nd</sup> from right, and Ted Demmler (centre, next to Barry). Ted Demmler is harness racing royalty having driven over 4000 winners and considered by many to have been the best in the world at his peak. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 he was welcomed into elite company, when he was elevated to a Legend of the Victorian Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

## 2025 COMMEMORATION AT THE NATIONAL SERVICE MEMORIAL:

On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 11am there will be a memorial service conducted in the National Service precinct at the Australian War Memorial, to commemorate two important past events. These are (a) the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first intake of 2<sup>nd</sup> Era Nashos starting at Kapooka and Puckapunyal on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1965 and (b) the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the National Service Memorial at the Australian War Memorial on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

All Nashos are invited to attend the low-key remembrance service at 11am on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September. If you plan to attend, please register with the National Secretary Pete Norman via email or text to ... [pdnorman1945@gmail.com](mailto:pdnorman1945@gmail.com) or 0458 646 594.

Memories from back then:



**Mick Augello's 1st day of National Service in Australian Army at "Pucka" 1965**

Michelangelo (Mick to us, his mates) Augello is no longer with us. He passed away on 1/10/2015.  
Photo first published in the Melbourne Sun on 1/7/1965



Three months later – the March out Parade at Pucka



First published in The Sydney Morning Herald on July 1, 1965

## The day sergeant majors smiled on the new recruits

Fatherly sergeant-majors, kindly sergeants and corporals with beaming smiles greeted new National Servicemen at the Army's Marrickville training depot yesterday. (Oh yeah?) The 720 raw recruits, each tagged with his name, initial and platoon number and carrying a small bag, assembled at the depot.

"A cold metallic voice at the Marrickville Army depot snapped: "You will pick up your bags in your left hand and also your coats in your left hand, leaving your right hand free... on command you will march straight ahead ... on the right there is a platoon area... you will not go there... that is not your area... you will march on to the second area." June 30, 1965.

They spent most of the day at the depot. They had dental and medical check-ups, filled in forms, received travel documents and listened to lectures on Service life.

"You'll get used to it": Their hair was long, some smoked and occasionally one was chewing gum.



The recruits sat down to three-course meals — steak for lunch, chicken for dinner — at set places on white clothed tables.

The recruits cheered when the Eastern Command Band, in scarlet tunics, played "I Want To Hold Your Hand," "Waltzing Matilda" and jazz items. Several times during the day NCOs mustered their red-tagged Puckapunyal men and yellow-ticketed Kapooka men.

In a slouching gait reminiscent of defeated footballers leaving the field, they "marched" from one point to another amid much hilarity. "Make the most of it today, lads," said a sergeant in regulation step beside one ragged group.

Birthdates drawn in the second National Service ballot, conducted 10 September 1965

**Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 July 1945 to 31 December 1945.**

**July 3, 6, 7, 8, 16, 22, 25, 26, 31**

**August 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26**

**September 2, 4, 5, 6, 14, 17, 21, 25, 26**

**October 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 23, 25, 29**

**November 3, 4, 12, 14, 15, 16, 22, 24, 27**

**December 6, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31**

There were also many for the earlier period who were overseas, or otherwise unavailable, for the 1<sup>st</sup> Intake.

Men called up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> intake marched into 1RTB Kapooka, 2RTB Puckapunyal and 3TB Singleton on Wednesday 29th September. Those of them who are still with us will turn 80 between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 31 December 2025.

**Forty-Five Years Later in 2010 – now aged in their 60s and 70s.**

On Wednesday, 8 September 2010, in a sea of blue blazers and berets, an estimated 2,500 National Servicemen formed the largest parade of its kind in their history in Anzac Parade. They marched in the year of their call-up - from the pioneers of 1951 to the last Vietnam call-up in 1972.



Meilland Roses for Australian gardens:



With their families, they travelled from all over Australia to watch the solemn ceremony around the Memorial. The sandstone, granite and bronze fountain, set in its own precinct of red gravel paths, sandstone surrounds and benches flanked by specially planted snow gums, and pencil pines stands against the imposing backdrop of the iconic Australian War Memorial.

Archbishop the Rt Rev Dr Peter Hollingworth, an RAAF National Serviceman and former Governor-General of Australia and Senior Pastor Wayne Lyons, a Vietnam veteran blessed the Memorial.

From President Earle Jennings AM RFD ED: The National Service Memorial was built by National Servicemen for National Servicemen. Along the way we had help from many organisations and people and I want to pay tribute to all who were involved in the planning, construction and dedication of the Memorial by the Governor-General on Wednesday, 8 September 2010.

Your National Executive and Council have put nine years of work into achieving this recognition of your service to Australia. A central part of that was paying tribute to the 212 National Servicemen who did not return from Borneo and Vietnam and to give closure to their families.



We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Australian War Memorial and its staff in the design and construction of the Memorial and the Dedication service and to the Minister and Department of Veterans Affairs who also assisted us financially and in planning and staffing the Reception at Parliament House. We also can thank Kerry Stokes and Channel 7 for his assistance to the fund raising and for the national live telecast of the service. To all who worked for and assisted with the Dedication, our thanks.



A Memorial Elegant in its Simplicity

# PHOTOS FROM ANZAC DAY 2025 – NSW AND NT:



**ANZAC DAY** Thousands of Territorians line up to watch the Darwin parade



Weary Dunlop's granddaughter, Diana Dunlop, wears the replica medals of her grandfather. Picture: Ian Currie

Weary Dunlop's granddaughter Diana Dunlop wearing replicas of her grandfather's miniature medals




**ANZAC DAY** ADF members gather for dawn service at Hellfire Pass in Thailand



Anzac Day 2025 at Narrabri NSW: Photo by National Direct Member Richard Barry OAM.



 Merimbula, NSW



 Newcastle, NSW



 Shoalhaven Heads, NSW



 Wollongong, NSW

## NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND:

### NATIONAL DIRECT MEMBERS NEWSLETTER – May 2025 - QUEENSLAND CONTRIBUTION

Compiled by John Hardy OAM – NASHO NEWS Editor

#### 1. WACOL NATIONAL SERVICE MILITARY PRECINCT:

**a. SKILLING QUEENSLANDERS MAKEOVER** - There have been plenty of makeovers since 1.3ha of the former Wacol military precinct was handed over to our Association by the Federal Government in 2005. Much work has been carried out by Brisbane Branches but the present one is a one off being undertaken by Career Employment Australia (CEA). Supported with a DVA Grant of \$83,000, CEA has progressed several areas that require maintenance attention including but not restricted to the following:

- Upgrade to the disabled toilet block
- Repainting of the two military guns
- Precinct landscaping and signage repairs
- External repairs to Everyman's Hut and
- External painting of the PNG Volunteer Rifles museum.



The project covers 19 weeks and concludes on 19 June when the 9 students will be presented with a Certificate 1 Construction.

**b. RELOCATION OF CAMP HILL HQ HONOUR BOARD** – as part of the Queensland NSAA Closure Plan estimated financially to be 31 December 2026, the Soldier’s Chapel is being investigated as a likely place to relocate the Honour Board. It was donated by Vince O'Rourke of Queensland Rail who had seen its manufacture at the Ipswich Railway Workshops. This honour board keeps a visible record of state committee members and the names of 37 Life Members. The board started from 1991 and continues to the present day.

**2. ANZAC DAY** - Nasho members from throughout Queensland were proud to support their ANZAC Day community services. The following examples are provided of what it means to them to attend these services including the laying of wreaths:

- **Evelyn Scrub War Memorial** - Erected in 1919, the memorial lists the names of 41 men who represented nearly 90% of the young men from the area at that time. Tableland Branch member and Vietnam Veteran, Ian “Chips” Rafferty was one of hundreds of people who attended the dawn service 15 kilometres north of Ravenshoe. He remarked that it ranks amongst one of the best services that he has attended where recognition is given to the 12 soldiers that paid the supreme sacrifice, one an aborigine. Recently refurbished, the memorial features the six Keid brothers who went off to war. Only two, Guy and Harry who, despite being wounded on landing at Gallipoli and continued to serve in France, made it home.
- **Cairns ANZAC Service** - NSAA Cairns Branch President Nev O'Brien features prominently being carer for ex-servicewoman Val Veivers. Ms Veivers enlisted in the Womens Australian Auxiliary Air Force when she turned 18. At the Cairns RSL Sub Branch Anzac Day Dawn Service, Val as a World War II veteran passed the torch to the 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment Private Ronin Saunde, being the youngest region's defence force member.

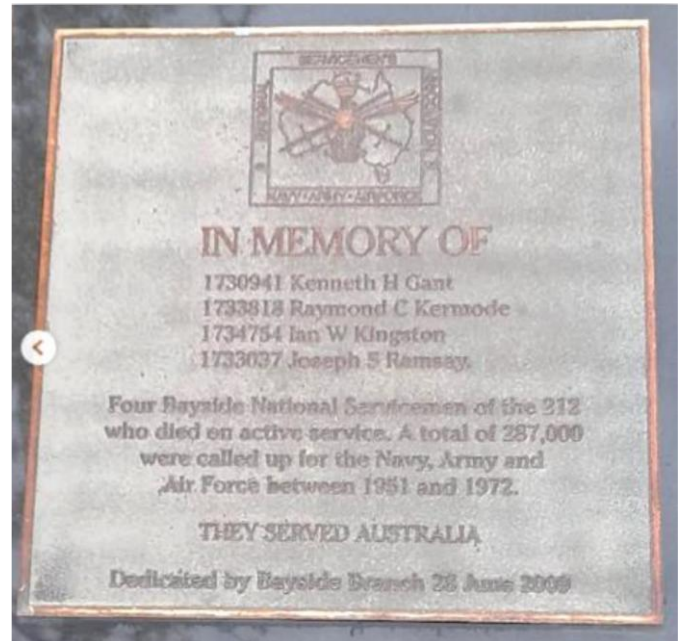


Nev O'Brien and Val Veivers

- **NSAA Bayside Branch ANZAC Service** -A memorial plaque which has stood for nearly 16 years at Darling Point, Manly, Brisbane dedicated to four Bayside National Servicemen, was discovered stolen on 26 March, just a month before ANZAC Day. In true Nasho style, members stepped up to ensure that a new plaque was manufactured and reinstalled for their Dawn Service. Neal Freier, NSAA Queensland State Treasurer and National Committee member who belongs to this Branch said that it was a relief to see the memorial reinstated to its former glory.



Darling Point Memorial – Before



Darling Point Memorial – After



## NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

Compiled by John Thorne ESM, State Secretary on behalf of President Darrell Suter.

The South Australia Branch is continuing to function in an effective manner with one Sub Branch along with the majority of the closed Sub Branches members remaining members of the organization attached to the State Headquarters. All members are keen to keep the organization operating for as long as we can into the foreseeable future.

The building that we currently occupy will be demolished later this year, to be replaced by a new building to accommodate our organization and the Hilton RSL, along with the Adelaide Pipes and Drums band and other veteran organizations that currently meet in the location. The City of West Torrens with the aid of Grants from the State and Federal Governments has up graded the reserve surrounding the building and the new building costs. The building will be a veterans Hub.

The Branch members meet each Friday for a chat and lunch. We plan to include guest speakers on various subjects to address the members on interesting subjects such as security in the home and cyber crime. We are averaging 25 members each week at the get-togethers.

Our rose garden in the memorial garden is flourishing, and the 25 Nasho roses to remember the 25 South Australian Nashos killed in Vietnam are continuing to provide a wonderful display when in flower.

Again this year in February our Branch conducted the National Service Memorial Day service at our Memorial next to the Headquarters. This was well attended by our own members, ex-service organizations, Local and State Government and the Federal member for the area.

***Darrell SUTER***  
***State President***

***John Thorne ESM***  
***State Secretary***



Meiland Roses for Australian gardens:

## NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY:

Compiled by John Faunt, President ACT Branch

Age and time continue to decimate our membership base, and our membership profile is detailed below. Our oldest member is 94 with three others celebrating their 90th birthday this year. Our youngest is 72 with the remainder between the mid 70's and the middle to late eighties and the average age at 82 years. Our current membership base sits at 41 all inclusive. The structure is laid out below.

Ordinary Members	29
Associate Members	6
Patrons	2
Honorary Pastor	1
Life Members	3
Total	41

Despite the easing of restrictions due to Covid – 19, our members are still wary of the appearance of Covid mutations that continue to arise and thus, we have not re-initiated bus trips to locations that once were popular prior to the original outbreak of the pandemic.

As mentioned above, our aging members are also reluctant to partake in social activities due to mobility and transport issues.

Attendance at major events such as the observances of Vietnam Veteran's Day, Anzac Day Battle for Australia Day and Remembrance Day have diminished with myself usually being our only attendee.

National Servicemen's Day on 14th February has received full support from the Australian War Memorial with a handful of members attending the Last Post Ceremony. The emphasis during the ceremony is acknowledging the role of the National Servicemen.

The members have decided to continue as the National Servicemen's Association Canberra and efforts continue to attract new members is ongoing, albeit with minimal effect. We are aware that in accordance with Incorporation, we will have no alternative but cease operations if our membership base numbers fall below fifteen members and general meetings become untenable.

***John Faunt, President ACT Branch***

## NEWS FROM TASMANIA:

Compiled by Jeff Gray, President, NSAA Tasmanian State Branch

With the closure of the Launceston Sub-branch & the North Eastern Sub Branch on December 31st 2023, we started 2024 with just 3 Sub-branches in existence in Tasmania: the Mersey & District Sub-branch with a membership of 30, the Northern Midlands Sub-branch with a membership of 30, and the Hobart Sub-branch with a membership of 10.

At a State Branch level there were just two State Branch ordinary Meetings as well the AGM. Nothing else happened at a 'State Branch' level. The rest of the NSAA activities during 2024 were conducted at the 3 Sub-Branches. These included February 14th NSAA Commemorative Services, attendance at Anzac Day, Vietnam Veteran's Day & Remembrance Day Services. Each of the Sub-Branches held regular Meetings as well as the Hobart Sub-Branch holding monthly Luncheons.

Each of the Sub-Branches recorded deaths during the year, with the most significant one, from the State Branch perspective, being that of Barry Sonter, a former State Branch President. The family of Barry declined either a NSAA or an RSL Service. The six Nashos who were in attendance were involved however at the burial service and were requested by the Funeral Director to carry the casket from the hearse to the graveside and as the service progressed to lower Barry into his final resting place. So we were able to say goodbye to him. At our next State Branch Meeting, as part of the opening, I was able to relate to the meeting events which took place as part of the funeral of the late Barry Sonter who was a past Tas Branch President. Bob Pitt, the President of the Northern Midland's Sub-Branch, gave a brief resume of Barry's life of service through his time living in Scottsdale and his Army Service life. Barry reached the rank of Major during his 28 years or service. He was sent to Vietnam for a period whilst he was a Captain, and served also in New Zealand. Barry retired in 1983. He was elected to the position of President of the NSAA Tasmanian Branch in 2018 until ill health forced his retirement in 2023. To complete the opening of the meeting those present were asked to stand while I recited the Ode and observed a minute silence as a Tribute to Barry.

On the 9th of July the State Secretary & I received a letter from the Northern Midlands Sub-Branch advising that at a special meeting, a motion was passed to dissolve the Northern Midlands Sub-Branch at the end of their financial year, 31st December 2024. They advise that the committee members with an average age of 86, feel they cannot continue and form a committee in 2025. They stated: "We only have one second scheme

member on the committee, the rest of us are all 'old timers'." I was able to attend their Christmas Break-up to bring greetings from the State Branch, and chat with those there.

At this stage the Mersey & District Sub-Branch & Hobart Sub-Branch will continue until the end of 2026, with both of them moving to an unincorporated "social basis" after that. We are "going down with the ship."

Jeff Gray  
President  
NSAA Tasmanian State Branch

## NEWS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

Compiled by NSAA Western Australia Branch

This past year has been challenging, most of our members are from the 1951 – 59 era and they have reached a point where they are unable to contribute much due to mobility and other health issues. Our Membership Officer David Lewis passed away and our Chaplain Peter Cowley has gone into permanent care leaving our state committee a mere rump juggling more than one portfolio to keep things going. We moved to a more social luncheon agenda for the most part last year as we were only getting one or two members + the committee, turning up for the formal meetings.

The York Sub-Branch finally closed last November leaving just Mandurah Sub-Branch still bravely soldiering on with meetings most months (Mostly through the sterling efforts of the lady members)!

We held a ballot for the 3 options presented by National Council post 2026 and the overwhelming majority of votes preferred option one.

We held our Annual General Meeting earlier this month and it has been decided to formally close as an Incorporated body on 31st December 2025 our remaining agenda for this year will be just a social luncheon each quarter. We have encouraged all members to take up the option of National Membership from 1st January 2026.

It is hoped that the informal get togethers will continue for the foreseeable future beyond 31st December 2025 and that we will still maintain links to local RSL bodies and the

National Council without the incumbrance of WA State legalities that obliged us to have formal meetings and mandatory reporting etc.

Stuart Fairbairn, NSAA Western Australia Branch

## NEWS FROM VICTORIA:

Compiled by Robert (Bob) McIvor OAM, President Victorian Branch:

Our Memorial Services around our State of Victoria were well supported again over our year. National Servicemen's Memorial Day Shrine Melbourne, Pucka Memorial Day March and Memorial Service, Navy Memorial Day HMAS Cerberus, Airforce Memorial Day Pt. Cook, Anzac Day March and Services around Victoria, Springvale War Graves Remembrance Day Service, RSL Remembrance Day Services around our State of Victoria.

Your wonderful support again for our Nasho Toy Drive with this year's total of Toys, our grand total of toys donated over twenty-two years is now 125,000 to the Salvos to assist them in their support of underprivileged children within our state of Victoria. To our members who donated, Thank You, and well done again.

The Geelong and District Sub-Branch have made a wonderful donation at their Annual Christmas Luncheon to Bay Leaf Kitchen to assist them in their good work in support of local people down on their luck and need help. Your good people with your wonderful donation have lifted our National Service profile throughout Victoria.

Our patron Maj. Gen Jim Barry AM MBE EO RFD RETD has again been a wonderful support to our Association with Fine Counselling throughout our year.

Our Chaplain Colin McMillin has again supported our members by attending our Memorial Services and supporting our members in their time of need. Well done again Chaplain Colin McMillin

Our State Executive SVP Ron Brady, VP Peter Kemp, Sec Peter Norman, Asst Sec Bill Matherson, Committee Charlie Munday, Flags and Bearers Garry McNamara, Membership Gerry Thomas, Returning Officer and Constitution, Nasho New Editor Shane Murphy and his team, our Memorial Days Coordinators Sam Cucè, National Servicemen's Day Shrine, Navy Memorial Day HMAS Cerberus , Jim Farrow & his team. Airfoce

Memorial Day Pt. Cook. Laurie Bell, John McDonald Anzac Day Shrine Melbourne Neil Graham.

To the above Executives and Members, thank you and well done again in 2024. In the future things will change in the coming years as we become Socia Clubs, but let's stick together and support each other as before, and always be proud of your service as Australian National Servicemen and thank you for your service to our Nation.

Victorian State President, Bob McIvor OAM

## NORTHERN TERRITORY, NEW SOUTH WALES AND OFFICER TRAINING UNIT (SCHEYVILLE) ASSOCIATION NEWS:

We are aiming to include news from these sources in the next edition. If any individual would like to submit a story about his experience, most readers will enjoy reading it.

## POLITICAL CORRECTNESS - EXCELLENT EXPLANATION:

We are constantly hearing from the press that Trump is too opinionated and not using political correctness. So what is meant by the modern term referred to as 'POLITICAL CORRECTNESS'.. The definition is found in four telegrams at the Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri. The following are copies of four telegrams between President Harry Truman and General Douglas MacArthur on the day before the actual signing of the WWII Surrender Agreement in September 1945.. The contents of those four telegrams below are exactly as received at the end of the war - not a word has been added or deleted!

(1) Tokyo, Japan 0800-September 1,1945

To: President Harry S Truman

From: General D A MacArthur

*Tomorrow we meet with those yellow-bellied bastards and sign the Surrender Documents, any last minute instructions?*

(2) Washington, D C 1300-September 1, 1945

To: D A MacArthur

From: H S Truman

*Congratulations, job well done, but you must tone down your obvious dislike of the Japanese when discussing the terms of the surrender with the press, because some of your remarks are fundamentally not politically correct!*

(3) Tokyo, Japan 1630-September 1, 1945

To: H S Truman

From: D A MacArthur and C H Nimitz

*Wilco Sir, but both Chester and I are somewhat confused, exactly what does the term politically correct mean?*

(4) Washington, D C 2120-September 1, 1945

To: D A MacArthur/C H Nimitz

From: H S Truman

*Political Correctness is a doctrine, recently fostered by a delusional, illogical minority and promoted by a sick mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a piece of shit by the clean end!*

Now, with special thanks to the Truman Museum and Harry himself, you and I finally have a full understanding of what 'POLITICAL CORRECTNESS' really means.....

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2025 SUBSCRIPTION?

If you are certain that you have paid, your payment may not have included your name or number. This is likely to occur if someone else paid on your behalf and advised their own name, but not the name or number of the member they were paying for. Such orphan payments currently needing to be resolved are Robert Fe? – could be Robert Hunt or Robert Millard? The payment by Kerry Bynes – could this be for Don Bynge?

Members are reminded to include their member number in the payee's reference or we end up with money from unidentified people.

If you have any doubt you could call our National Membership Manager Vicki Blundell on 0417 234 864, or our National Treasurer Richard Tregear on 0418 324 664.

We still have a number of National Direct Members who we have not registered payments for 2025... an accompanying letter is included with this newsletter for members in the "unfinancial" category. If such a letter is not included, you are all clear.

## THE FRIENDSHIPS FROM WAR – A POEM BY PAUL HUGO ZAAT:

They came together under a cloud of war  
Eight young men through a ballot draw  
There was Mac, Cooney Bird, Pommie and Ron  
Then Bluey, Baz, Lenny, and Bernie came along

From various backgrounds they did come  
To be trained by the Military to work as one  
They were hesitant not knowing what was ahead  
Only hearing from others, and what was said

Training went on for weeks at a time  
The weapons, long marches and standing in line  
At Holsworthy, Singleton, and Shoalwater Bay  
The toughness of Canungra did come into play

With the training complete and a few days leave  
Their various postings they all did receive  
Corps being infantry for all the men  
A new life in a battalion was about to begin  
Some went to 8TH Battalion, others to 5  
No matter the unit, let's show them much pride

The 8th was preparing for the day to depart  
For there tour of Vietnam and duty to start  
17th November '69, the main body departed  
Young men on a journey which the ballot started

On arrival in Vietnam, friendships grew as the days were long  
The trust in each other was never to be wrong  
They knew that together to survive this war  
The training and understanding of what they saw

From ongoing administration to ambush patrols  
 This brave team of men fulfilling their roles  
 The work they did spread over many places  
 From local towns to fire support bases  
 Hoa Long, Dat Do, Baria just to name a few  
 Helping with civic action they did do

With leave spent together away from war  
 Reinforcing a friendship which many of us saw  
 From a few days leave in the bars at Vung Tau  
 To a trip overseas which the Army did allow

As months went on the team did change  
 Their service complete home was arranged  
 With mates from 5RAR and 1ARU  
 The spirit and friendship was there to renew

November '70 tour complete and battalion home  
 Casualties a plenty from the war zone  
 The tragedy of war not far away  
 To those who served to this very day

As the years have passed, the friendships have grown  
 Time spent together, around the country they roam  
 With support from each other, strength they gain  
 This friendship borne in war, will forever remain

**“YOU KNOW YOUR MATES”**

**PAUL HUGO ZAAT**

**VIETNAM WAR VETERAN 8RAR 1969 - 1970**



This article was sourced from Richard Barry OAM and is copied here for your interest.

I dug out the Special Edition of The Australian newspaper printed August 18, 1988.

You might be interested to know that many 'Australians' who perished in South Vietnam were born overseas. I did an extraction. No details available on naturalisation but they represented Australia. May they Rest In Peace.



It provides some indication that many of the 60,000+ from our country, who served in the war, were born overseas.

Scotland - 14  
 England - 13  
 Germany - 4  
 Holland - 5  
 Great Britain - 4  
 West Germany - 3  
 Ireland - 2  
 Northern Ireland - 1  
 Ukraine - 1  
 Papua - 1  
 Italy - 1  
 Finland - 1  
 Latvia - 1  
 Denmark - 1  
 Canada - 1  
 Falkland Islands - 1  
 German Democratic Republic - 1