



NASHO



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

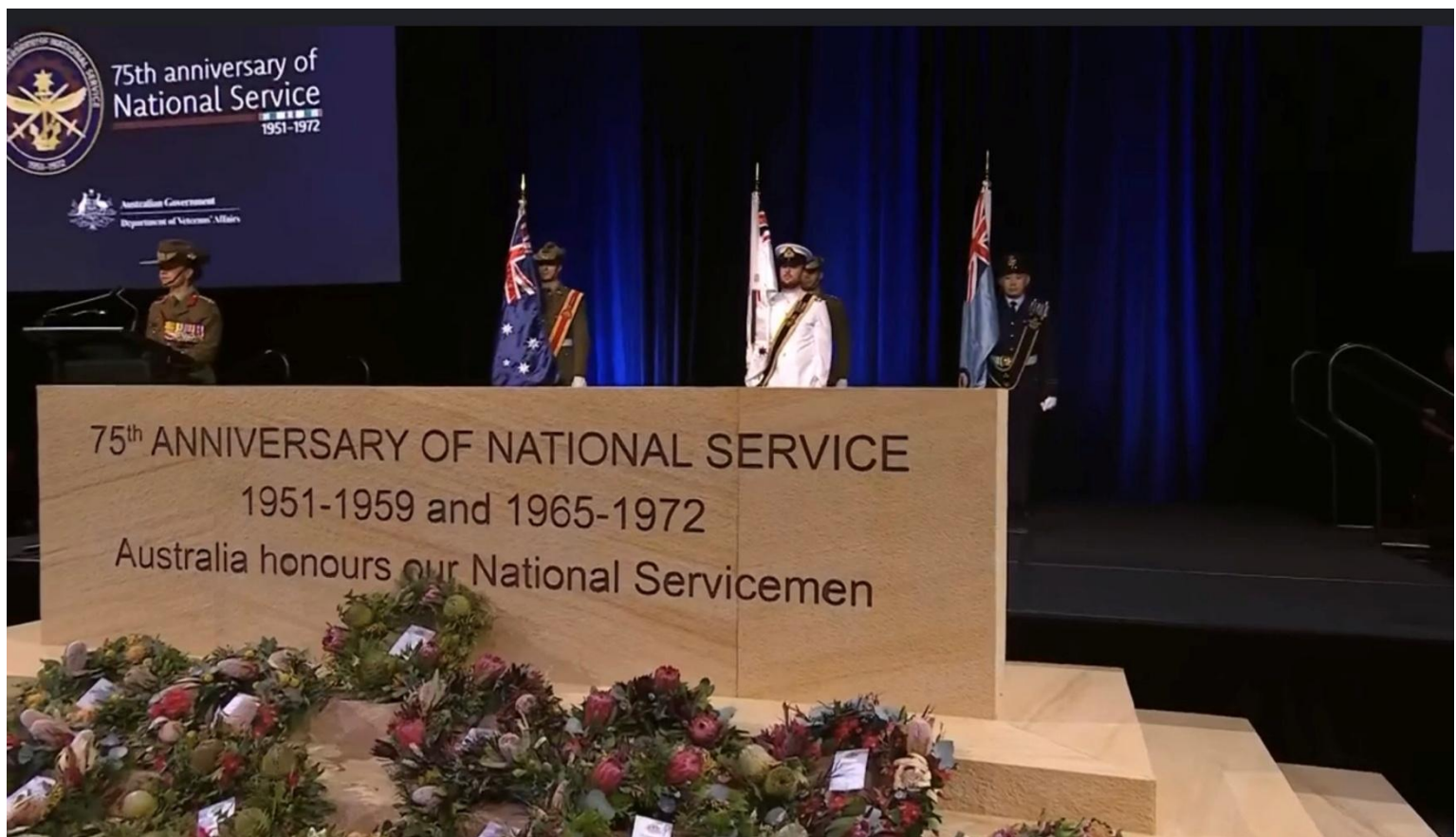
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2026 2nd Trimester Edition



Parliament House Canberra 14th February 2026 – see page 5.

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN – APRIL 2026:

Dear Members, families and friends, it is my privilege to bring you this Autumn 2026 NSAA Presidents Bulletin and update you on the key proceedings of the NSAA at the national level as we quickly approach the transition of the association from its current hierarchical structure, to one of individual members belonging to the NSAA National body.

I'm very pleased to confirm that the recent NSAA National Annual General and General Meetings were concluded in very good spirit and the model proposed for the Association in 2027 has full support of the Council.

Barry Vicary Fellowship Awards: At the March 2026 AGM I was privileged to present the Barry Vicary Fellowship awards to the following most deserved recipients for their individual stellar contributions to the NSAA over many years.

- John Hardy OAM (Queensland)
- Tony Stevensen OAM (Queensland)
- Peter Norman (Victoria)

The association is most grateful for the tireless work these men have contributed to the NSAA at all levels, over many years, and also their contribution to their respective communities. They have been, and remain, wonderful ambassadors and examples of the very best of National Servicemen giving of their efforts to their communities and the Association. A hearty well done to the three of you.

National Presidents Activities: Supported by the NSAA National Executive, I represented the NSAA, OTU-A, and Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association as a member of a consultative committee. Sponsored by DVA, the consultative committee was charged with the task of assisting DVA plan and implement the 75th Anniversary of National Service commemorative service of 14 February 2026. This involved three 'Team's online meetings, many telephone conversations and email exchanges, and drafting a short speech that I delivered at the commemorative service. I have also been canvassing NSAA veterans and encouraging them to share their stories of National Service with DVA. I was privileged to attend at the commemorative service, laid a wreath on behalf of all National Servicemen, and gave a short overview and reflection on the Second National Service Scheme 1965-1972, focused on those who did not serve in Malaya-Borneo or Vietnam, the legacy of National Service, and the contribution that former National Servicemen had made, and still make, to society and their communities.

Future Structure and Membership of the NSAA: From 1/1/2027 our future NSAA National structure will be a simple one with the current NSAA National Executive being the managers of the NSAA National body, and its members, by virtue of their payment of an annual fee. The

annual fees will fund the proposed newsletters and support the limited administrative costs of the NSAA. This structure ensures that former National Servicemen have a national organisation in their name. NSAA members are and will remain the corner stone of the organisation and we plan to deliver the following.

- A sustainable 'home' for those members of this nationally recognised and registered organisation.
- 3 X Newsletters per year, received either by post or by email.
- Open invitation to our Annual Commemorative service at the AWM Canberra.
- Foster camaraderie and fellowship sustained through participation and the connection of the Newsletter.
- Create a Sense of Connectedness, a Sense of Belonging, and a Sense of Purpose.
- Foster a Sense of Pride in self as a former National Serviceman, and in the Association.
- Maintain a national membership database for communication purposes
- The ability to communicate with the Federal Government, it's Departments and Agencies.

NSAA Membership Criteria from January 2027: For clarity, the National Executive was requested to outline the specific criteria for membership of the NSAA either currently, or after 1 January 2027. Specifically, all current financial members (2026) of the NSAA Member Associations (NSAA State, Territory and OTU-A) are eligible to transition to NSAA Direct National membership, whether ex-service or not. The NSAA National Council agreed that a prospective member was deemed to be suitable to be a current member of the NSAA, or Member Association, they be deemed suitable to become a member of the NSAA with the payment of the appropriate fee.

Supernumerary Members of the NSAA National Executive: Emeritus Professor (Dr) Graeme P Young AM (CAPT RAAMC retd), Mr John Hardy OAM, and Major (retd) Neil Leckie OAM RFD have been appointed supernumerary to the National Executive as voluntary consultants with particular projects to pursue collectively and/or individually that will bring greater clarity and depth to our collective National Service history and records. More detail of each individual's projects will appear in the forthcoming National Newsletter. We heartily welcome Graeme, John, and Neil to the National Executive and look forward to working with them as they pursue their particular projects on behalf of all National Servicemen.

NSAA National Executive: My sincere thanks to the National Executive team, Vice President Noel Moulder OAM, Secretary Peter Norman, Treasurer Richard Tregear, and Public Officer John Thorne ESM, for their ongoing efforts and leadership in their respective roles.

Ron Brandy

National President

National Servicemen's Association of Australia

FORMER NATIONAL PRESIDENT HUGH WILLIAMS: 16/8/1934-13/4/2026.

Hugh Williams, National President of the NSAA at the turn of the century, wrote the following about himself: As former President and founder of the Gold Coast Sub Branch, (1995-1998) and former National President (1998-2000) of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia, I have enjoyed the privilege of leading the Australian National Servicemen in various activities and functions. I represented the members both here and overseas. The most important occasions of course were the ANZAC Day Marches. Nashos now march proudly throughout Australia behind their own banners each year.

My first 40 years were in Victoria, I was born on the 16th August 1934 and was educated at Moorabbin State School No 1111 and later at Brighton Technical School. I spent 22 years with the Melbourne City Council Electricity Supply Department as an electrician and high voltage operator.

Over the years I served as a Part Time Digger in the Brighton Technical School Cadets and achieved the rank of a 'Cadet Lieutenant', The Royal Australian Engineers, (3 Field Engineer Regiment) as a 'Corporal', 15th National Service Battalion, Victorian Scottish Regiment (5th Battalion) as a 'Corporal' and the Royal Australian Signals ,(3 Divisional Signals Regiment) as a 'Corporal'. From 1970, I was a senior officer in the Australian Air League, a youth organisation, first as a Drill Instructor with the "Waverley Squadron" and later became the Commanding Officer of "Mayhew Wing". Eventually taking on the position of "Group Lt." looking after the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. I resigned in early 1976 to go to Darwin to help in the reconstruction after Cyclone Tracey.

In June 2003 I returned to the Australian Air League as their Victorian Group Public Relations Officer until illness over took me. I worked with the Melbourne City Council Electricity Supply Dept, the Northern Territory Electricity Commission and the South West Queensland Electricity Board, both the later places as an Electrical Inspector.

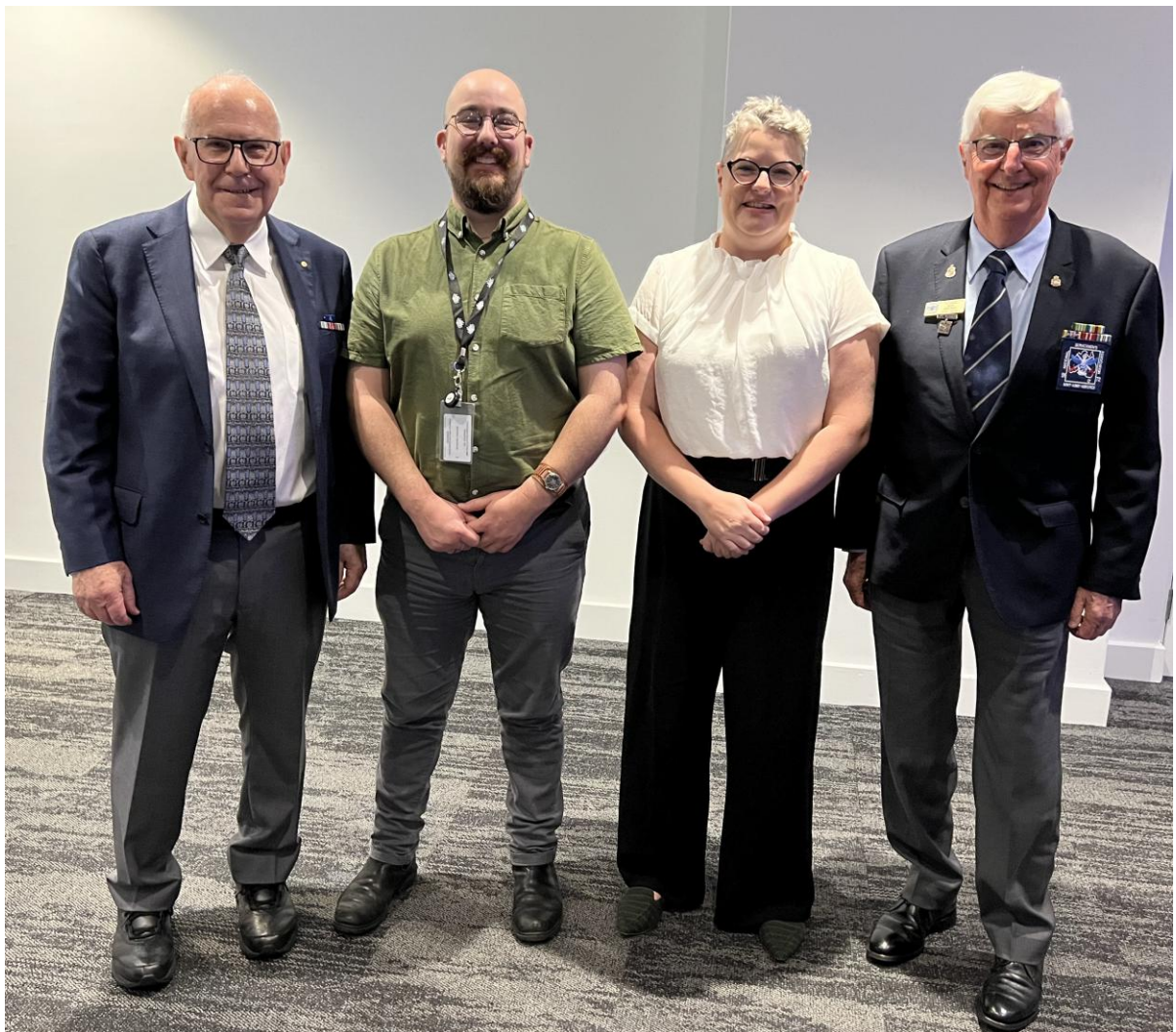
I returned to the Gold Coast in 1980 after spending five years in Darwin. On the Gold Coast I worked at several small private enterprise jobs. In 1983 I made the move to Tara, a small rural town 300 kms west of Brisbane in Queensland to take over the responsibility of looking after the Electrical Distribution of power in an area of about 16,000 square kilometres with a staff of only three. In 1989 it was time to retire from this position and I returned to the Gold Coast to run a small Electrical Contracting business until my wife became ill and forced me into early retirement.

I was surprised to hear of a fledgling organisation called the National Servicemen's Association and realised I was one of them. I joined up only to find myself embroiled in the formation of the Gold Coast Sub Branch in 1995. The Sub Branch grew and before long we had about 200 members. We knew the 50 year anniversary of the first call-up was due in July 2001 so the Gold Coast Sub Branch, took on the ambitious job of organising an Australian wide re-union. This they did with great success, somewhere between 3 to 5 thousand Nashos attended and took part in the huge march. I was honoured to be on the Saluting Base with Lt. Gen. Peter Cosgrove.

(Provided by his daughter Debbie Becker)

ENGAGING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS:

At the NSAA National Council Meeting conducted in Canberra in March, our President Ron Brandy had prearranged for appropriate senior DVA officers to meet and hear about Nasho issues first hand, from veterans who were called up all those years ago. There hasn't been a new Nasho since 1972, so the DVA reps were able to hear first hand from a cohort which is fast fading away. Influential guest individuals this time were Sarah Kennedy – Assistant Secretary, Commemorations, Dept. of Veterans' Affairs; and Damien Zuccarini – Historian, Dept of Veterans' Affairs. On this occasion the discussion theme was the National Service Doctors and Dentists who have not received appropriate recognition for their atypical services and experiences. In particular, the DVA guests were interested to see the presentation of Prof. Graeme P Young AM. (Which is covered elsewhere in this edition of NASHO.) Graeme had earlier been appointed to the National Executive team as a Research Consultant, to enhance our own history of National Service, as well as putting it out there for the general interest of future Australian military history readers.



NSAA's Prof. Graeme P Young AM, DVA's Damien Zuccarini and Sarah Henderson, and NSAA National President Ron Brandy, Canberra March 2026.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL SERVICE COMMEMORATION:

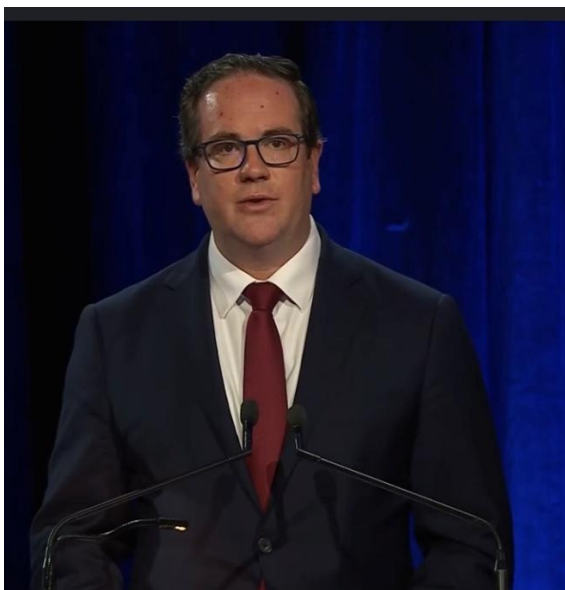
The Australian Government, through the Department of Veterans' Affairs, honoured all Australian National Servicemen at a significant 75th anniversary event in The Great Hall at Parliament House Canberra, on 14th February 2026. Dignitaries included Her Excellency The Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, and The Hon. Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs. The Master of Ceremonies was Colonel Lisa Weston CSM Australian Army. Veteran Readings were spoken by Albert McKay RFD regarding the 1951-59 scheme, Bob Whittaker representing National Servicemen who served in Vietnam, and our own NSAA President Ron Brandy, on behalf of veterans of the 1965-62 scheme.

Between the youthful enthusiasm of the cadet and the doggedness of the wartime digger comes a curious creature called a 'Nasho'.

Anon, 13th National Service Training Battalion, 11th Intake, January-April 1955.

National service represents a significant chapter in Australia's military and social history. In the twentieth century, Australia had four separate schemes of compulsory military service, including two that were known by the term 'national service' during the Cold War. The National Service Training Scheme (NSTS) ran from 1951 to 1959 and then the National Service Scheme (NSS) ran from 1965 to 1972. Between these two schemes, more than 280,000 Australian men served in the armed forces and played a vital role in Australia's defence. Their service affected every man, and their families. It was a momentous period of their lives and has continued to have a bearing in the years and decades that followed.

Though their service in the military was in most cases through compulsion, national servicemen, or 'Nashos' as they dubbed themselves, served honourably and made an important contribution to Australia's defence during the uncertain years of the Cold War. Without national service, Australia could not have provided for the defence of the nation and its overseas commitments in the 1950s and again in the 1960s and 1970s.



The Hon. Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs



NSAA President Ron Brandy being introduced by MC Colonel Lisa Weston



NSAA National President Ron Brandy at The Great Hall Parliament House Canberra, on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of National Service 1951-59 and 1965-72, to honour National Servicemen.



President Ron Brandy being readied to lay the official NSAA wreath. (Photos ABC live stream)



Live cross to the National Service Memorial Fountain and Garden at the Australian War Memorial for the Australian Flag Lowering Ceremony. The band of the Australian Military College Duntroon at left, the Flags Party and The Last Post Bugler between the screens. Wreaths at right. (photo ABC live stream)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO FILL EXECUTIVE POSITIONS FOR 2027/2028:

The NSAA will be entering a new phase of operations commencing 1st January 2027. By 31st December 2026 all existing member organisations (state/territories/branches/sub-branches) will have closed, with their financial members transitioning into Direct National Membership on New Year's Day. The NSAA National Executive team consisting of President Ron Brandy, Vice President Noel Moulder, Treasurer Richard Tregear and Secretary Pete Norman will continue in office until the 2027 Annual General Meeting on 4th March 2027. Nominations for all positions are now open, using the form at the end of this newsletter.

Members can nominate themselves or another member of the NSAA. A seconder is also required. Nominations close 31st August 2026, to be lodged by mail or email with Returning Officer John Thorne ESM. The list of nominations will be placed before the Council of Delegates at their meeting on 3rd September 2026. If there are multiple candidates for any position, they will be voted on by the Council, with the successful candidates to assume (or resume) their roles at the 2027 AGM.

The roles of Public Officer, Membership Officer, Website Coordinator, Newsletter Editor/Publisher, Historian, Research Consultant and any other supernumerary positions are officer appointments and are not subject to elections.

THE TRANSITION OF THE AUSTRALIA'S TPNG TO INDEPENDENCE:

Australian National Servicemen played a vital role in the transition of the Australian Territory of Papua New Guinea (TPNG) to independence in 1975, primarily through educational, administrative and medical support that helped build the nation's capacity for self-governance.

- **Education: The "Chalkies" (Army Educators):** Between 1966 and 1973, roughly 300 national servicemen who were qualified teachers—known colloquially as "Chalkies"—were posted to the Territory of Papua New Guinea. Serving within the Royal Australian Army Educational Corps, they were tasked with teaching soldiers of the Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR) with essential literacy and technical education, preparing local soldiers to eventually lead their own sovereign military force. They were stationed at major barracks including Murray Barracks in Port Moresby, Moem Barracks in Wewak, and Igam Barracks in Lae. Beyond education, national service personnel contributed to broader nation-building efforts:
- **Infrastructure and Services:** Engineering, medical, logistical and other Australian army units which included national servicemen, conducted "civic action patrols". They built schools, hospitals, and bridges, helping to extend administrative services to remote communities.
- **Border Security:** National servicemen served in units which patrolled the border with Indonesia, acting as a first line of defence while local forces were still being developed.
- **Transition to PNGDF:** The groundwork laid by these personnel culminated in 1972 with the creation of the independent Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF), just three years before full independence.

The role that Australia played in preparing TPNG for sovereignty is disjointedly documented in numerous places as is revealed when one performs specific Google searches, but the Australian army/navy/air force stories are either not adequately told, or are difficult to discover. Our own NSAA member Graeme Young¹ has recently undertaken a project sponsored by the NSAA National Executive, to introduce the story of Nasho doctors and dentists who served in Australia, TPNG and Vietnam.

¹ Emeritus Professor Prof Graeme P Young, AM, FTSE FAHMS AGAF FGESA, MB BS MD FRACP Matthew Flinders Distinguished Emeritus Professor, (past RAAMC Captain and one of the 1971 intake). Neil Leckie (NSAA member Ballarat and Editor of the Scheyvillian magazine) has undertaken officer training fact checking for Graeme).

NASHO DOCTORS AND DENTISTS IN PNG:

Medical Professionals, And Other Specialists, In The Call Up 1965-1972

The National Council of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia (NSAA) has identified that the fact of the intake of graduated doctors and dentists into recruit and officer training is not well recognised in the historical record. In the 1960s and 1970s while serving nationally and overseas, they contributed to the effectiveness of the Army and its service to community. Those twenty-year-olds whose birthdate came up in the ballot and were already undergoing tertiary education to become doctors or dentists, were offered deferred enlistment to enable them to complete their initial professional training.

Fifty-six doctors enlisted in 1970 or 1971, while 43 dentists enlisted in 1968-1971. Eighteen doctors served overseas – ten in Vietnam and eight in PNG. Here we tell the story of the 1971 intake and one Nasho doctor's experience in PNG.

The 1971 intake of Nasho Doctors: In January 1971, 30 recently graduated doctors enlisted and entered two weeks Recruit Training at a training battalion, followed by infantry officer training at the Army School of Health at Healesville (ASHH) for eight weeks. They graduated as Second-Lieutenants within. Then they underwent a two-week Military Medicine course after which they graduated as Temporary Captains. These officer doctors were subsequently posted both within Australia and in overseas locations: four doctors served in PNG and one in Vietnam.

During their 18 months to two years of service, many made significant contributions to the Army and to the communities in which they served. The NSAA Council now considers that it is important that the details of their National Service and the contributions that they made, are appropriately recognised.

Graeme Young's story:

Enlistment: "My enlistment was deferred until January 1971. Deferment enabled us doctors to complete our degree courses and undertake one year as hospital interns, before enlistment. Those of us in Victoria were called to report to the Swan Street Depot (RAE) in Melbourne, where we were processed for recruit training and sent to 2 Recruit

Training Battalion, Puckapunyal. Those in other states reported to the relevant Training Battalion and joined us Victorians, together with an intake of dentists, soon afterwards. All held the rank of Private until Apr 7th 1971.

“On arrival at 2RTB, the forty doctors and dentists were divided into two special platoons (designated 21 Platoon and 22 Platoon) and were trained separately from the training of other recruits. The platoon NCOs were younger than us and not used to training older and individualistic medicos.

Infantry Officer training: “After two weeks at 2RTB, we were bussed in old slow buses to the Army School of Health Healesville (ASHH) to commence an eight-week intensive and shortened infantry officer’s course. At some point, several medicos who came through the CMF process, joined us for the officer’s course.

“While the administrative offices of the ASHH were situated in what had been a guesthouse until 1951 (Summerleigh Lodge), Nashos were housed in 4-bed canvas tents. Facilities were not quite ready for us, as linen and other basics were in short supply. As to be expected, the days were long and demanding, beginning early in the morning with cold showers and ending relatively late in the evening, surprisingly in the officers’ mess. As expected, learning how to march, salute and maintain a spotless uniform seemed to take at least as much time as learning military procedures and behaviours.

“Infantry training exercises included intensive bush exercises around Mount St Leonard over several days, with mock battles led by experienced Vietnam-war veterans. We dug trenches, fired blanks at the “enemy”, patrolled through dense bush on moonless nights, and yet managed to avoid getting lost or detached from platoons despite our lack of familiarity with such conditions.

“We were told that the course covered all of the issues normally covered by infantry officer training in the 20-week course and that it was expected to be very challenging for us to complete the program in just 8 weeks (achieved on Apr 7th 1971). On the following day (Apr 8th, 1971) we were promoted to the rank of Second-Lieutenant.

Military medicine training.

“We doctors then underwent a two-week long Military Medicine course, which included elements of Tropical Medicine and Public Health of relevance to the military at times of

peace and war. We were also taught how to conduct Army Medical Board assessments of soldiers. On May 11th, 1971, we were promoted to Temporary Captain.



Summerleigh Lodge was used as a training facility for the army's medical corps.

(Picture: HEALESVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY).

Deployment of officers: “At some time during officer training, we received our postings. I wanted a posting to PNG, which I did get along with a mate who went through high school and university with me. Those of us who were posted overseas received interim postings at a headquarters or other installations in the various states, before departing. I was posted to Simpson Barracks (Yallambie, commonly known as Watsonia Barracks) prior to posting to PNG Training Depot in Goldie River, in October 1971. There I undertook medical board assessments on many recruits in training and many Vietnam vets returning home. The effects of recruit training and war service were apparent on many who I examined.

Service in PNG: “I flew to Port Moresby in October 1971 but before taking up my appointment as Regimental Medical Officer of the Training Depot at Goldie River near Port Moresby, I was immediately seconded for the first six weeks to the Second Pacific

Island Regiment (2PIR) in Wewak. There, I had my first experience of dealing with tropical jungle conditions, caring for military personnel, including “Europeans” (as the Australian staff were referred to at the time) and the local indigenous (Pacific Islanders-PIs) soldiers and their families. SAS soldiers underwent intensive training in unexplored jungle and recounted stories of indigenous people who had never seen a white person.

A significant number of training staff had had experience in Vietnam: “One of my tasks was to travel to Vanimo from Wewak in an Airforce Caribou flown by ex-Vietnam Airforce pilots. The aircraft hugged the beaches, skimming the palm trees and the water and touching down on old wartime airstrips surrounded by destroyed Japanese WWII aircraft. Remains of Japanese soldiers were still being found in the jungle and bomb craters surrounded the Wewak airport, despite the time elapsed since the end of WWII.

“There was a major memorial to Japanese soldiers in the Wewak area.

“In December I returned to take up the post of RMO at the Goldie River Regimental Aid Post (RAP) and my wife and infant daughter joined me. My wife was a trained midwife (which was useful), and she was responsible for running the tiny adjacent community clinic for the local villagers. When she saw locals who needed further medical attention, they were referred across to me at the RAP.

“The RAP was well-fitted-out and staffed. There were experienced Staff Sergeants and a team of competent PI medics with ranks up to corporal. There were half a dozen beds in the RAP, a very basic laboratory, and an X-ray machine, with a medic who was trained to operate it.

“I treated people with medical conditions that I'd never experienced before including malaria and leprosy as well as the expected illnesses and injuries. Snake bites were common. This was nothing like medicine in Melbourne hospitals.

“My main responsibility was to carry out a full medical examination of 600 recruits over two six-monthly intakes. Not surprisingly, a number of recruits arrived with leprosy and an unusual liver condition which we soon realised was probably the newly described hepatitis B.

“Military policy was to recruit PIs from all over PNG mainland and associated islands. This was to avoid dominance of any particular tribal group. One day, two new recruits of uncertain age arrived at the RAP for examination. They were terrified, never having seen or flown in an aircraft and never having seen a horse (which they thought was a giant dog). I had learnt enough Tok Pisin (the PNG-unifying language) to be able to help settle them.

Medical Officer at the Regimental Aid Post



Goldie River, near Port Moresby

“I realised that with all the recruits being examined, there was opportunity to get a better idea of the prevalence of diseases and what steps might be taken to improve the health of the PIs. It was suggested to me by the Red Cross Blood Bank Director that an inherited enzyme deficiency might be responsible for side effects to anti-leprosy drugs. So, I set out to test recruits and plot the distribution of the deficiency around PNG.

“What transpired was the discovery that there was a significant incidence (6%) of this enzyme deficiency in coastal regions around PNG and the findings were published in the Medical Journal of Australia and presented at the national conference of the PNG Medical Society. Subsequently, it turned out that this enzyme deficiency provided relative protection against malaria, hence its coastal distribution.

What I learned in PNG: “Both myself and my wife learned a lot from our medical experiences in PNG. One of the important lessons was that substantial advances in health were possible to achieve by applying the principles of good hygiene, basic nutrition especially of infants, care of pregnant women, appropriate use of just a few main drugs (antibiotics and antimalarials), and vaccination. Well-trained PI medics and nurses could provide these services, such that the few available nurses and doctors could concentrate on the difficult things.

“These medical experiences in a developing country together with the excitement of undertaking a research project and discovering something new and meaningful had me hooked. Such influenced the rest of my career.

“But I also saw the huge contribution that the Army was making to the nation of PNG. Its contributions have been substantial: Education – numeracy, language, skills training, health services, logistics, communications and organisation, as well as training of future leaders in the military and in Government.

“Soon after I left, PNG gained independence and Michael Somare, who I had met at Army functions, became its first prime minister.”

What transpired for Graeme: Graeme returned to Melbourne and was discharged in early December 1971 to take up a medical registrar’s post at The Royal Melbourne Hospital as a physician Gastroenterologist and later a Professor of Medicine involved in health services nationally and internationally. Amongst many awards, he was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to Medicine. He consider his National Service influenced his career choices in a major way.

The gap in historical record of these Nashos: In the National Service intake 1965-1972, 56 doctors enlisted, trained and were promoted to Captains . Eight served in PNG and ten served in Vietnam. Forty-three dentists also enlisted. Formal records and memorials make no apparent mention of them or their experiences.

To help us complete the story, please contact Prof Graeme P Young, AM (past RAAMC Captain and one of the 1971 intake) by email: graeyoung70@gmail.com. Information provided will be treated confidentially.

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. If you are reading this NASHO newsletter electronically on your smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop, click on this link to get you there quickly www.militaryshop.com.au .



If you link to <https://militaryshop.com.au/organisations/veterans-organisations/nashos-collectables/> you will see many NSAA relevant items which are otherwise difficult or impossible to obtain.

The Military Shop incorporates the Navy Shop, the Army Shop and the Air Force Shop, all under the Brandnet banner as illustrated below.



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.



“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. Four have closed so far, Northern Territory and New South Wales, with South Australia and Western Australia currently transitioning.

Many such disenfranchised members have wished to remain with the NSAA, so a special category of NSAA membership was set up for them in late 2023. These members are referred to as “National Direct Members”.

The National Direct Members 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.

The target audience has recently been expanded to include the NSAA National Council Delegates, to also keep them informed about what is happening within our NSAA community Australia-wide.

“Nasho” newsletter will achieve the best take-up if readers make comments and suggestions for subsequent editions. If there is anything published in any edition of “Nasho” which needs clarification, please come back to me. *Pete Norman, NSAA National Secretary, “Nasho” Editor Pro Tem.*



John Hardy and Pete Norman
At the Tolga Museum FNQ 2025

Beginning 2027 there will be a new Editor/Publisher of NASHO. Pete Norman is stepping away for the position at the end of 2026. The National Executive has offered the role to John Hardy OAM FNSA, and John will take up the position after his commitments to close the FNQ Tablelands Branch are completed.

John is the Editor/Publisher of Queensland Nasho News and is well known for his vast knowledge of military history especially on the Atherton Tableland, and throughout Queensland generally.

TELECOMMUNICATION LINES TO NEW GUINEA 1943:

Many National Servicemen were working for the Postmaster-General's Department when called-up. But their service was generally not to leverage their technical knowledge. Nashos were enlisted from all walks of life for many military roles.

But during WW2 it was a different matter entirely, when many PMG employees were recruited for technical roles in the navy, army and air force, particularly for the defence of Australia and Papua New Guinea. The following narrative is just a little of their story about the submarine telecommunications cable laid across Torres Strait from the tip of Cape York Peninsula to the south coast of Papua. But that 1943 project had a much earlier start, being the trans Bass Strait cable of an earlier era

Tasmania's plan for a submarine cable was highly pioneering in 1857. The contract, signed in February 1858, provided for 240 miles of cable with a single copper conductor armoured by iron wire. It was the world's longest at the time. As the great cable was drawn progressively from its fabrication plant in England, a flock of interested scientists and engineers expressed opinions and gave advice. After a trial submersion of several months, it was pronounced 'extremely well manufactured'. Completed in late 1858 and coiled like a gleaming serpent, it reached Melbourne aboard SS Omeo in 1859.



The first route for the all-important connection had sought the longest utilisation of land lines. (See map.) The actual route chosen was more direct, used more submarine cable, came ashore at Three Hummock Island in place of Hunter Island, and joined Tasmania at Circular Head near Stanley.

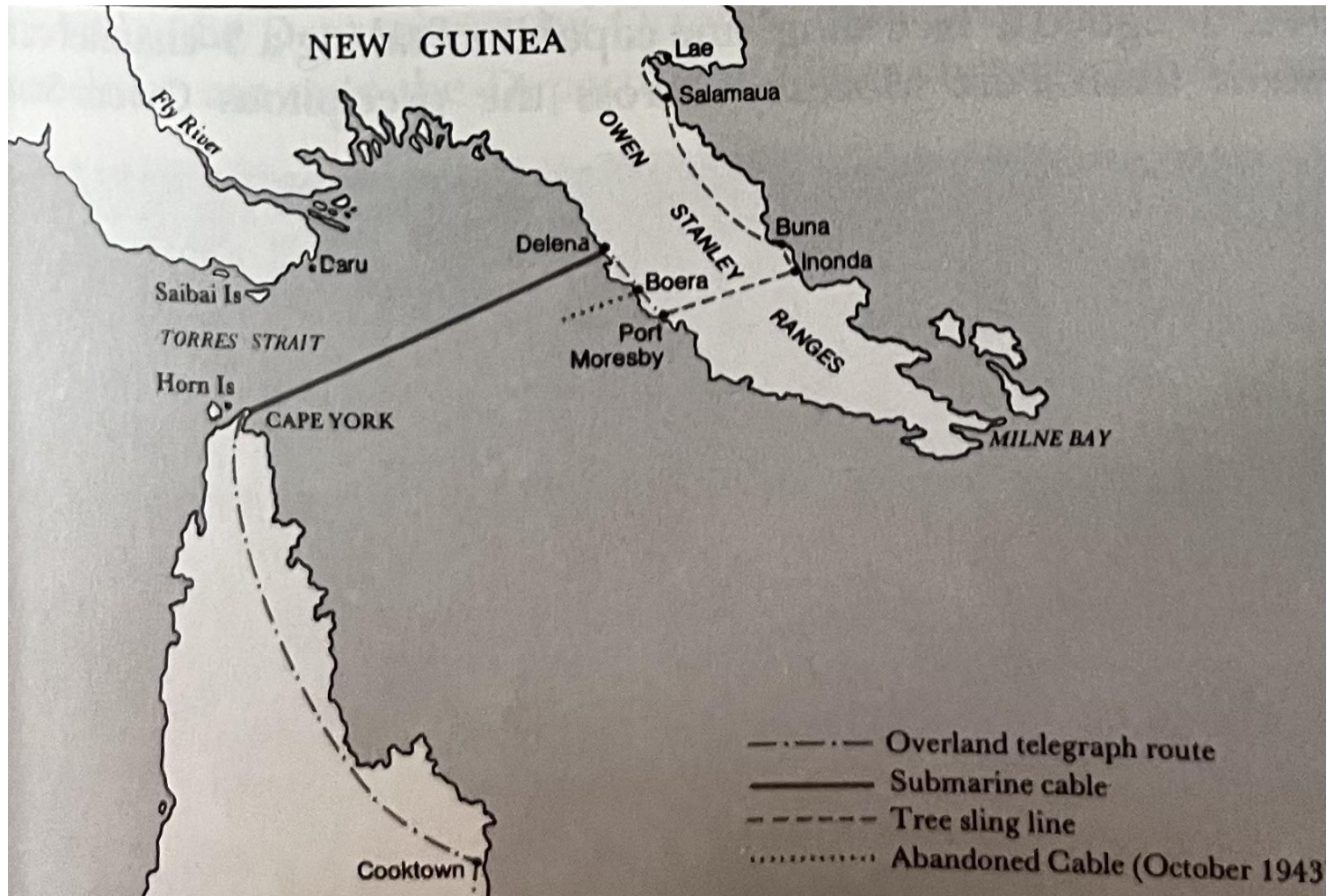
SS Omeo, accompanied by the Colonial vessel SS Victoria, left Cape Otway, Victoria, in July 1859. Three-quarters of an inch in thickness the cable was played out over a large drumwheel and dropped over a 'girding wheel' projecting from the stem of the ship. Watches Of 12 men were stationed to release the cable and prevent it getting fouled. The playing-out was halted at intervals to join the cable ends. In the era before plastics, the substance used for insulation was gutta percha, a rubber-like material harvested from trees in Malaya. The difficulties were great. The telegraphic points established on the two islands worked imperfectly; fractures were found and repaired but, at last, on 18 August 1859, the cable and batteries were landed by whaleboat and a mainland telegraph circuit made the eagerly awaited connection with Launceston.

One hundred and seventeen miles in length, the Tasmanian cable was the longest yet laid. (Britain's submarine link with Holland ran a close second at 113 miles). But its life was erratic and short. The line was never in regular working order. The section between King Island and Three Hummock Island broke frequently, repairs were challenging, and the total cost — shared by Victoria and Tasmania — escalated. Yet, when the shoals and sharp rock beds near King Island finally cut the connection in January 1861, the 'mechanical artery' had provided a telling foretaste of what telegraphic linkage between Tasmania and the mainland could achieve.

Advances in submarine technology, reaped from the struggle to lay the Atlantic cable after several attempts by the Great Eastern in 1866, contributed to the second Bass Strait undertaking in 1869. Yet, so valuable was the contribution of the Bass Strait cable to Tasmania's commercial life, that it was duplicated to cope with demand in 1885 and triplicated in 1909. These lines all carried telegraphic traffic. The later record-setting submarine coaxial cable of 1936 permitted voice traffic across Bass Strait, but it was also silenced by cable faults on several occasions, just like the earlier cables.

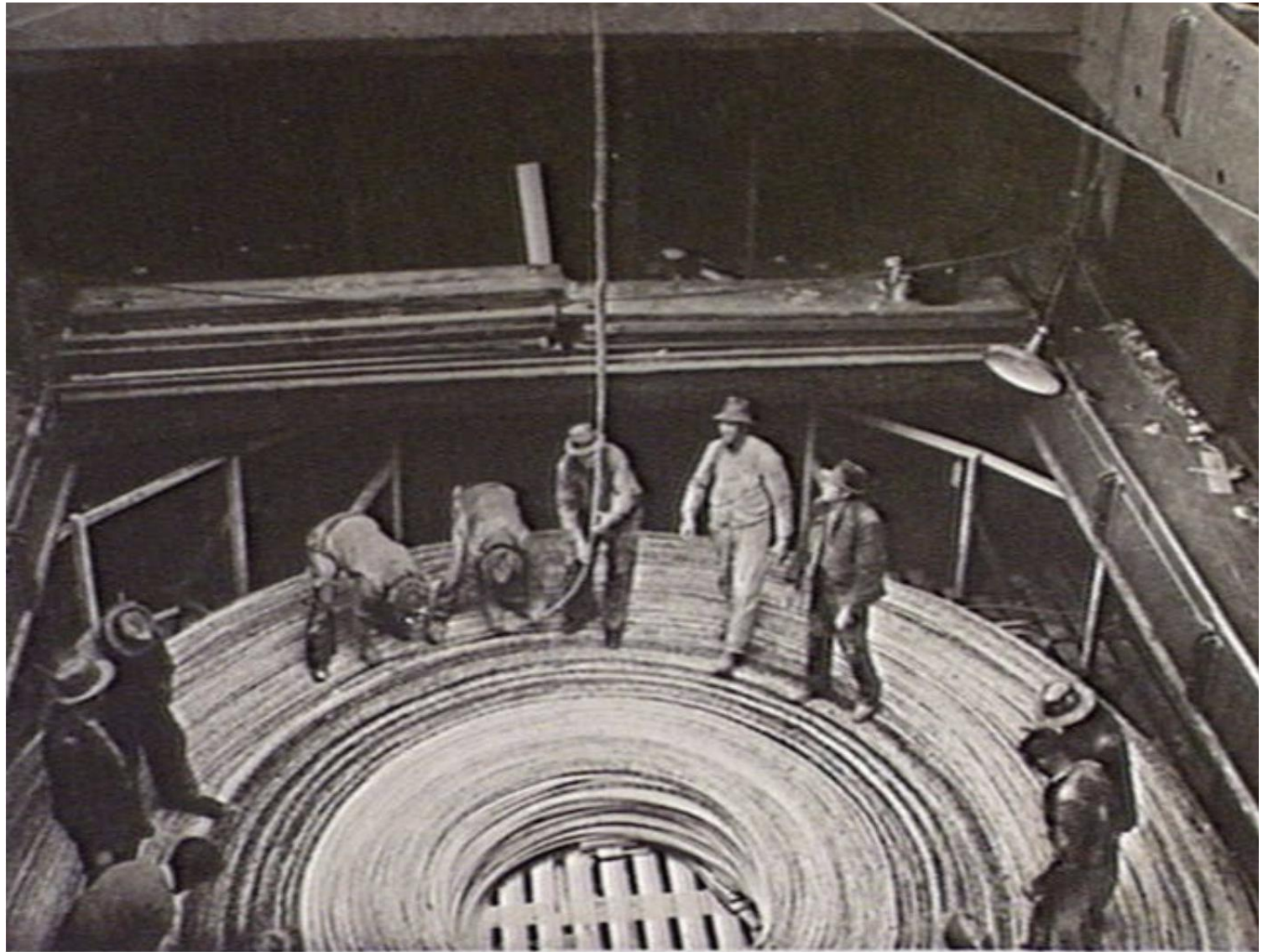
Then came WW2, and the need to establish telecommunications capability between Australia and Papua New Guinea. Due to the war in Europe, it was not possible to source new cable from England, so a plan was conceived to pull up of up one of the two 1909 Bass Strait cables, and relaying it across Torres Strait. Both cables laid that 1909 year were still in use between Tasmania and the mainland, though the modern 1936 telephone carrier cable had superseded much of their use. In pursuit of the plan,

Captain I.M. Gunn, one of the army's signals officers, an ex-PMG engineer, surveyed Torres Strait from Horn Island off Cape York along the shortest route to the New Guinea coastline at Sabai.



But the Sabai launching site, straddling a stretch of swamp south of the Fly River, proved unsuitable for the cable plan. When this news reached PMG and army HQ in Melbourne, it was determined to pull up both 1909 cables and lay them end to end across a longer sector of Torres Strait.

In Bass Strait the coastal collier SS Mernoo was adapted as a marine-cable-laying ship. It wound up the two ironclad cables which had lain peacefully on the Bass Strait seabed for over 30 years and carried them, coiled aboard, under naval escort to New Guinea.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

057192

Coiling down one of the 1909 Bass Strait cables into the hold of the SS Mernoo in 1943.

Now that distance was less constraining, the site picked for the second launching was Boera Point, 30 miles to the west of Port Moresby. The project, however, met obstacles from the start. On its first venture on 1st October 1943, the Mernoo turned too far south, and with inadequate charts, lost 60 nautical miles of cable when it broke in deep water. Another starting point was chosen at Delena, a native village, some 90 miles west of Moresby. On the second run out in the dark tropic night, calamity struck again. A day and a half out from Delena, while the cable played out over the ship's bow, the naval escort vessel detected the presence of a submarine and it became essential to 'black out' the cable hold. But it was not possible to stop the cable laying. The cable crew were pulled out of the hold where they faced possible decapitation in the darkness. But without manual control, the cable churned itself out in elaborate loops and over 150 miles of cable were laid in 50 dark miles of sea bed. Daunted, yet not dismayed, the cable end was landed safely at Cape York for connection to the Peninsula overland line.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

057345

Transferring the beach end of the cable from the SS Mernoo to a landing barge.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

057343

Technicians of the PMG Signals Section and soldiers from New Guinea Force splicing the cable.

The land line from the cable terminal at Delena and Port Moresby was also problematical with the newly introduced insulation material, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), resistant to heat and sun, but prone to breakage due to brittleness at the joints. Faults

were known to exist between Delena and Galley Reach, a large expanse of mangrove swamp.

It had been prearranged that the Commander-in-Chief General Thomas Blamey should be the first to use the long line from Melbourne to Cape York, across Torres Strait then by land line to Moresby, to send a message to his General Officer Commanding New Guinea Force. Blamey's message hence travelled by Morse telegraph up the eastern coast of Australia to Cape York across by (looped) submarine cable to Delena where the message was decoded and transported physically across the break and telephoned on to Moresby. There it was encoded back to Morse. Sir Leslie Morshead, GOC New Guinea was, as it happened, at Milne Bay and received the message from Port Moresby by enciphered radio. The submarine cable, however, completed in December 1943, worked for over three months before its unusual loops broke in the high tides of Torres Strait in April 1944. But it had gallantly served its time.

in 1944 a newly made submarine cable was also laid to replace the fault-prone aerial line between Delena and Port Moresby.

Out of place and time, the historic cables of Bass Strait had provided a remarkable holding operation in the northward drive for communication until they were replaced by a new cable.

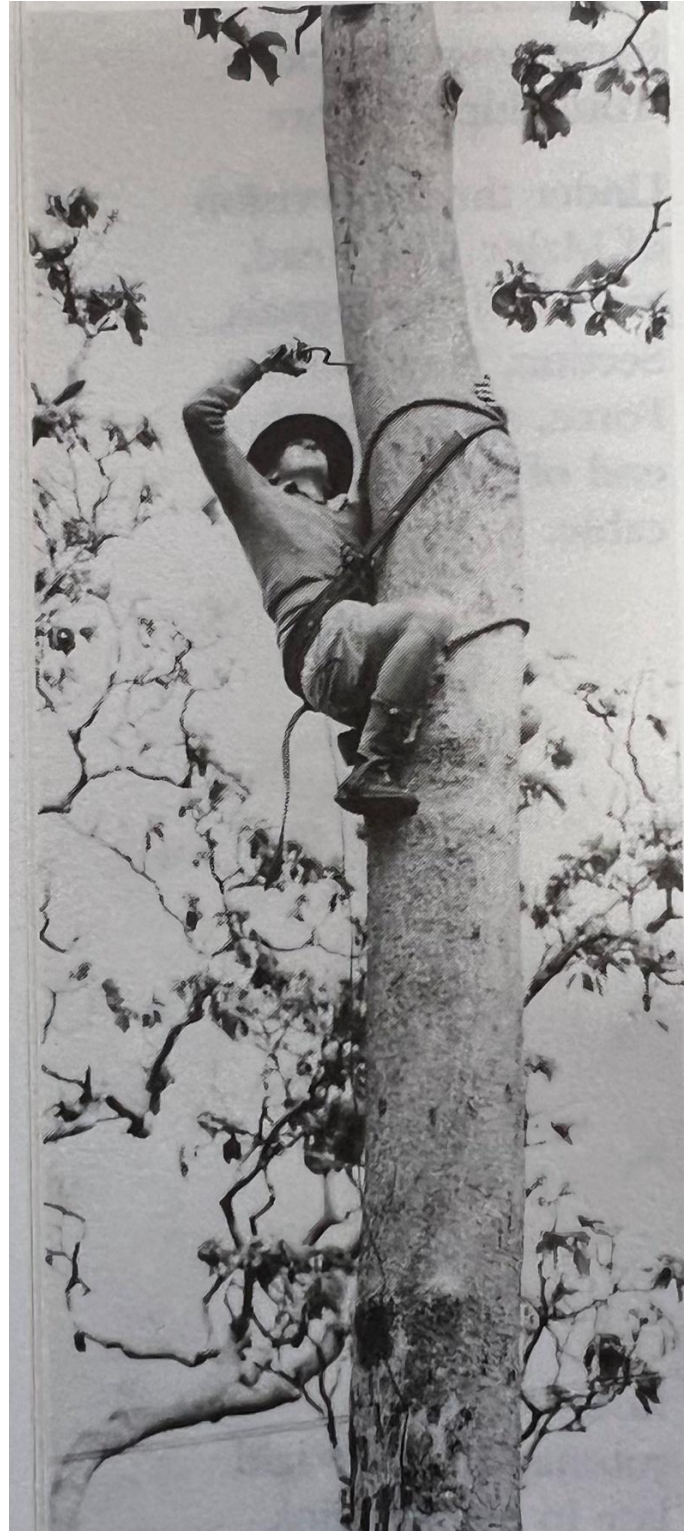


Photo: Installing an insulator on a tree at Sogeri, between Port Moresby and Inonda on the north coast near Popondetta.



PMG lines technicians and army engineers upgrading the Overland Telegraph Line between Darwin and Adelaide with additional cross braces to support two or three new copper strands.

Many resources in Australia were channelled into bringing continental Australia and Papua New Guinea onto a war footing. Human resources were provided by Federal government departments and agencies such as the PMG, by State and Territory governments, municipal councils, the Allied Works Council, the Civil Construction Corps and the various branches of the armed forces, all united in a common cause. After the war, most returned to their civilian pursuits. This is but a fraction of their story.

Source: "Clear Across Australia – A history of telecommunications" by Ann Moyal 1984,
condensed by Pete Norman



1965-67 Nashos (front to rear) John Rowe, Pete Norman, Jon Pridham and Jeff Smith enjoying a nude frolic where the WW2 submarine cable branch from Port Moresby comes ashore at Duago Island, which was the site of an emergency WW2 air strip. The cable may or may not still be there. It may have been plundered for its copper core.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL EVENTS SEPTEMBER 2026:

Members may be interested to travel and stay a couple of days in Canberra in September. There will be the annual Nasho service at the National Service Memorial Fountain, located in its prime position adjacent to the AWM main entrance. The date is Friday 4th September at 10am. Uniform and medals. There was an NSAA event up to 2024, but from 2025 all Nashos have been invited to attend.

In addition to the above service on 4th September, an invitation-only guided tour of the AWM particularly emphasising National Service exhibits, will be led by AWM Director Mr. Matt Anderson PSM, over two half day sessions on 2nd and 3rd September (however these dates may change). Mr. Anderson is the National Patron of the NSAA and is well known to the NSAA National Council delegates. If you wish to be invited to his personal tour, you must arrange this via Secretary Pete Norman 0458 646 594 or pdnorman1945@gmail.com. You cannot just turn up uninvited.

WHY IS ANZAC DAY SO IMPORTANT TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS?:

Anzac Day remains highly relevant to younger generations in Australia and New Zealand, largely driven by a shift towards personal reflection, empathy for veterans, and a desire to understand history, rather than just nationalistic pride. Despite the increasing distance from the World Wars, many young people, including Generation Z, feel a responsibility to keep the legacy alive, with large numbers attending dawn services and engaging with the stories of service.

This is a perspective of an air force cadet. When she wrote the following article in 2024, Amelia Mitchell was a 16-year-old Grade 11 student from a farm in rural New South Wales.

Bleary eyed and half asleep, I reluctantly stumbled out of bed and began my preparations for an important day. It was April 25, Anzac Day, and as an Australian Air Force Cadet I was anxious not to be late for my local town's Dawn Service.

In Australia and New Zealand Anzac Day is a public holiday in which the people of both countries honour the memory of the troops who served in the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs) during the First World War.

Later, shivering in the chill morning air, I stood at attention with my fellow Cadets, forming the Guard of Honour. As the bugle blew and the sun crested the horizon, I realised that as a young person it is easy to view Anzac Day as insignificant. Many Australians do not think of it at all. What do we have, other than the fading stories of a distant relation or a great great grandfather who served, to connect us to those who fought in the Great Wars? I pondered, not for the first time, why this day is so important?

In Australia there are many differing views on Anzac Day. Some believe that it is a day that celebrates and glorifies war. However this is not so. Anzac Day gives Australians the opportunity to commemorate those who fell. War is brutal, and especially in the Gallipoli campaign, thousands of Australians died unnecessarily, due to miscommunication and faulty command. Yet if we forget or shy away from the dreadful cost of war, we might easily find ourselves repeating the mistakes of those who lived before us. Anzac Day is not a day to honour war, but to honour those who fell and remember the cost of freedom.

Those men and women should not be forgotten. They fought, and gained for Australians the liberty we enjoy every day. Their sacrifice was real and terrible. None of them that survived returned home unscathed. All of them to a degree experienced trauma both mental and physical.

Despite the horrors of war, the Anzacs were known for their good humour, camaraderie, sacrifice, ingenuity, endurance and courage. It is important for young people to treasure the Anzac Spirit within them. To stand up for what is right. To defend the helpless, to watch out for our friends and to guard our families. We must not repay their courage with ignorance and indifference.

As a Cadet I am privileged to be able to, in a way, represent those soldiers who shaped the Australian Army. I hope that if ever the need arose, the next generation would stand up for our freedoms, our country, our families, our mates, for life, for truth and for those who cannot fight for themselves. We must follow the examples of those courageous Australians. Let their sacrifices not be given in vain.

Each year as Anzac Day approaches...

I will remember with honour... Their Sacrifice.

(Amelia Mitchell)

NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND:

Governor of Queensland Unveils a Wacol Memorial to honour National Servicemen

The service of “Unsung Heroes”, 1965 to 1972 National Servicemen who died in Australia while completing their service obligation has finally been recognised. Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland unveiled a memorial plaque on March 14, 2026 at the Wacol National Servicemen’s Army Precinct. The plaque recognises thirty-three (33) Queensland soldiers, three of them having previously served in Vietnam. They made up the 23 killed in motor vehicle accidents, 5 who died of sickness, 4 who drowned and a Scheyville Officer, Gregory Baker from Jandowae who was killed after crashing his Bell Sioux helicopter at Lane Field near Amberley in 1971.



The 1965 – 1972 National Servicemen who died in service overseas have their names listed on the AWM Roll of Honour in Canberra and are also commemorated on memorials throughout Australia as is only fitting and right. However, for those National Servicemen who died whilst in service, but in Australia, there is no commemoration. This means that the thirty-three of our own men from Queensland who died whilst serving their country, do not have their names listed on the Canberra Honour Roll or

officially commemorated on any other honour roll except for here and on a National Servicemen Memorial Wall at Cardwell's Coral Sea Battle Memorial Park for North Queensland Nashos. This is an injustice as these men, and many others for whom the same has occurred, were training under hazardous conditions and very sad accidents occurred. Some men became ill and died from their illnesses. However, be it accident or illness, all these men died whilst serving their country; the only thing they didn't do was die overseas.



Their deaths were just as gallant as they were preparing and learning military craft but all

whilst being called up. They had little choice but to accept the call to national service when their 20th birthday came up in the lottery.

They didn't choose to die, as few do, but they did and their lack of acknowledgement in official realms is extraordinarily sad.

The well attended ceremony was supported by a range dignitaries including Hon Milton Dick MP – representing The Hon. Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel; Hon Steve Minnikin MP represented the Premier of Queensland. Wreaths were then laid by the Governor and all of the dignitaries followed by 11 Association Branches spread from Tableland in FNQ to Gold Coast South Twin Towns.

The catafalque party was provided by C Company, 25th/49th Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment, the latter Battalion having historical links to the Wacol site. In 1965, conscription was reintroduced and this saw an influx of manpower into the Citizens Military Forces. In 1966, the 49th Battalion was re-raised at Wacol as a "special conditions" battalion within the Royal Queensland Regiment. Known as "The Bush Rifles", it catered for the training needs of men who were eligible for call up who elected

to serve in the CMF but who could not parade regularly due to where they lived or what civilian occupation they held.

Mr Tony Stevenson OAM FNSA, State President of the National Servicemen Association (Queensland) said “the plaque unveiling brings closure for some families. This included for the last name listed on the memorial, Peter John Wruck’s niece and nephew Leesa Davis and Andrew McCaskill that attended the ceremony. It bought them to tears as Peter’s service will never be forgotten”. Tony also thanked the numerous Association Branches that provided financial support towards the cost of the memorial plaque.



Since the unveiling, Liberal National Senator for Queensland, Paul Scarr, has spoken in the Senate about the new memorial. Ceremonial support for the event is acknowledged being provided by the onsite Forest Lake RSL Sub Branch.

The list of Queensland soldiers recognised on the memorial plaque are drawn from Lieutenant Colonel Neil Smith, AM 2014 publication “Australian Army National Service Fatalities 1965-1973”. It has a detailed listing of those who died whilst serving from a range of reasons including training and vehicle accidents in Australia and elsewhere.

NSAA (Q) State Padre, Tom Andrews OAM and State Treasurer Neal Freier.

The names listed on the plaque are as follows:



This memorial is dedicated to those 20 year old Queenslanders called up by birthday ballot under the 1965 to 1972 National Service Scheme and were killed in Australia while undertaking their service obligation.

"LEST WE FORGET"

NUMBER	NAME	TOWN	SINGLETON INTAKE	CAUSE	DEATH
1738367	AMOS, PETER ALLAN	BANYO	1st / 72	Drowned	09/12/72
1737642	BAILEY, PAUL THOMAS	CHERMSIDE	1st / 71	Drowned	20/10/71
1734533	BAKER, GREGORY RONALD	BOOVAL	2nd / 69	Aircraft	28/09/71
1734449	BANKS, RALPH NORMAN	CAMP HILL	2nd / 68	MVA	18/12/69
1737383	BARNES, ANDREW HENRY	CHERMSIDE	2nd / 71	MVA	06/11/71
1735116	BEAUCHAMP, NOEL THOMAS	ANNERLEY	1st / 69	MVA	24/10/69
1735462	BEUKER, ALFRED ROELFIN	CAPALABA	2nd / 69	MVA	26/07/69
1732936	BURTON, KEITH BRUCE (V)	BALD HILLS	2nd / 67	DOS	31/10/69
1732941	CIESLIELSKI, HENRY JOHN	BRISBANE	2nd / 67	DOS	20/09/67
2791169	CLIFFORD, NEVILLE WILLIAM	TINGALPA	4th / 68	MVA	11/03/70
1730933	EGAN, BRIAN PATRICK	HOLLAND PARK	3rd / 65	DOS	30/06/65
1730944	GILLESPIE, MICHAEL JOSEPH (V)	BRISBANE	3rd / 65	MVA	23/03/67
1734004	GILTROW, ROBERT JOHN	TOOWOOMBA	1st / 68	DOS	14/02/68
1732030	GORDON, BRIAN WILLIAM	TOOWONG	2nd / 65	MVA	22/10/67
1732324	HEINSON, WILLIAM FRANCIS (V)	CHARTERS TOWERS	4th / 66	MVA	11/01/69
1735588	HOBBELEN, PETER JACOBUS	ALBANY CREEK	2nd / 69	Drowned	23/02/71
1732043	HOLDEN, PATRICK THOMAS	COOPERS PLAINS	2nd / 66	MVA	05/06/66
1737327	JIA, RICHARD DRUMMOND	THURSDAY ISLAND	4th / 70	MVA	06/11/71
1738779	JENSEN, CHRISTIAN PETER	WOOMBYE	1st / 72	MVA	16/04/72
1731128	JOYCE, FRANCIS PATRICK	TOOWOOMBA	2nd / 65	MVA	29/08/67
1735860	KRIVOROUTCHO, MICHAEL	CAMP HILL	3rd / 69	MVA	04/09/70
1733472	LIVINGSTON, PETER BARRY	CHELMER	4th / 67	MVA	07/10/68
1732999	McALORUM, JOHN PATRICK	BRISBANE	2nd / 67	MVA	13/11/67
1731473	MERRIS, JABEZ ERNEST CHESTER	ASPLEY	1st / 66	MVA	17/01/67
1735761	PERSAL, BERNARD THOMAS	MARYBOROUGH	3rd / 69	MVA	14/02/70
1733506	ROSS, DONALD NORMAN	ASPLEY	4th / 67	MVA	05/01/68
1733869	SCHLECHT, LAURENCE THOMAS	NORMAN PARK	1st / 68	MVA	31/03/68
1739763	SHAW, RICHARD CHARLES BARKER	CUNNAMULLA	4th / 72	MVA	06/03/73
1732906	STRANGE, BRUCE THOMAS	TOWNSVILLE	2nd / 67	MVA	21/08/68
1731982	WAGNER, HAROLD HUGH	SAINT LAWRENCE	2nd / 66	DOS	29/08/67
1735100	WHITTLE, GARY RICHARD	TOWNSVILLE	1st / 69	MVA	01/08/70
1738745	WHYATT, NEVILLE E	IPSWICH	1st / 72	Drowned	27/01/73
1733539	WRUCK, PETER JOHN	BRISBANE	4th / 67	MVA	02/06/68

(V) - SERVED IN VIETNAM

DOS - DIED OF SICKNESS

MVA - MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Unveiled by Her Excellency The Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland

14 March 2026



1. LTCOL Shane Richards CSM, Forest Lake RSL President
2. MC John Hardy OAM FNSA, NSAA State Vice President and Editor NASHO NEWS
3. Ms Angela Owen – Patron NASHOs Qld
4. Mr Joe Kelly MP – Member for Greenslopes
5. Ms Margie Nightingale MP – Member for Inala representing the Leader of the Opposition in Queensland
Parliament Hon Steven Miles
6. Mr Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives & Federal Member for Oxley representing Hon
Matt Keogh – Minister for Veterans & Minister for Defence Personnel
7. Tony Stevenson OAM FNSA – NSAA State President NASHOs Qld
8. Her Excellency The Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Qld
9. Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD
10. Mr Tom Andrews OAM, NSAA State Padre
11. Mr Neal Freier, NSAA State Treasurer.
12. MAJ Steve Jackson –Officer Commanding C Company 25/49 Battalion RQR (Obscure)

Photo credit – Kym Hyson, NSAA Brisbane North

NSAA Queensland State Patron Angela Owen BCom CPA MICM GAICD JP has recently been offered an inaugural position on the NSAA Patrons and Eminent Persons Advisory Group, to guide the next phase of NSAA national operations, to come into effect on 1st January 2027.

RSL RECOGNIZES QLD'S TONY STEVENSON OAM FNSA :

The RSL ANZAC awards were announced on Anzac Day and included our NSAA State President, Tony Stevenson OAM FNSA in recognition of his lifetime devoted to ensuring that the veterans of his community are honoured, supported, and never forgotten – serving with the Salisbury RSL Sub-Branch for over 25 years, including as President since 2014, and concurrently as Queensland State President and Australian Vice President of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia. Now approaching his ninetieth year, he almost single-handedly organises Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services, personally maintains the memorial park, and conducts graveside poppy services for deceased veterans – a record of quiet, selfless service that exemplifies the Anzac spirit.

Tony's ANZAC award follows in the footsteps of another prestigious award presented to Tony in Canberra on 5 March 2026 by Mr Ron Brandy, President, the National Committee of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia (Nasho's) to recognise exemplary service and dedication to the organisation and its members. The Barry Vicary Fellowship is named in honour of Barry Vicary from Toowoomba who founded the association to seek better recognition and medals for National Servicemen. The fellowship is a high distinction within the Nasho community and carries the post nominals of FNSA, its use authorised by the National Committee.

NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

Mike Laine has reported that not much is happening with Nashos in the Northern Territory. He attended the Darwin Anzac Day march and observed that he saw one only Nasho gong on the left breasts marching, yet he did not know the fellow.

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY:

ACT Branch intends to fund all members into Direct National Membership for 2027.



NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

The South Australian Branch has funded all members who were active in 2025 into Direct National Membership for 2026. The first batch were welcomed in the NASHO newsletter distributed in January. The second batch from the Para Hills Sub-Branch is as follows:

DARNLEY BRETHERTON
BARB CAMPLIN
KEITH FITZGERALD
RAY HALL
MALCOLM KRUSS
LAURANCE MARSCHALL

JOY MARSCHALL
GEOFF REICHSTEIN
DIANNE REICHSTEIN
ARNIE RISBORG
LYN RISBORG
ANTHONY SITTERS

CRAIG SMITH
CHERYL WELLINGTON
ROBIN WELLINGTON
JOHN ROWE

Darrell Suter, President NSAA South Australia, has advised the following:

Dear members, the building at Surrey Road is now completely empty. Thanks to the council and its team of contractors. Soon demolition will begin and it will not be too long. A reminder that we now meet at Weigal Oval Kurralta Park every Friday from 8.00am till 12,30. Everyone is welcome. Let us keep the meetings going strong by attending when you are able. Looking forward to seeing as many as possible this Friday, Subway for lunch. Please text me to 0412 820 806 if you are attending so I can order lunch for you.

We have recently lost one of our amazing members, Mr. Ken Ellis. He will be missed by all of us, truly a fantastic man.



Mr. Ken Ellis.





By the time your read this, the old building will have already been demolished.



The new temporary building for SA Members, the new Weigal Oval Complex. Every Friday from 8.00am till 12,30. Everyone is welcome.

Thank you, Darrell Suter, President NSAA South Australia.

NEWS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

WA Branch formally closed at the end of 2025. They have funded all their members as National Direct Members for 2026.

It is with great sadness that National President Ron Brandy conveys the news from Stuart Fairburn WA, that esteemed NSAA WA member Brial Prangnell OAM passed away in March. Regrettably there aren't many who will remember Brian's valuable contribution to the NSAA Memorial Project consultative group representing WA Nashos, of whom not many are still with us. Our NSAA National Vice President Noel Moulder OAM worked closely with Brian on the NSAA National Memorial Project and beyond.

I have responded to Stuart Fairburn and requested he pass on the sincere condolences from the NSAA National Executive, National Council Delegates, and all NSAA members nationally to Brian's family and friends, and particularly the Nashos close to him, and his RSL Quinns Rocks RSL Sub-Branch members where he was a life member and former Secretary.



A true gentleman Brian Prangnell OAM sadly passed away on 17th March. He was loved so much by everyone that knew him. Kind, caring, considerate, knowledgeable and highly respected. Heaven has gained a gem, one of our very best. Rest in Peace dear Brian, now is your time for you to join your beloved Barbara. You will be missed beyond measure. Thank you for being you.

Tracey Roberts - Federal Member for Pearce

NEWS FROM OFFICER TRAINING UNIT (SCHEYVILLE) ASSOCIATION:

From 1 July 2026, the National Committee will cease to exist. However, the Chapters will arrange the production of a combined newsletter and the association website (<https://www.otu.asn.au/>) will be funded for the next few years and will eventually be handed over to a like-minded organization.

NEWS FROM TASMANIA:

Tasmanian Branch & its two Sub-branches will continue until the end of 2026, when all will close. The Tasmanian Branch, through its two Sub-branches, then intends to fund all remaining members into Direct National Membership for 2027 & 2028.

NEWS FROM VICTORIA:

The Victorian Branch intends to close at the end of 2026 and the Victorian Branch Council has passed a motion that it will fund all members into Direct National Membership for 2027.

NEWS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES:

NSW Members, don't hesitate to send in a paragraph or two, and don't think that what you have to say is unimportant. There are plenty of our readers interest in all nasho things. Here is what one had to say recently:

Hi Pete, xxxxxx is my name, and I served as a Nasho in 1969-1971. For a long time now I've been harbouring a grudge towards the Government establishment about how we, non-overseas soldiers have been treated and have never been held in high regard as our O/S serving vets. I had to even contact the Dept of Vet affairs to receive my service medals and that was in 2010, after a colleague told me that the medals were available for non o/s serving soldiers. I had to APPLY for them, I found that insulting as they new where to find me when I was due for conscription, but couldn't find me after it was all over. I also had to apply for a Veterans card and was given Yellow card back then which has now been replaced with a white card (specific) and that was after being informed again by a colleague. I get more benefits from my Flybuys card than what the white vets card offers. I receive/d nothing for my commitment to the My Country and serving 2 years in the prime of my life all because through no fault of my own I didn't go overseas. It certainly has left me with sour taste about it all. The Government (All) sides, are good at talking the talk but absent when the walk needs to be walked. Everything that is done for the Nashos is only brought about by organisations like yours and groups of committed people as yourself pushing the "proverbial uphill" Thank you guys for your effort.

NOMINATION FORM EXECUTIVE POSITIONS 2027 & 2028:



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

ABN 67 616 946 831

Returning Officer John Thorne ESM

Mail: Unit 6 / 401 Cross Road, Edwardstown, S.A. 5039

Email: 'John Thorne' chrijo2@bigpond.com

I hereby nominate the following person for an Executive position as below in accordance with the Association Rules and By Laws. Nominees will be required to serve a two-year period from March 2027.
(You can nominate yourself)

NOMINEE NAME

POSITION NOMINATED: (President / Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer)

NOMINATED BY: NOMINATOR'S NAME

NOMINATOR'S TITLE **MEMBER NUMBER**

NOMINATOR MEMBER ASSOCIATION (State / Territory / Branch / Sub-Branch)

NOMINATOR SIGNATURE **DATE**

SECONDED BY: SECONDER'S NAME

SECONDER'S TITLE **MEMBER NUMBER**.....

SECONDER SIGNATURE.....**DATE**.....

NOMINEE ACCEPTANCE:

I **HEREBY ACCEPT THE ABOVE NOMINATION**

SIGNATURE **DATE**

APPROVED BY RETURNING OFFICER: SIGNATURE