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Front Cover

The Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal
Geoff Shepherd AO with State
President, Colin Bell (left) and Bob
Cotter of the National Servicemen's
Branch of the RAAF Association,
after the Laying Up of the RAAF
Ensign in the Wacol Chapel on
11 February 2007.

EVENTS AND TOURS

There's a big program this year,
so don't miss out.

See FALL IN on Page 4 for
details and
BOOK EARLY.

Official NSAA Merchandise

Beret	\$26.50
Beret Badge	\$ 5.50
Caps	\$17.50
Coffee Mugs	\$ 9.00
Lapel Badges	
Association	\$ 5.50
Tri Service	\$ 6.50
Navy	\$ 6.50
Army	\$ 6.50
RAAF	\$ 6.50

MEDALS	Unmounted incl Ribbon	Swing Mounted	Court Mounted
Full size single (either ADM or ANSM)	18.00	22.50	27.50
Full Size mounted as duo (ADM & ANSM)	36.00	45.00	55.00
Miniature single (either ADM or ANSM)	12.00	16.50	21.00
Miniature mounted as duo (ADM & ANSM)	24.00	33.00	42.00
Association Medal Commemorative Full Size	25.00		
Association Medal Commemorative Miniature	18.50		
Dual Ribbon Bar (ADM & ANSM)	9.00 (Covered)		

Silver Hat/Beret Badge	\$20.00
Nasho Port	\$13.50
Nasho Necktie	\$33.50
Pocket Patch	\$ 9.00
Polo Shirt	\$31.00
Polo Shirt - XXXL	\$35.00
Chambray Shirt	\$36.00
Chambray XXXL Shirt (Long & Short Sleeve)	\$39.00
Wall Plaques	\$42.50
Stubby Holders	\$ 5.50
Wacol Videos	\$15.00
50 Years Video	\$20.00
Number Plate Covers	\$22.00

Plus postage and handling

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RAAF ENSIGN LAID UP IN WACOL CHAPEL

The RAAF Ensign was marched in and laid up in a solemn ceremony at the National Service Heritage Chapel to mark National Service Day.



The hand-made silk flag, with gold fringes, is the gift of the National Servicemen's Branch of the Royal Australia Air Force Association.

It honours the 23,500 young men called up for service in the RAAF between 1951 and 1957. Of them, 4,000 were Queenslanders.

The Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Shepherd AO (right) and senior officers from Amberley Air Force

Base attended the service. The Amberley Brass Band provided the music and the No2 Wing Precision Drill Team of the Australia Air Force Cadets formed the Guard of Honour.

Air Marshal Shepherd later opened the Air Force Display in the Everyman's Hut, which will form the first stage of the National Service Museum.



CEREMONIAL ENTRY



The President of the National Servicemen's Branch of the RAAF Association, Bob Cotter, who also is Brisbane South Branch President of the NSAA, carried the Ensign in. He was escorted by four Cadets.

After kneeling at the altar, Mr. Cotter presented the Ensign to the Association's State Padre, Dr. Noel Wallis, who draped it on the new altar table, blessed just before the Service. The RAAF Association's Chaplain, Father Paul Goodland, then blessed the Ensign.

A FIRST IN THE RESTORED CHAPEL.

The RAAF Ensign is the first of three to hang in the Chapel representing the three Services. **Mrs. Anne Cooke, wife of our Patron, Major-General Kevin Cooke AO, read the Ode.** She represented RAAF families. Her uncle, Flight Lieutenant Bill Michelson, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in Korea.

Apart from the altar table, the Chapel's pews have been refurbished and new ones built. They bear plaques honouring the Branches who donated them.



The walls of the Chapel are decorated with a collection of Army unit patches, bullion embroidered badges and the Australian Coat of Arms and a ship's-wheel clock in memory of the late Tony Ward.

Temporary air-conditioning made conditions comfortable in the high humidity.

(Left) The Chief of Air Force chats with Pilot Officer Sharon Macintosh, OIC of the No.2 Wing Precision Drill Team of the AAFC.

The new pews can be seen in the background.

Earlier, the Air Marshal received a General Salute from the No.2 Wing Guard.

He then inspected it accompanied by its Commander, Warrant Officer Anna Murphy

Nashos, most of whom had formed similar Guards, catafalque parties or taken station on Memorials, watched with an interested and expert eye.





The State President, Colin Bell, watched by Air Marshal Shepherd and our National President, Earle Jennings, presented an RAAF flag to the No.2 Precision Drill Team on behalf of the Association. The unit has provided Guards of Honour at most of the NSAA parades and services.

A large group of National Servicemen and their families joined with the official guests in the Laying Up ceremony and the service that followed. They then inspected the Air Force Display which was designed by the State President and built with hundreds of voluntary man-hours. The large collection of RAAF photographs were mounted by the Association's own team of framers.

The Association plans to open the Museum to the public, particularly school-children, when it is completed.



EVEN THE BOSS HAS TO SAY 'YES MUM'

The Chief of Air Force brought his own special guest with him – his mother, Mrs. Margaret Shepherd, of Ashgrove.

Air Marshal Shepherd grew up in Brisbane. His commands included No.82 Wing at Amberley.

The Association was delighted when she requested to attend the ceremony. Then our Media Officer had the rare privilege of telling an Air Marshal a command that not even the Air Force's CO could disobey – his mother would like a photo with him.

We reckon she's proud of him.

In his monthly report afterwards, the Air Marshal praised the dignity and organisation of the ceremony. He said he was impressed with the National Service Heritage Precinct and paid tribute not only to Air Force Nashos but all National Servicemen for their contribution to the nation.

FALL IN

This year – 2007 – will be a big one in Nasho history.

You have a wide choice of major events and reunions between now and the 20th Anniversary celebrations in Toowoomba in October.

Our advice is **BOOK EARLY** by phoning HQ on 07 3324 1277 or using the booking form in this issue.

ANZAC DAY

Wednesday, 25 April 2007 – Brisbane Area arrangements. All members, wives, partners and friends are invited to our ANZAC Day activities.

MARCH: Starting from 1000hrs. Assemble in Charlotte Street between Albert and George Sts

Unit number 143 in parade order (look for the Nasho Banner)

LUNCH: No lunch has been organised – Branches are making their own arrangement

Please telephone our office for any extra details on 3324 1277 or the Secretary 5428 2627

Open Mon, Tues, Thu & Fri 0900hrs to 1300hrs or leave message on answering machine

Any person who is incapacitated and needs to ride in a jeep rather than marching please contact the office before Thursday 12th April to enable arrangements to be made.

Transport to and from Camp Hill has been arranged and will leave the Camp Hill Head Quarters at 0930hrs for transport to the Parade. It will leave the city (from the bus stops in Eagle Street between Queen and Elizabeth Streets) at 1200hrs.

Please book your seats by phoning the Office on 3324 1277.

RAAF WREATH LAYING AND DINNER

Members of No 23 (City of Brisbane Squadron) who have fallen in both war and

peace will be commemorated in a wreath laying ceremony at Anzac Square at 1000hrs on Thursday, 3 May 2007. Her Excellency the Governor, the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Shepherd AO and the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Cr.Campbell Newman will attend.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

No 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron, 70th anniversary gala dinner Celebrating Four Squadron Anniversaries will be held on Friday, 4 May 2007. with the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Shepherd AO; the Director-General of Reserves – Air Force and other specially invited guests

The venue is the main auditorium Brisbane City Hall: Assemble 1900, Seated by 1930, Festivities cease at midnight. We will have special visitors -members of No. 600 (City of London) Squadron AuxAF. Dress: Officers and SNCOs – summer mess kit. CPLs and below – long sleeve shirt and tie Civilians (Male) – dinner or lounge suit Ladies) – evening wear. The partners and guests of members most welcome Full medals to be worn with long sleeve shirt and tie Miniatures to be worn with mess dress or suit Gala Dinner Tickets:- \$25.00 per person

Available from SGNLDR Dennis Deering (Project) Mob: 0411 393 161 or CPL Robyn Hunt (Supply Sect.) Ext. 12815

RESERVE FORCES DAY

The Reserve Forces Day march will be on Sunday, 1 July in Adelaide Street, Brisbane. There will be a memorial service first at the Shrine in Anzac Square at 8.40am. The parade will step off from the corner of Adelaide and Creek Streets at 10.00a.m. Look for the National Service banners.

NOUMEA

Nashos will have the rare honour of leading the Bastille Day Parade in Noumea on 14 July. The cost for air fares and 3 to 4 star accommodation from 8 to 15 July is under \$1,500.

You will have to buy your own meals. Apart from the march, there will be a reception at Government House, plus sightseeing. It's filling fast, so ring Joe Hodgson on 3349 6185 or Tony Stevenson at HQ on 3324 1277 now. **Don't forget – the dress is blue or black blazer, blue or white shirt, NSAA tie, black shoes and slouch hat. Forget any of them and you will be watching the march from the footpath.**

NEW ZEALAND

We will be visiting New Zealand from 2 to 12 September to attend the annual reunion of our Kiwi counterpart, the Compulsory Military Training Association at Ashburton, near Christchurch. The cost per person for air fares, accommodation and meals is under \$2,000 depending on whether you wish to visit the North or the South Island or both. Spring in New Zealand will be like Melbourne and Tasmania – it can be cold and wet so don't forget the woollies. Ring Tony Stevenson on 3324 1277 today.

THE 20TH BIRTHDAY BASH

The big event is the 20th anniversary bash in Toowoomba.

On 27 November 1987, the late Barry Vicary formed the National Servicemen's Association of Australia to seek a better deal for all Nashos. Today the Association is the second largest ex-service organisation after the RSL and we're celebrating Barry's vision.

We'll kick off on 17 October with a Civic Reception by the Toowoomba City Council. Thursday the 18th there will be a Day tour. In the evening, there'll be a star-studded Concert at the Empire Theatre with Normie Rowe – a fellow Nasho – Little Pattie, Wally the Worker and John Schumann and the Vagabond Crew.

On Friday the 19th there'll be a day tour. The Delegates' meeting will begin at 9a.m. at the Empire Theatre. That evening there'll be a Concert at the Empire theatre with Normie Rowe, Denise Drysdale and Frankie J Holden.

On Saturday, the 20th of October there'll be a day tour. The State Conference will begin at 9a.m. at the Empire Theatre and the General

Meeting at 1:30p.m. That evening, there'll be the Big Birthday Bash

On Sunday, 21 October, there'll be the march and service at the Queensland National Service Memorial in Mother's Park. A Picnic in the Park will follow. There's already huge interest so book today on the enclosed form.

FLAG BURNING

The current issue of RSL News carries a column item that the Queensland Branch of the National Servicemen's Association opposes the criminalisation of the burning of the Australian flag.

This is totally incorrect. RSL News did not check this claim with the NSAA before publishing it. Our Branch believes that burning of the flag as a protest should carry a conviction and a heavy penalty. We do not agree with the Federal Government's view that this would simply give protestors more publicity.

The Branch decided to mount a campaign through all Federal Members and Senators to support moves by Bronwyn Bishop to ban burning of the Australian flag.

MAORI LAMENT

A traditional chant for those who have died, particularly in war.

Te mamae nei a te pouri nui

The great pain we feel

Tenei ra e te tau

Is for you who were our future

Aue hoki mai ra kit e kainga tuturu

Come back, return home

E tatari atu nei ki a kou tou

We have waited for you

Nga tau roa

Through the long years

I ngaro atu ai te aroha

You were away

E ngau kini nei I ahau aue taukuti e

Sorrow aches within me

INDIGENEOUS NASHOS

The N.S.A.A. has begun a project to document the story of indigenous Nashos.

It's not often realised that Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and also Pacific Islanders were called up in both the first and second National Service schemes.

This is despite the fact that the Aborigines and Islanders were not included in the national census until the referendum of 1968 was overwhelmingly carried by all Australians.



Three of them were 1/709367 Len Anning, of Tolga, on the Atherton Tablelands who did his National Service at Wacol in the 3rd Intake of 1953; 1/728726 Kenny Dalton, of Ipswich, who was in the 16 Platoon, 3rd intake of 1958 and 1/709359 Eddie Watkins of Cairns.

Len was in 28 Platoon of F Company (above, left) and returned to A Coy of the 51st Battalion (right) In 27 Pl at the same time were Cairns Aboriginal Nashos Eddie Watkins and John Williams. Eddie (and his wife Pat) attended last year's State Conference and marched in the parade in Brisbane.

Kenny Dalton returned to 28 Field Squadron at Ipswich. He later joined the Regular Army and served with the Artillery. In 105 Battery of 5 Field Regiment. He was assigned to the same bed in the same hut at Wacol as he had during his National Service.



Aborigines and Islanders served in both World Wars in all three Services as well as in Korea and Vietnam. **(Left, Torres Strait Islander Nashos and veterans who marched at Mackay on Anzac Day 2006)** The Torres Strait Island Light Infantry Battalion served in World War Two. C Company of the 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment (51 FNQR) was established in the Torres Strait in 1987 as a Regional Force Surveillance Unit (RFSU) responsible for sovereignty patrols in the Torres Strait.

Aborigines are members of similar units in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. The Association would welcome any information and photos about indigenous National Servicemen for inclusion in our Museum being developed at the National Service Heritage Precinct at Wacol.

FALL OUT

One of the major causes of death and injuries amongst our age group is from falls.

Your Editor can testify to that having just broken two ribs and a wrist slipping and falling down the back steps in the wet. I was careless and didn't turn the light on first. I can vouch that broken ribs take a long time to heal.

The second major cause of injury is falls from ladders – 83 Australians, mostly men, have died in falls from them in the past five years. Thousands more have been injured, some seriously, while using a ladder for home repairs, renovations or gardening type tasks. It's not only blondes who can get dizzy.

How many of us observe the Golden Rule of never using a ladder without someone else present. Fall off and who's there to call for help if you are seriously injured?

CHECK IT FIRST

These are the simple safety rules:

- Always check the ladder first for warping, rust, corrosion, missing rivets, loose or cracked rungs or damaged hinges
- Place it on dry, firm and level ground
- Keep the ladder clear of power lines and exposed electrical wiring
- Keep the foot of an extension ladder well out from a wall.
- Never use a ladder alone – have someone hold the base.
- Never climb right to the top rung

Another major source of injuries is falls in the bath. Check the water temperature first. Your bath should have a grab handle, a non-slip mat in the bottom and a non-slip mat on the bathroom floor when you step out. Never use the vanity basin or a shower curtain as a hand-hold. Either could be slippery or give way and you will measure your length one day.



When we're young, we think we're 10 feet tall and tough as nails.
But as we get older, it dawns on us that no one lives forever.
That's why we should all be prepared for the future
by pre-arranging a fixed price funeral with
your preferred funeral director, Metropolitan Funerals.
You'll save money, protect your pension and ensure your funeral
goes the way you want.

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THE NASHO BOOKSHELF

Two new books have been released dealing with war and service from different viewpoints.



Queensland's retired Governor, Major General Peter Arnison AC CVO (centre) launched '*Artillery Units at Kelvin Grove – A Tribute to their Guns and Gunners*' at the Kelvin Grove Urban Village Community Hub on 22 February. Major-General Arnison highlighted that this was not only a story of the Australian Gunners during the 20th Century, but also included Defence policies and reorganisations that had taken place in the 1900s, and anecdotal touches which gave the book a personality.

In response, Colonel Arthur Burke OAM (Retd) (to Major General Arnison's right), the

editor, publisher and part author thanked the many people who had given freely of their time, memories and photographs to flesh out a topic which has not previously been published. The book details eras dating from the development of the barracks in 1915 through both World Wars and the post-war period including both National Service schemes until 1988. It also covers the Royal Australian Band from 1954 until 1988.

It is 50 pages with a solid colour cover, and is available from the Gunner Signallers' Club, c/- 312 Webster road Stafford Heights Q 4053 for the cost of \$6 post included.

VIETNAM THROUGH NASHO EYES

The basic difference between Regs and Nashos in Vietnam was not how they came to be there, because both basically had a choice, but that the Nashos weren't after a job. On their part, when it came to action, the Viet Cong didn't care about the distinction.



Sunshine Coast author, John Cunningham has just released a fictionalised account of his own experiences during the social upheavals of the late sixties

Drawing honestly upon his own memories and the moving correspondence with his sweetheart during his tour of duty in Vietnam, John evocatively captures the raw emotions of the Vietnam recruits – his mates. This results in a compelling tale that is both powerful and intimate. An eye-opening account of the effects of the callous ballot system that summonsed young Australian recruits to the Vietnam War – '*The Way the Dice Fall*'.

Jack is a nineteen-year-old public servant when he is drafted. He becomes one of the 'Intrepid Five', Rocco, the charismatic entrepreneur, the sagacious Mick, Biggs the perennial joker and the enigmatic Hugo. Together the mates embark on a journey through the jungles of Vietnam and the seedy bars of Vung Tau, along the way discovering the meaning of loyalty and hypocrisy.

The Way the Dice Fall is a story of mateship, courage, larrikinism, sacrifice and self-discovery. It evokes a time in Australia when opposition to conscription and the Vietnam War was growing and the Anzac legend was under threat. You can get it from any good bookstore as an A5 paperback, 254 pages rrp \$26.95 or from Zeus Publications at www.zeus-publications.com/



BRANCH NEWS

Edited by Fred Petersen

Under the Privacy Act, details including birthdays, illness and hospitalisation cannot be included in Branch News without the person's consent.

Closing date next issue is Friday 2nd March/folding date 23rd March

To all branches! Nasho News would like to run articles on the memorials that have been placed by branches to commemorate National Service. Send us a coloured photograph preferably of an activity at the Memorial and a short story of 50 words.

BAYSIDE BRANCH (Meeting: 3rd Tuesday 1900hrs Manly-Lota RSL Hall)

President Ken Edwards was re-elected unopposed for another term at the Branch Annual General Meeting on 27 February.

Former State Treasurer, Neil Freier, was elected as Vice President and First Aid Officer. The Secretary, Allen Callaghan, stood down due to pressure of other National and State Association commitments and Leo Solinas was elected as his replacement and as Emergency Liaison Officer. Allen will continue as Media Officer and Editor of Sea Company. Maurie Friend was re-elected Treasurer and Doug Holpen as Merchandise and Equipment Officer. Brian Sheehan was elected to the Committee.

BEAUDESERT (Meeting: 1st Monday even numbered months 1030 hours. Venue: Beaudesert RSL.)



Our A.G.M. was held on Monday 5th February with 54 attending. After the reports State Vice/President Alex Garlin conducted the election for the 2007 Committee, Russell Hartley was re-elected President, Roy Turner Vice/President & Doug Eisentrager Secretary. Our Patron Major General W.B.[Sandy] Thomas [ret] CB.DSO.MC*.ED. Silver Star USA, has agreed to continue as our patron.

Photo Members at Warwick gathering

At the following general meeting it was passed that our branch donates \$1500.00 to the National Memorial Fund. Our branch was well represented at the National Service Day Ceremony at Wacol with 25 attending. Four of our members attended a working bee to help prepare for this event. We were also represented at the Toowoomba Branches service at the State Memorial.

On Sunday 25th February 35 of our members and 5 Ipswich West Moreton Branch members travelled to Warwick for an inter/branch visit where we were made very welcome by their president Cliff Farrell and his committee. After morning tea at their RSL Club president Cliff and his committee joined us on the bus and conducted an extensive tour of Warwick and surrounds. Cliffs' commentary on the tour was excellent. We then returned to their RSL Club for lunch and fellowship. After lunch we completed our tour of Warwick and returned to the RSL to farewell our friends from Warwick and Ipswich before returning home. Many thanks to Warwick Branch for giving us such a great day out. We have other inter/branch outings planned for later this year, to Ipswich West Moreton Branch on Sunday 20th May and to the Gold Coast North Branch on Tuesday 18th September.

BRISBANE WEST (*Meeting: 1st Sunday each month 1030 hours. Venue: Darra Cementco Bowls Club.*)

We celebrated the Fourth birthday of our branch on Sunday 3 February after our first meeting for 2007 at the Darra Cementco Bowl Club with a small number of invited guests who along with the members that were present had a good time. We have come a long way since the branch was formed in February 2003 and we are very proud of our achievements and it is all thanks to the members and also to the people who have supported us over the years.

Our members had a great time at the heritage precinct at Wacol on Sunday 11 February and a good day was had by all who attended on the day and it was a special moment when the RAAF Standard of the 50's was laid permanently in the precinct chapel. We would also like to pass on a special thank you to the workers on the drink and food stalls as it was a very hot day and their help was very much appreciated and they did a great job. The branch president Peter Zeller and secretary Bryan Bennett had the honour to be at Amberley on Saturday 27 January to witness the cadets of 2 Wing AAFC from all over Queensland parade on the tarmac of 38 Squadron at their graduation parade and it was great to watch the cadets go through their paces especially the march past and the number of cadets involved is growing each year. The cadets of the AAFC 2 Wing Precision Drill Team are to be highly commended for their duties carried out by them on 11 February as they done themselves and the AAFC proud as they carried out their duties as the honour guard for the visiting dignitaries. The Cadet Warrant Officer on the day was presented with the RAAF Standard in appreciation for the duties they performed for the Nasho's on the day as well as what they have done in the past. The presentation was carried out by the State President. On a sad note it was with regret that our founding president Vince Gott passed away in early January and a service was held in Ipswich which a number of the members attended. Vince was our Inaugural President when the Brisbane West branch was formed on 5 February 2003 at Forest Lake

BUNDABERG (*Meeting: 2nd Saturday each month 1330 hours. Venue: Bundaberg RSL*)

The December outing at the Baldwin Wetlands Picnic shed was very well attended as usual and the companionship was enjoyed by all. A number of small raffles helped to defray the costs and all the winners were pleased with the results.

After the December meeting the Christmas Hamper Raffle (our major fund raiser for the year) was drawn and the two Prize winners were notified by phone as soon as they could be reached and were certainly very pleased with the result. Both came from the Childers area.

Our January meeting was attended by the usual 24 members and 4 special guests, Pat Hooper and Brian Cunnington representing the Leukaemia Foundation and Trevor Tuesley and Kevin Silcox representing the Prostate Cancer Support Group, both local groups were the recipients of cheques from the proceeds of our annual raffle. It is very pleasing to see that the raffle is providing an excess of funds for our requirements, members will be deciding how the remaining funds are used. Pat Hooper (Leukaemia) gave us a talk on how the money will help provide accommodation for Families near the Hospital when patients are being treated. Trevor Tuesley (Prostate Cancer) spoke about how the funds will help the local patients suffering from Prostate cancer.

The next outing was a BBQ held at The Baldwin Wetlands Picnic Shed from 11.00 AM on Thursday 15th February. This was our celebration of the National Service Memorial Day, instead of a Formal function. The meeting was conducted by The Vice President (President John had to attend his Grandson's Graduation in Brisbane) and members were piped to the shelter shed by a kilted piper. All present enjoyed the festivities and some members were fortunate enough to win the raffles, the main prize being the BBQ knife set donated to the Branch.

The next meeting, 10th March, is also the AGM and will be attended by State members who will officiate at the handover to the incoming committee. This will be followed by the official monthly social gathering with drinks and nibbles.

CAIRNS (*Meeting: 2nd Thursday each month 1815 hours. Venue: Cairns RSL.*)

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 8th February 2007 and saw the following executive committee appointed President/Welfare Officer Fred Cave; Vice President Allen Dean; Secretary Shane Davies; Assist. Secretary Brian Huey; Treasurer Brian Smith; Merchandising Officer Bruce Humphreys; Committee: Pat Galwey, Ted Davies, John Wallwork/Editor Nasho News; patron Kevin Byrne. Scrutineer for the night was SMC representative John Hardy.

Our Bunning's fund raising sausage sizzle held on the 20th of January was an outstanding success. Some 48kilos of sausages were devoured in four hours. Help given by four lady supports was greatly appreciated. After weeks of rain, fine weather greeted us as we paid our respects to our fellow NASHO'S at our National Servicemen's Day held on Sunday 11th February. The solemn service attracted some 60 NASHO'S, friends and dignitaries.

The address was given by Cr. Jeff Pezzutti, representing the Cairns City Council and Captain Shirley Spooner of the Salvation Army Corps carried out the blessing and dedication duties. Camaraderie followed at the RSL, where all enjoyed the light refreshments provided.

CORAL COAST (Meeting: 2nd Sunday each month 0930 hours. Venue: Bowen RSL.)

Our first gathering was held at Buglers Bistro at the RSL on January 18th when 27 members and supporters gathered for a delicious meal. These gatherings are growing very popular and we try to go to a different venue



each time. On the 11th February, 28 members and supporters attended the first meeting of the year which was followed by the AGM, presentation of reports and election of officers for the coming twelve months. No surprises in the election of officers with Andy Warnes being voted back into office as President, together with Ron Sanderson and Terry Hansen as Secretary and Treasurer. Rex Darwen staying as Vice-President. All other officers - Merchandise Officer, Social Director, Editor/Publicity Officer and Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer being the same as before. A sad note was added to the meeting with the news that our Padre, Father Fred Black had passed away the previous day. Fred was in bad health for some time, but always put on

a brave front, being the true gentleman that he was. He will be sadly missed but always remembered. He was buried on Nasho Day with a RSL funeral and there were representatives from the regiment of his son Trevor who was killed while doing his National Service in Vietnam in attendance as well as representatives from Legacy. Fred was made an honorary Padre of Trevor's regiment and was a guest at all their reunions, the last one being in Perth last November. On a wickedly hot day, there was a good representation of Coral Coast Nashos at both the Church and graveside.



For the first time, Nashos Day was commemorated here in Bowen by the Coral Coast Nashos. The inaugural service was held at the Anglican Church with Fathers Keith Dodds and Brian Germain being leaders for it. After the flag procession into the church, readings were given by the ministers followed by prayers and singing of the National Anthem. President Andy then spoke of the significance of the day and about National Service schemes in the 1950's and 1960's and early 1970's. He

extended a welcome to visitors 2nd Lieutenant Roan Taylor of the 31st Regiment, Bruce Lawrence representing Bowen RSL, and Dave Thicker representing the SES. The flag recession completed the service after the playing of the Last Post, recitation of the Ode and the playing of Reveille. Miss Diana Bond from Bowen High School played the Bugle beautifully for the occasion. Fourteen Nashos and ten supporters attended and gathered at the Anglican Hall for a cuppa afterwards. Mark Steen, son of one of our members provided the sound equipment and Mary Kelly organist and wife of Bob



another member provided the music.

DALBY (Meeting: 1st Saturday Bi-Monthly 1100 hours, Venue: alternately Miles/Dalby/Chinchilla RSL's)

The Dalby & Western Districts Branch Nashos held their AGM at Chinchilla RSL Memorial Club on 3rd February. There was only two changes with Doug Schmidt elected as Vice-president and Graham Callow as a committee member. Our branch has been looking into having an Honour Board for the past twelve months and were very pleased that it had been completed for the February meeting. This Honour Board will be hung in the Dalby RSL Memorial Club. Because of the Easter weekend our meeting will be put back to 14th April at Miles RSL Sub-Branch rooms with a social lunch to follow at the Australian Hotel. All members and supporters welcome.

DARWIN (Meeting: 2nd Tuesday each month, Venue: Darwin North RSL Club)

Copy for the next Nasho News from Darwin and District, Also attached is the poem that was read out at the close of the commemoration service.

That can be published as well.

We have had a very busy couple of weeks. On February 18 we had a sell outing at the East Point Military Museum selling ANZAC memorabilia, we were having a good day till it rained about 3pm. On Monday Feb 19 it was the commemoration of the bombing of Darwin in 1942, there were over 2,000 people there and it was a very moving service

Last but not the most important was our AGM which Queensland President presided at. We thank him for making himself and his wife Carol available for this. We also today March 1 move into our new office at DARWIN NORTH RSL in Batten Rd Marrara. As yet we haven't a phone connected or a mail box, this info will be passed on as soon as we have it. Ivan Walsh Darwin and District Publicity Officer



GOLD COAST SOUTH (Meeting: Bi-monthly 1000 hours, Venue: Twin Towns RSL.)



It has been a great start to 2007 for our Branch with one of our best-ever guest speakers at our first meeting and then our annual golf day at Chinderah providing a great social and sporting outing for about 50 members and supporters. Ted Barnes as always had everything under control for the eager golfers - he even managed to stop a downpour of rain minutes before we were due to tee off and not one of us felt even a drop of rain during the round. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Brian Vickery was in full command as guest speaker at our January meeting, with tales of his 22 years in the Regular Army, highlighted by the two years he was in charge of a brigade of Gurkhas in Hong Kong and Borneo. Born in Murwillumbah when his parents own a banana plantation on Mt. Warning and now living in Kingscliffe, Col Vickery touched upon his National Service in 1966 and his time spent serving in Vietnam with the 9th Battalion RAR. President Don described Col Vickery as the best speaker the branch has had at its meetings "and consensus is we want him back." He spoke mainly about his two years with the Gurkhas and it seem they are a bunch of soldiers you would like to come against - although Brian did acknowledge that the Aussie soldiers he served with were the "best of the best." Col Vickery has co-authored a book about the final years of the 9th Battalion RAR which he donated to the Branch. It's a great read on the Battalion's time after it returned from Vietnam at the end of 1969 until its colours were "laid up" in 1973 when it was linked with the 8th Battalion as 8/9 RAR. The 9th Battalion included

many Nashos and thanks to Brian our Branch has a copy that can be passed around. This book 'Proud to Serve' continues the story of its re-formation at Enoggera, its training and preparation for a second tour in South Vietnam and the impact of the Federal Government's decision to withdraw from military operations there.



HERVEY BAY (Meeting: 3rd Wednesday each month 1900 hours, Venue: RSL Hervey Bay)

Members of the branch and their partners celebrated National Servicemen's Day with a BYO /BBQ Luncheon at Shelly Beach. Although the weather was very unkind including heavy showers 9 stalwarts braved the conditions and enjoyed the outing. Our AGM was held on Wednesday 21st February, the following executive was elected: President Graeme Hartland, Vice President Trevor Ingram, Secretary Trevor Ingram, Treasurer Ric Craven, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Marlene Hartland, Welfare Officer Graeme Hartland. We are looking forward to another successful year as many of our current members and their wives regularly attend our meetings and social activities.

INGHAM (Meeting: 2nd Tuesday each Month 1900 hours, Venue: Herbert River R.S.L.)

After last year 2006 and the ravages of getting over

Cyclone Larry the members of our branch were able to muster up for Nasho Day this year with a service at our memorial. (editor - great to see)



IPSWICH AND WEST MORETON (Meeting: 2nd Thursday each month at 1900 hours, Venue: RSL North Ipswich.)

The Ipswich & West Moreton branch have had another very successful year 2006 and we have plans to make 2007 even better with another mystery bus trip and sausage sizzle in the pipeline. A visit from the Beaudesert branch is planned for May. Members also attended the service at Wacol on Sunday 11th February, and also attended the Toowoomba branch memorial service on Saturday 17th February. On Sunday 25th February members from Ipswich met up with Beaudesert and Warwick members at Warwick for a social get together. An enjoyable day was had by all who attended.

Our AGM on 8th February was well attended by members. Once again it was a pleasure to have our Liaison Officer Tony Steveson and his wife Beverley attend. The branch had no changes for 2007 except for electing an assistant Secretary with Kevin Keys elected as president, Laurie Reigos vice president and Noel White Honorary Secretary/Treasurer and Brenda Edwards assistant secretary.

MACKAY (Meeting: 4th Monday each month 1730 hours, Venue - North Mackay Bowling Club)

For local members and visitors, please note that our venue is now North Mackay Bowls Club and not the RSL as in previous meetings with the time and day as above.

REDCLIFFE (Meeting: 4th Wednesday each month 1930 hours, Venue - Redcliffe RSL)

Our first BBQ for the year has been held. A large number of members and supporters enjoyed the camaraderie. Our 4th March BBQ is planned at Dekker Park, Brighton. We are planning to travel to different locations for future BBQ's in the months ahead. Our first bus trip has been arranged for Thursday 29th March, cost of trip \$20. We travel to Colmsie Reserve for morning tea, then proceed for a tour of the Port of Brisbane Authority. We will have lunch at Redlands Sports Centre (cost - \$1 1.50 per person). Following lunch we can visit the Redlands Historical Museum (\$2) or visit local sights. A 34 seater coach has been hired - a few seats remain at the time of printing report. Contact 32840828. Our AGM for 2007 was held at Redcliffe Rsl on 28th February.

As President, I ask all Redcliffe Nashos to support our branch. Some positions were not filled at the meeting. Our 2007 incoming executive is as follows: President Barry Scarborough, Vice President George Hints, Secretary Joe Fenech, Merchandising Officer Brian McLady, Padre Fr Phil Stewart, Welfare Officers Fr Phil Stewart, W. Lindsay, D. Keightley, Barry Scarborough, Bus trip Co-ordinator Bob Rex, Raffle/BBQ Co-ordinator R. Stewart, Meeting Delegates T. Fitzgerald & Barry Scarborough, Christmas Dinner co-ordinator D. Keightley, Memorabilia Sales co-ordinator Barry & Bernice Scarborough. Positions not filled Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. Have a great 2007, Redcliffe Nashos: support your Branch and your new Executive.

REDLANDS (Meeting: 1st Sunday each month at 1000 hours at Redland RSL, Cleveland)



At our Annual General Meeting on 4th February, well deserved awards were presented to Ian Gray and Rolf Bruce by State President, Colin Bell. The attached photo shows Colin Bell, Rolf Bruce, Ian Gray and Redlands President Col McLean. Ian was awarded "The Meritorious Service Award" for outstanding contribution to the Redlands Branch over the last five years and his strong commitment and expertise in managing our Welfare Fund \- raising Events, the sale of NSAA items as Merchandising Officer and carrying out the role of Liaison Officer with the Cleveland RSL. This award provides Ian with NSAA(Qld) Inc. membership until the year 2050. Rolf received Life Subscriber Membership for his

commitment, dedication and efficiency in the roll of Minute Secretary for the Redlands Branch over a period of four years. At the AGM the following Officers were elected: President Col. Mclean, V-President Geoff Marshall, Secretary David Sallows, Treasurer Joe Hodgson, Welfare Officer Bruce Reedman, Merchandise Officer Ian Gray, Social Organiser Colin Thompson, Development/Membership Les Warner, Committee Members Evan Edwards & Barry White.

On Sunday 11th February a contingent of our members were at Wacol for the blessing of the new altar and the laying up of the RAAF standard. We congratulate the committee members and volunteers for a well organised morning where we were able to enjoy the fellowship of other Nashos.



Please Note our new postal address: P.O. Box 1228, Cleveland 4163.

SOUTH BURNETT

The Branch Committee was re-elected at the AGM attended by 40 members on 10 March. A sub-committee will organise the reunion to be held in April-May 2008 at Murgon. A bus will take members to Woolooga for Anzac Day this year. The bus and bookings for the 20th anniversary in Toowoomba in October this year is full. A bus trip is being organised to see the Miles Historic Museum. Joe Petersen, Media Officer.

TABLELANDS (Meeting: 1st Sunday each month at 1030 hours at Rocky Creek War Memorial Park Nasho Shelter.)



Branch members travelled to both Cairns and Innisfail to participate in the remembrance of our fallen comrades at the observance of National Servicemen's Day on 11 and 18 February. The presentation of Australian Defence Medals to both Tableland and Innisfail members was the highlight at Innisfail.

Because of the inclement weather, the memorial service was held at the Warrina Lakes recreation area and was supported by Innisfail, Tableland and Cairns Branch

members. Other military support was provided by 51st Battalion FNQR and 107 Squadron AAFC. Community groups such as Australian Red Cross and Innisfail Laurel Club were also present. State National Service President, Colin Bell acted as guest speaker. Following the service and lunch, the Hon Bob Katter MP, Member for Kennedy presented 16 Australian Defence Medals to the Wet Tropics and Tableland constituents



that have recently received them from the Federal Government. One was presented posthumously to Margaret Collins, widow of Innisfail RAAF National Servicemen Herb Collins, who passed away recently. The day concluded with the presentation by Colin Bell to the Innisfail Branch with their charter lost last year in Cyclone Larry. Branch President, Phil Pearce accepted the charter on behalf of the members. Following our Branch

AGM on 11 March, a donation of \$1,000 was made to the Mareeba based ASDOGS (Association of Australian Assistance Dogs (NQ) Inc.) to be used for the training of one of their dogs. Our Branch was given the naming rights to the golden male dog and a NSAA cloth patch was fitted to the dogs training jacket.

TOOWOOMBA (Meeting: 1900 hours Venue: Irish Club Hotel)

A contingent of thirty Toowoomba Nashos were joined by six Nashos from Dalby & Districts and two from Gatton in attending the Nasho's Day at Wacol Precinct on 11th February. Members enjoyed the hospitality provided and witnessed the presentation of the RAAF Ensign for hanging in the Chapel. At least two Toowoomba Nashos had a RAAF connection. After the service, members viewed the impressive RAAF display bringing back memories to many. Members participated in fellowship with many friends - and made many more - and enjoyed the delightful lunch.

On the 17th February at the State Memorial, Toowoomba Nashos held a service to commemorate National Servicemen's day. Around 100 Nashos partners and friends attended along with Nashos from Beaudesert and Redlands. Wreaths were laid by President Leo, Mayor Di Thorley and the Federal Member for Groom Ian MacFarlane as well as by kindred organisations and citizens.

Branch Padre, Matthew Weatherley conducted the service, with music by the Harlaxton RSL Brass Band and the Lament played by piper Garry McKinnon. Ensign bearers were provided by Naval, Army and Air Force Cadets. Bugler Mr. Edger Kemp played the Last Post and Rouse while President Leo recited the Ode. Gordon Meiklejohn was MC for the ceremony. With Toowoomba Branch AGM scheduled for 13th March, there are three nominations for the position of President with the incumbent President Leo Camm indicating he would not be nominating. Rifle shooting continues to be a favourite pastime for some members with Les Robinson and Bill Ison continually producing impressive scores. Terry and Pat McGovern have planned a mystery bus tour for 18th March starting at the Milne Bay Military Museum. There has been an excellent response from Nashos and friends. A good day is assured.

PADRE'S CORNER

EASTER EGGS OR BUNNIES?

Why is it that almost seventy years later I can still connect Easter eggs with the Christian message of the event? Maybe because I like chocolate but I believe it is more than this. I was never keen on the Easter bunny concept not that I do not like bunnies, in fact, I do but as a child I could never link the bunny with the eggs left in my straw-lined basket. Surely, it was the Easter hen (chook) who laid them.

You see even then I realised that new life came out of eggs for we had a fowl run like most homes and I saw the miracle happen. That's most likely why early Christians linked the Easter story, especially the New Life part, with the Easter Egg. Easter is two-fold: the Crucifixion and New Life and both are still gifts. (Dr) Noel Wallis



LAST POST

1/710100	Bourke Thomas	Wacol 1st Intake 1954
A27634	Burling Ronald Kenneth	Richmond Sept 1952
A112065	Collins Herb	
1/702834	Gott Vincent	Wacol 2nd Intake 1952
1/700538	Grant Desmond James	Wacol 3rd Intake 1951
1/727804	Gunn William Donald	Wacol 2nd Intake 1958
2798070	Hargreaves William Edward	Kapooka July 1971
	Killen Sir James	Complimentary Member 12 Jan 2007
A114241	McFarlane Keith	Amberley Dec 1951
1/707432	Winters Douglas	Wacol 2nd Intake 1953

THEY SERVED AUSTRALIA

MEMORABILIA

The National Servicemen's Association has begun collecting photos, documents and memorabilia for the National Service Museum at the National Service Heritage Precinct at Wacol. The first stage, the Air Force Display, was opened by Air Marshal Geoff Shepherd on 11 February. We already have the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Museum in residence. Our aim is to document National Service in the Navy, Army and Air Force and its predecessors including the militia and the Reserves. So don't throw out those old photos, parts of uniforms, documents, books and so on. Give us a look at them first. Contact HQ on 3324 1277.

NASHO NOTICEBOARD

Got a reunion planned? Looking for an old Nasho mate? Want to get information on anything? This is your page . . .



BADGE SALES

State Secretary John Brosnan (right) presents Association plaques to Jillian Peacock and Edward Kelly to thank the Brisbane Turf Club for its ongoing permission to sell badges at its track to raise funds for the NSAA's welfare fund.

Anzac Day is coming up and your branch needs YOU to help sell badges. Remember, the money you raise may help you one day in sickness or emergencies. It only needs a few hours of your time for what is a very pleasant and worthwhile contribution to your fellow Nashos.



Graham Clayton of 86 Haigslea-Amberley Road Walloon is looking for an old mate, Graham Fox, from 16 Pl D Coy in the 2nd intake of 1959 at Wacol. There are many who probably are looking for Graham himself – his father Chic Clayton was the barber at Wacol together with Graham and Trevor Melat. Most of us thought Chic actually was a shearer...

PLATOON REUNIONS:

B COY 3RD INTAKE 1957 RE-UNION

If you were a Nasho during 3rd intake at Wacol in 1957 and are interested in a 50th year reunion to take place in Brisbane in October, contact Joe Hodgson or Ian Gray of the Redland Branch P.O.Box 1228 Cleveland Qld. 4163 Phone: Joe Hodgson 0412 88 22 42 or Ian Gray 0407 730 600 email: noeline@austarnet.com.au or ian.gray@optusnet.com.au

16 Pl D Coy Wacol October 1957. Mal Seigmeier would like to hear from anyone interested in a reunion. Phone 4933 3609

Walker – The NSAA has been given a wheeled walker in good condition. It's available for loan to any disabled Nasho. Ring HQ on 3324 1277

NASHO DAZE

– By Ron Parsons





Aboriginal National Serviceman, Len Anning, of T olga (centre, front row) was one of the recipients of the Australian Defence Medal at a combined T ablelands-Innisfail Branches ceremony in February. The Association is researching the story of indigenous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nashos as well as Pacific Islanders for inclusion in our new National Service Museum at Wacol. See story on Page 6. Coincidentally, the man presenting the medals, the Federal Member for Kennedy, Bob Katter Jr. (right), whose family is of Afghan descent, was formerly Minister for Aboriginal and Islander Affairs in the Queensland Government.

Printed by Monoset Printers & Typesetters Phone 3205 4277 Fax 3881 1826

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOC

(QUEENSLAND) INC. NEWSLETTER
 PUBLICATION No. P.P. 444963/000003
 P.O. BOX 7014 HOLLAND PARK EAST
 QLD, 4121



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