



NASHO NEWS

New South Wales

A PROUD MEMBER OF
THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

DECEMBER 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to start by expressing my sincere thanks to all members and their families for the support received in the past year. Special gratitude goes to the executive committee for their commitment and dedication under what can only be described as unnecessarily difficult circumstances. Please keep in mind you committee is voluntary and their efforts are rewarded by satisfaction only.

A very special thanks to our Patron Ray McCann and National Treasurer Carl Adams whose advice and support was paramount, both were generous with their time despite demanding schedules.

The life blood of any organisation is feedback on what we need to do more and better. We have had some feedback however it mostly centres on communication yes, we do need to do better in this area and hopefully this coming year will see an improvement.

We were successful during the year in recruiting new members we welcome them and thank them for their support. We remember those members who passed during the year and are also mindful of those who are sick and in hospital.

Wherever you are celebrating this season make sure you keep yourself, your families and your mates safe.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Norm Mallard



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

THE NEW NSAA PATRON

Dr Brendan Nelson AO has accepted the NSAA invitation to become its new Patron.

He has retired as the Director of the Australian War Memorial a position he has held since December 2012.

Dr Nelson is a medical doctor by profession and came to public prominence as the Federal President of the Australian Medical Association in 1993.

He was a member of the House of Representatives from 1996 as the Liberal Member for the seat of Bradfield in North Sydney.

He served as Minister for Education, Science and Training and Minister for Defence.

Following the defeat of the Liberal Government in 2007 Dr Nelson was elected leader of the Liberal Party and became the Leader of the Opposition. In September 2008 in a spill motion he lost the leadership of the Liberal Party to Malcolm Turnbull. In August 2009 he announced his retirement from politics.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in September 2009 appointed Dr Nelson to the position of Ambassador of Australia to the European Union as well as Australia's Special Representative to NATO.

Dr Nelson resigned as Ambassador in October 2012 to take up a position as Director of the Australian War Memorial.

The National Servicemen's Association first contacted Dr Nelson in 2007 when he was Minister for Defence, we sought support from him for the National Service Memorial. The National Executive has maintained an excellent relationship with him since that time.

OFFICIAL CALL ON THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

During the visit to Canberra for the National Council Meeting in September the President and members of the National Executive made an

official call to Government House to meet Australia's new Governor General, His Excellency David Hurley AC DCS. In a private meeting he expressed his pleasure to meet with the members. Among many topics discussed the National President raised with him whether he would accept an invitation to give an address on September 8th, 2020 marking the 10th anniversary of the Dedication of the National Service Memorial at the Australian War Memorial. His Excellency indicated his interest in being the Guest of Honour.

David Hurley was born in Wollongong NSW the son of an Illawarra steel worker and his mother worked in a grocery store. He grew up in Port Kembla and attended Port Kembla High School. He joined the Australian Army in 1972 graduating from the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1975 into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. As a dedicated young officer, he rose to command the 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment during operation Solace in Somalia in 1993.

He is a graduate of the US Army War College in 1997 and commanded the Australian 1st Brigade 1999/2000 supporting the Australian led operations in East Timor. He held several senior positions within the defence force. In a long and distinguished 42-year military career his service culminated with his appointment as Chief of the Defence Force.

Prior to being sworn in as Governor General he served from 2014 to 2019 as the 38th Governor of NSW.

NATIONAL COUNCIL GUESTS

Mr Don Spinks AO Repatriation Commissioner DVA

Mr Spinks had only recently taken up this position after a long and distinguished career in the Australian Army he outlined to the meeting the work of the commission for present and past servicemen and women including national servicemen. That service becomes more important each year as more and more reach the 70s and 80s.

He told members of the council that the needs of modern warfare had increased the demand of the nation for services to those who have been

wounded both physically and mentally. Any war without a front line where the enemy can be part of the general populace puts additional strains on servicemen and women. The Repatriation Commission had widened the scope of its services to meet these needs. The meeting was exposed to a range of current and proposed updates, changes and new services provided by DVA. Mr Spinks admitted the task ahead for change is daunting but believes it will be achieved for the better.

Council members raised the question of those Nashos who did not have active service. He replied that the commission had been and was aware of this and has been included in its forward planning as national servicemen of both eras aged. He pointed out that those with active service had priority, but all servicemen and women were entitled to appropriate services.

Warrant Officer Don Spinks was born raised and educated in NSW; he enlisted in the Australian Army January 1979 and on completion of his basic training he was posted to the Armoured Corps. During his career he achieved and was promoted through all the non-commission ranks eventually becoming Warrant Officer Class One and appointed RSM to several units within the Armoured Corps including service with Operation Slipper Iraq and Multinational Force Sinai. In 2007 he was awarded the Medal for the Order of Australia for meritorious service to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and the Multinational Force.

In 2015 he was appointed to one of the most senior position in the Australian Army "Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of the Army". He joined the Dept of Veterans Affairs in July 2019.

Mr Spinks expressed appreciation for the structure and achievements of the National Servicemen's Association.

Professor John Blaxland BA MA PHD PCS, Professor of International Security and Intelligence Studies at the Strategic Defence Centre at the Australian National University told the National Council members. The best insurance for a nation is preparedness or quoting an old African proverb: "Speak softly but carry a big stick. You will go far." He went on to say. Australia is in an unstable part of the world and should plan its defence forces

accordingly. He showed a compelling audio-visual presentation with considerable detail relating to a geostrategic analysis of Australia's Strengths Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, these were graphically explained and covered both internal and external challengers. The outcome of the analysis and challengers creates some concern for Australia's security. It was pointed out how deficient and vulnerable we are in some areas. Professor Blaxland has been an adviser to the Government on these matters.

As one of the consequences of these studies he has developed and recommended to Government a scheme called the "Australian Universal Scheme for National and Community Service" he outlined this as a proposal for a modern form of National Service to meet our future increasing defence needs. It was briefly explained as a call up programme to include military service, emergency service, and community service of choice.

He sought support from our Association to lobby communities and politicians to encourage consideration for such a proposal.

Professor Blaxland said Australian governments needed to be aware of regional sensitivities but also the need for increased self-reliance including not taking the alliance with the U.S. for granted.

Mr Ian Davenport

Mr Davenport is Secretary of the Far East Strategic War Memorial Foundation he provided information on moves that are underway to build a Memorial at the Australian War Memorial to honour all those who served in the Malayan Emergency in the 1950s and 60s and the Confrontation with Indonesia in Borneo during the 1960s.

Ian outlined the background to the Malayan Emergency against a communist insurgency which had lasted from the late 1940s to the 1960s and the Indonesian Confrontation in Borneo in the 1960s in which in both conflicts 66 Australians including two Nashos lost their lives with several hundred National Servicemen having participated in both Malaya and Borneo. Sapper John Blackett was the first National Serviceman to serve in a combat zone with 21 Construction Squadron. Royal Australian Engineers in Borneo during 1965. The following year many more Nashos were

posted to Malaya and Borneo.

The meeting was given details of the proposal to build a memorial to all those who served and died during this emergency and made the point that little is known of this deployment as it is overshadowed by the Vietnam conflict.

He sought and received overwhelming support from the council members and the Association.

THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Foundation has been established to award scholarships to undertake research and to seek remedies in a wide range of physical and mental disabilities.

The foundation continues to work with health providers to identify needs and projects. Recently the foundation funded a partnership grant to a Centre for Innovation in Mental and Physical Health for a project known as "Depression Assist." The foundation's contribution feeds into the centre's ability to seek and secure further funding. Foundation management continues to seek support from Branches and Sub-branches, a recent initiative by the Brisbane North Branch resulted in a considerable donation. Members are to be congratulated on their efforts.

The Foundation management believes it would achieve greater success if the Association was seen to be speaking with one voice.

An analysis of all the NSAA State and National Websites by an IT expert showed them to be disjointed and contradictory and lacking worthwhile and common information. A proposal has been put forward for a stronger and assured future to review the Foundation, National and State websites with the view to positioning all our organisations with a common brand and each telling the same story, this would be a modern consolidated network. Proposed funding from DVA grants and other sponsor support, estimated time frame twelve months from Council approval. Council has endorsed the project to proceed to the next stage by March 2020.

2020 CANBERRA REUNION

The 10th anniversary of the dedication of the National Service Memorial at the AWM in Canberra falls on the 8th September 2020. The proposal is to conduct a short march within the grounds of the AWM followed by a commemorative and wreath laying service at the National Service Memorial with all the pomp, ceremony and pageantry. Following the service, it is proposed to conduct a major barbeque for all those attending. The date has been reserved and a formal proposal submitted to the War Memorial to conduct the event. Other activities will include a dinner on the evening before the ceremony to include all those persons who were involved in the planning and development of the memorial. It is also suggested that States could conduct their own reunion get-together the same evening.

A special guest list is being developed to include all those special guests that attended the dedication in 2010. Every Sub-branch nationally will receive an invitation. However, it should be noted this is an event for all National Servicemen and their families and friends not just for members of the association.

A promotional campaign is being prepared and should be available about February 2020.

NSW BRANCH NEWS

Membership Renewal documents for 2020 have been sent to sub-branches, each member will be required to complete a renewal form and submit to your sub-branch, they will process the document and forward to State office who will produce a membership card and return to Sub-branch it is anticipated this could take up to two weeks.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To all Association Members. Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting and Election of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia NSW Branch Incorporated will be held on Saturday 29th February 2020 at the Mittagong RSL Club commencing at 9.30am.

Business of the meeting will be:

- To receive and endorse the minutes of the 2019 meeting and consider matters arising from those minutes.
- To receive and consider reports from Executive Management.
- To receive and consider Auditors Report.
- To elect by ballot State Committee of Management positions vacated in accordance with the Election requirements of the Constitution.
- To propose the appointment of an Auditor.
- To propose the re-appointment of honorary positions.
- To deal with any other business as required by members.

Nomination form for elected positions is attached and is to be lodged with the Returning Officer no later than February 15th, 2020.

Mail to the Returning Officer, PO Box 6187 Long Jetty NSW 2261.

Any Sub-branch or member wishing to have matters placed on the agenda please advise the Secretary before February 15th.

nashosecretary@optusnet.com.au

Activities associated with the AGM include a Meet and Greet get together on the evening before the meeting on Friday 28th February in the Mittagong RSL Club commencing at 6.00 pm. At 9.00am on Saturday before the AGM commences a short Commemorative Service and Wreath Laying will be conducted at the RSL Memorial adjacent to the club. Following the meeting on Saturday a Dinner will be held at the club with the ladies also a lady's sightseeing tour will take place on Saturday 29th February. Accommodation is available at the RSL Motel next to the Club.

For more detailed information on any of these matters including booking accommodation please contact Norm Mallard on 4868 2468 or 0419 682 444.

STATE COMMITTEE CHANGES

It is with a degree of sadness that we advise the retirement from the State Committee of two of our long time staunchest and dedicated members.

Mr David Taylor

David has been associated with the NSAA NSW since its formation in 1996 and at one stage was elected to the position of State Vice President. However due to also being elected to the position of President of the Epping RSL Club he did not seek the position of NSAA President and it went to Ron Brown, a decision he now regrets. We wish David all the best with his future endeavours.

Mr Col Hulme

A long time and dedicated member of Tweed/Murwillumbah. Col has held almost every position in the sub-branch over many years and has decided he will just sit in the back row and not rock the boat. Good luck Col we miss your good advice and wish you well.

SUB-BRANCH NEWS

MID-STATE

Advised their memorial at Bathurst Cemetery will undergo stage two of its development as soon as grant money is available. A service will be conducted in Orange to commemorate National Servicemen's Day in February.

TWEED/MURWILLUMBAH

Indicated their support for the 10th anniversary reunion in Canberra September 2020 by arranging a coach for members to travel to Canberra they have also offered to pick up any members who need transport on their way south.

TUGGERAH LAKES

Have been successful in recruiting several new members and despite having lost some members during the year have increased their membership. Their Treasurer reports finances are in good shape. They are also planning to take a coach load to Canberra in September 2020.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Report that 2019 was a good year for them all their aims were met including recruiting new members and they look forward to an even better year in 2020. Presently several members have been kept busy organising the forthcoming State AGM in Mittagong.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

VETERAN'S CARD

The Australian Veterans Recognition Bill was recently passed through Parliament providing to Veterans through Department of Veterans Affairs a Recognition Card, a Lapel Pin and a Certificate outlining the Covenant. These items must be applied for online through DVA @MYSERVICE or Phone 1800 555 254. There have been reports of some members receiving the incorrect lapel pin with Reservist shown on it instead of Veteran. This is because you did not say "yes" to the question on the form. "Have you performed "Permanent Military Service". Under the Act National Service is considered Permanent Military Service. If the wrong pin has been supplied email a request for the correct lapel pin to vetscard@dva.gov.au.

FROM NASHO TO VC RCEIPIENT

Few would know that there is one Nasho who received the VC Peter John Badcoe was born as Peter John Badcock on the 11th January 1934 in Adelaide South Australia. He was educated at the Adelaide Technical High School and gained employment as a clerk with the South Australian Public Service. In 1952 he was called up for National Service and served with the 16th National Service Battalion at Woodside SA Following his initial training he held ambitions to join the Australian Regular Army and did so by enrolling as an Officer Cadet at the Officer Training Centre at Portsea Vic. At which time he changed his name from Badcock to Badcoe. He graduated 19th in his class and was Commissioned a 2nd Lt into the Royal Australian Artillery. Following promotions and many different postings within the army, in 1966 he was assigned as a Major to the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV).

In February 1967 Badcoe rescued under heavy fire a USA Special Medical Advisor. The following month March, he led his Company in an attack that was certain defeat he turned it into a victory, then in April he again led his Company against an even more powerful opposition. This final act of bravery resulted in his death. For these "three acts of heroism and outstanding leadership" between February and April of 1967 he was posthumously decorated with the Victoria Cross. He is buried in the Terendack Military Cemetery in Malaysia.

2020 MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that renewal for next year's membership is due on the 31st December but can be paid up until the 31st January. All documents relating to renewals have been forwarded to each sub-branch. Fees must be paid to your sub-branch.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Lexophile describes those who have a love of words, such as:

- you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish.
- to write with a broken pencil is pointless.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went and then it dawned on me.
- a thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- a will is a dead giveaway.
- he had a photographic memory, but it was never fully developed.