

The National
Servicemen's
Association of
Australia Inc.

Thursday, 7th March

2024

General Meeting of
the National Council
held in Canberra,
A.C.T.

Minutes



Council Minutes

*General Meeting of the National Council
held Thursday 7th March 2024*

1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 National President and meeting chairman Ron Brandy opened this Council meeting at 09:03 hrs and welcomed delegates. There were no observers and no guests apart from Repatriation Commissioner Kahlil Fegan DSM AM who attended for the duration of his guest speaker engagement.
- 1.2 President Ron advised that the AGM would follow this Council meeting.

2. OBSERVANCE

- 2.1 Remembrance of former National President and National Patron Earle Jennings.
- 2.2 Ode of Remembrance and one minute silence.

3. ATTENDANCE

- 3.1 The Chairman acknowledged those present as per the attendance register. Tasmanian delegate Barry Sonter was registered as an apology with Jeff Gray substituting as his proxy appointments. ACT delegate Garry Hand was also an apology due to health matters. National Treasurer Richard Tregear was recorded as an apology due to him being on an approved leave of absence.
- 3.2 Jeff Gray was welcomed as a new Tasmania delegate as per 4.2 below.

3.3 Motion: To accept attendance, apologies and proxy appointments.

Moved by Frank Miller Seconded by Bob McIvor OAM Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

4. FINALIZATION OF DELEGATES POSITIONS FOR 2023/24

- 4.1 Not all Delegate positions were filled at the 2023 AGM. Vice President Noel Moulder canvassed potential candidates, for endorsement and induction at today's meeting:

4.2 Motion: To accept the nomination of Jeff Gray as a Council Delegate for Tasmania for the remainder of the two-year period 2023/2024.

Moved by Noel Moulder Seconded by Tony Stevenson OAM Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

- 4.3 **ACTION:** Incoming Tasmanian delegate Jeff Gray to request the Tasmanian Secretary to write to the National Secretary to formalise the Barry Sonter/Jeff Gray substitution.
- 4.4 **ACTION:** Following receipt of the above letter, National President or National Secretary to write a letter of appreciation to Barry Sonter for his contribution to the NSAA National Council over many years.
- 4.5 Queensland delegate Tony Stevenson OAM requested confirmation that those Council entities sending a single delegate, (being OTU-A, ACT, Tas, S.A. and W.A.) that an automatic proxy of a second vote applies. President Ron confirmed.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING 7th SEPTEMBER 2023

- 5.1 Receipt of any amendments. There were no queries or amendments.

5.2 Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 7th September 2023 as circulated and as amended be taken as read and accepted

Moved by John Thorne Seconded by Peter Kemp Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

- 5.3 Matter arising from the previous Council Meeting:

7.3 It was subsequently requested by Tony Stevenson OAM Qld that Executive minutes be tabled with the agenda papers at Future Council Meetings. Secretary Peter Norman agreed that this would be adopted from the next meeting, and that the hard copy be made available to delegates the night before at the Meet and Greet..

The requested Executive minutes were appended to the Council agenda papers as Appendix 2. This item now closed.

6. ACCEPT RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING 7th February 2024.

- 6.1 Acceptance of the Record of Proceedings from Executive Meeting 7th February 2024:

6.2 Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 7th February as circulated be taken as read and accepted:

Moved by Jeff Gray Seconded by Bob McIvor OAM Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

President Ron advised that these reports will also be recorded in the minutes of the AGM which follows this Council meeting:

Executive Reports:

- 7.1 NSAA NATIONAL PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING OF 7 SEPTEMBER 2024

Valé - NSAA National Past President Stanley Earle Jennings AM RFD ED.

Earle passed away on 28/12/2023. He was our esteemed colleague and friend for many years. He was the Immediate Past National President and NSAA National Patron.

Earle, with a supportive and loyal team, achieved unsurpassed milestones for Nashos, notably the successful lobbying for the award of our Anniversary of National Service Medal and the National Service Memorial astride the main entrance to the Australian War Memorial, and many other achievements.

NSAA National Vice President Noel Moulder OAM and I attended Earle's funeral representing all National Servicemen.

Introduction and Welcome

Recognition of Achievement, Australia Day Honours 2024.

- NSAA National Vice President Noel Moulder OAM
- NSAA Queensland Branch President Alex Garlin OAM
- Officer Cadet Unit, Scheyville, Association National Chairman Frank Miller OAM, and
- all other National Servicemen recognised in the 2024 Australia Day Honours List.

Welcome to all delegates and it is my pleasure to formally welcome the acting NSAA Tasmanian Branch President Jeff Gray and current NSAA Hobart Branch President.

NSAA National Executive

It is a privilege to lead the members of the national executive, Noel Moulder, Peter Norman, Richard Tregear (on leave), and John Thorne Public Officer and I offer my sincere thanks for the work you do on behalf of the Council and our membership.

Issues facing the NSAA

1. Longevity and capabilities of the NSAA. These elements are key to the life and future of the NSAA entity and are well known.
2. NSAA Membership Renewals. I note from the treasurer's report that membership is declining rapidly and again, the consequences are well known.
3. Financial viability of the NSAA. Dwindling membership numbers reflects directly on the financial viability of the NSAA from Sub-Branch, up through Branches and the National Body. Sustainment of the National representation capability is in danger of failing in the future. Solutions are needed to address this potential if we are to honour the membership seeking to extend their association into the future.
4. NSAA Branch closures. I regret to confirm that the Northern Territory and the Official NSAA NSW Branches have formally closed.
5. Having recognised all of the above the National Executive, with Council endorsement, initiated a proposal to amend the Constitution to allow individual members to become members of the National Body. This has been done and the process has progressed to invite those members of the Northern Territory and the NWA Branches to join the NSAA National Body.
6. If we are to contemplate sustaining a NSAA National presence, a new, streamlined, simple and accountable business model is required.

7. Remembering the primary aim being to offer Nashos a focal point to continue a connection with others, foster camaraderie and offer National representation which in turns offer national recognition. The intention is to offer regular electronic newsletters and NSAA specific news from across Australia.

Sustaining a NSAA National Presence – Progress Report

To implement the above proposal, the National Executive has had an amendment to our Rules and By-Laws approved by SA Consumer affairs. Thanks to Public Officer John Thorne for facilitating this outcome.

The National body would be sustained by individual members from across Australia as State and Territory circumstance prevail. These members would pay annual member capitation (cost TBA), paid directly to the National Body by members.

Implementation has included the following:

- The Executive has had fruitful discussions with Ms Viki Blundel who has worked effectively with Noel Moulder for many years has agreed to provide secretarial services and will manage the National Body Data Base.
- A once off, perennial membership card will be issued with the members name and a unique state of origin identifier, their sub-branch or branch ID and their current number e.g. Ron Brandy VIC GLG 050.
- Fee will be paid directly to the NSAA National Bendigo Bank, BSB 633 000, Account No#187507447. The members name must appear on the electronic payment form.
- Newsletters. Vicki Blundel has also agreed to compile and edit the proposed newsletters to NSAA National Members. As numbers increase it will be necessary to outsource the printing and posting function. The executive will seek competitive quotations for these functions when outsourcing becomes necessary.
- There is more fine-grained detail to be considered and actioned. The NSAA National Executive welcomes Council's input and considered advice.

Projects

NSAA Archives – Last year Noel and I met three times to commence the planned the culling and collating of NSAA National Records.

Late last year, Peter Norman took possession of the Late Carl Adams Financial records and delivered them to me (Ron) for action. This element is complete, and we have reduced some 20 boxes, this includes some previously rescued from the NSAA Victorian storage facility, to one. Some remaining material is to go back to NSAA Victoria in due course.

At Earle's funeral wake, arrangements were made between Neal Freier and Earle's sons for Earle's archives to be delivered to the NSAA Queensland Branch facility at Wacol for Noel and I to address.

We are sincerely grateful to the QLD Branch for their cooperation and good will in providing this facility.

The NSAA National records held in storage are well progressed and Noel continues to compile a chronological list of relevant Secretaries records.

The bringing together of all culled, relevant records will occur this calendar year whereby we will seek expert advice on what we have assembled and the next steps to be taken toward acceptance by the NLA.

Application to the National Library of Australia (NLA) for a NSAA Grant to fund further processing will be made following NLA acceptance of the progress made, and relevance of the material collected.

AWM Sponsored NSAA Commemorations. NSAA National Vice President Noel Moulder will update the Council on the AWM offers.

Issues of Concern

Nasho Fair Go (NFG) There have been some concerns raised about the factual statements published by NFG in the media. NSAA WA President James Duquemin will provide comment. Discussion.

Military Imposters. We need to be aware and conscious of the fact that both ex service and civilian personnel attempt self-aggrandisement and fame by wearing medals and other accoutrements. It is our duty to call this out if we see occurrences of this. But be cautious as to how you go about it. Discussion.

NSAA National Executive Research Capability. A work in Progress.

The NSAA National Executives capacity to undertake research for the purposes of seeking to address members issues and make representation to Government is limited in time available and skills set available.

With the passing of the late Allan Callaghan the executive, and the Association, has lost a giant intellect that served us so well in the pursuit of in-depth knowledge and material necessary to support submissions to Government and other bodies.

The National body in whatever form, will need to seek out and engage with a person or persons with the level of skills and knowledge that Allan possessed.

Welcome again to the NSAA 7th March 2024 General Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting.

Ron Brandy
National President
National Servicemen's Association of Australia
7 March 2024

Postscript: President Ron elaborated Orally on some of his written report, but there were no material changes.

7.2 Vice President Noel Moulder

Noel spoke about his primary project he has worked on, being the Archiving Project (the preservation of the history of the NSAA including records from former National Treasurer Carl Adams and former National President Earle Jennings. These records, already substantially culled, will be deposited at Wacol in accordance with a standing offer from NSAA Qld for the Wacol facility to be used as a temporary storage and sifting area. Barry Presgrave's National and S.A. records remain an issue. The NSW records pre- and post-split are also to be worked through. This heritage project remains as a priority work-in-progress. This project is funded to the extent of \$5,000 in the 2024 budget.

7.3 Secretary Peter Norman

National Secretary's Report for the National Council Meeting 7/3/2024:

There were several initiatives to pursue subsequent to the previous three Executive meetings on 17/8/2023, 21/11/2023 and 7/2/2024 and the Council meeting on 7/9/2023.

1. The primary activity was to engage with Mike Lane to bring Northern Territory members into direct National membership as was agreed at Council. The fees were informally agreed at \$10 for 2023 and \$20 p.a. thereafter. It was suggested that 2023 & 2024 fees could be funded from the NSAA NT account before it was shut down. As at 27/2/2024 the two invoices raised by Treasurer Richard Tregear have not been paid. I contacted Mike to follow-up on 27/2 and he asked that the invoices be sent again together with a summary which he can circulate to former NT members. I sent this material to him on 28/2/2024 and I believe that the NT agreed fees will be finalised and received within the next few weeks.
2. The first National newsletter "Nasho" was compiled and distributed to the nine NT members on 18/12/2023. I nominated myself as "Editor Pro Tem", with the expectation that a permanent editor will be appointed for the next and subsequent issues.
3. I also canvassed other Nasho organisations in NSW regarding the possibility that they join/rejoin the NSAA after the turmoil of past divisions. None have replied in the affirmative. I also canvassed NSAA Tasmania about continuing viability, but the wish is to retain the status quo for the time being.
4. Vice President Noel Moulder and Public Officer John Thorne did all the heavy lifting to amend the Rules and Bylaws, and for John to obtain the necessary approval of the South Australian government. The Exec now needs to consider how these Rules and Bylaws should be released to branches/entities.
5. The question of Directors Insurance may become an issue for National Executive members if their currently hosting Branches close before National closes. This may impact Noel Moulder in the first instance.
6. The Victorian Branch Monash Sub-Branch has advised that the website managed by Hugh Williams has major problems and is unaccessable due to passwords being lost. As the Williams site has been associated/intertwined with the official NSAA site for many years, a new solution will now be necessary, with probable budget impact. There may be legal/copyright/IP/ownership issues for NSAA to undertand and resolve. An onsite meeting is scheduled to take place at Hugh's residence on 1/3/2024, which I hope to report on on 7/3/2024.
7. A dozen or so archive boxes of papers were retrieved from Mrs Jean Adams' premises, with Victorian and National boxes passed to Ron Brandy for sifting/sorting. Thanks Ron for taking them off my hands.

Secretary Pete advised that the payments from NSAA NT for their members transferring in to direct National membership was received on 6/3/2024, as per advice from Treasurer Richard. Pete also elaborated on his phone discsuuion with Greg Mawson (NSW breakaway group for want of a better term, but the outcome is that the offer to accept direct National membership or readmission as an exntity association is unlikely to be taken up. Pete also spoke about the Hugh Williams website, but this topic will be discussed in more detail at Item 14.3.

7.4 Treasurer Richard Tregear (Richard was an apology for this meeting) .

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA INC.
ABN 67 616 946 832

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA
ABN 67 616 946 832

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2023

2022		
\$		\$
33757	Balance as per bank accounts at 1st January 2023	30670
28413	Income for the year	27853
<u>62170</u>	Sub-total	<u>58523</u>
27370	Expenses for the year	27280
<u>34800</u>		<u>31243</u>
-4130	Plus Balance Sheet movements for the year	-723
<u>30670</u>	Balance as per bank accounts at 31st December 2023	<u>29718</u>

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ABN: 67 616 9646 832

**Profit and Loss Statement
For the Year ended 31st December 2023**

2022			Budget
\$			\$
	INCOME		
19528	Capitation Fees (Budget 3550@\$ 5)	17035	17750
523	Commission on Rose Sales	481	250
431	Donation Military Shop	649	150
7492	Grants in Aid	9612	8000
439	Sundry	76	100
<u>28413</u>		<u>27853</u>	<u>26250</u>
	less EXPENDITURE		
	Executive Feb 17th-19th		
1835	Accommodation	1417	830
986	Travel	950	1200
	Council Mar 15th-17th		
3177	Accommodation	1348	
	Function	1677	3510
1139	Travel	699	1200
	Executive Aug 11th-13th		
821	Accommodation	1891	1200
1067	Travel	824	630
	Council Sep 6th-13th		
4724	Accommodation	2241	
	Function	2527	4180
1036	Travel	1813	1200
<u>14785</u>	Sub Total	<u>15387</u>	<u>13950</u>
	Archival Expenses	1996	5000
600	Audit Fees	600	600
2874	Branch Expenses Reimbursed (Ex Grant)	5875	3000
1294	Insurance (14/03/2024)	1302	1350
146	Postage		150
244	Printer & Software Maintenance		300
500	Printing & Stationery	331	750
235	Secretarial Services		250
	Storage	1000	1040
	Sundry	80	500
214	Telephone & Website	113	250
	Travel-Local	376	200
310	Web Hosting	220	350
841	Wreaths		200
5327	70/50 Anniversary Functions		
<u>27370</u>		<u>27280</u>	<u>27890</u>
<u>1043</u>	Surplus (Deficit) for the period	<u>573</u>	<u>-1640</u>
	Members Funds		
31704	Opening balance 1st January 2023	32747	32747
1043	Surplus as above	573	-1640
<u>32747</u>	Closing Balance 31st December 2023	<u>33320</u>	<u>31107</u>

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA
ABN 67 616 946 832

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

2022		
\$		\$
	CURRENT ASSETS	
41	Debtors	991
30670	Cash at Banks	29718
30711		30709
	NON CURRENT ASSETS	
2611	Plant and Equipment at Cost	2611
33322	TOTAL ASSETS	33320
	Less CURRENT LIABILITIES	
575	Creditors	0
32747	MEMBERS FUNDS	33320

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
ABN 67 616 946 832

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
New Laptop & Charger	700	700
New Printer	300	300
New Computer etc	1193	1193
Hard Drive	418	418
Total	2611	2611

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
ABN 67 616 946 832

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Statement of significant accounting policies

a) Statement of compliance

The committee has determined that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107	Statement of Cash Flows
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 1048	Interpretation of Standards
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures

Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical cost and do not take into account changing money values except where specifically stated.

2. Statement of significant accounting policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

a) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

b) Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairments losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the committee members to ensure that it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

c) income tax

The association is a not-for-profit organisation and is exempt from income tax under section 50-45 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits, held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities cash within three months.

e) Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

f) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

g) Trade creditors and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days on recognition of the liability.

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA
ABN 67 616 946 832

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 continued

		\$ 2023	\$ 2022
3	Cash and cash equivalents		
	Cash at banks	<u>29718</u>	<u>30670</u>
4	Debtors		
	ATO GST refund	191	41
	NSW State Branch Capitation	<u>800</u>	<u>41</u>
		991	41
5	Trade and other payables	<u>Nil</u>	<u>575</u>
6	Revenue		
	Capitation fees	17035	19528
	Donor receipts	649	431
	Other income	<u>10169</u>	<u>8454</u>
		27853	28413
7	Cash flow information		
	Cash at the end of financial year as shown in cash flow statement is reconciled to items in the Balance Sheet		
	Cash and cash equivalents	<u>29718</u>	<u>30670</u>
	Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to surplus		
	Surplus from ordinary activities	<u>573</u>	<u>1043</u>
	Changes in assets and liabilities		
	Increase (decrease) in receivables	950	2032
	Increase (decrease) in assets	-952	3087
	Increase (decrease) in payables	<u>-575</u>	<u>-6917</u>
	Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>-577</u>	<u>-1798</u>
8	Related party		
	There were no related party transactions conducted during the year.		

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
ABN 67 616 946 832

SCOPE

I have audited the accounts of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia Inc. for the year ended 31st December 2023. The Members of the National servicemen's Association of Australia Inc. are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Financial Report the information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of the Financial Report in order to express an opinion to the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the Financial Report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been fully undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia Inc. financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

Subject to the above qualifications in my opinion the financial statements present fairly the assets of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia Inc. as at 31st December 2023 and the result of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Statements of Accounting Concepts, applicable accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Act (Vic).



David J Taplin CA

Suite 3, 43 Railway Road

Blackburn Vic 3130

Dated this 26th day of February 2024

President Ron applauded Richard for his work as National Treasurer.

Vice President Noel advised that the lead/lag issues with the Grants-in-Aid process are still being worked through to fund travel and accommodation arrangements for the financially limited states/territories.

7.4.1 Motion: That the financial statements for 2023 as listed be accepted into the records:

Moved by Pete Norman Seconded by Jim Duquemin Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

Treasurer's Proposed Budget Projections

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.				
ABN: 67 616 9646 832				
Proposed Budget				
Actual	For the Year ended 31st December 2024	Budget	Projections	
2023		2024	2025	2026
\$				
INCOME				
17035	Capitation Fees (Budget 3042 @\$ 5)	15210	13000	11000
481	Commission on Rose Sales	100	75	50
649	Donation Military Shop	100	75	50
9612	Grants in Aid	9600	9600	9600
76	Sundry	50	0	0
27853		25060	22750	20700
less EXPENDITURE				
	Executive Feb Melbourne			
1417	Accommodation	400		
950	Travel	400		
	Council Mar 6th-8th			
1348	Accommodation	1760		
1677	Function	1800		
699	Travel	1650		
	Executive Aug Melbourne			
1891	Accommodation	400		
824	Travel	400		
	Council Sep 4th-6th			
2241	Accommodation	1760		
2527	Function	2800		
1813	Travel	1650		
15387	Sub Total	13020	15000	17000
1996	Archival Expenses	3500	2500	1000
600	Audit Fees	660	660	700
5875	Branch Expenses Reimbursed (Ex Grant)	5875	5875	5875
1302	Insurance (14/03/2024)	1350	1450	1550
	Postage	250	275	300
	Printer & Software Maintenance	300	350	400
331	Printing & Stationery	400	500	550
	Secretarial Services	250	350	450
1000	Storage	1120	1200	1300
80	Sundry	2650	750	850
113	Telephone & Website	250	350	450
376	Travel-Local	400	500	600
220	Web Hosting	350	450	500
	Wreaths	200	250	300
	Write off Plant & Equipment	2611	0	0
27280		33186	30460	31825
573	Surplus (Deficit) for the period	-8126	-7710	-11125
Members Funds				
32747	Opening balance 1st January 2024	33320	25194	17484
573	Surplus as above	-8126	-7710	-11125
33320	Closing Balance 31st December 2024	25194	17484	6359
	Members		2600	2200

President Ron applauded Richard for his work to identify potential savings in the 2024, 2025 and 2026 forward estimates.

VP Noel asked about plant and equipment \$2,611 being write-off of value-less IT equipment, according to ATO conventions.

There was no further discussion about budget due to Richard's leave-of-absence.

7.4.2 Motion: That the estimated budget as listed be adopted, noting a deficit of -\$8,126 in 2024 :

Moved by Noel Moulder Seconded by Peter Kemp Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

7.6 Public Officer John Thorne

South Australia Report

National Council meeting

7th March 2024

The South Australia Branch is operating efficiently and effectively. We conducted our Annual General Meeting on the 25th of November 2023 where all positions were filled. Like all other sections of the organization our membership is depleting, but we are constantly having an attendance of around 30 members at our weekly gatherings at our State Headquarters.

Our Branch had a Christmas lunch for our members and their partners with 47 people in attendance. We closed down during January for our usual break over the Christmas – New year. This was convenient as the City of West Torrens (the owners of our Headquarters) commenced upgrading the reserve surrounding our building. Our building will eventually be demolished with a new building to be constructed to house both our organization and the Hilton RSL sub branch. We don't have a time line for this to happen as it will depend on the availability of Grant funding.

We conducted our Annual Memorial Service on Saturday the 17th of February at our Memorial adjacent to our Headquarters. We were privileged to have a band in attendance for the Service. A Catafalque Party was provided by the Army Cadets. Wreaths and tributes were laid by members of Parliament and the Mayor of City of West Torrens. There were about 75 people in attendance.

Several of our Sub Branches have reduced to being Social gatherings, but remaining as members of the State Branch. This Branch is still a viable part of the National Servicemen's Association and will continue for at least until 2026 when we will consider the viability of our Branch.

John A. Thorne ESM
State President
National Servicemen's Association
South Australia Branch

7.7 Business Arising from the Executive Reports: There was none.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Date	Item Number	From Sender	Letter or eMail	To Receiver	Needs Action ?	Subject
11/09/2023	23.052	Ron Brandy as President	E	DVA request speakers material	N	Deletion of material from RB's laptop
13/09/2023	23.053	Peter Norman as Secretary	L via E	NT's Mike Lane	Y	NT Members to become Nat Unattached.
14/09/23	23.054	Peter Norman as Secretary	L via E	NSW NSA Greg Mawson	Y	NSW NSA&Associates to join/rejoin NSAA
18/09/23	23.055	Peter Norman as Secretary	L via E	Robert Owen Hunter Valley Nashos	Y	Hunter Valley to join/rejoin NSAA
18/09/23	23.056	Peter Norman as Secretary	E	all Council Delegates	N	Minutes Council 7/9/2023
12/10/23	23.057	NSW NSA Greg Mawson	L via E	Peter Norman as Secretary	N	Offer for NSW NSA to rejoin NSAA rejected.
21/11/23	23.058	Peter Norman as Secretary	L via E	Executive members	N	Minutes of special Exec Meeting re changes to Rules & By-laws
23/11/23	23.059	Ron Brandy as President	L via E	Roger Hogben for Yorke Peninsula Council	N	Veterans' Walk Project Yorke Peninsula
7/12/23	23.060	John Thorne as Public Officer	E	S.A. Consumer & Business Services	N	Revised NSAA National Rules & Bylaws
7/12/23	23.061	Noel Moulder as Vice President	E	To Secretary for dissemination	N	Re Revised NSAA National Rules & Bylaws
1/12/23	23.062	National Service Scholarship Foundation	L via E	all Nat Secs and Delegates	N	re NSSF decision to wind up.
30/11/23	23.063	Ron Brandy as President	L via E	Minister Keogh Veterans' Affairs	N	Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
14/12/23	23.064	S.A Consumer and Business Services	L via E	John Thorne Public Officer	N	Approval of revised Rules and Bylaws
30/12/23	23.065	Peter Norman as Secretary	L	Mrs Yvonne Jennings	N	Vale Earle Jennings
8/01/24	24.066	Peter Norman as Secretary	E	All Secretaries and Nat Council Delegates	N	Earle Jennings live-streamed funeral arrangements
8/01/24	24.067	R Brandy / N Freier	E	Nat Exec	N	Earle Jennings death notice
23/01/24	24.068	Peter Norman as Secretary	E	all Nat Execs, Council & State Secs	N	Link to Earle Jennings streamed funeral service.
27/01/24	24.069	Ron Brandy as President	E	all Nat Execs, Council & State Secs	N	NSAA members awarded OAMs on Australia Day.
29/02/24	24.070	Bob Whittaker	E	Peter Norman as Secretary	Y	Possible error on NSAA website
25/02/24	24.071	simon kowacz	E	broadcast email	N	false medals / veteran imposters
all above 23.052 to 24.071 were submitted to National Executive 7th February 2024						

All above items were available for perusal in the hard-copy correspondence file tabled at the meeting. All items were also encapsulated in a link forwarded by email to all delegates on 4/3/2024 <https://1drv.ms/f/s!Am-3pXv-4Bxj9Uoa-v84Akrbt35v?e=jDdB1> . The intention of this link was to allow delegates access to all correspondence for perusal and selective printing, well before the meeting. The above link will remain active until 3/4/2024.

8.1 Motion: That the correspondence as listed and as circulated be taken as read and accepted:

Moved by Pete Norman Seconded by Bob McIvor OAM Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

8.2 Business arising from the correspondence.

Tony Stevenson asked about Item 23.06, but discussion was deferred until agenda Item 9 immediately following.

9. NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION STATUS

Oral commentary paraphrased by Secretary: NSAA President and former NSSF President Ron Brandy outlined the current status of the Foundation. The NSSF Board unanimously agreed that the Foundation was unable to achieve its original objectives due to lack of funding, and so should be wound-up. The due process to achieve formal wind-up is proceeding. Deakin University will be the recipient of any unallocated NSSF funds for its “Deakin Advancement” and/or “Depression Assist” projects. A further status report will be made by Ron at the next Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 hrs for the morning tea break and resumed at 10:48 hrs.

10. RVCM STATUS

Oral commentary paraphrased by Secretary: President Ron advised that Senator Scarr (Liberal Party of Australia) had addressed the Senate with a very impassioned speech reflecting on the fact that the previous government had got very close to making a determination but was unable to proceed during the transitional Caretaker period, after intense lobbying of both sides of Parliament and bilateral agreement. Richard Barry continues to champion this endeavor to have short Vietnam service recognized for the small cohort of veterans impacted because their service was cut short with the end of Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War. The NSAA continues to support this initiative.

11. PRESERVATION OF NSAA HISTORY & HERITAGE PROJECT

Oral commentary paraphrased by Secretary: V.P. Noel asked state/territory/OAU-A delegates canvass their Executives for important historical information and records suitable for the aforementioned National Archives Project.

Tony Stevenson OAM reflected on the importance of Qld as the first recognition of the National Service Logo represented via a plaque in the Hall of Memories under Kingswood Square, with 1,500 Nashos in attendance that day. (needs elaboration).

VP Noel asked OTU-A delegate Frank Miller to arrange for an OTU-A person to aggregate important OTU-A be also represented in the Archives Project.

Noel also spoke about the Allen Callaghan book and the possibility of applying for a DVA grant to fund a reprint.

11.1 Motion: That an application for a grant be lodged with DVA to fund a reprint of Allen Callaghan’s book:

Moved by Noel Moulder Seconded by Bob McIvor OAM Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

12. DELEGATES' REPORTS:

12.1 OTU Association Report March 2024

The Association's activities continued over recent months with the normal luncheons and dinners being held throughout the different states and the ACT. Christmas celebrations were, once more, particularly well attended.

Lord and Lady Somers Camps

As part of its Youth Development programme the Victorian Chapter again sponsored a number of 16 – 17-year-old boys and girls to attend the respective Lord and Lady Somers Camps. Held at Somers on Melbourne's Westernport Bay, the week's January stay there seeks to test the youngsters' physical ability, to develop team spirit and to gain self-confidence.

The Association has been funding the attendance of young people in order to learn the principles of leadership and team participation since the mid-eighties.

Scheyville Site

Having now received their government grant, the Hunter Anzac Memorial Limited (HAML) has commenced work on the Scheyville site. Two of the main buildings – the Cadets' Mess and the gymnasium are currently being restored. They will be used for housing a military museum (including OTU memorabilia) and for community groups such as the Men's Shed.

The Association is working closely with HAML on all developments.

Association National Body Closure

Attention continues to be focussed on the OTU Association's National body closing in the latter half of 2026. It is proposed after this time there will be state/territory groups that will continue to run functions and maintain fellowship on a more local basis. The possible need for a limited central body is still being evaluated.

The closure is considered necessary as Scheyville was only in operation for seven years and the membership is becoming senior in age. In this way a managed shut down can be achieved with all the myriad considerations under control.

National Servicemen's Association of Australia (NSAA)

The OTU Association (being an affiliate member) has worked closely with the NSAA for many years. That they, too, are working towards an eventual closure has formed the basis for strong and positive feedback between the two bodies.

Membership

For the first time in three years a decline in membership numbers has been recorded. There are several possible reasons and careful attention is being paid to identify the most significant of these.

Scheyvillian

Editor Neil Leckie continues to produce three excellent editions of this magazine each year. The last featured the HAML work done so far on the Scheyville site and buildings.

Financial

The Association's present financial situation remains strong. Careful attention, however, will be paid to its management as the closure nears.

Frank Miller OAM

Chairman, OTU Association.

Oral commentary paraphrased by Secretary: Transgender participants are now being represented at the Lord and Lady Somers camp for the first time, as per typical contemporary societal trends.

OTU-A is still aiming for a dignified and planned closure at end 2026 rather than an unplanned crash landing sooner or later. A possible after-life for OTU-A members may be to affiliate with an RMC Duntroon veterans' society.

Tony Stevenson OAM asked for clarification about the end 2026 date. VP Noel restated the Council motion that end 2026 is a target date (a line in the sand), and beyond that date the NSAA may continue in some form which is not yet defined. There are a range of issues to be examined for NSAA post 2026, if any. President Ron clarified that the positions of associated entities is important input to the debate, and that delegates should tease out their preferences from their local administrations.

It is important to acknowledge that there are two opposing schools of thought; (a) NSAA fixed closure end 2026, versus (b) NSAA continues in some form after 2026.

Secretary's postscript: The actual motion from the meeting was as follows:

Minutes

*General Meeting of the National Council
held Tuesday, 29 March 2022*

5.2.1.1 Motion: *That this Council has agreed that the NSAA work toward formal closure by 31 December 2026.*

Moved: B Sonter (TAS)

Seconded: S Fairbairn (WA)

Motion Carried.

12.2 Victoria - Bob McIvor OAM

VICTORIAN STATE PRESIDENTS REPORT AGM 2024

Fellow Members. As our year draws to a close on behalf of all Association members, Thank you to our State Executive, State Officers, Patrons, our Chaplains and all Sub-Branch Presidents and their Committees and all Members for their continuing support

for our National Servicemen's Association. With a special thank you to our ladies who have always supported us so well over the years.

This last year with this ongoing Covid crises, and as time wearies us all, let's hope the coming year is a better year for all National Servicemen and their families.

We lost our Vice President and Mornington Peninsula President Bernie Connelly, our past State Treasurer Carl Adams, (Carl had also held the position of National Treasurer, Monash Sub-Branch Treasurer and Mornington Peninsula Treasurer) Syd Sault, Monash Sub-Branch President, Les Rowler, Past President Mornington Peninsula Sub-Branch and Sixty-Five Members of Sub-Branches. To the families and friends of those members, our sincere condolences to you on their passing. These men were very fine Australians who will be sadly missed at their Sub-Branches and within our Victorian National Servicemen's Association.

LEST WE FORGET

There has been lots of comment within our State on what our National Servicemen's Association has achieved over the years.

- 1998 National Servicemen's Day at the Shrine.
- 1998 State National Servicemen's Day Puckapunyal.
- 1998 Led the Reserve Forces Day March in Melbourne.
- 2000 Being Able to March in Melbourne on Anzac Day.
- 2001 Awarded the National Service Medal.
- 2002 Flag Blessing Ceremony at HMAS Cerberus.
- 2003 The National Service Flag flying on NASHO Day.
- 2003 Victorian State Toy Drive in support of the Salvation Army.
- 2005 Awarded the Australian Defence Medal.
- 2005 Navy Memorial at HMAS Cerberus.
- 2010 Air Force Memorial at Pt. Cook Air Base.
- 2010 Our National Service Memorial Australian War Museum.

Our Victorian State Branch has lots of good members who do wonderful work during our Memorial Days throughout our Year. National Servicemen's Day at the Shrine of Remembrance, Sam Cuce, Ted and Carol Eastman and Peter Norman.

Pucka Memorial Day – Hank Kreemers, Bill Matherson, Peter Norman, Peter Ashdown and Charlie Munday.

Navy Memorial Day HMAS Cerberus – Jim Farrow, John Douglas OAM, Garry Taylor OAM and Peter Norman.

Air Force Memorial Day – Laurie Bell, John McDonald and Peter Norman.

Our Nasho News Editor Shane Murphy and his team do a great job with our State Newsletter. We all look forward to receiving our Nasho News to find out what is happening at State level. On behalf of all Members Thank you, Shane Murphy and your team, and well done to all of you.

Our Patron Major General Jim Barry AM MBE RFD (RETD) has again supported us so well in attending State meetings and Memorial Services throughout the year. Major

General Jim Barry's good counsel has been well received by our members within our Victorian State Branch.

Our State Chaplain Colin McMillin has also supported us so well in attending our Memorial Services and supporting our members in their time of need. Thank you and well-done Chaplain Colin McMillin.

Our Nasho Toy Drive went well again this year with this year's total over 120,000 toys that have been donated over twenty years to this very worthy appeal to support the Salvation Army's good work in helping under-privileged children within our State of Victoria. Thank you to South East President Mike Smith and his Sub-Branch Members who purchase, store and deliver our donations to the Salvation Army.

The Mulgrave Country Club has again made a wonderful donation of \$3000 to our State Branch in support of our Nasho News. With ongoing costs, the Country Club has given us wonderful donations over many years. Thank you and well-done Mulgrave Country Club.

To all of our members Time is wearying us all, but we must stick together and support each other. Give a mate a ring. Keep in touch and support your Sub-Branch. Let's make the coming year a good year a good year for all National Servicemen and their families and thank you for your service to the Nation.

Robert McIver OAM State President of Victoria.

Oral commentary paraphrased by Secretary: OTU-A delegate Frank Miller asked that the Victorian delegates be aware that the Victorian Veterans' Council have benefits available for worthy projects in Victoria.

12.3 A.C.T. – John Faunt

ACT Report for the 2024 AGM and Council Meeting at the Mercure Hotel on Thursday, 7th March 2024

Age and time continue to decimate our membership base and our membership profile is detailed below. Our oldest member is 92 with three others celebrating their 90th birthday this year. Our youngest is 72 with the remainder between the mid 70's and the middle to late eighties and the average age at 82 years.

Our current membership base sits at 45 all inclusive. The structure is laid out below.

Ordinary Members	33
Associate Members	6
Patrons	1
Honorary Pastor	1
Life Members	4
Total	45

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

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

Attendance at major events such as the observances of Vietnam Veteran's Day, Anzac Day (also impacted by the renovations currently ongoing), Battle for Australia Day and Remembrance Day have diminished with myself usually being our only attendee.

National Servicemen's Day on 14th February has received full support from the Australian War Memorial with a handful of members attending the Last Post Ceremony. The emphasis during the ceremony is acknowledging the role of the National Servicemen. However, the AWM have made it clear that this will only apply if numbers are in attendance.

We have not yet set a date for closure and efforts continue to attract new members is ongoing, albeit with minimal effect. We are aware that in accordance with Incorporation, we will have no alternative but cease operations if our membership base numbers fall below fifteen members and general meetings become untenable.

John Faunt (President) 10 February 2024

12.4 W.A. - Jim Duquemin State President WA Branch

It has been a subdued year with the passing of some of our Council and Members, from Across our sub branches.

The state of the Western Australian sub branches has had mixed outcomes.

With the Sad passing of our treasured York President Brian Silver, Brian was York's long-standing President, and both with the Vice President and Treasurer unwell, we offer our support, but will leave them to heal awhile before they make any decision on the future of this branch.

The Fremantle sub branches closure is imminent. Final details are unavailable at this point of time.

Our Perth branch is declining in numbers with new subscriptions down from previous years.

However, every effort is being made to reverse the trend with the Mandurah/Murray Sub branch in a sound position. With both numbers and subscriptions, financially this Branch is doing well. Their moto approach to any closing down: "We are here to Last Man Standing".

However, every effort is being made to reverse the trend with the Mandurah/Murray Sub branch in a sound position. With both numbers and subscriptions, financially this Branch is doing well. Their moto approach to any closing down: "We are here to Last Man Standing".

Our representation in the community has and will be continued to be maintained, with wreath laying ceremonies at the State War memorial, The city of South Perth ceremony, Anzac Day Service at the RSL Victoria Park, The Rhodesian Services Association Of Western Australia.

As we have a strong relationship with our RSL Victoria Park Branch, also the site of our principle National Servicemen's Association Monument.

This year's National Service Day was held in conjunction with the laying of a plaque representing the "Dedication of the nurses in War" by Dr Miriam Longridge RN, 7th Field Ambulance (RET).

I am concerned of the influence the National Service Breakaway group may have on the press, and others, as they have already published an article in the Western Australian RSL Magazine to gain support for their cause. With a lot these people joining a non-official Servicemen's Club.

2024 also marks the 50th Anniversary of the last of the National Servicemen completing their obligation in the Australian Army.

We as a nation need it to work towards this invaluable organisation to be reintroduced, for the benefits, support and safety of our Great Country, that so many sacrificed for.

Jim Duquemin State President WA Branch

12.5 South Australia Report - National Council meeting 7th March 2024

The South Australia Branch is operating efficiently and effectively. We conducted our Annual General Meeting on the 25th of November 2023 where all positions were filled. Like all other sections of the organization our membership is depleting, but we are constantly having an attendance of around 30 members at our weekly gatherings at our State Headquarters.

Our Branch had a Christmas lunch for our members and their partners with 47 people in attendance. We closed down during January for our usual break over the Christmas – New year. This was convenient as the City of West Torrens (the owners of our Headquarters) commenced upgrading the reserve surrounding our building. Our building will eventually be demolished with a new building to be constructed to house both our organization and the Hilton RSL sub branch. We don't have a time line for this to happen as it will depend on the availability of Grant funding.

We conducted our Annual Memorial Service on Saturday the 17th of February at our Memorial adjacent to our Headquarters. We were privileged to have a band in attendance for the Service. A Catafalque Party was provided by the Army Cadets. Wreaths and tributes were laid by members of Parliament and the Mayor of City of West Torrens. There were about 75 people in attendance.

Several of our Sub Branches have reduced to being Social gatherings, but remaining as members of the State Branch. This Branch is still a viable part of the National Servicemen's Association and will continue for at least until 2026 when we will consider the viability of our Branch.

John A. Thorne ESM
State President
National Servicemen's Association
South Australia Branch

John also added orally to his report.

12.6 Tasmania

Oral commentary paraphrased by Secretary: New delegate for Tasmania Jeff Gray outlined some of the current status of the Tasmanian Branch which now has only three sub-branches remaining. There are about 60 members total for 2024. Average age is now late 80s early 90s. There are not many of us from the 2nd scheme. The three remaining sub-branches have made preliminary decisions to keep operating at the social level, post 2026, if able.

12.7 New South Wales

12.7.1 Ex NSW Branch: Tony Winter:

Hi Pete, Many thanks for your email today. I was present at the final meeting of the NSW Nashos, and though it was a sad day and yet it was a necessary decision to draw the State sub-branch to a close. The message we took from there was the good news that the offer for Nashos to join the national Branch of the National Servicemen's Association would be conveyed to all Nashos across the State, and that in the New Year we would receive communication from the National Secretary. It was announced that National would offer membership to all Nashos at the cost of only \$5.00, and we felt that this was fair as we are all getting old and running out of money, and at that rate it would be attractive and advantageous to our ageing membership to join National at that price. Consequently, this communication was relayed to all members of the Tamworth Social Group of Nashos, and we have all been waiting for that offer to come in the mail as promised. So far, we have not heard anything. Some of our members have offered their \$5.00 already to ensure that their membership is accepted by National, and as we have heard nothing from National, we are wondering if the offer is still there. Let me assure you that the Tamworth Nashos those who are still on their feet, and those who are reliant on other means of movement, are still very keen to have the name of Nasho firmly stamped against their name, their image, their lifestyle, and their quality of life. So, that is the message I would like to bring to the National AGM on 7th March. With kind regards, Tony.

Secretary's Postscript: The \$5 membership fee mentioned above has no official status. The correct rate of \$15 was set at the National Executive meeting of 7/2/2024.

12.7.2 No written report: National VP Noel Moulder spoke on behalf of the immediate Past President of the NSW Branch, Norm Mallard.

Oral commentary paraphrased by Secretary: It was with sadness and regret that the NSW Branch decided at its meeting in November 2023 that it would not be able to continue past the end of 2023, after operating for almost 30 years. Approximately 50% of sub-branches were intending to convert to some form of social group from 2024. Also, due to severe financial restrictions, it would not be possible to form a NSW State Committee in 2024. It was also considered that some form of association with the NSW National Servicemen's Association and Affiliates may be possible. This was rejected by the members.

Formal closure needed to be undertaken within the jurisdiction of the NSW Department of Fair Trading, so a Special General Meeting was called for 12 December 2023 to consider the following matters by a deciding majority of 75%: (a)

deregistration of the incorporated NSW Association, (b) the date of formal closure being 31/12/2023, and (c) disbursement of assets. The three matters received appropriate debate with resolutions that the reregistration process to be conducted within 30 days, that all financial liabilities be discharged and that and remaining liquid assets be transferred to the NSAA National Account in lieu of 2023 National Levy fees which could not be funded from NSW membership fees. The residual funds were estimated at \$980, mostly as a consequence of the cancellation of the NSW insurance policy surrendered before expiry. All resolutions were passed with at least the 75% vote. Mr. Moulder also noted that the final balance sheet must be \$zero in order to complete the deregistration requirements [retrospectively]

Secretary's Postscript: National Secretary has since received email correspondence from Norm Mallard dated 10/3/2024, as follows:

Pete, I understand Tony has done a report, Noel will be able to update. My concern is those wishing to join National, we have had no official word of what is happening. I understand a fee of \$15.00 is to be charged, I feel this is too much especially when they can join RSL (NSW) for free. In regard to categories of membership, Service, Life and Affiliate. As per NSW Constitution Life Members get free membership, is this still protocol. Also my concern is those who received the Barry Vicary Fellowship, Noel (Moulder) and myself being two who have received this award. I think we should get the same recognition as Life members. We need to get to members now to have them join National otherwise they will be lost.

Sorry about being late getting this to you.

Regards Norm Mallard.

12.8 Queensland

Tony Stevenson apologized that there was no written report, but he summarized some of the recent Qld activities:

Oral commentary paraphrased by Secretary: Qld President Alex Garland has recently undergone a knee operation.

Tony also notified that Gold Coast North which has closed, with the possibility that unused funds be used to reclassify every member as a Life Subscribed Member of the Qld Branch. This is a Qld-only initiative brought to the attention of National Council, for information only. Qld dress codes for non-NSAA members is up to them, but the NSAA logo is sacrosanct for NSAA use only, as is the embedded Defence cypher.

Copies of the Qld Nasho News magazine were provided to all delegates.

13. DIRECT NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT/S

VP Noel advised that there had been substantial debate about the future of NSW sub-branches and individual members without resolution. The general consensus seems to be that \$15 is too much for direct National membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 hrs for lunch and resumed at 13.39 hrs.

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

14.1 National Patron

The Director of the Australian War Memorial, Matt Anderson PSM, has been informally canvassed for the possibility of NSAA National Patron. His response was that he would be delighted, but that he would need to seek the Minister's approval. Status will be advised in due course.

Delegates were all supportive of the nomination, with no alternative National Patron candidates being put forward.

14.2 INSURANCE – DIRECTORS INDEMNITY INSURANCE

The National Council members have always been covered for directors' liability issues for Council meetings, and this remains for 2024. Councilors are also protected by their state insurance policies. There was one exception to be understood, that of Noel's coverage after the cancellation of the NSW policy, but Noel continues to be covered by the National policy.

There is no coverage for any NSAA events, because none are organized by National.

14.2.1 Motion: That the insurance policy taken out by National covers directors' indemnity only, with no coverage of Direct National Members attending any events on the basis that the NSAA does not intend to host any such National events.

Moved by Pete Norman Seconded by Tony Stevenson Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

VP Noel ventured a devil's advocate question about what if National does decide to host an event in future? Such a question would need to be posed at the time as part of a risk management assessment.

14.3 NSAA Website

Secretary Pete tabled a paper titled "Problems Finding our NSAA site on the web?" [refer Appendix 2] and spoke to it, with considerable discussion from delegates about the issues raised. Peter asked if any state/territory/OTU-A had any existing dependencies on the Williams site which decoupling would be problematical. There were none identified.

Hugh Williams has signed a release document confirming that he agrees with decoupling. His site is not to be interfered with,

To decouple the two sites (NSAA and Hugh Williams) may be beyond the capabilities of our outsourced resource Vicki Blundel. Therefore a quote should be sought from an external web provider.

14.3.1 Motion: That the official National Servicemen's Association of Australia website (nashoaustralia.org.au) be uncoupled from the Hugh Williams' website (nashos.org.au) immediately.

Moved by Pete Norman Seconded by John Thorne Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

14.3.2 Motion: That a certificate of appreciation be awarded to Hugh Williams for his contribution to the NSAA over many years via the Nasho.org.au website.

Moved by Pete Norman Seconded by Peter Kemp Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

14.4 Rule & Bylaws

The new Rules & Bylaws (amended to enable direct membership of National) have not yet been released to Branches.

Both John Thorne as Public Officer and Noel Moulder spoke to this item and outlined the specific changes, as follows:

Rules: Amend Rule 3, add 6(3), add 7(5)

Bylaws: Add Bylaw 21

Considerable debate was evoked, questions posed, responses given, all without universal support. VP Noel elaborated on each of the changes. Because the debate is restricted to Direct Members, the only forum at which they can vote is at a National AGM or General meeting. They cannot vote in any state/territory forum because they are now disenfranchised from their previous entity which has surrendered its charter. An alternative motion was proposed to remove voting rights from individual Direct Members, but this alternative was informally voted down. Therefore, original motion was eventually put as follows:

14.4.1 Motion: That the changes to the Rules and Bylaws necessary to allow Direct National Membership as amended on 21 November 2023, be accepted.

Moved John Thorne Seconded Noel Moulder Dissent 2 Abstain 1 Outcome Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 14:23 hrs for the guest speaker presentation.

President Ron introduced Mr. Kahlil Fegan DSC AM, the Repatriation Commissioner.

Son of a war widow and a Vietnam War veteran, Kahlil has served with distinction for over 30 years in the Australian Defence Force and will continue to serve the Defence and veteran community in the next chapter of his career.

Kahlil brings a lifetime of lived experience to the role, following decades in senior leadership roles in Defence, including as Commander of the 3rd Combat Brigade in Townsville.

Kahlil has forged strong working relationships and collaboration across Government and with the veteran community and has demonstrated strong personal commitment to improving the lives of Defence personnel, veterans and families.

His compassion for others gives me no doubt that he will do an outstanding job as the Repatriation Commissioner.

He has dedicated his life to the service of our nation, and he will now serve those who served alongside him.

The Repatriation Commissioner role is a member of both the Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission. This will see Kahlil play a critical role in engaging with and representing veterans to ensure services delivered through the Department of Veterans' Affairs are best targeted and most effective.

With the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide due to hand down its recommendations next year, Kahlil's deep understanding of the experience of veterans and their families has equipped him to help shape how we best support the veteran community moving forward.

Kahlil Fegan's appointment follows the retirement of Mr Don Spinks AM as the Repatriation Commissioner in July 2023.

Mr. Fegan spoke about the history of the Repatriation Commission, and then about the nature of his job. It would be inappropriate to attempt to paraphrase his excellent and thought-provoking presentation, and the associated discussion between our members, in these minutes.

President Ron thanked him for his presentation, and resumed the Council meeting at 15:44 hrs.

14.5 Inflation

The inflation full inflation history table was covered in the agenda. Since then current National Levy rate was set at \$5.00 in 2021. Inflation has increased to the notional value by 81 cents, which if applied would increase the rate to \$5.81, with more quarterly adjustments to come. The table below was provided to Council for information only, with a reminder that inflation needs to be factored in to all financial considerations.

Inflation adjustments by Quarter	Starting value 1/1/2021	movement by quarter	notional new value
	\$5.00		
1 st Qtr March 2021 +0.6%	0.6%	\$0.03	\$5.03
2 nd Qtr June 2021 +0.8%	0.8%	\$0.04	\$5.07
3 rd Qtr Sep 2021 +0.8%	0.8%	\$0.04	\$5.11
4 th Qtr Dec 21 + 1.3%	1.3%	\$0.07	\$5.18
1st Qtr March 2022 + 2.1%	2.1%	\$0.11	\$5.29
2nd Qtr June 2022 +1.8%	1.8%	\$0.10	\$5.38
3rd Qtr September 2022 + 1.8%	1.8%	\$0.10	\$5.48
4th Qtr Dec 2022 + 1.3%	1.9%	\$0.10	\$5.58
1st Qtr March 2023 + 1.4%	1.4%	\$0.08	\$5.66
2nd Qtr June 2023 +0.8%	0.8%	\$0.05	\$5.71
3rd Qtr September 2023 + 1.2%	1.2%	\$0.07	\$5.77
4th Qtr Dec 2023 + 0.6%	0.6%	\$0.03	\$5.81
Accumulated changes since 1/1/2021	15.1%	\$0.81	\$5.81
		total movement since 1/1/2021	\$0.81

abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/consumer-price-index-australia/latest-release

14.5.1 Motion: Notwithstanding the inflation data tabled, no capitations increases are proposed for 2025.

Moved: Jim Duquemin

Seconded: Peter Kemp

Dissent Nil

Carried

14.5 General Business: ex NSW Members.

VP Noel updated us on the status of transitioning NSW members to Direct National, using the existing NSW database. NSW membership id numbers will be retained. The process has commenced and will be invoked asap. Vicki Blundel has been engaged to assist. Secretary Pete will draft a letter of invitation.

Secretary Pete also spoke about the NT experience where unused funds were used as seed funding to pay the subscription of transferring members for the first two years. Any other state/territory branch which contemplates from should consider this option ... it is a better option than donating money to another like organization or charity, because it directly benefits the disenfranchised members.

14.6 General Business: AWM Service 6/9/2024, to coincide with the next National Council meeting.

15 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wed	4/9/2024	Meet & Greet 6pm, overnight at the Mercure Hotel Canberra.
Thu	5/9/2024	Council meeting, delegates dinner and accommodation at the Mercure.
Fri	6/9/2026	Checkout 10am, 11:15 AWM Service.

16 CLOSE OF MEETING at 15:42 hrs 6/3/2024 with AGM to follow after a short break.

Appendix 1 – Attendance Register 7 March 2024.



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

ABN 67 616 946 831

Patron nominee pending:

Office of the National Secretary

Pete Norman 1/65

1 Deborah Street, Kilsyth, Vic, 3137

Tel. (03) 9728 1690 Mob: 0458 646 594

Email: pdnorman1945@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

National Council Meeting and AGM 7th March 2024, Mercure Hotel Canberra

Name	Position	Council Member ✓	Observer ✓	Guest ✓
Pete Norman	Secretary	✓		
JOHN FAUNT	CANBERRA PRESIDENT	✓		
Jim Noquemin	W.H. PRESIDENT	✓		
JOHN THORNTON	(Public Office) Sth Austn State President	✓		
TONY STEVENSON	Qld V/PRESIDENT	✓		
NEAL FRISGA	Qld TREASURER	✓		
BOB McILLOH	R.B. McILLOH	✓		
PETER KEMP	VICTORIA VICE PRESIDENT	✓		
JEFF GRAY	TASMANIA VIC PRES	✓		
FRANK MILLER	OTU ASSOCIATION	✓		

President: Ron Brandy
(03) 5222 4437 0415 256 167
r.brandy@bigpond.net.au

Secretary: Pete Norman
(03) 9728 1690 0458 646 594
pdnorman1945@gmail.com

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



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

ABN 67 616 946 831

Patron nominee pending:

Office of the National Secretary

Pete Norman 1/65

1 Deborah Street, Kilsyth, Vic, 3137

Tel. (03) 9728 1690 Mob: 0458 646 594

Email: pdnorman1945@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

National Council Meeting and AGM 7th March 2024, Mercure Hotel Canberra

Name	Position	Council Member ✓	Observer ✓	Guest ✓
Ron Brandy	NATIONAL PRESIDENT	✓		
NOEL MOUNDER	V/PRESIDENT	✓		

President: Ron Brandy
(03) 5222 4437 0415 256 167
r.brandy@bigpond.net.au

Secretary: Pete Norman
(03) 9728 1690 0458 646 594
pdnorman1945@gmail.com

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

End of Appendix 1. Attendance Register 7 March 2024.

Appendix 2. Problems Finding our NSAA site on the web?

Council Meeting 7/3/2024 – Agenda Item 14.3 – NSAA Website

Problems Finding our NSAA site on the web?

There are many roads leading to Rome. Here are just two of them:

1, Google search for “NSAA”

1st suggestion - National Security Association of Australia
2nd - National Ski Areas Association
3rd - National State Auditors Association
4th - National Surgical Assistants Association
5th - NashoAustralia.org.au
6th - Nasho.org.au (the Hugh Williams site last amended 2017)

2. Google search for “National Servicemen’s Association of Australia”

1st suggestion – Nasho.org (the Hugh Williams site last amended 2017)
2nd - NashoAustralia.org.au (yes this is us)

<<<<<>>>>>

It’s a lottery to pick our official National Servicemen’s Association of Australia website – being NashoAustralia.org.au.

It is not a good window into our Association. See page 2.

It’s more likely that you will select the Nasho.org.au (William) website. See page 3.

Refer page 4 for an example of what Google searches should see when they hit our site.

<<<<<>>>>>

It is time to sever the link/s to and from Hugh Williams, and in so doing make our site more welcoming. Hugh Williams is agreeable to this action and signed a release document on 1 March 2024.

Nothing in this paper above is intended as a criticism of any person past or present.

<<<<<>>>>>

Pete Norman
National Secretary

4/3/2024




AA
nashoaustralia.org.au


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Index of /

Name	Last modified	Size	Description
180308_Mar 2018 Minu..>	2023-08-16 12:22	358K	
180906_Sept 2018 Minu..>	2023-08-16 12:22	322K	
190319_Mar 2019 Minu..>	2023-08-16 12:22	1.1M	
190905_Sept 2019 Minu..>	2023-08-16 12:22	449K	
191001_Oct 2019 Nati..>	2023-08-16 12:22	783K	
210525_May 2021 Minu..>	2023-08-16 12:22	353K	
210630_2021 Director..>	2023-08-16 12:22	249K	
220316_2022 Director..>	2023-08-16 12:22	414K	
220329_Mar 2022 Minu..>	2023-08-16 12:22	327K	
220329_Mar 2022 Minu..>	2023-08-16 12:22	492K	
About Us.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	17K	
Acknowledgements.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	21K	
Barry Vicary 2.jpg	2023-08-16 12:22	1.0M	
Branches.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	21K	
Bulletin No 2 Septem..>	2023-08-16 12:22	165K	
Casualties Grave Loc..>	2023-08-16 12:22	229K	
Council.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	17K	
Default.htm	2023-08-16 12:28	7.6K	
Disclaimer body.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	8.9K	
Executive.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	15K	
Features.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	13K	
History.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	34K	
Honour Roll.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	1.2M	
Index.html	2023-08-16 12:22	7.6K	
Index.php	2023-08-16 12:22	7.6K	
Links.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	17K	
Medals.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	21K	
Memorial.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	23K	
Nashos Merchandise -..>	2023-08-16 12:22	1.4M	
Nashos Merchandise -..>	2023-08-16 12:22	29K	
National Presidents ..>	2023-08-16 12:22	196K	
National Service Bio..>	2023-08-16 12:22	890K	
Nominal Roll.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	9.9K	
Ron.jpg	2023-08-16 12:22	300K	
Songs/	2023-08-16 12:23	-	
State Branches.htm	2023-08-16 12:22	17K	
Vietnam Graves.pdf	2023-08-16 12:22	185K	
_private/	2023-08-16 12:22	-	
default.htm	2023-08-16 12:26	7.6K	
default_files/	2023-08-16 12:22	-	
images/	2023-08-16 12:22	-	

9:45 am Mon 4 Mar

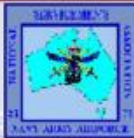
91%

AA nashos.org.au

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NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION of Australia. (Inc)

"Known as the Nashos"



"SERVICE TO THE NATION"



Email:- nat@nashos.org.au
For Details of Web Master, Hugh Williams, [click here](#)

10:32 am Mon 4 Mar

81%

nashos.org.au



Australian Capital Territory Branch

OTHER SITES

Links to other Military Sites

Nasho Micheal Vassallo has set up a page for Nashos to contribute photos of their time as Nashos. Any contributions will be welcome

Nashos at ANZAC, read the report by clicking here.

Another Reunion was held in W.A. in April 2004. Click here for more information.

Find an old mate with the 'Nasho's WA' site!



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Disclaimer



For Details of Web Master, Hugh
Williams,
Past National President, 1998-
2000,
[click here](#)

Phone

03 9759 7744

Mobile



Email Hugh Williams

Revised: June 13, 2017



This nashoaustralia.org.au site is the only official site of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia.

All other "NSAA" websites should be avoided.

The nashos.org.au site which is a private site operated by Hugh Williams was previously linked to nashoaustralia.org.au, but is no longer current.

A more reliable and certain way would be to have an unambiguous new domain name "National.Servicemen's.Association.of.Australia.org.au" or similar.

14.3

Proposed Motion: That the official National Servicemen's Association of Australia website (nashoaustralia.org.au) be uncoupled from the Hugh Williams' website (nashos.org.au) immediately.

Proposed Motion: That a certificate of appreciation be awarded to Hugh Williams for his contribution to the NSAA over many years via the Nasho.org.au website.

End of Appendix 2: Problems finding our NSAA site on the web?

