



# THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

ABN 67 616 946 831

Patron: Matt Anderson PSM, Director Australian War Memorial

Secretary: Office of the National Secretary  
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## NSAA NATIONAL PRESIDENTS BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear members,

It is with pleasure that I pen this latest NSAA National Presidents Report, and in the hope that you and yours are well and managing life and times as best as you are able.

My report covers a range of subjects and issues your National Executive and the NSAA National Council is addressing and managing.

### NSAA National Executive and NSAA National Council Delegates

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

### Honours and Awards. National and State and Territory Based Awards

In 2024 we have had several NSAA members recognised, either nationally or at their community level, for the work they have done and continue to do on behalf of both Nashos but their local communities.

Congratulations to National Vice President **Noel Moulder** OAM, QLD State President **Alex Garlin** OAM, OTU-A Chairman **Frank Miller**, **Noel Blake** OAM, past president NSAA Victorian Branch, Northern Districts Sub-Branch, and **John Honeycombe** OAM, NSAA QLD Branch, Townsville Branch member, for their awards of the OAM, and NSAA National Secretary **Peter Norman** for receiving the Federal Electorate of Casey, Victoria, Community and Volunteer award, presented by the Federal Member for Casey, The Honourable Aaron Violi's MP.

Well done gentlemen and our hearty congratulations.

### Issues facing the NSAA

NSAA Membership. While membership in some locations is holding with minimal non-renewals, some branches and Sub-Branched are debilitated and becoming unviable due to a range of well-known circumstances

Longevity and capabilities of the NSAA. These elements are key to the life and future of the NSAA entity and are well known.

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**National Service Honour Roll: 287,000 served; 212 died on active service**

There has been significant debate at NSAA Council, Branch, and Sub-Branch levels on this subject since the decision to work toward a dignified winding down and eventual closure of the NSAA. At a National Level, the date of 31 Dec 2026 was debated and agreed as a point at which Member Associations (MA) have implemented their plans for operation beyond that date. MA decisions will inform the future of the NSAA National body.

### **Sustaining a NSAA National Presence and Membership Post 31 December 2026 – Progress Report**

As indicated in my proposal to the NSAA National Executive and NSAA National Council delegates, we are barely two years away from what I have effectively named our 'D-Day', 31 December 2026.

The proposal, wholly supported by the National Executive, was provided to council delegates prior to the September 5<sup>th</sup> General Meeting (GM) in order that they can consider the options and provide feedback to the Council at the G M of 5 September 2024.

The National Council vigorously debated the proposal in a spirit of dedication, cooperation, and care to ensure the outcome that would give maximum benefit to members in the most practical way.

Ultimately delegates unanimously confirmed their preference for Option 1 below. Options 2 and 3 were discarded on practical grounds.

Option 1 – Reform to a nation-wide individual member organisation with a single national management team.

~~Option 2 – Retain NSAA as is currently structured and managed.~~

~~Option 3 – Disband completely – states and territories branches revert to social, or state constituted entities.~~

Attached is a paper prepared by our National Secretary Peter Norman and circulated to all NSAA Victorian Sub-Branched. I am grateful to Peter for allowing me to share his work with you so you can have a full understanding of what is proposed and supported by the NSAA National Council.

All NSAA National Council delegates have been requested to communicate the NSAA National Council's intent to NSAA members.

The NSAA National Executive has requested feedback from the respective NSAA State and Territories with their respective decisions to the NSAA National Secretary by 1 February 2025.

### **Projects**

NSAA Archives – In May last, VP Noel Moulder and I met in Queensland to advance further culling and reconciliation of the NSAA records. Since then, Noel has consolidated further records at home in NSW, and we both culled the last of what I had while in Canberra last week.

Noel and I attended a very successful and gratifying meeting with National Library of Australia (NLA) staff on 3 September 24. The meeting concluded with the NLA agreeing that the extent of work in culling and collating our records had reached a point at which the NLA would accept what we had collected and culled without further work.

We now have a commitment from the NLA that they will provide and ship the necessary material to box and transport the records to Queensland. Noel and I will box and record the material, and NLA will arrange for the boxes to be collected from Queensland and shipped to Canberra. At no cost to the NSAA.

We remain grateful to the QLD Branch for their cooperation and good will in providing temporary storage for the records at their Wacol facility.

AWM Sponsored NSAA Commemorations. NSAA National Vice President Noel Moulder maintains a watching brief with the AWM Commemorations Staff and has been very successful in assisting the AWM present our September Commemorative Services. Thank you Noel.

***National Service Honour Roll: 287,000 served; 212 died on active service***

On 6th September 24 the AWM presented and managed a very successful and well run commemorative service for us at our National Servicemen's Memorial. In addition to our association, several National Servicemen's Associations were represented by their Presidents which is very gratifying as the AWM service is for all National Servicemen, not just NSAA members.

Attached is the wreath laying schedule which illustrates the breadth of NSAA representation, and that of supporting organisations.

NSAA Patron and AWM Director Matt Anderson PSM gave heartfelt opening and welcome address, OTU-A Chairman Frank Miller OAM gave a well-crafted key note address in which he very ably reflected on the impact of National Service on both the members and society in general, I recited the ODE and gave the thanks and farewell and closing address.

The Hyperlink below will access photos made available by the AWM.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/australianwarmemorial/albums/72177720320103575>

We remain ever grateful for the welcome and dedication of the AWM staff as they coordinate and deliver our Memorial Services.

#### AWM UPGRADE PROJECT-NSAA DISPLAY

At an appropriate time, and with the input of the National Executive, I will seek some guidance from Matt Anderson on how the National Executive may get involved in the proposed reestablishment of the NSAA display planned for the upgraded AWM Post WW2 area. I think it would be helpful to the AWM for us to offer some realistic suggestions e.g. a publicly accessible, digitally searchable record of our fallen.

#### MILSHOP and Corporate Roses Support

I am delighted to confirm that both organisations have been able to forward their respective annual donations derived from sales to the National Treasurer, being \$564.71 and \$425.00 respectively.

As always, we welcome your presence and participation at our Commemorative service.



Ron Brandy  
**National President**  
**National Servicemen's Association of Australia**

Attachments.

- A. The future of the NSAA after D-Day 31/12/2026, prepared for Victorian members by National Secretary Peter Norman.
- B. NSAA Memorial Service Wreath Laying Schedule

***National Service Honour Roll: 287,000 served; 212 died on active service***



## NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (Victorian Branch) Inc.

*CAV Reg. No: A0030622E*

*ABN: 13 329 277 244*

State Patron:

Major-General Jim Barry AM MBE RFD ED Ret'd

State President:

Mr. Bob McIvor OAM

Senior Vice-President:

Mr. Ron Brandy

Vice-President:

Mr. Peter Kemp

Treasurer:

Mr. Richard Tregear

Secretary:

Mr. Peter Norman

*Address for correspondence: Secretary NSAA Vic, 1 Deborah St. Kilsyth, Vic, 3137 [pdnorman1945@gmail.com](mailto:pdnorman1945@gmail.com) Mob. 0458 646 594*

### Victorian Council Delegates and Sub-Branch Secretaries:

#### The future of the NSAA after D-Day 31/12/2026

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 is now referred as D-Day.

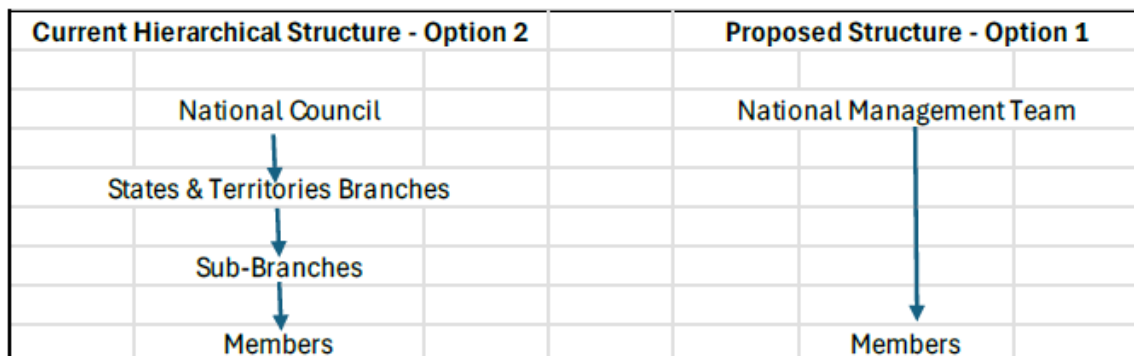
Option 1 – Reform to a nation-wide individual member organisation with a single national management team.

Option 2 – Retain NSAA as is currently structured and managed.

Option 3 – Disband completely – states and territories branches revert to social, or state constituted entities.

After due deliberation and the realisation that sub-branch committees throughout Australia are becoming increasingly difficult to resource, the National Council decided to adopt Option 1. Option 2 was rejected because it will not be possible for many branches and sub-branches to continue ad infinitum, with many already teetering on the edge of viability. Option 3 was rejected because many individual members wish to retain membership of the NSAA, whereas Option 1 caters for this cohort to continue membership.

Thus, Option 1 will be further developed by the National Executive as the way forward for the National body after D-Day. Option 1 would see the states and territories branches disconnected from the National body on D-Day, with their members being invited to become National Direct Members of a reconstituted NSAA national body, which does not have branches or sub-branches, and therefore does not require formal management committees which is currently the case.



The states and territories branches may opt to reconstitute if they wish to have a formal structure to work under. The NSAA Victorian Branch, through Constitution Officer Gerry Thomas, is currently developing a possible new constitution for Victoria post D-Day if such is required by the Victorian Branch. However sub-branches Victoria-wide are not expected to be enthusiastic about management committees, so this reformed constitution is more likely to cater for social groups only.

Such social networks Victoria-wide and Australia-wide would continue the mateship and camaraderie of their local groups, and there would be no requirement for them to have management committees to conduct the formalities of business. There is only one management committee in Option 1 – a National Management Team looking after the interests of all members who will be known as Direct National Members.

Given all the above, the National Council has asked for all branches and territories to consider the following table:

**OPTION 1- Reform to an individual, nation-wide member organisation with National Management team. Configuration TBA.**

**Comments and Actions:**

- 1.1 Continue to offer Direct National Membership from 1/1/2027.
- 1.2 Volunteer management team drawn from the both the remaining NSAA National Executive and supplemented from the broader membership.
- 1.3 Offer individual membership to current members where closure of their Branch is imminent and agreed at State/Territory level.
- 1.4 Invite prepaid one year individual membership from Branch funds in 2026, prior to planned closure.
- 1.5 Agreement with these comments would imply Option 1 be accepted.

Victorian Branch Delegates are asked to consider the comments and actions proposed for Option 1 at left, and respond to Vic Secretary Pete Norman by no later than 1/10/2024, so that a summary can be prepared for the Victorian Committee at their next meeting on 13/10/2024. Any further comments you may have are welcome. The outcome of this consultation then will go to the Victorian Council meeting on 17/11/2024.

Cheers,



Pete Norman  
Victorian Branch Secretary  
11/9/2024

The three options which were considered by the National Council are presented on the following four pages. Note that Options 2 & 3 were considered but rejected by delegates. Thus, only Option 1 goes forward.

**Attachment A.1.0**

**WORKING TOWARD CLOSURE – NSAA, DAY AFTER D-DAY 31 DEC 26, WHAT NEXT ?**

**FOR DISCUSSION AS AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE 5 SEP 2024 NSAA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING**

There has been significant and ongoing debate at NSAA Council, Branch, and Sub-Branch levels on this subject since the decision to work toward a dignified winding down and eventual closure of the NSAA. At a National Level, the date of 31 Dec 26 was debated and agreed as a point at which Member Associations (MA) have implemented their plans for operation beyond that date.

MA decisions will inform the future of the NSAA National body and disenfranchised members.

2025 heralds the commencement of a two year window in which informed and binding decisions must be made, and actions implemented that reflect and confirm what the NSAA Nationally will look like and in what operational format, if any.

Decisions to be made will be driven primarily from the outcome of the Member Associations advice, via the NSAA National Council, the commitment, or not, to and uptake of the individual member option, and the commitment of a volunteer management committee that will enable its operation.

There will need to be an optimal and viable membership mass that will inform the longer term viability of this any outcome. This mass is yet to be determined.

The information and outcome required as the National Executive (NE), is that individual MA, and the Council, achieve a consensus position on the way ahead in order that we be able to plan and deliver the outcome agreed, managed effectively, while maintaining the reputation, governance, and dignity of the NSAA as front of mind, and all actions taken reflect those key elements.

Currently, we have only 3 of the 8 MA committed 'go/no go' positions known. Put simply, a 'go or no go' position to work from and to is required from all MA. We are not at this point yet, but we need get there as early as the AGM/GM of 2025. The NSAA Council can't sit back and wait for 'we'll see' outcomes.

The NSAA N E debated various 'go/no go' options and additional considerations at the executive meeting of 7 August 24, but a conclusive outcome was not achieved. Subsequently, a revised proposal was circulated to NE members and a unanimous consensus has been achieved as of 21 August 2024.

Accordingly, this document, plus the following Plan on a Page (PoP) Attachment 1, and Decision Matrix (DM) Enclosure 2, and Attachment 3, What Can We Offer, are provided in support of the specific Agenda item for the 5 Sep 24 Council meeting.

If appropriate, a Motion reflecting the position of delegates be put, that Delegates take the proposal(s) and debate back to their MAs for deliberation and ratification, and to bring their approved position to the GM/AGM of March 2025.

Your candid comments are most welcome as we need to be on top of this process to guide us to a safe landing, not the alternative.

Ron Brandy

NSAA National President  
National Servicemen's Association of Australia Inc.

21 August 2024

Attachments:

Attachments 1, 2, and 3

# NSAA - DAY AFTER D-DAY – 31 DEC 2026 - OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

## Sponsored by the NSAA National Executive

<p><b><u>INTENT:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Present three options to determine the future of the NSAA post 31 Dec 2026.</p>	<p><b><u>WHERE:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1. 7 September 2024 GM in Canberra.</li> <li>• Phase 2. 6 March 2025 GM/AGM in Canberra.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.WHO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phases 1 &amp; 2. The NSAA National Council, comprising all Council Delegates and the NSAA National Executive.</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. WHY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure clear and sustainable decisions are made.</li> <li>• To ensure directions are known and provide sufficient time to undertake the administrative and governance measures necessary to implement the decision taken.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. WHAT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debate options presented to the National Council.</li> <li>• Understand the consequences of the decisions taken.</li> <li>• Make a binding decision on the future of the NSAA.</li> <li>• Ensure human and financial resources are understood IOT sustain and or implement the decisions taken.</li> <li>• Resource Options considered</li> </ul>	<p><b>5. HOW:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide draft decision tools to the National Council.</li> <li>• Explain and debate the tools and rationale</li> <li>•</li> <li>• If necessary, adjust Rules and By-Laws to accord with decisions taken.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. WHEN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1. NSAA GM 7 September 24. Decision and Options papers provided to the National Council Delegates for debate.</li> <li>• Phase 2. NSAA AG &amp; AGM 6 March 25 (TBC). Present Final Decision and Options papers to the National Delegates.</li> </ul>	<p><b>6. ACTIONS/END STATE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSAA National Council decide on a firm option for the future of the organisation at or beyond 31 Dec 2026 by COB 6 Mar 25.</li> <li>• NSAA National Council ensure that all support and necessary resources are available and in place to enable the decision taken to be realised and is sustainable.</li> </ul>

**NSAA DAY AFTER D-DAY - TOWARDS CLOSURE 31 DEC 2026 - DECISION MATRIX**

**Firm decisions are sought for the March 2025 AGM/GM IOT have certainty and time to implement the agreed option(s) and ensure the change formalities are achieved before 31 Dec 2026**

**OPTION 1 - Reform to an individual, nation-wide member organisation with National Management team. Configuration TBA.**

**Comments and Actions:**  
 1.1 Continue to offer Direct National Membership from 1/1/2027.  
 1.2 Volunteer management team drawn from the both the remaining NSAA National Executive and supplemented from the broader membership.  
 1.3 Offer individual membership to current members where closure of their Branch is imminent and agreed at State/Territory level.  
 1.4 Invite prepaid one year individual membership from Branch funds in 2026, prior to planned closure.  
 1.5 Agreement with these comments would imply Option 1 be accepted.

**OPTION 2 – Retain NSAA as currently structured and managed.**

**Comments and Actions:**  
 2.1 Current circumstances, actions, and discussion indicates that this option is no longer viable, nor sought, at State and Territory level beyond 31 Dec 2026.  
 2.2 Agreement with this comment would imply Option 2 be rejected.

**OPTION 3 – Disband completely – States and Territories revert to social, or State/Territory constituted entities.**

**Comments and Actions:**  
 3.1 Should this Option be approved, all NSAA members will be disenfranchised at National and State/Territory level.  
 3.2 Effectively National Servicemen will lose a respected voice at the Federal level.  
 3.3 National Servicemen could possibly forfeit AWM organisational support for commemorative services.  
 3.4 Agreement with these comments would imply Option 3 be rejected.

**D-DAY + 1**

**WHAT CAN WE OFFER NSAA NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS?**

**TANGIBLE (Something one can touch and or participate in)**

- Annual AGM and Reunion in Canberra
- Annual Commemorative service at the AWM
- 3 X Newsletters per year (Post and email offering)
- Camaraderie when able to gather physically
- Ability to communicate via the association Newsletters
- Maintain a National Membership Database
- Other

**INTANGIBLE (Remote, but still fostering Camaraderie and connection)**

- Member of a Nationally recognised association (1)
- Connectedness
- Sense of belonging
- Pride in self and the association
- Sense of purpose
- Other

**Notes:**

1. Will our current R and B's, and our SA registration as an association, allow us to reform with a small (X # person management group) + individual interstate members, be recognised as a Nationally recognised body by the Federal Government and relevant Departments e.g. DVA?

# BRIEF – THANKS & FAREWELL



## Attachment B: Wreath laying movements

### 1. Movement

- ~~Mr David Smith, Member for Bean~~ DID NOT ATTEND

### 2. Movement

- Mr Ron Brandy, National President of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia
- Mr Frank Miller OAM, Chairman of the Officer Training Unit Association of Australia

### 3. Movement

- Mr Tony Stevenson OAM, State President of the National Servicemen's Association, QLD Branch
- Mr Noel Moulder OAM, Vice President, National Servicemen's Association of Australia and representing all NSW Members

### 4. Movement

- Mr Robert McIvor OAM, State President, National Servicemen's Association, Victorian Branch
- Mr Jeff Gray, State President, National Servicemen's Association of Australia, Tasmania

### 5. Movement

- Mr James Duquemin, State President, National Servicemen's Association of Australia Western Australia
- Mr John Thorne, State President, National Servicemen's Association of Australia South Australia

### 6. Movement

- Mr Mike Lane, National Servicemen's Association, Northern Territory Branch
- Mr John Faunt, State President, National Servicemen's Association of Australia ACT Branch

### 7. Movement

- Mr Ian Davenport, President National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia ACT Branch
- Mr Terry Lawler, representing Mr Ward Gainey JP, President of the Vietnam Veterans and Veterans Federation Australia ACT Branch
- Mr Greg Mawson, President of National Servicemen's Association and Affiliates, New South Wales Branch

### 8. Movement

- Brigadier Phil Winter AM CSC ADC representing Major General Greg Melick AO RFD SC (Retd), National President of the Returned and Services League of Australia
- Mrs Florence Tancred, representative of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia widows

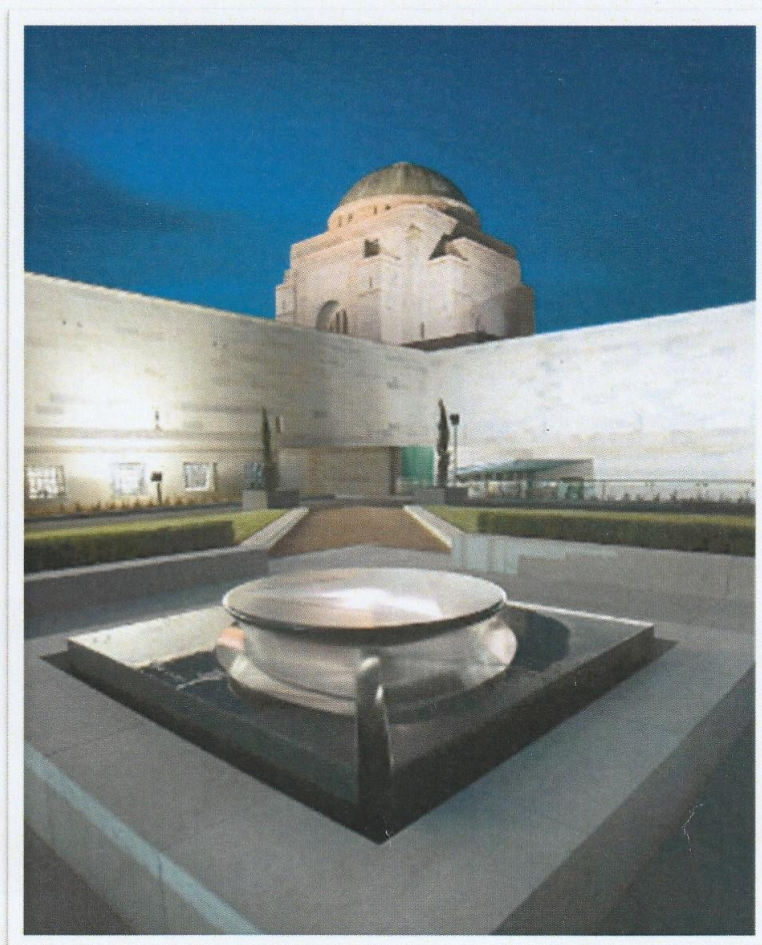
### 9. Movement

- Mr Andrew Kefford, Deputy Secretary Policy and Programs representing Ms Alison Frame, Secretary Department of Veterans' Affairs

*List correct as at 2/09/2024 - Names in red are TBC*

A copy of the Order of Service follows:

# National Servicemen's Association Commemorative Ceremony



**Friday 6 September 2024**  
**National Service memorial**

**In recognition of the service and sacrifice of all National Servicemen  
1951–1959 & 1965–1972**

2021 - 70 years since the start of National Service

2022 - 50 years since the end of National Service

2024 - 14 years since the memorial dedication





# Order of Service

## **Welcome**

Mr Matt Anderson PSM  
Director, Australian War Memorial

## **Commemorative Address**

Mr Frank Miller OAM  
Chairman, Officer Training Unit Association

## **Prayers**

Chaplain (Colonel) Charles Vesely  
Australian Army

## **Laying of Wreaths**

## **The Ode**

Mr Ron Brandy  
National President, National Servicemen's Association of Australia

## THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATIVE EVENT AT THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL SEPTEMBER 2024:

This event on 6/9/2024, in recognition of the service and sacrifice of all National Servicemen 1951-1959 & 1965-1972, was sponsored by the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Mr. Matt Anderson PSM. Matt is also the National Patron of the NSAA. The commemorative address was delivered by Mr. Frank Miller OAM, a member of the NSAA and the Chairman of the Officer Training Unit Association (Scheyville).



Matt Anderson PSM showing his Nasho father's slouch hat.



Frank Miller OAM delivering the commemorative address, as copied below.

Post the Second World war, some 291,000 young Australian men experienced time in the Nation's Defence Forces as National Servicemen – 227,000 in the first scheme between 1951 and 1959 and 64,000 in the second from 1965 and 1972.

The two differed markedly. The first included everyone in the age group and, apart from a three-month stint of recruit training, did not impact their working careers. A period in the Citizens' Forces followed their initial time.

More controversially, the second was far from all-inclusive and involved two years (later reduced to eighteen months) full time. Selection was by ballot. Of the 804,000 who registered 63,000 ended up in the Army. Of these, 15,400 served in Vietnam.

However, common to both schemes was the twelve weeks or so of recruit training. This involved relentless instructions on marching, weapon craft, navigation, fieldwork, hygiene, dress sense and presentation, PT and many other military necessities. Inspections were carried out on anything and everything – petty or not. For many, it was their first introduction to communal showering.

Most importantly, they were shrieked at and belittled by Corporals and Sergeants – almost nonstop! Tales of recruits being admonished over the river washed white pebbles outside their hut “How do you expect them to grow if they’re not properly raked!!”

### **They broke away the shell and rebuilt you all as one!**

The most unfortunate surname for a young recruit would be Bloggs. Poor old Private Bloggs was always used, by way of example, as the archetypical “Dozy Digger” – forever getting things wrong and drastically needing to “switch on!”

### **The best part of recruit training was that it finally ended!**

**However**, it did teach you self-confidence, dress and presentation, and how to get on with others from very different backgrounds and cultures. It brought about substantial personal change – and for the better.

I often think when people talk of straightening wayward youth of the day through military service they have recruit training in mind.

### **The military’s job is defence – not instilling good behaviour in young people who are off the rails!**

Let me be clear I was always in favour of National Service – **provided it didn’t include me!**

But it did – and here I am!

For the '65 – '72 people, so much depended on the Corps to which you were allotted and your subsequent posting.

Spending time in the permanent Army was a fascinating experience. I came across a large number of exceptionally capable individuals who had made a career of the Regular Army.

In the Service there was much to learn on how a huge body of people, from the smallest Section to the full Division, and more, was controlled and managed. It was done very well.

One truly admirable feature of Army training, across all levels, was the doctrine that activities - battles, manoeuvres and so on - be planned step by step from the beginning through to the very end. **Preparation and planning was the catch cry.** I still see this today as an outstanding management discipline.

In this sense National Service taught much from which Industry could benefit.

For most National Servicemen there was travel, new and interesting experiences – and so much to learn. You weren't stuck in a boring office all day! As well, there was weekly sport, PT and parades etc. It wasn't dull.

Every effort was made for those with special qualifications or trades to use these in their service.

I did hear of one Nasho being posted to a role requiring him to do a Master's Degree in the field for which he had just qualified before his call up.

On the negative side of the ledger, 212 NS men made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam and many more were seriously wounded. PTSD took its toll in the years following along with a number of other war related problems. As always with war and longer-term absence, relationships were tested with many failing.

Some second scheme Nashos also found on discharge, despite the National Service Act, their careers were two years behind where they would otherwise have been. I found myself in that situation and solved it by leaving to a more enlightened employer.

So what benefits did National Service bring to the Country? It made a material contribution to its Defence situation. It gave a sense of National pride to those who participated. It grew callow youths into mature adults through knowing how to get on with people from all walks of life – as well as how to act with discipline - either on the receiving end or giving it to others.

The Army itself enjoyed a longer-term influx of people with much in demand skills and qualifications.

Of the 1,688 National Servicemen who graduated from the Officer training Unit Scheyville, over 200 took the opportunity to make a full-time career in the Army. Many others elected to serve on in the Reserve. National Service proved a fruitful long term recruitment tool in this instance.

Yes, there is a strong cohort who look back at their conscription as having caused a huge and adverse impact on their lives – many with justification.

The ballot was a ballot in the truest sense of the word.

**Much is made of military mateship.** Why is it that so many, from both schemes, joined the National Servicemen's Association? It wasn't just to catch up individual mates with whom they had served. There were too many intakes for that to happen.

It was to join in with people to seek and enjoy the military camaraderie they had found while in the service.

So strong was this attraction that the NSAA had over 20,000 members in its first years.

They share, in many ways, a different language involving Service acronyms and stories that would be incomprehensible to civilians. It's a pleasure to go back to those days of long ago with them.

So strong was this calling that their combined efforts have led to the establishment of this magnificent National Service Memorial we see here today. It stands as a monument to the contribution to Australia's Defence efforts by all who answered their call-up.

A few years ago I attended a morning tea put on by my old university for people who'd studied there all those decades past. Talking to one chap I asked if he had been called up. He replied that his birthday had been drawn and then smugly added "I managed to get deferred every year until National Service was cancelled".

It left me thinking.

In no way, shape or form did I ever want to spend two years of my life in the Army. I was a most reluctant recruit!

However, looking back over my life I am certain I would have been a lesser person without my time in the Service. It opened a whole new dimension of experience – most of which has been of long term benefit to me.

It would be hard to reconcile my attitude today with my mind set on that dreary July morning - when I presented at Melbourne's Swan Street barracks to start my military penury.

Ask a thousand different Australians who had been NASHOS in either scheme, you could get a thousand different answers. I am sure of one thing though, most would have the experience on the plus side of the ledger of life.

Transcript supplied by Frank Miller OAM

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow,  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

Response – *We will remember them*

## **Last Post**

### **One Minute's Silence**

### **Rouse**

*Lest we forget*

Response – *Lest we forget*

## **The National Anthem**

*Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are one and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia fair.*

## **Benediction**

Chaplain (Colonel) Charles Vesely

## **Thanks and Farewell**

Mr Ron Brandy

## **Acknowledgments**

Australia's Federation Guard

Band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon



**For images from today's ceremony please visit:**



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National Service Memorial Images: Front: Steve Burton, PAIU2010\_028\_10\_1; Back: Ian Roach, AWM2019.4.175.74

Point your smart phone at this QR code and click on the link suggested by your smartphone,

or

go directly to <https://www.flickr.com/photos/australianwarmemorial/albums/72177720320103575>

for all photos taken by the official AWM photographer.