



## **NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NATIONAL PRESIDENTS BULLETIN AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2021**

Greetings to you all, and in the hope that you and yours are maintaining good health and are COVID free.

This Presidents Bulletin provides an update on key projects and questions posed at the National Council Meeting and AGM of 25 May 2021. And while restrictions have again curtailed our ability to meet in person as planned, the National Executive met via Zoom on 11 August 2021 and has been able to focus on the necessary elements of governance and management to keep the Association on track.

Firstly, an update on Past President Earle Jennings and Media Officer Allen Callaghan.

Earle Jennings is in good spirits and remains under the care and direction of his Doctor and ably supported by his wife Yvonne and family. Earle remains keenly interested in and supportive of our association and has our collective wellbeing of the organisation and its members at heart. He sends his best wishes to all NSSA members.

Sadly, we have been advised by Media Officer Allen Callaghan that he will no longer be able to continue as a full member of the Executive and has formally resigned due to ongoing health issues. While Allen will no longer be on the Executive, and so long as his health permits, Allen has offered his assistance to advise and consult on the content and compilation of the suggested Coffee Table book that will record the history and achievements of our association. In addition, Allen has offered to assist in identifying suitable historical association material suitable for deposit at the National Library of Australia (NLA).

The association is indebted to both Earl Jennings and Allen Callaghan for their respective service to the NSAA as members of the Executive. Both have provided sterling service in their respective roles over many years and, through their respective skill sets, have successfully value added to the profile and successful administration of our association in so many ways.

We will miss both gentlemen at the Council table, however we are able to call on their broad and deep experience when needed which both have offered unconditionally.

**Dialogue with the Australian War Memorial (AWM).** During his attendance at our 25 May 2021 AGM, National Patron Dr Brendan Nelson AO made a commitment to advocate on our behalf with the AWM and to introduce me to the new AWM Director, Mr Matt Anderson PSM. This he did and I was pleased to have had a couple of very productive phone conversations with Matt, plus exchanges of emails that have confirmed he, and his staff, are committed to supporting our ongoing relationship and commemorative services at the AWM.

You will be aware there are significant redevelopments work in progress at the AWM, some of which has restricted access to our National Service Memorial. As a result, we will not be able to have our normal commemorative services in that location for a couple of years. However, be assured our memorial precinct will not be compromised by the works and we are invited, when able, to have our planned commemorative services in the AWM Western precinct where the Stone of Remembrance has been temporarily relocated as a premium location for such events while works progress.

The link below is recommended for viewing to appreciate the extent of work being undertaken.  
<https://www.awm.gov.au/ourcontinuingstory/ourplans>

**The National Rose.** There has been a positive outcome to queries raised at the 25 May 2021 AGM relating to National Office income, to be received from the sale of the National Rose by Corporate Roses of South Australia. I am pleased to report that Mr Kim Syrus, Managing Director of Corporate Roses, responded positively to our correspondence and has re-committed to a donation of \$1.00 per National Rose sold throughout Australia and has included a back payment from 31 December 2019, when the original agreement ceased, to 30 June 2021. We are delighted that this arrangement has recommenced and is to continue this until 30 December 2022 when we will jointly review the arrangements for the years beyond.

**The Military Shop and the Affiliates Program.** Prior to January 2020 the Military Shop (MIL SHOP) had for some years donated a percentage of gross sales income from NSAA branded Memorabilia to the National Office as a gesture of good will, and in recognition of the mutual benefit of sales and purchase to both organisations. That is, the donation helped our budget, and the MIL SHOP was well supported by the association and members. This phase of the relationship changed with effect 1 January 2020 when the MIL SHOP introduced a new online purchasing and automated rewards based entity known as the Affiliates Program.

In early June 2021, I contacted Mr Stephen Davie, Managing Director of the Military Shop, to discuss our mutual situation. I'm delighted to report we have addressed the issues of a lag in receiving MIL SHOP donations and received advice confirming the structure and benefits of the Affiliates Program.

The net effect of the introduction of the Affiliates Program has been that income to the National Office has ceased. Having queried the MIL SHOP about anticipated income to 31 December 2019 and beyond, we both recognised our mutual failures to follow through from previous advice had caused the problem.

I am pleased to confirm that the MIL SHOP has honoured our past support by calculating the amount due to 31 December 2019 from the previous donation date, and with good will, added to that a donation an amount calculated from 1 January 2020 to 15 June 2021, being the date Mr Davie was able to respond to my queries.

As indicated, news of this new program was advised to the NSAA, however I'm unsure of the extent of the uptake of the Affiliates Program within the association but I understand some association members have taken up the invitation to participate, however, to date the National office has not joined because we purchase very little merchandise at that level.

Our precious arrangement derived a donation from only NSAA branded merchandise that NSAA members bought across Australia. The new program has been devised to provide a donation from sales from the entire MIL SHOPS inventory. Accordingly, for the National Office (budget) to benefit from this program, we believe all participating members would need to consider joining together and sharing in the donations back to the association across participating levels.

To be effective, you will appreciate this proposition will require consideration of multi-level participation, structure, and an agreement of equitable distribution of funds derived from the Affiliated Program. I invite you to consider and discuss this proposal within your respective Branches and Sub-Branched as applicable and be able to provide your thoughts to the Council when we meet next as it will be better done in a face to face environment when all prospective participants have considered their options.

If you have a view you wish to share, or have already committed to the Affiliates Program, I would be very pleased to get your feedback and thoughts on progressing this venture to our mutual benefit by phone, email, or letter.

Please look at the Affiliates Program with an open mind at <https://militaryshoppartners.goaffpro.com/>

**NSAA Historical Archives Project.** Delegates to the May 2021 AGM and Council meeting were presented with an outline 'Plan on a Page' that described the projects purpose of securing the associations relevant historical records at the National Library of Australia (NLA). The Council agreed that the National Executive should progress both the detailed planning for this project and investigate what resources will be required.

At our 11 August 2021 Executive meeting we conclude the best location to assemble records for selection would be the NSAA National Office at Long Jetty NSW where there is suitable space to secure records and work through the process of sorting and assembly for deposit at the NLA.

National Secretary Noel Moulder is undertaking an assessment of need for the storage facility.

We will keep you informed of progress and advise of more details in due course. It is our hope that all member associations will provide copy of relevant documentation in order to build a complete historical picture and evidence of our association's development, activities, key projects at National, State, and Territory and affiliated entity levels. When complete, this project will deliver succinct records of the association for future generations, research, and education.

Your interest, cooperation, and feedback relative to progressing this project will be much appreciated.

In closing, I wish all members at all levels of our association good health and that you stay safe as we battle COVID-19 as a nation. While I will not impose on your personal beliefs or positions in the debate, I do encourage all who are able to get vaccinated in order to help our fellow Australians overcome the epidemic.

In addition, thank you to all members who have stood by the association and supported its objectives and values, and the continued support you provide to each other and your respective communities.

If you have any specific feedback or questions, please communicate them through National Secretary Noel Moulder, [nashosecretary@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nashosecretary@optusnet.com.au), or in writing to PO Box 6203, Long Jetty, NSW 2261

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