

The National
Servicemen's
Association of
Australia Inc.

Thursday, 5th September

2024

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

Minutes



Council Minutes

*General Meeting of the National Council
Thursday 5th September 2024 at
Mercure Hotel, Canberra*

1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 National President Ron Brandy occupied the chair, opened the meeting at 09:02 and welcomed all in attendance. He also noted that our scheduled guest speaker, National Patron Mr. Matt Anderson PSM was unable to attend due to being in Western Australia attending to urgent business in his role as the Director of the Australian War Memorial. Guest Speaker Karen Cain is expected to join us after the lunch break.

2. OBSERVANCE

- 2.2 Ode of Remembrance and one minute silence.

3. ATTENDANCE

- 3.1 The Chairman acknowledged the 15 persons present as per the attendance register at Annex 1, particularly noting the presence of Denis Wilson ACT and Mike Lane NT as observers. Gary Hand ACT was expected to attend, but his absence was unexpected. He was formally registered as an apology.

3.2 Motion: To accept attendance of registered delegates and observers Denis Wilson and Mike Lane, with Gary Hand ACT registered as an apology.

Before the motion was put,

- (a) Neal Freier QLD requested clarification about the status of Mike Lane as a delegate or observer, and therefore voting rights. Chairman Ron confirmed "Observer" without voting rights, but he noted that subsequent agenda items would expand discussion on this matter.
- (b) Mike Lane NT then advised that the NT Branch still exists as a legal entity in the NT jurisdiction and has not yet been formally wound up. There is no committee of management, and all members are now National Direct Members. The previous minutes will need to be amended to recognize this transitional status, however for the record, NT has been a disenfranchised entity of the NSAA since 31/12/2022.
- (c) VP Noel Moulder advised that the former NSW Branch formally closed effective 31/12/2023 and has been deregistered by the NSW Department of Fair Trading.

The motion was then put:

Moved Tony Stevenson QLD

Seconded Peter Kemp Vic

Dissent Nil

Outcome carried

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING 7th March 2024

- 4.1 The minutes were distributed by email on 31/3/2024.

4.2 Receipt of any amendments. Item 4.2 to be amended as per 3.2(a) above.

4.3 Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 7th March 2024 as circulated and as amended be taken as read and accepted

Moved Jeff Gray Tas

Jim Duquemin W.A.

Dissent Nil

Outcome Carried

4.4 Matters arising from the previous Council Meeting:

ACTION 4.3 previous minutes: Incoming Tasmanian delegate Jeff Gray to request the Tasmanian Secretary to write to the National Secretary to formalise the Barry Sonter/Jeff Gray substitution. Confirmation was received from Jeff by email 9/5/2024: Item closed.

ACTION 4.4 previous minutes: 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. Refer correspondence item 24.100. Item closed.

ACTION 11.1 previous minutes: That an application for a grant be lodged with DVA to fund a reprint of Allen Callaghan's book: Vice President Noel Moulder will talk to this matter during Item 6.2. He advised that the original publication company is no longer trading, so new arrangement will need to be commenced. Item closed here.

ACTION 14.3.1 previous minutes: That the official National Servicemen's Association of Australia website (nashoaustralia.org.au) be uncoupled from the Hugh Williams' website (nashos.org.au) immediately. Secretary Pete Norman will discuss status at Item 6.3. Item closed here.

ACTION 14.3.2 previous minutes: 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. Status: Not actioned because the site is still there unchanged. The last update seems to have been performed in 2017. Secretary Pete Norman will discuss status at Item 6.3. Item closed here.

5. ACCEPT RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING 7th AUGUST 2024.

5.1 Acceptance of the Record of Proceedings from Executive Meeting 7th August 2024:

Before the motion was put, VP Noel Moulder requested that the phrase "~~and accepted as a true record of proceedings by the National Executive~~" should be deleted from the motion because Council Delegates cannot vote on Executive business.

5.2 Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 7th August 2024 as circulated be taken as read ~~and accepted as a true record of proceedings by the National Executive~~

Moved Bob McIvor Vic

Seconded John Thorne

Dissent Nil

Outcome Carried

6. PRESENTATION OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Written reports needed to be lodged with Secretary Pete by 31/8/2024 in order to be included in the Agenda. The written reports are replicated in these minutes, together with verbal reports as follows:

6.1 National President Ron Brandy

NSAA NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE NSAA NATIONAL COUNCIL - SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

NSAA National Executive

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

Honours and Awards. National and State and Territory Based Awards

It is gratifying to see NSAA members recognised, either nationally or at their community level, for the work they have and continue to do on behalf of both Nashos but their communities also.

Congratulations to Noel Blake OAM, past president NSAA Victorian Branch, Northern Districts Sub-Branch, and John Honeycombe OAM, NSAA QLD Branch, Townsville Branch member for their awards of the OAM, and NSAA National Secretary for receiving the Federal Electorate of Casey, Victoria, Community and Volunteer award, presented by the Federal Member for Casey, The Honourable Aaron Violi's MP. Well done gentlemen.

Issues facing the NSAA

NSAA Membership. While membership in some locations is holding with minimal non-renewals, some are debilitated and becoming unviable due to a range of well-known circumstances. The treasurer's report on membership will elaborate on those key numbers Australia wide.

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

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

Sustaining a NSAA National Presence – Progress Report – For the NSAA Council Consideration

In order to fully appreciate and study the potential of our NSAA future, I offered the National Executive members papers describing my vision of what may be possible for their consideration. As indicated in proposal, we are barely two years away from what I have effectively named our 'D-Day', 31 December 2026.

My proposal was diligently dissected, debated and enhanced by feedback. At the conclusion of our meeting, not all of the feedback and considerations were fully aligned. Consequently, I have revised and updated the proposal and forwarded it to the Executive for further consideration.

In the papers you will receive prior to the 5 September 24 Council meeting, will be a component that addresses the National Executive's aligned vision of the post 31 December, NSAA National presence.

Please study these documents and share your frank and fearless views as we deliberate at our forthcoming Council meeting.

Projects

NSAA Archives – Apart from a joint effort in May last, VP Noel Moulder and I have not been able to meet and advance further culling and reconciliation of the NSAA records. However, Noel has been communication with the NLA and will update us on what he has been able to learn and achieve post the May culling in Wacol. We are attempting to meet with the NLA 4-7 September 24.

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

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

NSAA National Patron. I am exceedingly grateful to Mr Matt Anderson PSM for accepting our invitation to be our NSAA National Patron, at the pleasure of his Minister of course! We will have the privilege of Matt's attendance at our post GM dinner on 5 September 24, and the following day at which he will officiate at our annual NSAA Memorial Service.

AWM UPGRADE PROJECT-NSAA DISPLAY

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

MILSHOP and Corporate Roses Support

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

Issues of Concern

Nasho Fair Go (NFG) There have been some concerns raised about the less than factual statements published by NFG in the media. NSAA WA President James Duquemin has provided some documentation for discussion.

As always, I welcome your presence and participation in Council, our Commemorative, and Social activities. Travel safely.

Ron Brandy

National President
National Servicemen's Association of Australia
1 Sep 2024

Ron emphasised some key points of his report, as follows

- 6.1.1 Congratulations to Frank Miller for his award of the OAM.
- 6.1.2 Sustaining the national presence: This matter will be raised again at the end of the Executive reports and before the start of the Delegates' reports, to emphasise the importance of the debate needed for the life of the NSAA beyond 31/12/2026.
- 6.1.3 Matt Anderson PSM Director Australian War Memorial and now NSAA National Patron has expressed his sincere apology for his non-attendance today, but he is expected to attend the National Servicemen's event at the AWM tomorrow.
- 6.1.4 Ron then advised his communications regarding a project termed the South Australian Veterans' Walk on the Yorke Peninsula, funded from a DVA grant, noting some discrepancies between the Allen Callighan list and the S.A. list. The NSAA position is that any veteran eligible to receive the Anniversary of National Service medal is deemed to have been a National Serviceman. Anomalies may have been caused by multiple service numbers if a National Serviceman signed up for subsequent service, and similar anomalies, all of which have thwarted the ideal of a perfect accurate list.
- 6.1.5 Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal: Some such veterans who have been denied the medal due to not reaching the minimum requirement of 181 days of service in Vietnam, have instead used their PTSD medical status (as a service-related war injury) to successfully apply for the medal.

6.2 Vice President Noel Moulder

Noel spoke to the "Preservation of NSAA History & Heritage Project" which continues as a work-in-progress between Noel and President Ron. The Earle Jennings papers have been included, with "retain" papers now held at Wacol Qld. It was noted that all state/territory newsletters are intended for the National Library archive, via your relevant state/territory library. Please alert your secretaries of this requirement. The remaining work we do on this project will be at NSAA's cost, as a National Library grant is unlikely. The collection of National minutes are almost complete, with only 1995 missing. Bob McIvor indicated that he would ask Doug Black to search his records for 1995.

Direct National Membership program for members of disenfranchised states/territories, and the mechanism for accepting them on the management database and the production of membership cards. The former NT members are still required to complete individual application forms, which Mike may be able to encourage. Because this matter has dragged along, an expedient compromise is for the full batch of cards to be produced and sent to Mike's postal address.

Noel then spoke about the 304 former NSW members who were sent invitations, but only 55 have taken up the offer of Direct National Membership so far. The plan is to mount a new campaign for ex-NSW members for 2025.

The DVA Grants-in-Aid program for 2024 required the NSAA to become registered with the ACNC, and with such registration, we achieved DVA funding of \$9,888. Thanks, Noel, for navigating this difficult terrain. Registration with the ACNC means that we are under the watch of the ATO and any other entity or individual who may wish information about the

NSAA. DVA has also changed its reporting requirements from an annual acquittal to quarterly reporting. Noel will continue to discharge the NSAA's reporting obligations.

Noel finished his report with an update on the event at the AWM tomorrow, and that the wreaths have been ordered and paid for, with National Treasurer Richard Tregear to raise invoices on our members associations (states/territories and OTUA).

6.3 Secretary Peter Norman

Pete Norman's Secretary's Report to the National Council on 5/9/2024:

Fee-for-service resource Vicki Blundell has taken control of the National Direct Members database and has used it for mailouts of membership application forms and subscription notices for ex NSW Branch members. She also mailed out the Winter edition of Nasho newsletter to those NSW members without known email addresses.

Mike Lane (National Direct Member ex Northern Territory Branch) wishes to attend National Council on 5/9/2024 as an observer. He has also requested that his wife and daughter attend the Meet-and-Greet on 4/9/2024 and the Council Dinner on 5/9/2024. He has asked for a funding subsidy if possible. Coincidentally, due to his misunderstanding of correspondence with Vicki Blundell, he has paid his \$40 two-years subscription twice, taking him through to 31/12/2028. I have agreed that the \$40 subs overpayment be used to offset the costs above. This arrangement was endorsed by the Exec on 7/8/2024, but now requires Council agreement.

52 ex NSW members have rejoined as National Direct Members and have paid their subscriptions to end of 2024. The Council needs to decide if disenfranchised state/territory branches (currently NT & NSW) can have a funded representative delegate to attend National Council meetings.

"Nasho" newsletter, for National Direct Members: Since I took on the role of Editor-Pro-Tem, two editions have been distributed (Autumn 2024 and Winter 2024). I am currently working up the next edition, and I would very much like to receive input or suggestions from you. I expect to include any important decisions which emerge from the Council meeting on 5/9/2024. I will continue in the pro tem role unless someone else wants to take it over.

The www.nashoaustralia.org.au website, being the only official website of NSAA National, is being progressively updated by Vicki Blundell under my direction. Progress has been slow because I wanted to be sure that each progressive change proceeded as I expected. This is still a work-in-progress. The www.nashos.org.au website owned and operated by Hugh William has not yet been modified by Hugh, as he has agreed to do, to remove references to the NSAA. I will pursue this within the NSAA Victorian hierarchy where Hugh is a member at Monash Sub-Branch.

I am keen to see the proposed of 31/12/2026 as a closing date to work towards, to be fully considered and the decisions to be promulgated to all levels of the NSAA before the end of 2024. I note that President Ron Brandy has this subject well in hand for discussion as this Council Meeting.

Records Storage arrangement: National Treasurer Richard Tregear has advised me that there are no National records stored at the Clayton facility in Victorian and VP Noel Moulder has advised that the NSW facility on the Central Coast has also been closed. I anticipate that President Ron, VP Noel and Treasurer Richard will advise Council further.

National Servicemen Nominal Roll: The originator and champion of this database has always been NSAA Qld President Alex Garlin. He has now gone past 90 years, and obviously cannot perform this role forever. Both NSAA Qld and NSAA National need to have succession arrangements agreed and documented.

Registration of the NSAA as a charity: The application submitted by Vice President Noel Moulder has been approved by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (**ACNC**). This has had the consequential outcomes of ATO registration for Charity Tax Concession and listing on the Australian Business Register. Noel will elaborate on these matters if necessary.

Pete Norman
17/8/2024

- 6.3.1 Pete quoted the NT decision to use spare funds to pay the Direct National Membership subscriptions for all their members, for two years (2023 and 2024) as a worthy cause, better than donating to the RSL or a local charity, because it directly benefitted members by keeping them connected to the NSAA. Other state/territories which may be contemplating closure could consider adopting a similar approach. NSW was unable to do so because of depleted funds, so only 55/304 members self-funded their Direct National Membership for 2024.
- 6.3.2 Pete then spoke about the www.nashos.org.au website which is not an NSAA website. Hugh William agreed-in-writing that he would remove all NSAA content, but it is clear that he cannot physically achieve this due to cognitive decline. The official website www.nashoaustralia.org.au website is being progressively updated, to provided basic contact information.
- 6.3.3 The National Service Nominal Roll. Alex Garlin is the originator and owner of this roll. He has been negotiating with the Library of Queensland for a permanent home, and will continue to do so.
- 6.3.4 National Treasurer Richard advised that the second paragraph “the \$40 subs overpayment” should be corrected to “the \$30 subs overpayment”.

President Ron then acknowledged Pete’s recent award of a Community and Volunteer Service 2024 award by The Hon Aaron Violi, federal MP for Casey Electorate.

6.4 Treasurer Richard Tregear

- 6.4.1 Richard spoke to his reports (next two pages), confirming that he expects the \$9,888 DVA grant imminently.
- 6.4.2 Mike Lane enquired about interest, which Richard advised are such small amounts, that they are embedded in “sundry”.
- 6.4.3 Richard then spoke to the capitation section on page 2. He advised that he has just received a cheque from NSAA Qld for \$1,290 which gets us closer to the budgeted amount. He asked Delegates to ask their treasurers to advise status and whether late capitation funds might still be coming. Victoria still has late payments expected soon. Note that actuals and budget figures are not as close as we want them to be.
- 6.4.4 Note 2 second page Earle Jennings \$1,645.29 funeral expenses were an unbudgeted item.
- 6.4.5 The Heritage Bank account has been closed with all funds transferred to the Bendigo Bank account.

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC
ABN 67 616 9646 832

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE EIGHT MONTHS ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024

Year			Note	\$	Budget \$
2023					
	INCOME				
17035	Capitation Fees			12560	15210
	Direct Members			855	
481	Commission on Rose Sales			425	100
649	Donation Military Shop			565	100
9612	Grants in Aid	Asked for \$9888			9600
76	Sundry			144	50
27853				14549	25060
	LESS EXPENDITURE				
1417	Executive meeting	Accommodation February			400
950	Melbourne	Travel	1		400
1348	Council meeting	Accommodation March		1604	1760
1677	Canberra	Function		1645	1800
699		Travel		972	1650
1891	Executive meeting	Accommodation August		562	400
824	Melbourne	Travel		363	400
2241	Council meeting	Accommodation September		2571	1760
2527	Canberra	Function		1710	2800
1813		Travel		665	1650
15387				10092	13020
1996	Archival Expenses			970	3500
600	Audit			660	660
5875	Branch expenditure re-imbursement (Grants in Aid)				5875
1302	Insurance	14/03/2024		1302	1350
	National Member Expenses		2	385	
	Postage				250
	Printer and software maintenance			132	300
331	Printing and stationery				400
	Secretarial services				250
1000	Storage			374	1120
80	Sundry		3	1720	2650
113	Telephone and website				250
376	Travel local				400
220	Web hosting				350
	Wreaths				200
	Write off Plant & Equipment				2611
27280				15635	33186
573	Surplus for the period			-1086	-8126
	Bank Accounts				
29719	Opening balance 1st January 2024			29718	29718
573	Surplus as above			-1086	-8126
-574	Balance sheet movements			566	
29718	Closing Balance 31st August 2024			29198	21592
	Richard Tregear CPA Honorary Treasurer 1/09/2024				

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC					
ABN 67 616 9646 832					
NSAA National Capitation-2024					
Capitation Fees		Actual to Date		Budget2024	
as at 31st August 2024		Number	\$ Value	Number	\$ Value
Aust.Capital Territory		29	145	30	150
New South Wales		0	0	0	
Northern Territory	9 @ \$10 2023		90		
Northern Territory	9 @ \$20 2024	9	180	7	35
Officer Training Unit		538	2690	640	3200
Queensland		946	4730	1300	6500
South Australia		220	1100	280	1400
Tasmania		54	270	75	375
Victoria		593	2965	600	3000
Western Aistralia		78	390	110	550
		2467	12560	3042	15210
Direct National Members					
57 @ \$15		57	855		
Total Members		2524	Down 18% on Budget.		
Notes from Financial Statement					
Note 1 Meeting was by Zoom					
Note 2. National Member expenses					
Printing/Stationery			85.22		
PO Box			79.09		
Postage			221.00		
			385.31		
Note 3. Sundry					
Costs re funeral Late E Jennings			1645.29		
Domain Name			70.86		
Bank fees			4.00		
			1720.15		

6.5 Public Officer John Thorne

The NSAA National Rules & Bylaws, as amended to cater for Direct National Membership, have received the approval of the South Australian Government.

6.6 (Void in the agenda).

6.7 Business Arising from the Executive Reports:

- 6.7.1 President Ron then drew to the attention of Delegates that he will introduce the important discussion on the future of the NSAA after 31/12/2026, as a lead-in to the Delegates' own reports at Agenda Item 7. Refer Annex 2 of these minutes for the four pages of status quo and major options for consideration. The matter has already been debated and amended by the Executive, and now needs the diligent attention of the Council.

6.8 Motion: That the Executive Reports and business arising be accepted into the minutes.

Moved John Thorpe S.A. Seconded Peter Kemp Vic Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

At this juncture, the chairman suspended the meeting for morning tea.

7 PRESENTATION OF DELEGATES' REPORTS

Written reports needed to be lodged with Secretary Pete by 31/8/2024 in order to be included in the agenda.

- 7.1 A.C.T. John Faunt delivered an oral report about the A.C.T. Branch, the main features of which were:

7.1.1 About 30 members of which most attend the general meetings.

7.1.2 Many invitations from local organizations to attend various functions.

- 7.2 OTU-A OTU ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 2024 NSAA REPORT – Frank Miller

Association Wind Up

Much attention has been paid by the Association National Executive to the planned winding up of the National body in mid-2026. After that time the State/Territory chapters will continue to run their usual dinners, luncheons and other functions as they see fit. Similarly, the various Class reunions will still, no doubt, take place.

Detailed planning is being directed to finalising the safe keeping of OTU memorabilia, the Website and data base, the Q Store and other considerations. Legal advice has been sought on the most appropriate financial arrangements.

There has also emerged a small group seeking to defer the closure for an undefined number of years. The Executive body is opposed to this move and the matter will be put to the membership in the near future.

The philosophy behind the winding up of the National body is based on the premise that a controlled touchdown is far preferable to a crash landing. Numbers are starting to decline, and we are an ageing group. Scheyville trained National Servicemen (and Air Cadets) for a defined period (1965 – 72).

Association Secretary

Long term Association Secretary, Bernie Gleeson, stood down from his role in the earlier part of the year. His place has been taken by Chris Grigsby. Chris was actually part of the Portsea “Overflow” contingent who carried out their OCS training at Scheyville towards the end of the second National Service scheme.

ANZAC Day

Scheyvillians marched behind the OTU Banner in ANZAC Day Parades in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. Many others attended local Commemorative ceremonies in towns and cities throughout Australia. This feature of current day activity is expected to continue after the national body wind down.

Scheyville Site

Works being carried out by the Hunter ANZAC memorial Limited group (HAML) on revamping significant buildings on the Scheyville site are progressing at a pleasing rate. The Cadets’ Mess is almost completed with the finish of the gymnasium work anticipated later in the year. It is also planned to hold ANZAC day and Long Tan Day commemorations on site next year.

The Scheyvillian

Issue Number 2 of this year’s Scheyvillian was recently released. It included a report on the HAML Group’s site work along with photographs. As always an absorbing “read”, there were pieces on “whatever happened to” outlining what different members have done in their lives, reports on functions held in States/Territories, military book reviews and, sadly, Vale summaries for deceased members.

Consideration is being paid to the future of “The Scheyvillian” post wind up.

Financial

Financially, the Association remains in a strong position. Particular attention is being paid to the wind-up situation to ensure adequate funding is available to meet all commitments. Membership renewals are presently above the levels necessary to reach projected requirements.

Frank Miller OAM
Chairman, OTU Association

Frank elaborated on parts of his report as follows:

- 7.2.1 OTU-A is having difficulty filling committee positions throughout the organisation.
- 7.2.2 Some of the final classes at Scheyville are keen to see the organization continue beyond 2026, possibly running with their own committee of management. The AGM is scheduled for next week where this matter will be tested.
- 7.2.3 Financially, a lot of attention is being paid to ensure that the OTU-A is wound up to the satisfaction of members and statutory requirements.
- 7.2.4 Secretary Bernie Gleeson has stood down after 15 years. Chris Grimsby is the new Secretary.
- 7.2.5 The Scheyvillian continues to be issued twice per year. Secretary Pete asked Frank if Scheyvillian Editor/Publisher Neil Leckie, who is also a member of the NSAA, may be interested in becoming the Editor/Publisher of Nasho Magazine (for Direct National Members (currently ex NT and NSW members)).
- 7.2.6 President Ron then asked Frank about OTU-A branches ... are they or will they become incorporated after the OTU-A, in its present form, is discontinued. Any who wish to incorporate will need to do so within the Victorian statutes. Legal advice continues to be acquired.

7.3 Qld. Orally delivered by Tony Stevenson OAM.

Qld Branches have had many questions about how unused funds will be distributed, Tony's first advice was for them to interpret the constitution which defines the requirements. Most of the Qld branches which have closed cited their inability to form committees, not lack of members or lack of funds.

Qld. State is considering converting all members to be life members in the final year, thus much reduced membership revenue over the remaining life of the Branch. Tony noted that Qld has been financially well off over all of its history, less so now, but is hopeful that they will be able to hang on.

The Qld State Branch is aiming to close 31/12/2026, remaining financially solvent but with depleted funds, while remaining administratively compliant with government statutes throughout.

Qld State Branch will conduct its AGM next week.

7.4 S.A. SOUTH AUSTRALIA REPORT - National Council Meeting - 5th September 2024

John Thorpe elaborated on his written report as follows:

The South Australian Branch of the Association is active and viable with two sub-branches still operating. The membership has remained stable in recent times. The Sub-branches that have closed are still operating as social clubs meeting on an irregular basis. Health problems have restricted some of the State Branch activities. Although our Friday lunches are still attracting an average of thirty attendees.

There is no news on our building being replaced, but this will happen in the fullness of time I am sure. The Local Council have completed major upgrading works in the reserve surrounding the building which has enhanced our rose gardens and the memorial. The council arranged to pruning of the roses during July and they are now sprouting with new growth.

Liaison is an ongoing function with other organisations, particularly the City of West Torrens who are the owners of our building and the surrounding grounds.

Discussion has been ongoing regarding the future of the organisation and the member associations. The general consensus is that we remain operating as we are for the foreseeable future.

We are gathering memorabilia that has been stored in our headquarters and will forward to the appropriate location when we have gathered as much as we can locate. So far there are a number of photo albums containing photos of intakes, and some newspaper clippings from when the organisation was formed.

The South Australia Branch is continuing to operate as it was meant to support our members and encourage their involvement in the activities of the organisation.

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

7.5 Tas. Jeff Gray

Jeff advised that two of the Tasmanian sub-branches had closed as he had previously in March 2024.

Tasmanian members are supportive of National Direct Memberships after their sub-branches close down formal operations and move towards the less onerous social gatherings structure.

Council members asked Jeff to pass on their best wishes to Barrie Sonter.

Secretary's postscript: Tasmanian Secretary Neville Pulford advised on the day after the meeting, Saturday 7/9/2024, that Barrie had just passed away.

7.6 Vic. Bob McIvor, Victorian State President: Bob recited his written report, as follows:

Fellow delegates, greetings to all national delegates from around Australia from our Victorian state branch. As time wears us all, it is good to see many old friends attending this National Council meeting. It is so sad to have many of our mates passing on. They will be long remembered and not forgotten within our National Servicemen's association.

Victorian state branch members have continued to honour our fallen and since departed comrades, and strongly supported welfare in the veteran and general community. We have continued to gather at our memorial services on our special days to remember our fallen and since departed comrades.

The Victorian NSAA State Toy Drive went well again this year. For over 21 years, our members and associates have donated over 125,000 toys to support the Salvation Army in the support of underprivileged children within our state of Victoria. It is always an honour for me as Victorian State President to handover our toys to the Salvation Army who have always looked after service people during and after service.

Victorian State President Robert McIvor OAM.

7.7 W.A. REPORT FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE PRESIDENT JIM DUQUEMIN

Jim elaborated on his written report:

There has been no change to the Sub Branch positions since the last report in March 2024.

The Perth Branch turnout is dismal, we have tried our best to engage and encourage our members to attend and participate in meetings and events, without too much success. However New members are still being recruited, and the Christmas-in-July function held on the 17th of July was supported with 30 members attending. A successful outing enjoyed by all. Further discussion on the branch itself and how to keep trying to engage members will be discussed at the next council meeting, which will be held on the 16th of September.

Sadly, we lost our membership officer David Lewis, David passing away suddenly while in hospital recently. David was a dedicated member of our council and will be sadly missed by all.

Stuart Fairburn our State Secretary is currently handling all membership records until a new officer is found. Jim thanked Stuart for all his hard work.

I unfortunately have also attended the funeral for one of our Mandurah members, Les Barry a 20-year member on the 1st of July and stood with our Mandurah members in the guard of honour. Our Patron Lt. Col. George Howell, has also been very unwell recently, thankfully starting to recover well.

I understand the breakaway 1965 -1972 Nasho's have split from the W.A organization and are listed in the W.A Listening Post RSLWA Magazine, with a recent newspaper article written by Ben Harvey chief reporter, The West Australian newspaper, stating information from Mr Geoff Parkes, and Mr Cedric Bell, with incorrect information stated, which is most disturbing.

The closure of the York Branch has again been postponed due to the Farming Season, (with the majority of York's members are farmers) the closure meeting will be held as soon as possible, later this year.

Mandurah Sub-Branch is still holding strong with 40 members. Good Meeting and function attendance, with some members unwell, we are thinking of them and wish them all the best. The branch is slowly working towards closure with no date set at this stage.

Jim Duquemin, Monday, 19 August 2024

7.8 Business Arising from the Delegates Reports:

- 7.8.1 At this juncture, Mike Lane sought the indulgence of the Chair to update delegates on N.T. matters. Chairman Ron readily agreed. **Secretary's Postscript: Due to the fact that all former N.T. members are now Direct National Members, and that Mike's presence at the meeting was as an Observer not as a Delegate, there was no report requested from Mike as an agenda item.**
- 7.8.2 Mike then informed the Delegates that July 2021 was the last attempt to convene an AGM, but unfortunately there was no quorum and no Committee able to run such a formal meeting. Those in attendance agreed informally that a wind up of the N.T. Branch was inevitable. There was also universal agreement that the "Pavers Project" should be brought to an end as soon as was possible (following the hiatus caused by the Covid pandemic and related disruptions). The Darwin Military Museum conducted an Opening Ceremony, with some 15 N.T. Nashos each having a permanent paver in the museum precinct. This event was captured for all ex N.T. Direct National Members in the Autumn 2024 edition of "Nasho" magazine.
- 7.8.3 VP Noel Moulder then expressed his concern about the title of the event held at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance in February each year. For many years it had been titled "National Servicemen's Association Day" but has now been changed to the generic "National Servicemen's Day" to open it to all Nashos regardless of affiliations with any ESO. Chairman Ron advised that Noel's perception was a misunderstanding in that he had thought the opposite, so there is now no confusion and no issue.

7.9 Motion: That the Delegates Reports and business arising be accepted into the minutes.

Moved John Thorne S.A.

Seconded Bob McIvor Vic

Dissent Nil

Outcome Carried

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Pete advised Delegates that all correspondence was listed in the agenda and that links to the correspondence was advised to all in the email which accompanied the agenda sent by email on 31/8/2024. The correspondence list is not repeated in these minutes.

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

Moved Pete Norman Nat Sec Seconded Tony Stevenson Qld Dissent Nil Outcome Carried

8.2 Business arising from the correspondence.

- 8.2.1 Neal Freier asked if the ACNC application had been lodged. VP Noel confirmed that it had, and that there are now additional reporting requirements as a consequence.
- 8.2.2 Mike Lane asked about GDR Status. Chairman Ron advised that such does not apply to the NSAA.

9. BUSINESS WITH NOTICE

9.1 Disaffiliated Member Organizations: The issues to be put to Council were:

- (a) That ex-NT Branch and now Direct National Member Mike Lane be funded for the 5th September National Council meeting as an observer without voting rights, funded from the DVA Grant-in-Aid program as has already been the case for “states/territories in need” of financial assistance. Yes or No? **Note that the decision sets a precedent.** See 9.1.1 below.

AND

- (b) That an ex-NSW now Direct National Member be nominated and funded as per NT (a) above. Yes or No?

AND

- (c) That if any other Member Association withdraws from affiliation with National they are similarly categorized, i.e. official representation and funding assistance. Yes or No

OR

- (d) That any Member Association which already has disaffiliated or may do so in the future, will have zero representation at Council. Yes or No?

HOWEVER

- (e) Regardless of the four options above, Direct National Members will have zero representation at Council. Yes or No?

- 9.1.1 VP Noel stated the terms of DVA’s grant-in aid for “States-in-Need”. Noel’s expert interpretation based on his long history of consultation with DVA, confirms that Mike’s attendance as a representative of the N.T. Direct National Members, is an acceptable

element of the grant, and Mike's participation has been specifically included in the grant application.

9.1.2 Understanding the above indicated that the four precedents suggested in a,b,c,d and e above, did not need to be resolved at today's meeting, and will instead become an agenda item for the March 2025 Council meeting.

9.1.3 Treasurer Richard observed that both NSAA and DVA observe different financial years. NSAA runs from 1 January through 31 December; DVA's run from 1 July to 30 June. Because N.T. Branch is no longer affiliated with NSAA, the reimbursement will need to be paid to Mike's personal account. The Delegates confirmed that Mike's costs for this September meeting will be covered from the NSAA National account, as a component of the DVA Grant-in-Aid.

9.2 Rule & Bylaws:

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

The consensus was that one copy only of the Rules & Bylaws be printed and sent to each member association, within an issue control regime administered by Secretary Pete. National account cost.

9.3 Election of National Executive for 2025 & 2026:

The current National Executive (President Ron Brandy, Vice President Noel Moulder, Treasurer Richard Tregear and Secretary Pete Norman) are all to stand down at the 2025 AGM. Each is eligible for re-election. Any financial member of the NSAA may be nominated. Nomination forms are available from National Secretary Pete. The closing date for nominations is 31/10/2024.

9.4 Returning Officer Appointment: Suggestions were Mike Lane who is already listed as an Observer, or it could be our Public Officer John Thorne ESM, because John's position is an appointment not an elected position.

Mike indicated that he may not be available, so John Thorne agreed that he would undertake the Returning Officer role.

9.5 Inflation

9.5.1 Secretary Pete advised that Australia Post increased the cost of a stamp from \$1.20 to \$1.50 in May 2024, and that another increase is being talked up. The cost of postage is not factored into the NSAA National budget.

9.5.2 The main impost for National is the cost of sending Nasho magazines and membership cards to Direct National Members. We will need to watch this carefully.

9.6.3 Secretary Pete pointed out that inflation since 1/1/2021 when the National Levy was set at \$5.00, has increased by a notional \$0.93 and is likely to hit \$1 in the September quarter. However, it is not proposed to suggest an increase to the

per capita membership, because of anticipated major abhorrence throughout the branches and sub-branches.

10. BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE

- 10.1 Bob McIvor Vic advised delegates of the issues of a Nuclear Test Medal from the British Ministry of Defence, for anyone in the British Commonwealth exposed to radiation at atomic bomb test sites. Delegates are asked to inform their members of the medal via their newsletters.
- 10.2 Ron Brandy referred to his “Working Towards Closure NSAA – Day After D-Day 31/12/2026” paper, as was discussed in detail and refined at the Executive Meeting on 7th August. **Refer Annex 2.**
 - 10.2.1 Tony Stevenson asked if the Delegates could discuss the four pages of options today, rather than deferring the debate by taking it back to the branches.
 - 10.2.2 Jim Duquemin W.A. then expressed his disappointment that the matter could not be substantially dealt with today. Some delegates supported President Ron’s view that consultation was imperative and wise, others wanted earlier decisions.

Chairman Ron then adjourned the meeting for lunch, and for this topic to be resumed at Item 10.3 when the meeting reconvenes following the guest speaker.

Guest Speaker: Karen Cain - Community Support Adviser (Victoria), Program Delivery Division, Department of Veterans’ Affairs: Strategic Programs: Wellness Programs and Rehabilitation Branch.

Also in attendance were some of the wives/partners of our National Council Delegates.

Karen gave a very informative talk on the following subjects, from the DVA perspective and her own perspective as the wife of a veteran.

- Accessing and Navigating the Aged Care System
- Living Independently & Aged Care
- The likely costs of Residential Aged Care
- Information and Advocacy
- Aged Care Services for the Senior Veteran Community

These are very complex subjects, for which Chairman Ron thanked Karen for her insights.

10.3 Resumption of meeting after the lunch adjournment, referring to [Annex 2](#):

After discussion and due deliberation, the Council Delegates decided to eliminate Options 2 and 3, and instead recommend to their branches that Option 1 be further developed and refined as the preferred way forward:

OPTION 2 – Retain NSAA as currently structured and managed.

Comments and Actions:

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

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

Comments and Actions:

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

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

Comments and Actions:

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

Delegates, please take this Option 1 back to your constituents and provide feedback to National Secretary Pete Norman before 31/12/2024. Pete will then collate the returns for the consideration of the National Executive at their next meeting on 7/2/2025, with a final document to be presented to the National Council on 6/3/2025.

11 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

6 March 2025, (also AGM same day), at the Mercure Hotel Canberra.

12 CLOSE OF MEETING at 15:40 hrs.

Annex 1



THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

ABN 67 616 946 831

Patron: Matt Anderson PSM, Director Australian War Memorial

Office of the National Secretary

1 Deborah Street, Kilsyth, Vic, 3137

Mob: 0458 646 594

Email: pdnorman1945@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

National Council Meeting 5th September 2024, Mercure Hotel Canberra

Name	Position	Council Member ✓	Observer ✓	Guest ✓
J FAUNT	PRESIDENT ACT	✓		
P. Norman	National Secretary	✓		
J. DRAZZINI	PRESIDENT W.A.	✓		
R McIVOR	PRESIDENT	✓		
R Tregear	National Treasurer	✓		
J THORNE	President S.A. Public Officer	✓		
J. GRAY	PRESIDENT T.S.	✓		
NEAL FREIER	SA Tregear QLD	✓		
TONY STEWARTSON	J. Gray	✓		
MIKE LAKE	MEMBER IN TRANSITION	?	✓	
RON BRANDY	NATIONAL 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



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ATTENDANCE REGISTER

National Council Meeting 5th September 2024, Mercure Hotel Canberra

Name	Position	Council Member ✓	Observer ✓	Guest ✓
DENIS WILSON	SECRETARY ACT		✓	
PETER KEAR	VICE PRESIDENT VICTORIA	✓		
STUART FAIRBAIRN	SEC/TREAS WA	✓		
FRANK MILLER	Chairman OTU Association	✓		

President: Ron Brandy
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End of Annex 1

Annex 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ron Brandy

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

21 August 2024

Attachments:

Attachments 1, 2, and 3

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

Sponsored by the NSAA National Executive

<u>INTENT:</u> • • Present three options to determine the future of the NSAA post 31 Dec 2026.	<u>WHERE:</u> • Phase 1. 7 September 2024 GM in Canberra. • Phase 2. 6 March 2025 GM/AGM in Canberra.
1.WHO: • Phases 1 & 2. The NSAA National Council, comprising all Council Delegates and the NSAA National Executive.	4. WHY: • To ensure clear and sustainable decisions are made. • To ensure directions are known and provide sufficient time to undertake the administrative and governance measures necessary to implement the decision taken.
2. WHAT: • Debate options presented to the National Council. • Understand the consequences of the decisions taken. • Make a binding decision on the future of the NSAA. • Ensure human and financial resources are understood IOT sustain and or implement the decisions taken. • Resource Options considered	5. HOW: • Provide draft decision tools to the National Council. • Explain and debate the tools and rationale • • If necessary, adjust Rules and By-Laws to accord with decisions taken.
3. WHEN: • Phase 1. NSAA GM 7 September 24. Decision and Options papers provided to the National Council Delegates for debate. • Phase 2. NSAA AG & AGM 6 March 25 (TBC). Present Final Decision and Options papers to the National Delegates.	6. ACTIONS/END STATE: • NSAA National Council decide on a firm option for the future of the organisation at or beyond 31 Dec 2026 by COB 6 Mar 25. • NSAA National Council ensure that all support and necessary resources are available and in place to enable the decision taken to be realised and is sustainable.

Ron Brandy - President

Peter Norman - Secretary

Dated: Sep 2024

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

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

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

Comments and Actions:

- 1.1 Continue to offer Direct National Membership from 1/1/2027.
- 1.2 Volunteer management team drawn from the both the remaining NSAA National Executive and supplemented from the broader membership.
- 1.3 Offer individual membership to current members where closure of their Branch is imminent and agreed at State/Territory level.
- 1.4 Invite prepaid one year individual membership from Branch funds in 2026, prior to planned closure.
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- 3.3 National Servicemen could possibly forfeit AWM organisational support for commemorative services.
- 3.4 Agreement with these comments would imply Option 3 be rejected.

D-DAY + 1

WHAT CAN WE OFFER NSAA NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS?

TANGIBLE (Something one can touch and or participate in)

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

INTANGIBLE (Remote, but still fostering Camaraderie and connection)

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

Notes:

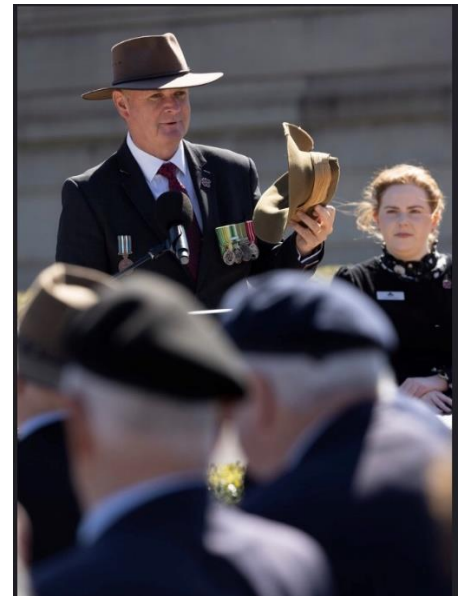
1. Will our current R and B's, and our SA registration as an association, allow us to reform with a small (X # person management group) + individual interstate members, be recognised as a Nationally recognised body by the Federal Government and relevant Departments e.g. DVA?

End of Annex 2

Annex 3 – Photo Gallery



The NSAA National Council Delegates, Observers and Guests 5/9/2024



National President Ron Brandy welcoming guest speaker Karen Cain --- NSAA National Patron Matt Anderson PSM with his Nasho father's slouch hat.



Point your smartphone camera at this QR code to connect to the AWM photo repository.