



NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA ACT BRANCH Inc.

A.B.N. 15 108 825 860

POSTAL ADDRESS – P.O. BOX 7211, DUFFY, ACT 2611

PRESIDENT:	GARRY HAND	62885584	PATRONS: Mr. J. KING	PRESIDENT ACT RSL
VICE-PRESIDENT:	JOHN FAUNT	62416274	Dr MIKE KELLY AM	MEMBER EDEN-MONARO
SECRETARY:	BOB FLETCHER	62888993	MATT HELM	PRESIDENT QUEANBEYAN RSL
TREASURER:	BRIAN HARRY	62513791	GARY HUMPHRIES	SENATOR FOR THE ACT
ASS/SECRETARY:	DEAN DA COSTA	62883411	CHAPLAIN: PASTOR WAYNE LYONS J.P	62973472
RSM/PROTOCOL:	JOHN BERTLES	62883411	WELFARE/LIAISON OFFICER: TONY SULLIVAN	62411602

Mr.

Dear Mr.

We have received advice indicating that you may wish to join the National Servicemen's Association of Australia. This letter, together with the attached documents, will give you an indication of the activities undertaken by our branch of the association, our aims and goals, and other relevant information.

1. Eligibility

Ordinary Member.

Any person who served a period of National Service in the Australian Defence Forces pursuant to the *National Service Acts 1951 and 1964* shall be eligible for the granting of membership as an ordinary member.

Associate Member.

Any other serving or former member of the Australian Defence Forces, or any person that has served a period of compulsory military service in the defence force of a country that at the time of such service was an ally of Australia.

Non Service Member.

Spouses, partners, widows and widowers of members and any other Australian citizen who is interested in the welfare of the NSAA – ACT Branch Inc. Non Service members shall not be eligible to hold office and shall not be entitled to on association matters but shall enjoy all other privileges of membership.

2. Applications for membership

Application for membership shall be made on the approved form as determined by the management committee. The application should be accompanied by evidence of military service and may include a discharge certificate or a copy of service record.

Each application will need a proposer and a seconder, such persons to be current financial members of the association. The completed form should then be sent to:-

The Membership Officer
Mr. Brian Harry
PO Box 388
Jamison Centre ACT 2614

On joining the association you will receive:-

- 1) A lapel badge and membership card in a folder;
- 2) A monthly branch newsletter titled "NATINFO" and
- 3) An opportunity to purchase from a large range of association merchandise.

3. Activities

Our branch meets on the first Saturday of each month, excluding January, commencing at 11:00 hours. The meetings are conducted at the Manuka Services Club on the corner of Canberra Avenue and Manuka Circle, Manuka ACT. This is a location which is suitable for members of the Queanbeyan/Canberra region.

We extend an invitation for guest speakers, who have community, service experiences or other items of interest to pass on to our members, to attend at selected meetings. We also conduct a raffle, the proceeds of which help to offset our annual operational costs and assist in our donations to selected charities. From time to time, we also conduct fund raising sausage sizzles at local hardware outlets, again to offset operational costs and to bolster donations to those selected charities.

Other activities include a Christmas in July function and annual Christmas Luncheon and hamper raffle. Social activities in and around the Canberra region are also organised by the social sub-committee. Attendance at events organised by surrounding NSW sub-branches is also encouraged.

Regular remembrance activities include:-

- 1) A commemorative service for National Servicemen's Day on 14th February each year at the Australian War Memorial;
- 2) A commemorative service for National Servicemen's Day which is held at the Queanbeyan National Service Memorial on the closest Sunday to the 14th February. This is followed by a luncheon held at the Queanbeyan Leagues Club;
- 3) ANZAC Dawn Services in Queanbeyan and Canberra followed by the mid morning parades in both cities;
- 4) Reserve Forces Day commemoration service held on the closest Sunday to the 1st July at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra;
- 5) A commemorative day held at the Bardia Barracks at Ingleburn in Sydney on the Sunday closest to the 6th August;
- 6) Assisting in the selling of Red Poppies for the local RSL Branch in the lead up to Remembrance Day on the 11th November;
- 7) Assisting Queanbeyan Legacy with the selling of badges on Legacy Day;
- 8) The supporting of two local charities; these being the ACT & Eden-Monaro Cancer Support Group, and the Cystic Fibrosis Society.

4. Medal Applications

If you have not already done so, included with this letter you will find two application for medals to which former National servicemen are entitled to apply.

The first is the Anniversary of National Service Medal (ANSM)

The second is the newly approved Australian Defence Medal (ADM)

Both applications should be completed and duly witnessed by a suitable notary i.e. a Justice of the Peace, Minister of Religion, Chartered Accountant, Chemist etc. and forwarded to the address as indicated at the bottom of the application form. To expedite the approval for the issue of these medals, it will help if a copy of your certificate of service is attached to the application(s).

I would also advise that the current policy applies that only those persons who completed their National Service obligation under the National Service Act and who served for a period of 4 years, or the lesser, are entitled to apply for these medals. However, this policy is currently under review and any changes will be notified as they come to hand.

5. Our Aims

- 1) To seek amendments to the Defence Services Home Act to include National Servicemen who served Australia during the period 1951 to 1972;
- 2) To seek repatriation Benefits and/or Medical Compensation for members;
- 3) To improve the general welfare of all National Servicemen;
- 4) To participate in Anzac Day marches;
- 5) To promote the concept of National or Community Service for our youths of both gender;
- 6) To consider those matters which arise from time to time that affect the freedom and identity of Australia;
- 7) To encourage to abide by, support and actively carry out such policies so far as the law permits;
- 8) To assist and/or affiliate with any other body having similar aims, membership and/or objectives upon with such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon;
- 9) To have all National Servicemen's service records moved to the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and
- 10) To encourage sub-branches to support local Cadet Units with the sponsorship of an annual award.

6. Our Goals

- 1) To create a non-elitist and democratic organisation for the benefit of our members;
- 2) To work towards representing the needs of those members and, where possible, to offer support and assistance so that no member feels isolated from the association family;
- 3) To work hand in hand with our National Executive for the advancement of the association and to achieve due recognition for all National Servicemen.

Yours Sincerely,

Garry Hand
President
National Servicemen's Association of Australia
ACT Branch Inc.