

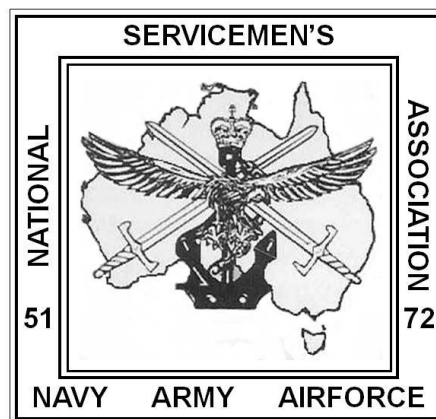
**The National  
Servicemen's  
Association of  
Australia Inc**

Wednesday, 7 September

**2016**

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

**Minutes**



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## 1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 The Chairman, Earle Jennings welcomed delegates and observers. He introduced special guest Mr Rod White, National President of the RSL.

## 2. OBSERVANCE

- 2.1 Vice President, Ron Brandy delivered the National Ode of Remembrance and observed one minute's silence.

## 3. ATTENDANCE

- 3.1 The Chairman acknowledged 17 Council members present as per the attendance register and reviewed the following apologies, proxies and new delegates.

Apology: Mr A Callaghan

Mr R Strachan

Proxies: SA – R Halliday for B Presgrave

VIC – R McIvor for J McLeod

TAS – N Pulford for W Dabner

WA – R Palmer for S Fairbairn

New Delegates: NSW – B O'Keefe

SA – R Halliday

- 3.1.1 **Motion:** *That apologies, proxy appointments and new delegates be accepted.*

**Moved:** T Stevenson (QLD)

**Seconded:** J Thorne (SA)

**Motion Carried.**

## 4. GUEST SPEAKER

- 4.1 Mr Rod White AM RFD, National President RSL. The Chairman presented a personal profile on Mr White and invited him to address the Council.

- 4.2 Mr White spoke of military service commitment as unique and as a pillar of society. He referred to the role of ex-servicemen after leaving service and the problems suffered by generations of ex-service persons. It was pointed out that compulsory training had benefited the defence force and allowed it to grow. Generally, we share same beliefs and ideals. He mentioned that many NASHOs hold key roles in the RSL; complimented the Association groups on their focus on welfare as many ex-servicemen still remain socially isolated and in need of support. He recommended we
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work hard on succession and keep the Association relevant. It is also vital that at all levels of the Association we maintain close contact with local members of Parliament. He thanked member for their work and dedication and complimented us on our relationship with DVA.

4.3 Vice President Ron Brandy thanked Mr White for his presentation. President Earle Jennings presented a plaque and copy of the NASHO memorial booklet.

4.4 Mr White took questions from members.

## 5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 2016

5.1 No amendments recorded.

5.2 **Motion:** *That the minutes of the General Meeting held Thursday, 9 March 2016 as amended and circulated be accepted.*

**Moved:** R Palmer (WA)

**Seconded:** R Halliday (SA)

**Motion Carried.**

### 5.3 Matters Arising

5.3.1 Membership Figures: Treasurer stated most States have complied. Outstanding figures advised and discussed. Now able to formulate accurate budget.

5.3.2 QLD re. Red Badge: Secretary provided information of meeting with Military Shop and advised all material will be amended to show red is exclusive to QLD.

5.3.3 Consequence of no Change to Structure: Grant has been applied for and approved. A need to investigate for future years. Member suggest follow up to see if grant available for State Members to attend annual meeting. Request for feedback from members re. suitability of format. Following discussion, it was agreed to continue.

5.3.4 Expelled Branch Debt: Secretary advised matter still in the hands of agency and is being pursued through court action. Delaying tactics being undertaken. New judgement date to be scheduled; Secretary to follow up.

5.3.5 National Welfare Officer: ACT Branch advise their officer would not be practical. Ron Brandy suggested likely person who is willing, subject to qualifications being acceptable. Training requirements to be investigated. Mr Brandy to follow up.

5.3.6 President's Bulletin: Secretary advised it has been issued and is available on NASHO web site. President requested it be circulated by States to all members.

- 5.3.7 South Australia Memorial Paver Project: Mr Thorne reported the very successful project is now almost complete. Through generous grants and donations will be ready for dedication by SA Governor in March 2017.
- 5.3.8 National Service Flag: Has been found and is currently in Canberra and will be handed to AWM for safe-keeping at the forthcoming memorial service.

## 6. ACCEPTANCE OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING

- 6.1 **Motion:** That the record of proceedings from the Executive Meeting of 4 August 2016 as circulated be taken as read and accepted.

**Moved:** J Faunt (ACT)

**Seconded:** N Pulford (TAS)

**Motion Carried**

### 6.2 Matters Arising

- 6.2.1 Re. Not for Profit Insurance: Treasurer advised of need to review insurance policy; considers possible overkill with National Executive cover. Current policy was outlined. Discussion re. appropriate coverage. Suggested States analyse their policies regarding delegates. Chairman agreed to follow up current coverage with QLD broker. Treasurer to consult Heritage Bank regarding their insurance offer.
- 6.2.2 Re. Invoicing for capitation fees. Treasurer confirmed that invoices will now be issued for capitation levy based on previous year's payment.
- 6.2.3 50th Anniversary Grant: Secretary advised acquittal had been submitted and accepted.
- 6.2.4 Re. NT Executive Changes: Secretary advised new member details shown in Executive Directory.
- 6.2.5 Re. Doughty: Chairman advised of correspondence from NSW Law Society and letter from University re. Doctorate.
- 6.2.6 Re. AWM Long Tan Event: Secretary provided information that ACT Branch had nominated a member to represent the NSAA.
- 6.2.7 Re. Military Shop Agreement: Chairman gave details of a meeting the previous day and advised that a full report will be provided by the Military Shop.
- 6.2.8 Re. Association Patron: Discussion regarding a possible Patron took place. It was suggested Mr Rod White, RSL National President be approached.

6.2.8.1 **Motion:** That Mr Rod White AM RFD, RSL National President be offered the position of Patron on the NSAA.

**Moved:** C Shapland (NSW)

**Seconded:** F Miller (OTU)

**Motion Carried**

6.2.9 Re. Amendment to AGM 2016 Minutes: Secretary advised the following amendment. Mr Andrew Wilkie be shown as a member of the House of Representatives and not the Senate. Members were requested to amend their copies.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 Members were issued with a copy of the correspondence register. The Secretary sought any requests for information.

### **7.2 Matters Arising from Correspondence**

7.2.1 Re. Errol Noack: Secretary provided details of correspondence from Errol's brother and resulting tribute at Memorial Service

7.2.2 Re. Late correspondence from Northern Beaches Council (Sydney) re. use of Logo.

7.2.3 No further matters arising.

## **8. FUTURE AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION RELATING TO AN AGEING & DECLINING MEMBERSHIP**

8.1 The Chairman raised the matter of changing times and the Association becoming relevant to current and future needs and the need to develop a plan.

8.2 Secretary outlined the current objectives as listed in the Rules and By-Laws and invited discussion to change objectives.

8.3 Members contributed to the discussion and the following points were raised.

- i. Uniqueness of the Association;
  - ii. Review what we have achieved;
  - iii. Accept that some things don't change;
  - iv. Some limitations due to lack of resources;
  - v. Importance of Sub-Branches and what they do;
  - vi. The responsibility of the National Council in managing and developing plans for the future;
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- vii. The importance of welfare into the future;
  - viii. Suggest we should think outside the square;
  - ix. Commitment to provide welfare to any NASHO at Sub-Branch level;
  - x. Advice of VIC and QLD system of 'State Members';
  - xi. Suggest members be surveyed at Sub-Branch level on their view of future needs; and
  - xii. Suggest that in long term, may fold into RSL.
- 8.4 QLD members provided an overview of their situation and plans for the future and believe they are doing what needs to be done.
- 8.5 Chairman requested each Branch conduct a form of 'think tank' with regard to what they are achieving and what needs to change. He proposed that each Branch develop objectives for how they see the future and submit these to the Secretary no later than 1 December 2016 to allow for these recommendations to be put to the Council meeting in March 2017.
- 8.6 The importance of funding and administration at Branch level to allow for the agreement of objectives was discussed with suggestion and recommendations that obtaining grants and approval to sell merchandise and memorabilia be pursued.

## **9. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

### **9.1 National Secretary**

- 9.1.1 Presented by N Moulder, copies issued and following points noted.
- i. Correspondence register issued;
  - ii. Correspondence down by 65% from previous report;
  - iii. Emails account for 80% of correspondence;
  - iv. All scheduled meetings attended;
  - v. Website upgrade in progress. Site attracting interest.
  - vi. Corporate Seal not used;
  - vii. No amendments to Rules and By-Laws;
  - viii. Executive Directory upgraded;
  - ix. Sub-Branch and memorial registers unchanged;
  - x. Application for two grants from DVA;
  - xi. Concern re. content of Branch reports; and
  - xii. Discuss use of Guidelines in preparing reports including financial status.

### **9.2 Treasurer's Report**

- 9.2.1 Presented by C Adams, copies issued, detailed analysis and discussion took place.
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- i. Statement of financial performance;
- ii. Summary of income and expenditure'
- iii. Statement of financial position;
- iv. Plant and equipment register; and
- v. Capitation income analysis.

## 9.2.2 Following points were highlighted.

- i. No non-standard movement in income;
- ii. Capitation fees to date 81.5% of income. Balance anticipated by end September;
- iii. Income budget 9.5% lower than 2015;
- iv. Income from GST refund \$1,328;
- v. Two grants applied for \$6,400 has been approved;
- vi. Ex NSW Branch debt still unpaid; and
- vii. Ancillary fund revocation agreement received effect from July 2012. Charity status and not for profit status remain.

## 9.3 Australian Capital Territory Report

### 9.3.1 Presented by J Faunt, copies issued and points noted as follows.

- i. Concern re. declining membership;
- ii. Retirement village service conducted by Branch;
- iii. ACT member represented NSAA at special AWM service; and
- iv. Ladies group praised for good work and support.

## 9.4 Northern Territory Report

### 9.4.1 Presented by M Lane, copies issued and points noted as follows.

- i. Recruited some new members for 2016;
- ii. Vale Mr Bart Allan & Mr Terry Hine;
- iii. Raised an amount of \$10,131 for Operation K9;
- iv. Successful stall at RAAF Base Darwin selling memorabilia in support of Operation 'Pitch Black';
- v. Negotiating to continue an office and meeting location with Darwin Nth RSL;
- vi. Planning observance of Remembrance Day service at Adelaide River War Cemetery; and
- vii. Interstate NASHO branch visitors hosted.

## 9.5 New South Wales Report

### 9.5.1 Presented by B O'Keefe, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.



- i. Established a location and address at Long Jetty on the NSW Central Coast;
- ii. New President and Committee elected at recent AGM;
- iii. Since formation have recruited 56 new members;
- iv. New committee analysed financial positions and had revealed a short fall in needed funds;
- v. Imposed a \$100 levy on Sub-Branches for 2016;
- vi. Increased annual membership fee for 2017;
- vii. Insurance big expenditure, investigating various options;
- viii. Branch invited to join committee to administer Ingleburn Bardia Barracks Precinct;
- ix. Considering major conference for all NSW members in 2017;
- x. Investigating forming two Sub-Branches in the Sydney metropolitan area;
- xi. Held successful meeting with failing Far West Sub-Branch;
- xii. Noted expelled Branch no longer uses NSAA logo on their correspondence; and
- xiii. Considering the creation of memorial walkway for Sydney CBD.

## 9.6 O.T.U. Association Report

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

- i. Membership of the Association reached its highest level for some time;
- ii. Members marched behind their banner at all capital city ANZAC marches;
- iii. Over 110 attended the Annual Victoria Dinner;
- iv. The National Council of the Association for the first time conducted a meeting using 'Skype';
- v. August edition of the Association magazine published and distributed;
- vi. LTCOL Tony Larnach was guest speaker at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Geddes Dinner' in honour of the founding Commandant of Scheyville;
- vii. O.T.U graduates, LT David Sabben MG and LT Gordon Sharp, were honoured at the AWM Long Tan ceremonies; both took part in the historic action in Vietnam. Gordon Sharp paid the ultimate sacrifice, he had recently been awarded a commendation for gallantry.

## 9.7 Queensland Report

9.7.1 Presented by T Stevenson, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Membership remains static despite the passing of some members;
  - ii. Some Branches negative about ageing membership, others exploring incorporation avenue;
  - iii. Deception Bay and District will host Annual State Conference in October;
  - iv. Wacol Military Area Precinct is undergoing some major work with a proposed museum to be developed to house National Service memorabilia;
  - v. Special recognition and acknowledgement of the State Management Team; and
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- vi. Support of commemorative events continue keeping Branch members busy.

## **9.8 South Australia Report**

9.8.1 Presented by J Thorne, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. A lot of activity with the paver, memorial and surrounding garden project with an anticipated opening and dedication in March 2017;
- ii. Defence Reserve Association now meet at National Service Facility. SA Branch are now a Corporate Member of DRA;
- iii. President attended a WWII Veterans event at Government House. This provided an opportunity for networking with other ex-service organisations;
- iv. State General and Council meetings have been conducted with good membership attendance;
- v. Friday get-togethers and lunch continue to be well attended with approx. 50 attending each week;
- vi. President attended the State RSL Conference. The NSAA is well respected at this event;
- vii. Sadly, the Branch has lost a number of members who have passed on; and
- viii. Members continue to be very active and supportive of the Association.

## **9.9 Tasmania State Report**

9.9.1 Presented by N Pulford, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Concern expressed at State meeting re. deteriorating position in Tasmania;
- ii. Members accepted a wake-up call and this will not be allowed to occur;
- iii. State Presidency currently resolved with some minor admin changes to National Council representation;
- iv. National Service Day 14<sup>th</sup> February was well attended with Chief of Navy attending as guest; and
- v. Some changes in organisation for 2017 National Service Commemorative Day with Chief of Army accepting invitation.

## **9.10 Victoria State Report**

9.10.1 Presented by B McIvor, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Parades and commemorations continue;
- ii. Strong support of welfare activities;
- iii. Continued support of Ward 17 at Heidelberg Repat Hospital;
- iv. NASHO Toy Drive for Salvation Army continues;

- v. QLD NASHO RSL Sub-Branch visited Victoria with very successful activities undertaken; and
- vi. Victorian member continues to be very active within the Association.

## **9.11 Western Australia State Report**

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

- i. Many social activities supported by members with many more planned;
- ii. Sub-Branch friendship days have been well supported;
- iii. Finances have been marginally improved by additional fundraising activities;
- iv. Membership attendance at meeting remains unchanged;
- v. 10 and 20 year Achievement certificates are being presented to members;
- vi. Declining membership is placing a strain on funds with delegates to Council meeting having to fund their own expenses; and
- vii. Despite the wettest day in 10 years ANZAC day commemorations were well attended.

## **9.12 National Service Scholarship Foundation Report**

9.12.1 Presented by R Brandy, copies issued and points highlighted as follows.

- i. Purpose of Foundation emphasised;
- ii. What the Scholarships provide;
- iii. Foundation beneficiaries;
- iv. Legal and registration status;
- v. With key establishment processes achieved, concentration now on website;
- vi. Some additional funding still required to complete development;
- vii. Acknowledged the outstanding efforts of the QLD Branch for their contribution; and
- viii. Presented a financial summary to August 2016.

## **9.13 National President's Report**

9.13.1 Left report till last; need to better understand activities and programmes of Branches before comment.

- i. Outlined and reminded of Association's achievements;
- ii. Questioned the need and future, suggest concentration on welfare as membership ages;
- iii. Emphasised that Branches must treat welfare responsibilities as a priority;

- iv. Ask Branches to assess qualifications of welfare officers under the revised DVA requirements;
- v. Remind members of the importance of the National Service Foundation; and
- vi. Requested Branches to develop welfare programmes for presentation and discussion at the March 2017 Council meeting.

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

*Moved: T Stevenson (QLD)*

*Seconded: F Miller (O.T.U)*

*Motion Carried.*

## **9.15 Matters Arising from Reports**

- 9.15.1 SA financial concerns and Treasurer replacement discussed.
- 9.15.2 Question re. cheque for Foundation received from Brisbane East Branch.
- 9.15.3 Secretary to follow up grant available from DVA to fund un-financial Branches to attend Council meetings.
- 9.15.4 Ron Brandy tabled and issued rapid response card for friends of Foundation requested feedback from members re. suitability.
- 9.15.5 Member suggested badge recognition for friends of the Foundation.

## **10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

10.1 Motion received from SA.

*Motion: That the National Servicemen's Association join with the Reserve Forces Association to assist the future of both organisations.*

10.1.1 Following debate on the wording of the motion, SA delegates requested the motion be withdrawn and they moved a revised motion.

10.2 *Motion: That the NSAA become a corporate member of the DRA represented by the Executive of the NSAA.*

*Moved: R Halliday (SA)*

*Seconded: J Thorne (SA)*

*Motion Carried.*

10.2.1 Following debate the Chairman requested a vote by show of hands.

*For: 2*

*Against: 14*

*Motion Lost.*

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10.3 The matter of individual Branches joining was discussed and agreed it be their choice.

## 11. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 11.1 Capitation Payments

11.1.1 The Treasurer raised the matter of the inappropriate deadlines for payments relative to expense commitments in March and September and that payments should be earlier. Discussion took place re. the advantages and disadvantages of moving dates for payment as per the By-Laws.

11.1.2 **Motion:** *That Section 7 of the By-Laws be amended to show no later than 1<sup>st</sup> March each year, and Section 7.2 to show number of financial members as at 1<sup>st</sup> February each year with additional levy payment by 1<sup>st</sup> September of relevant year.*

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

11.1.3 Chairman advised that the Treasurer will invoice relative to the new dates based on membership of previous year.

## 12. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

12.1 It was noted the next meeting was scheduled for March 2017 in Sydney. SA submitted a proposal that the meeting be re-scheduled to Adelaide to coincide with the dedication of the Adelaide Memorial Walkway.

12.2 Secretary tabled details of costing relative to Sydney and Adelaide and overall travel costs were only marginally more expensive to Adelaide but accommodation was cheaper. Following discussion, it was agreed that the next meeting be rescheduled for March 2017 in Adelaide. Actual date to be advised.

12.3 With no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 5:30pm.