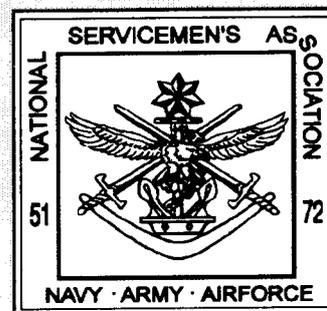


NASHO NEWS



No. 5 - January 1993
BRISBANE SUB-BRANCH

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas with their families.

Ruth Williams has presented the Brisbane sub-branch with a Memorial in honour of her late husband and Nasho, Rowland.

The Memorial Award is an 1972 15 inch long Naval shell, the projectile and base is made of cedar. The award will be known as "The Rowland Williams Memorial Shell". The recipient of the shell will have their name engraved on it and will hold the shell for 12 months. They will also receive a replica to keep.

To be eligible to win this honour you must be a Nasho or next of kin who has achieved something of importance past or present. The committee of the day will select the recipient and present the shell at our annual dinner dance. Rowland passed away on 2nd December 1991 and served in the Army.

WE WILL REMEMBER HIM

All our members should have received an invitation to our inaugural dinner dance. This is

an idea of the committee to bring our members together and to meet fellow Nashos.

We hope to have two main functions each year, ANZAC Day and the dinner dance. The dinner dance is for members and their friends, and our advertisers and welcome also.

Make up a table and send back the RSVP to Peter before 10 February.

The manager of the Annerley Motor Inn has offered 20% discount to any Nasho wishing to stay at his Motel on the 20th February. The Motel is only 5 minutes from the Club. For bookings ring free call 008 777 840 or 890 1500. 591 Ipswich Road Annerley. I hope all members from the north and south coast will take up this kind offer.

Our Brisbane Sub-Branch now has a Patron. Nasho racing car driver and businessman, Dick Johnson. I hope to have more information in our March newsletter.

Don't forget our Bar-b-que Sunday 31 January at Southbank, Picnic Island. I'm looking forward to meeting up with old mates at the dance or the meeting.

KEN COATS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our last meeting was at Southbank on 29 November 92. Some members had trouble finding the Bar-b-que that Ken had squatted in since 0600 (myself included) so the next Southbank meeting (31 January 93) will be held on Picnic Island directly opposite the Ship Inn.

Our raffle has been an outstanding success. A few tickets have come back unsold but they have been generally re allocated so it looks as if all the tickets will be sold.

See you all at Picnic Island 31/1/93.

TONY WALLIS

They also serve who only stand and wait.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A lot has happened since the last newsletter.. I only just made it through the Festive season but its now back to work. I would like to thank all those people who supported our raffle. With your help and generosity we grossed \$640.00 which will keep us running as a financial Association for members.

Thanks again form me and the Executive.

The lucky winner was Mr Craig Wainwright of Wishart, ticket no 418. Congratulations Craig. I hope you had a great stay at Surfair, David Low Highway, Sunshine Coast, Ph. 008 800 910.

How's that for a plug.

I have lots of people interested in our new Polo shirts. Because of all the hassle and bustle of December the shirts won't be available till late January or early February, but I haven't forgotten about you.

A reminder to members that membership fees are now due for 93.

Please fill out renewal application provided or photocopy and return to the Secretary.

PETER RYAN

RECOLLECTIONS OF AN AIRFORCE "BOD" BY A116103

As a former nasho who never fired a shot in anger and one who was routinely not allowed anywhere near live ammuniton, except on the firing range, I feel a bit embarrassed to claim kinship with the fellows who did the hard, dangerous work in Vietnam. May those who survived, live long and happily.

I was conscripted into National Service Training Unit 14, RAAF Base Amberely, for the duration from July to December, 1955, the second last intake before the scheme was abandoned.

Nothing about my service was either hard or dangerous, if one excepts an occasion when I was next door on a firing mound to another ACR (Aircraftsman Recruit) whose Thompson sub-machine gun had a triple feed and sprayed projectiles and bits of cartridge case all over the place out of the exploding breach.

(It's a mystery how anybody in battle ever hit anything with a Tommy gun. The short-barrelled, .45 calibre weapon had a nasty habit of rising upwards in a right hand arc when fired. I was rarely able to hit a Man Two target at 20 paces but, then , I flunked Bren gun, also, so I may be untypical).

When called up for national Service, I applied

for the "riff-RAAF", because airforce "bods" got their service over and done with in one six months stint, compared to Army types who did three months and then weekly parades and annual camps for two years.

I wasn't very happy about my marble dropping into the frame - not that I was opposed to "duty to God and the Queen" but because I had a good job and a promising career ahead of me.

My employer made up the difference between the pittance paid to Nashos and my working wage, over the entire six months. You would go a day's march to find such an employer theses days.

Upon reflection, the National Service scheme operation in the Fifties was not overly successful, if its purpose was to build a reserve of finely-hones troops who could be called upon in an emergency.

Very little could be taught in the six months. I was trained in aerodrome defence, after failing to qualify for pilot training at Archerfield. Something about having no sense of balance and chronic vertigo.

"Aerodrome defence" involved a lot of parade ground drill; bush-bashing; weapons training (Lee Enfield; Bren; Thompson and Mills bomb); and

BRISBANESUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:

KEN COATES (07) 277 8905

VICE PRESIDENT:

JOHN SINCLAIR (074) 484 388

SECRETARY:

TONY WALLIS (07) 209 1259

TREASURER & EDITOR

PETER RYAN (07) 345 2285

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

IAN WIGHT (07) 341 4237

KYM O'ROUKE (07) 355 2622

LEO WHITE (07) 349 2921

National Servicemen's Association of Australia MERCHANDISE

Plaques:	\$25	Pocket Patches:	\$ 8
Beer Coolers:	\$2.50	Badges:	\$ 7
Aluminum Coasters:	\$2.50	Polo Shirts:	\$25
T Shirts	\$15		

* These prices include postage.

*All items will be available to buyers at our general meeting.

159 CHILTON ST 2
SUNNY BANK HILLS 4109:

watching the odd World War 11 training film on subjects such as field camouflage. The films were designed for European conditions and, therefore, totally useless to a soldier who might expect to have to fight in tropical jungles.

It's curious what one remembers after nearly 40 years. I still remember the serial number, E33162, of my Lee Enfield .303 rifle, a 1914 model with heavily scarred stock and other wooden parts. I used to wonder if it had seen service in Flanders, or North Africa or on the Kokoda track and what happened to its previous owners. The .303 was heavy and cumbersome and slow in operation, but lethal. We were told it could kill at a mile's distance.



The author (left) helps load Thompson magazines at Greenbank firing range August 1955.

There was a lot of what seemed to me, at the time, to be pointless regimentation and discipline. It took a few more years of growing up for me to realise that the object of services discipline and "yes sir, no sir, three bags full sir" is to get people to do what they are told, instantly and unquestioningly, in battle. The instruction in discipline, including self-discipline and co-operation with others, has done me no harm and, indeed, a great deal of good throughout my life.

The intake was a mixture of larrikins, layabouts, malingerers, raving bloody ratbags, people who wanted to get their service over and done with as quickly as possible, without getting into any trouble, and "conshies".

"Conshie" was the derogatory name given to Nashos who took their service very, very seriously. A "conshie" was the bloke who, on a unit exercise to run, walk, jog or crawl five miles in under an hour in full battledress, was back at base in 45 minutes - 30 minutes before the rest of us.

A 'conshie' was the bloke who, although not a sycophant, was first to stick up his hand to volunteer for some not-highly-regarded assignment.

Everybody professed to dislike "conshies" but

I think we all respected them, privately, for having more of "the right stuff" than the rest of us. They are probably amongst those blokes who charge gun emplacements to save their mates.

I enjoyed my National Service, but I doubt it was any use to Australia. Had I been young enough in the Sixties to be sent to Vietnam, I would not have lasted a week, given the training I got. This gives me an empathy with those later Nashos who did get sent to Vietnam, probably with little more training than I had.

Nevertheless, a revamped National Service scheme would not be a bad idea, in these unfortunate times of high employment and directionless youth.

Of course, this proposition would meet with the strident opposition of do-gooders, civil libertarians, misguided pacifists and others who are out of touch with the real world and particularly with potential pressures on our nation for the economic needs of other nations within our geographic region.

In my last month of National Service I was 'excused duties' to help write and edit our intake's souvenir magazine, for which I wrote a rather pretentious editorial concluding that Australia should always "be prepared"

I have recently re-read that editorial and, disregarding its immaturity, still think that "Be prepared" is a good motto for Australia's defence policy. I would say that, at the moment, we are ill-prepared.

I send my best wishes to all those Australians who have had bullets, cannon shells and other ordinance fired at them in defence of our country. They are the salt of the earth.

I would be ecstatic to hear from any other member of NSTU 14, RAAF Base Amberley, who might read these ramblings.

Phone (07) 398 4175.



Photo provided by John Anderson (right) with friends, two mates from Warwick and his sister Ann at a dance 1954.

VIETNAM & LOGISTICS SUPPORT MEDAL

Her Majesty The Queen, has approved a new medal for the Australian personnel who served in support roles in the Vietnam Campaign.

The Medal is intended to provide different, separate and appropriate recognition for those who played a different, separate but essential support role in Vietnam. It will be the same shape and size as the existing Vietnam Medal, but with a distinctly different ribbon which will distinguish it in a readily visible way.

THE QUALIFYING CRITERIA FOR THE NEW AWARD - WHICH IS A FORMAL AWARD WITHIN THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM - WILL BE:-

Service of 1 (one) day or more as a member of the crew of a ship or aircraft operating in the prescribed area of operations of Vietnam in support of Australian forces; or service of 1 (one) day or more within the prescribed area of operations of Vietnam while attached to a unit or organisation in support of Australian forces.

AUSTRALIANS WHO BELIEVE THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE NEW AWARD SHOULD CONTACT:

RAN: Dept. of Defence (Navy Office)
Russell Offices
Canberra Act 2600

ARMY: CARO
GPO Box 1932R
Melbourne 3001

RAAF: Dept. of Defence (Air Office)
(DPA Records)
Russell Street
Canberra ACT 2600



MIKE MATTHEWS CARPETS

Suppliers of Carpets and Vinals to the
* Building Trade * Commercial * Domestic

MILTON BURGIS

HOME BASE CENTRE
Cnr Zillmere & Gympie Roads
Zillmere Qld 4034

Phone: (07) 263 8742
Fax: (07) 263 3687

ADVERTISING SECTION

BUY THAT ~~WAT~~ A
NASHO

POWER'S



DOUG McMILLAN WORDS & PIX

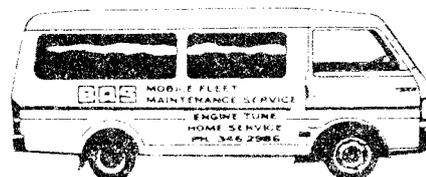
DESIGN - PHOTOGRAPHY - TYPESETTING - PRINTING
for all your:

- * BUSINESS CARDS
- * REPORTS
- * BROCHURES
- * FLIERS
- * OFFICE STATIONERY
- * MANUALS
- * NEWSLETTERS
- * CERTIFICATES

10% DISCOUNT FOR NSAA MEMBERS

42 VERGULDE ROAD
BROWNS PLAINS QLD 4118
Phone & Fax: (07) 800 2651

Mobile Engine Home Tune



B.A.S. BREAKDOWN FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- ★ BREAKDOWN AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE
- ★ VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SERVICE
- ★ COMPANY FLEET MAINTENANCE
- ★ BRAKE RELINES
- ★ POPULAR RANGE OF BATTERIES

30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
MEANS SATISFACTION ASSURED

ALL SUBURBS
345 2986

38 NEWCOMBE ST., SUNNYBANK HILLS