



NASHO NEWS

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUST (QLD) INC.



Issue No 86 – 20TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE – October 2007

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Front Cover

From small acorns... The first march of the newly-formed National Servicemen's Association of Australia in Toowoomba on Anzac Day 1988. Our founder, the late Barry Vicary, is in the light blue suit between the Nashos in the brown suit and the blue safari suit. The Association still has the banner and will parade it in Toowoomba on 22 October.

Navy Memorabilia and Photos

These are required for the Service and Dedication to be held next February

Date 10 February at the Wacol Chapel
Photos would be appreciated before Christmas for reproduction. This is becoming an urgent project and it requires all Navy Nashos assistance.

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	\$39.00
(Long & Short Sleeve)	
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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TWENTY YEARS ON



This photo is the birth certificate of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia.

On November 28 1987, the late Barry Vicary (second from the right in the front row) and a group of Nasho friends met in a Toowoomba park to form the NSAA.

They were Vietnam-era National Servicemen who had served in Australia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. Barry, the inaugural President, was seeking a better deal for them including health and housing benefits and a medal recognising their service.

With him in the photo are members of the first Committee including Bill Morris (just behind Barry), who is a member of the State Management Committee of the Queensland branch; the late Dennis Connon, the first Secretary and Ken Coates (later President). Barry, a landscape contractor, died suddenly in 1991 of a heart condition leaving his wife Mary and eight children. The Queensland Branch's inaugural Patron was racing car legend, Dick Johnson, a former National Serviceman.

WIDENING THE ASSOCIATION

Strangely, the founding Committee didn't know about the first and five times larger National Service scheme until the Queensland State Padre, Dr. Noel Wallis, applied to join. Barry immediately widened the Association to include the 1950s Nashos.

There had been a small Ex-National Servicemen's Association in Rockhampton. They declined to merge with the NSAA but allowed the new organisation to use their badge with some changes.

Don Richards, the first South Australian President, refined the badge by replacing the Federation star with a Crown; placing the tri-service badge over a map of Australia and re-arranging the wording. Ironically, the Defence Department refused to allow use of the Federation star, even though Nashos had served in all three forces yet the Australian National Service Medal uses the star above the tri-service badge.

The initial badge was red, but each State Branch was allowed to choose its own colour, hence the pale and dark blue badges. The National lapel badge, however, has always been dark blue

South Australia was the first State Branch outside Queensland, formed in 1993 with Don Richards as President. This branch was made up almost entirely of first-scheme Nashos. The first Victorian Branch was formed at Mildura on 31 October 1993, with Bill Crosbie as President. He became State President with the formation of the Victorian Branch on 27 November 1994. The New South Wales Branch was formed on 24 September 1995 with Michael Skewes as President. The West Australian Branch was formed on 22 November 1996 with Oliver Lovelle as President. The Tasmanian Branch was formed in February 1997 with Ian McDonough as President. The Northern Territory Branch was formed in July 2005 with Bob Crowell as President.

The NSAA has several unusual features. The Queensland Branch technically is a sub-branch of the founding Toowoomba branch; the Victorian branch technically is a sub-branch of Mildura and New South Wales of Broken Hill.

The South Australian branch was formed independently and learnt a month later of the Queensland branch. On September 1994, the first interstate meeting of South Australia (including the Broken Hill sub-branch), Queensland and the Mildura sub-branch elected Don Richards as President. In 1996 the first meeting of full State Branches elected Barry Presgrave as National President. Barry was followed by John Sargent, Hugh Williams and Earle Jennings.

Barry also has the unique distinction of being the only National Life Member – this honour for service to the National Association is to be replaced by a new award honoring Barry Vicary.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

The first national event in which the Association participated was the entombment of the Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 11 November 1993. The invitation meant that National Servicemen and the NSAA had been officially recognized. South Australia, Queensland and Broken Hill participated. Similarly, in 2001, National Servicemen were invited to form a contingent in the Army's Centenary Parade in Canberra.

Although the NSAA was founded in Queensland, it was South Australia that moved for incorporation and that is why the National Association is registered in that State. Due to the independent formation of State branches there was no uniform Constitution and each State retains its own. Queensland is the only State that restricts voting rights to National Servicemen.

From Toowoomba, the NSAA has spread Australia-wide and now is recognised by the Federal and State Government, Government departments, the media and other ex-service organisations as the voice of a major segment of the ex-service community. This has resulted in the award of the Australian National Service Medal in 2001 recognising the contribution National Servicemen made to Australia's defence effort for three decades and the Australian Defence Medal in 2006.

The Australian War Memorial now has given the Association a prime site on the right hand side of the main entrance for the National Service Memorial honouring the 212 Nashos who died on active service in Borneo and Vietnam. The Federal Government has contributed \$150,000 towards the cost for the Memorial expected to be dedicated by 2010 or 2011.

We haven't yet got the health and housing benefits Barry and his inaugural Committee sought, but you never know in the next 20 years.....

WHY AN ASSOCIATION?

by Major-General Kevin Cooke, AO, RFD, ED, Rtd. Patron.

Kevin Cooke's distinguished career began as a Lieutenant in the CMF in the same year as the first National Service intake – 1951. He commanded National Servicemen in the CMF and then in the regular Army in Vietnam. He became our Patron this year.



I have been asked to pen some thoughts commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia in Queensland. This "birthday" is a significant milestone and well worthy of comment and analysis.

When Barry Vicary, Dennis Connon and their colleagues took the first steps to bring together a group of former National Servicemen in 1987, they could have had no idea just how that embryonic organisation would blossom from an informal gathering of "old soldiers" around Toowoomba and Brisbane in two decades to become the strong, national association it is today.

Two principal questions come to my mind:

1. why do ex-servicemen more than any other part of the community seem to have a need to gather in groups?
2. why have an association that is special to former National Servicemen

Those who have had no military service will never be able to properly answer the first question. They will never have shared the wonderful experience of comradeship that military service brings or have enjoyed the mateship that flows every day from being with others who can be relied upon for every need, ranging from life saving actions to just a friendly word and every other element in between. No equivalent can be found in civvie street. **Alex Garlin (right) and Navy Nashos in 1954**



It should come as no surprise, therefore, that ex-servicemen, having discovered a significant vacuum in their lives after putting aside their uniforms, would look for another organisation that can, at least to some degree, restore those feelings of which they have been deprived. Logically, that can only occur with other ex-servicemen who understand and share those same sentiments.

NASHOS – IGNORED OR DERIDED

Why then, this National Servicemen’s Association? It is a sad fact that the Australian community at the relevant times did not treat its former National Servicemen as it should or grant them the recognition they deserved – at least until after too many years had passed and much pressure was applied.

Those who were part of the 1951 - 59 scheme were by accident of history not required to perform the active military role for which they were enlisted and trained. It is not often remembered that Australia was under threat and they were called-up and trained to form the bulk of the new 3rd AIF.

Their service gave them no medals or other awards and the RSL would not grant them full membership. It was as if they had never served at all. Then those who were in the 1965 - 72 scheme were treated shamefully by large numbers of their fellow countrymen, the RSL, politicians and the Regular Army. Most of these offenders now admit to their unforgivable behaviour and have made some attempts to make up for earlier neglect. When the Association was formed there was really no where else for former National Servicemen to gather when they could associate with others who had the same background and experience. Hence the understandable motivation to form the Association which not only filled in some emotional gaps but was also a body able to campaign for rectification of those previous wrongs. Without the National Servicemen’s Association I doubt if the substantial “apologies” that have been forthcoming would ever have been achieved. The drive, initiative and self-help that characterised them when in uniform again came to the fore. A photo that could have been in any Nasho intake whether it be Navy ,



Army or Air Force. This one was at Greenbank Army camp during a field exercise. Many young men who had never been away from home before nor done any household duties let alone washing, ironing and sewing quickly learned the basics. It laid the foundations for self reliance but even more importantly for the teamwork and mateship that matters in any fighting force.

VIETNAM MUSEUM OPENED

The second stage of the National Service Museum at the Wacol Heritage Precinct was opened during the service on 17 August marking Vietnam Veterans' Day.

It tells the story of National Servicemen as part of the Australian Army in Borneo, Vietnam, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Australia between 1965 and 1972.

Of the 64,000 called up, 212 died on active service – two in Borneo and 210 in Vietnam.



The Deputy Commissioner (Queensland) of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Ms Alison Stanley (with State President Colin Bell and our Patron, Major-General Kevin Cooke AO), performed the opening after giving the Address at the Memorial Service in the Chapel.

Ms Stanley told the congregation that the Department believed it administered, on behalf of the nation, a debt of honour to the ex-servicemen and women who had served Australia in World War Two, Malaya, Korea, Borneo, Vietnam and now Afghanistan and Iraq. She also paid tribute to National Servicemen who had served honourably and well when their nation asked it of them.

The display includes documents, photographs, equipment and relics of the Vietnam era donated by Nashos. The entrance is in the form of the rear hatch of an Armoured Personnel Carrier which was one of the symbols of the Vietnam War.

NAVY STANDARD

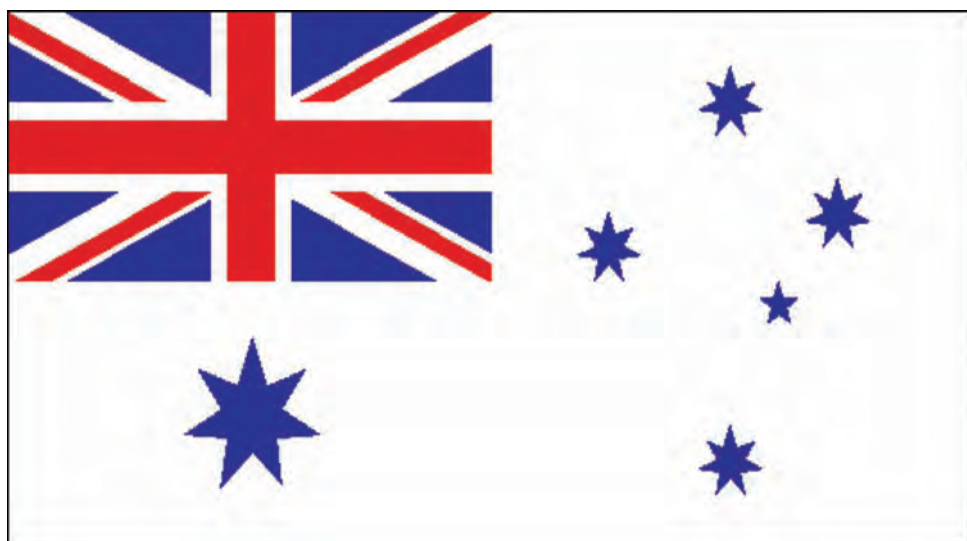
The Royal Australian Navy has taken action to solve a protocol problem for the National Service Heritage Precinct at Wacol.



It has applied to the Royal Navy in the UK for a Naval Ensign bearing the red cross of St. George to lay up in the Chapel on National Service Day in February next year. The Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Russ Shalders AO CSC RAN has been invited to be the Guest of Honour and to give the Address at the rare ceremony. The protocol problem has arisen because Navy regulations require that the Ensign can only be raised and lowered by Naval personnel and that on parade must be escorted

by an armed Naval party. However, this can only be done with the current Ensign which has the Southern Cross in blue on a white background.

The NSAA pointed out that Navy Nashos, like all Naval personnel before 1967, served under the previous Ensign and sought permission to lay this up. The application to the Royal Navy is the solution. The NSAA also has applied for a Naval Bofors gun for display with its turret, at the Wacol Heritage Precinct. The last Bofors was fired at HMAS Cerberus in July.



SHIRTS AND OFFICIAL WEAR

The State Management Committee will write to all Branches to remind them that they must obtain its approval before developing or selling merchandise bearing the NSAA's official logos.

If the merchandise is a t-shirt or chambray shirt these must be obtained through the SMC via the Merchandise Officer.

The problem arose when a Branch obtained and sold t-shirts in black embroidered with several different logos. The SMC pointed out that this colour is reserved for the National Council and bears the Association logo together with the wearer's position and years of service.

Each Branch is allowed to develop and sell a particular line of merchandise. **For example, Caboolture branch sells high quality leather wallets stamped with the NSAA logo and has obtained new stocks after running out of supplies.** The SMC urged Branches to contact it when in doubt to avoid future problems and reminded them that official orders enabled them to obtain stocks which can be sold with a margin for Branch funds.

FUNDING YOUR FUNERAL

Changes in the Federal Budget have increased your opportunities to plan ahead for your funeral.

The wise soldier, sailor or airman going into action made a will because they knew death was a possibility. In civvy life, it's a certainty and it could mean your family having to find \$5000 or more within a month to pay for your funeral.

As you know the NSAA has an arrangement with Sureplan Friendly Society Ltd who specialize in providing funeral funding facilities for its members in the form of Funeral Bonds or an insurance type known as The Family Fund. The Funeral Bond Fund is applicable to all age groups but particularly to those over 55 years of age. The Family Fund is designed for ages 11 to 55 years - ideally suited to your children and grandchildren.

A new advantage of having a funeral fund benefit is that for means tested Centrelink and DV A recipients there is a threshold value that is exempt from the assets test.

This value is currently \$5000 per membership, but in the May 2007 Budget this was increased to \$10,000.

This, of course, means that should a pensioner couple choose to invest as individuals, they can each invest up to \$10,000. It was also announced that pensioners (as individuals) can now hold two funeral policies providing contributions to both policies do not exceed the \$10,000 threshold. Please note that these changes are to take effect from 1st January 2008.

Sureplan is a registered public company, regulated by ASIC (Australian Securities and Investment Commission) and APRA (Australian Prudential Regulation Authority) and holds a Financial Services Licence. **Contact David Burgess on 07/3355 3724 or through the Association or contact Sureplan direct on 1800 817 105.** Remember to identify yourself as a National Serviceman

Full information will be available at the Toowoomba Conference in October.



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.

M
METROPOLITAN
FUNERALS
We'll know what to do.
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TWO BRANCHES, ONE PRESIDENT



Long serving NSAA member, Bob Cotter, has created Queensland Branch history.

He's the only member to have been President of two different Branches in succession.

Earlier this year he stood down after a long stint as the President of Brisbane South Branch, one of the State's largest. Last month, he was elected President of the newest Branch, Beenleigh-Logan at a meeting in Beenleigh.

The photograph shows Air Force National Serviceman Bob (front row, left) with State Vice-President and Branch Development Officer, Alex Garlin. Behind them (left to right) are Barrie Smith, Ray Bennett, Kevin Egan, Ray Rose and Keith Riches.

The Branch was created to cater for the big growth of the Beenleigh and Logan areas, amongst the fastest in Queensland. It is ironic that at a time when the State Government is reducing the number of local authorities to 'increase efficiency and provide better representation', the NSAA is increasing the number of branches to do exactly that for Nashos.

Beenleigh-Logan will be Queensland's 35th Branch from Atherton to Coolangatta. Darwin Branch makes 36. The new Branch will meet in the Board Room at Beenleigh RSL on the 4th Monday at 10 a.m. All prospective members will be able to choose to join the new Branch or stay with their existing one.

THERE'S NO TELLING THE SWISS...



(Photo shows a Swiss Army tank on manoeuvres).

The knives are out as the Swiss Army prepares to fight a rearguard action to preserve its secret weapon.

The Swiss Army knife could be made overseas for the first time since its invention in 1897.

EU bureaucrats have breached the Swiss tariff defences and told them they must call world tenders for the supply of the knives - which means that the Chinese almost certainly would win.

As one Swiss politician lamented, 'Next thing we'll be importing cuckoo clocks and buying our chocolate from Belgium'. The knife was designed to help dismantle and reassemble the Swiss Army rifle. Since then it has gained a multitude of blades, corkscrews, screwdrivers and other tools.

NATIONAL SERVICE

Switzerland, a modern Socialist democracy, always has had the quaint - to some Australian eyes - notion that citizens have responsibilities as well as rights and has maintained National Service. It has a small but highly efficient Army and Air Force and even a Navy. They knew that a Napoleon or a Hitler or the Soviets could overwhelm them but, like Sweden, they believe a powerful citizen army is the best way to preserve their neutrality and make the price of invasion too high.

Conscription is alive and well in Switzerland. When a male Swiss reaches the age of 20, he must undergo 15 weeks of military training. Over the next 22 to 32 years, he'll attend a succession of two- to three-week training camps until he's accrued 300 to 1,300 days of active service.

Until 1996, being a conscientious objector didn't count. If you said "no," you went to jail. It's now possible to serve in a non-combatant role, although this isn't common. In rare instances, conscientious objectors may perform Zivildienst (civilian service) in a nursing home, sanatorium, etc. but must serve 50% longer. Swiss living abroad or who flunk the physical or cannot serve for other defined reasons pay an exemption tax of 2% of their income.

In 2005, the system was modernised and the armed forces in a country with six million citizens, as against Australia's 20 million, now stand at 120,000 active soldiers, 20,000 recruits and 80,000 reservists.

Australia's volunteer regular and Reserve services totalling about 50,000 are one third under strength despite some \$100million spent on recruiting.

There are 87 countries with full or selective conscription including Germany, Greece, Turkey, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Hungary, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, South Korea and China.

And for the record, the Wenger company has just released a collector's edition of the largest Swiss Army knife ever made, with a record 85 tools including a laser pointer, fish scaler (one for Oberstorbamphfuhrer Bell), a tool for fixing bike chains and a torch. It weighs over a kilogram and will prise \$1400 out of your bank account.



THE BREN GUN



When the Chinese attacked, we were firing at such a sustained rate that we were swapping barrels and throwing the detached one into the snow to cool”.

That was a description by an instructor who was a Korean veteran to Nasho trainees at Wacol in the 1st intake 1958 and the weapon was the Bren gun.

In the 1950s it was still the standard Army light machine gun and had proven itself as accurate and reliable in World War Two and Korea. For most Nashos it was their introduction, together with the Owen gun, to automatic weapons.

The gun was named after the Czechoslovakian city of Brno where it was developed. It was selected by the British Army in trials in 1935 and went into service in 1937.

A gas-operated weapon, the Bren used the same .303 ammunition as the standard British rifle the Lee-Enfield, firing at a rate of between 480 and 540 rounds per minute, depending on model. Each gun came with a spare barrel that could be quickly changed when the barrel became hot during sustained fire, though later guns featured a chrome lined barrel which reduced the need for a spare.

The Bren was magazine-fed, which slowed its rate of fire and required more frequent reloading than British belt-fed machine guns such as the .303 Vickers. However, the slower rate of fire prevented more rapid overheating of the Bren's air-cooled barrel, and the Bren was several pounds lighter than belt-fed machine guns. Because it was more easily portable, it could be fired on the move and from standing positions. The magazines also prevented the ammunition from getting dirty, which was more of a problem with the Vickers with its 250-round canvas belts.

Its 30-round magazine was in practice usually filled with only 28 or 29 rounds to prevent jams and avoid wearing out the magazine spring, something that was common to other firearms as well. **(Bruce Reedman's photo shows range firing at Ennogera in Brisbane)**

Care needed to be taken with magazine loading to ensure that the .303 cartridge rims did not overlap the wrong way, causing a jam. The rounds had to be loaded the correct way, each round ahead of the previous round. There was also a 100-round drum magazine for the Bren used in the anti-aircraft role. The badges sold by Nashos on Anzac Day are mounted on a card with a painting of an Australian Digger standing by such a weapon at Tobruk. The Bren also was mounted on light, fast tracked carriers that acted as scouts and as infantry backup although highly vulnerable to German tanks.

The Bren had an effective range of around 600 yards when fired from a prone position with a supported bipod. Initial versions of the weapon were sometimes considered too accurate because the cone or pattern of fire was extremely concentrated, resulting in multiple hits on one or two enemies, with other enemy soldiers going untouched.



More than a few soldiers expressed a preference for worn-out barrels in order to spread the cone of fire among several targets. Later versions of the Bren addressed this issue by providing a wider cone of fire.

In National Service training, we soon learnt that it was a very good weapon but like any weapon liable to jams that we had to learn how to clear. We also appreciated how easily it could be disassembled, cleaned and reassembled. In action in World War Two and Korea, that skill was vital.

The Bren soldiered on in the British Army up to the Falklands War but was superseded in the Australian Army in Vietnam by the M60 light machine gun which was belt fed and had a higher rate of fire in jungle conditions.



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 November/folding date 30th November

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

Bayside Branch and the Manly-Lota RL Sub-Branch held a joint service on Vietnam Veterans' Day to honour all Australians who died on active service in Borneo and Vietnam.



The service was at the Manly War Memorial on Saturday, 18 August. It was the first time the two Branches had combined for a commemoration. Bayside Padre, Major Bob Wilson, opened the Service with prayers for all Australian servicemen and women who had died on active service and those who have died since. Our President, Ken Edwards, said National Servicemen, conscripted for two years service in the Army, served honourably and well. He said they included four Bayside Nashos who died in Vietnam. One of them, Private Kenneth Gant, was amongst the 18 Australians, including 11 National Servicemen, killed in the pivotal battle of Long Tan on August 18 1966. The President of the

Manly-Lota RSL Sub-branch, Mr. Peter Kinsella - a National Serviceman who served in Vietnam - said the lesson from that war and the current ones in Afghanistan and Iraq was that Australia must always ensure that it provided its Armed Forces with enough servicemen and women and up to date equipment to perform the tasks the nation expected of them under fire. The two Presidents laid wreaths on behalf of their organisations.

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

Several members of our branch took part in the Reserve Forces Parade in Brisbane. Later in July we had a social evening in our RSL Function Room, a dinner with musical entertainment. A very enjoyable time was had by all the members and their guests who attended. On the 17th August the Wacol Heritage Committee catered for a reunion of members of 13 platoon "D" Coy, 3rd Intake 1954. This platoon was recruited from the Beaudesert and Boonah districts on this date 53 years ago. This was the first time some of them had been back to Wacol since their passing out parade and many of them



belong to our branch. All enjoyed their day back at Wacol and we thank the Heritage Committee for allowing us to use the precincts facilities. Those of us who will be attending the State Conference and 20th anniversary reunion in Toowoomba are really looking forward to the event and to meeting up again with old friends.

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members of 13 platoon "D" Coy, 3rd Intake 1954. This platoon was recruited from the Beaudesert and Boonah districts on this date 53 years ago. This was the first time some of them had been back to Wacol since their passing out parade and many of them belong to our branch. All enjoyed their day back at Wacol and we thank the Heritage Committee for allowing us to use the precincts facilities. Those of us who will be attending the State Conference and 20th anniversary reunion in Toowoomba are really looking forward to the event and to meeting up again with old friends.

BRISBANE SOUTH (Meeting: Last Sunday each month 1030 hours. Venue: Sunnybank Bowls Club)

Members are reminded that additional sellers are required, even for a couple of hours, to man outlets for Remembrance Day badge sales at outlets in the Brisbane South area. Contact Don Weimer on 3349 1472 or at the General Meeting in October. Although showery rain was predicted for Sunday 19th August, a good number of members turned up for our annual Nasho Bowls challenge against Sunnybank Bowls Club. The challenge was called off after 90 minutes, as the rain increased, and was postponed until February 2008. Final details and new registration form will be included in the November issue of the Brisbane South Bugle. This year our Christmas break-up will be held as a luncheon at the Roma Restaurant Bar & Grill at 2221 Logan Road cnr MacGregor Street, Upper Mount Gravatt on Sunday December 6th. Numbers of members attending will be required by November 15th by contacting Tony Stevenson (3324 1277) or (Janet Josey (3848 7337).

CABOOLTURE (Meeting: 3rd Monday each month 1930 hours. Venue: seniors citizens Building, Hastings St.)



As of 16th October our new meeting venue will be at the senior citizens Building in Hastings Street. ample parking available. Ten years of a successful Branch being formed on 17 November 1997 brings us to celebrate by having a Branch Dinner on this Day (Saturday) Please contact President John on 34088912 or Treasurer on 38880561 (Geoff.) President (John) and Roy attended Vietnams Memorial Services At Wacol on Friday 17 08 07. OUR BRANCH HAS FOR SALE NASHO WALLETES.AT THE GENEROUS PRICE OF \$27.50 OR \$31.50 POSTED.PHONE GEOFF MURRAY 38880561 OR PO BOX 674 CABOOLTURE 4510

CABOOLTURE & DISTRICT 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Date: 17th November 2007-09-04
Time: 1830 hours (6.30pm)
Dinner 1915 hours (7.15pm)
Venue: Morayfield Community Complex
Cost: \$25 per head (includes nibbles, 2 course dinner, coffee, wines etc.)
RSVP 26TH OCTOBER 2007 with numbers
Payment to: The Secretary, P.O. Box 674, Caboolture Qld. 4510
For additional information contact Caboolture Branch.

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

At the general meeting on the 10th August, a cheque for \$1500 was presented to Mel Elledge, President of the Babinda RSL. It is expected the funds will go towards refurbishing their building which was damaged during cyclone Larry. On Sunday 12th August, members and supporters travelled to Rocky Creek to participate in the 62nd anniversary celebration and memorial service of VP Day. This year saw the addition of five new plaques, and the unveiling of the new memorial granite wall containing 30 personnel name plaques. Two trees propagated from seed taken from the Lone Pine at Gallipoli were also planted. Dedications and blessings were carried out by Bishop Tony Hall-Matthews assisted by Father William Grundy. On 16th August several members were in attendance when a cheque for \$500 was presented to the PCYC on behalf of the Cairns National Servicemen's Association. Branch Manager Sergeant Scott Pottle, expressed his appreciation and thanks for the donation. To end a very busy week, on the 18th August members visited Mareeba for the 41st anniversary commemorating the Battle of Long Tan. A large crowd attended the service which was bolstered by members of the Vietnam Veterans Motor Cycle Club. Following the mornings addresses given by Major Bill Crews AO (Rtd) 31 wreaths were laid in remembrance. On returning to Cairns, members then attended a service at 5pm commemorating Vietnam Day. Due to inclement weather proceedings were carried out indoors at the RSL club. Ex-Lt-Col Chris Campbell, the British born career soldier who commanded "A" Company, 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Vietnam from 1970-71 said "The day, which is also the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, honoured ordinary people who do extraordinary things, without doubt, these men and women did great honour to themselves and their countries.



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

As advertised in our last article our Branch is now finalising their plans to hold their next meeting and social day at Roma. The venue will be the **Maranoa Club** at 1030 hours on 6th October. Our members invite all nashos and



partners in the area surrounding Roma to join them for a friendly get together. There were 14 members and 8 supporters attend our August meeting held at Chinchilla RSL Memorial Club to help or organise the Roma Trip on 6th October 2007. A small number gathered at the Cenotaph in Chinchilla on Saturday 18th August in support of the Vietnam Veterans, after the ceremony a lunch was provided and enjoyed by all in attendance. Our Branch felt honoured to be able to sponsor the Pew Project and now providing cushions will complete this project at the



Wacol Chapel precinct. Our President Kev Ravell and members Kevin and Fay Kerswell admired our pew at the dedication service.

GOLD COAST NORTH (Meeting: 1st Wednesday of each even month at Southport RSL Club.)

The big day for our Branch was the Induction Day Commemoration Service held on the 30th July at The All Nashos Memorial at Lorraine Stumm Palmer Park at Broadbeach. Special Guests on the day were our Patron, Major General Kevin Cooke AO, RFD, ED, Ret, Colonel Peter Maher, (Guest Speaker) C.O. Land Warfare Centre, Canungra, Margaret May MP, Member for McPherson and Councilor's Dawn Critchlow and Eddie Sarrof of the



Photo: Brian Mansfield (Committee), Brian Handke (Secretary), Mrs Margaret May MP, Major General Kevin Cooke (Patron), Brian Bertwistle (Senior Vice President), Ted Cooke (Junior Vice President)..

Gold Coast City Council. Following our Guest Speaker, our Padre, Father Len Harrop took Prayers, our Bugler sounded the Last Post, the Ode was read, the Catafalque Party (supplied by T.S.S. School Cadets) dismounted. Members and Guests then retired to the nearby Kurrawa Surf Club for light refreshments. Our August Meeting Guest Speaker was Tom Cullen of Qld. Rail. He spoke of the planned "Great Corner Country Exploration" Rail & Coach Trip to be undertaken May next year. Two of our members, Tom Brittain & Brian Bertwistle, together with their wives are presently touring Europe and will be taking in World War One Battlefields in France. On our Social side. On the 18th September we hosted the Beadesert Branch for Morning Tea and a BBQ Lunch at the Light Horse Museum Grounds at Mudgeeraba. Although this event has not taken place at the time of going to Press, we are looking forward to enjoying a Social day with our inland neighbours



Father Len Harrop, (Chaplain Gold Coast North)

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

Father John Reid, who has been chaplain for the Gold Coast South-Twin Towns Branch of the National Servicemen's Association since its inception in 2002, has retired due to failing health. However, he remains an active member of the branch and along with his wife Helen will continue to attend the branch meetings and social outings. President Don Beck said he was saddened to see Father Reid's retirement. "However, we can look back on a very successful period when he was not only our chaplain but our welfare officer who spent many hours tending the needs of our members," he said. "He provided us with an invaluable service, setting a standard we will always strive to maintain as we look to the needs of our members, which is one of the major reasons for the formation of our organisation - we are there for each other if ever the need does arise and despite the loss of Father Reid, I don't think that will change."



Guest speaker at the last branch meeting was Australian swimming legend Don Talbot, who was a nasho himself, training at Puckapunyal in 1953. Don was a schoolboy swimming champion and in the 1950's started his coaching career at the Bankstown pool in Sydney, where he found the Konrad kids and turned them into Olympic champs. Don became Australia's head Olympic swim coach, a position he held for 11 years. Now living on the Gold Coast, Don serves his time as a specialist consultant to various countries, helping mould their national teams. His next assignment is in Japan where he will be assisting the British swim team. Recently members, partners and friends enjoyed a day-long bus trip to the Esk Picnic Races and a social day at the delightful Currumbin Valley property of members Clyde and Dot Holst.

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

An invitation was accepted to attend the 2007 VP Commemoration Service which was held at Manson Park on the 11th August (which was the site of the American War Cemetery during WWII) with the President laying a wreath on behalf of the Ipswich West Moreton branch. Members attended the memorial service and the unveiling of the Vietnam display at Wacol precinct on 17th August. It was great to see the cushions in place on pews in the Chapel for this occasion. Well done to those involved. Vietnam Veterans day parade and service at Goodna was once again well attended by our members with the laying of the wreath by one of our Vietnam veterans Peter Poole. After having dinner those who stayed were entertained by Little Patti, Lucky Starr, Frankie Davidson and Judy Stone. It was a fitting occasion as Little Patti and Lucky Starr had entertained the troops in Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict. The next major event for our branch will be the 20th Anniversary celebrations in Toowoomba in October where we hope to have many of our members attend. For further information regarding the Ipswich & West Moreton Branch contact hon/Secretary Noel White on 3288 8174.

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

A large representation of our members and supporters attended the Funeral Service for our late Vice-President, George Hints, who passed away on August 16, a guard of honour was formed as George's widow, Elaine and her family retired from the service escorted by Rev. Peter Armstrong, Minister of the Redcliffe Uniting Church. George was loyal in his service to Redcliffe Nashos; representing our Branch at many activities. His willingness to support our Branch mirrored his involvement in a variety of Community organisations and these organisations were represented at his Service. He was a bus driver for many years and was well respected in his employment. George died doing what he loved - a bus trip to the Exhibition, giving his time and energy to helping others and most importantly, being with Elaine. He will not be forgotten; all we can hope for is to honour what and whom he honoured and be encouraged to live life to the fullest each day loving people and making the most of every day. Lest We Forget! Barry Scarborough - President.

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

Members of Redlands Branch have been busy helping the Redland RSL prepare for the opening of their new Museum/Library which it is hoped will be a source of research and information for school children as well as a meeting place for the older generation. Museum Curator, Ian Gray, who is also our Nasho Merchandising Officer, also Vice President of the Redland RSL, has spent many hours accepting and accessing the articles for display. It's a wonder he can remember which hat he should wear when he set out each morning. State Member for Cleveland, Phil Weightman, opened the Museum/Library on 28th July. On Thursday 16th August, a group of Redlands Nashos and supporters headed by Col Thompson, set out to tour the RAAF Base, Amberley, where they were shown through a Caribou, looked into the cockpit of an F1 11 and were guided through the



aircraft museum. For some of the group it was a return to the place where they had spent their Nasho and a chance to remember those days. Five Redlands Nashos served at Amberley - pictured left to right Ced. Murray (1954), Ron Spencer (1995), Bob Radley (RNZAF), Les Warner (1955), Ken Buckley (1955), Barry White (1956). The base has changed a lot in fifty years - and there are signs of even more dramatic changes when Amberley will become a super base.



SOUTH BURNETT

Two timber bench type seats will be erected at our Memorial at Nanango. The Government will give us over a thousand dollars for the seats which will blend into the environment like the rails and post fence surrounding the memorial.

SUNSHINE COAST (Meeting: 2nd Tuesday Bi-monthly at 1000 hours. Venue: Maroochydore RSL House.)

At our July meeting the members approved the purchase of a trailer and two shelters, which appear in the photograph below.



August has been a very busy month for our branch members. On Sunday, 12th August over 45 members enjoyed a picnic at Golden Beach, Caloundra. The weather was fine and the sun was shining. On Wednesday, 15th August a ceremony marking VP day was held at Drysdale Funerals at Nambour. The day was well attended by members and a light lunch was served. Saturday, 18th August was Long Tan Day and some of our members attended the Parade at Beerwah with the Memorial Service held at the Beerwah RSL. Pat Tempest laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch. Our next meeting is the 11th September and our next picnic will be held on 14th October at La Balsa Park at Kawana.

TOWNSVILLE (Meeting: 2nd Wednesday each month 1930 hours. Venue: Townsville RSL.)

On Sunday 29th July, some 100 members and wives, including 27 from the Burdekin Sub-Branch travelled by bus to Bowen for our Annual "Get Together" with the Coral Coast and Mackay Branches. The venue was the Q.R.I. Building. In addition, a large marquee was provided for extra comfort. As usual we were greeted by our host President Andy Warnes, who with his willing team of helpers prepared the entertainment and magnificent lunch. Lots of raffles, and



musical entertainment provided by Lorraine Hegerty and Ben Hobson. State President Colin Bell and his wife Carol arrived for the day as did our State Membership Officer Ray Lower and his wife Hazel. Also in attendance was Wilf Sichter former Secretary of Rockhampton. Colin showed a DVD history of Air Force Nashos at Amberley which was very interesting. It will be available to Museums and places like Wacol and others who would like a copy. Other DVD's for the Navy and Army should be available later. It turned out another great day. On the road to Bowen we passed through Brandon, a small town before Ayr and as we rounded the corner near the old wooden church and the Delta Iron Foundry there is a War Memorial to the heroes of Brandon who fought at Villiers Bretonneaux on the Somme in the First World War. Apparently during the battle one of the 14th Bn Brandon fellows captured a German Maxim Machine Gun on 29th April, 1916 and ran off with it. As it was still hot from continuous firing, he wrapped it in a blanket and carried it on his shoulder. The Gun was mounted on the original plinth but about the time of WWII it disappeared mysteriously. A Statue of the event in Bronze was erected in 2006 and unveiled by Chief of the Army Lt. General Peter Leahy AO on 25th September 2006. The Statue is a life-like representation of a WWI Australian Infantryman. Our next outing will be our Annual Bus Trip to Cardwell on Sunday, 28th October, to meet up with our Northern Branches. Saturday 17th November will be our Christmas Function at the Townsville RSL. Burdekin Sub-Branch will hold their Christmas Function on Sunday 9th December at the Home Hill Tennis Club.

Photo: John & Myrna Dwyer at the Brandon Memorial.

PADRE'S CORNER

As one of the early members of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia when it was in its infancy in Toowoomba it is instructive to look back over the past 20 years. Joining the Association opened up to me knowledge of all the fellow Nashos right around Australia and our shared experience in the Navy, Army and Air Force. In the case of the 1950s call up we were ready but not needed. Unfortunately, the 1960s call-up had to go to war and saw 212 of their colleagues die on active service. I am minded of Gideon's army and how he was instructed to choose his men. He put them to the test and only took those who showed themselves to be alert and able to think for themselves. That mirrors life and the test that Jesus challenged us with - follow me, listen to the choice I offer you and find eternal life. Noel Wallis, State Padre.

LAST POST

1/707870	Brennan Kenneth Patrick	Wacol 2nd Intake 1953
1/704360	Brunker Harry	Wacol 3rd Intake 1952
1/706925	Crowley Raymond	Wacol 1st Intake 1953
2/702652	Green Allan	
1/702721	Payne Ron	Wacol 1st Intake 1952
1/720651	Thomas Alfred Keith	Wacol 1st Intake 1956

THEY SERVED AUSTRALIA



NASHO NOTICEBOARD

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



WE'LL MEET AGAIN....

Nashos will have a wide variety of reunions to attend in the coming 12 months.

South Burnett Branch will hold its annual Nasho Reunion at Mur gon from 29th February to 2nd March 2008. The program is 29th February , Meet and Greet at the RSL. 1st March Tours of South Burnett area, plus a Dinner Dance. On 2nd March, there will be a parade through Mur gon, then a BBQ lunch.

Accommodation is no problem.

The NSAA will hold its first reunion at Beaudesert in May 2008. Meet all your mates over three days on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 2, 3 and 4 May 2008. There'll be a Meet and Greet and Dinner . On Sunday, there will be a march, followed by a bush barbecue. It will be a good time in a very pleasant country setting, so watch Nasho Noticeboard for further details.

23rd June 2007

It was with interest that I read the article on the Owen Gun in the June Issue. In the 1950' s during our 90 days training period, we all had the opportunity to fire this weapon. In 1954, during the final year of my service, I had to leave my hometown and move to Port Kembla for employment. On starting my job at L ysaghts, I was informed that the building that housed our lockers and showers, was the building where the Owen gun had been manufactured. One day I had cause to go to the Main Of fice. On the wall above the main Reception Counter, was a large "blown-up" drawing of the Owen. The mention of Australians being taught to fire one to three shots instead of a longer burst would be correct. As I recall, the shots ran up and to the left. **Allan Dawson**

Gold Coast North Branch

Smoking volcanoes become extinct too

Former Nashos returned to Amberley and along with the Canberra are the wall of plaques dedicated to the various units of the service in the "Wall of Memories" and in particular the National Service Plaque dedicated in September 2006 to the 3200 (approx) Nashos who did their training there.



When we had to do it, we complained. Now it' s a Fun Run with Bill Henderson flying the flag for Nashos in the annual Brisbane to Bay marathon.

I Was Only 19 – remember, when you hear this anti-Vietnam war anthem.

- Battalions going to Vietnam paraded Nashos and gave them the choice of opting out.
- The Communist led Seamen' s and Wharfies' Unions blocked supplies and mail to Diggers
- The Communist Party and the Left raised money in Australia to help the Viet Cong buy the bullets to fire at Australian Diggers including Nashos. In 1972 few Diggers after being abused by the Left would say they served in Vietnam. Today few protestors will admit their part in the anti-war campaign.



Another photo of Barry Vicary (right) and his fellow Vietnam-era Nashos marching in Toowoomba. They still had the original banner but now are wearing the red pocket patch together with a white tie. Shortly afterwards, the name became the National Servicemen's Association of Australia; membership was extended to all Nashos and we've replaced the tie with our own, but the pride of bearing remains unchanged.

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