

THE NEW WATTLE KEYHOLDER



The NSAA has produced an attractive new leather key holder to add to your Branch's range of 'Australia Remembers' sales items.

It features our own wattle badge that has proved very popular.

Increasingly, a spray of wattle is being worn at commemorative and remembrance services as a unique Australian symbol. Its gold, symbol of Spring, also appears on the ribbon of our National Service Medal.

You can obtain stocks of the key holder from our Merchandise Manager, Alex Nunn, by phoning (07) 3324 1277 or by writing to NSAA HQ P.O.Box 7014 Holland Park East Qld 4121.

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



NASHO NEWS

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



Issue No 91

August 2008

Feature Stories: **Tri-Nation Nashos p1**
Nashos Abroad p3
Retirement Village Project p5

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



SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Directory State Management Committee

Patron:
Major-General Kevin Cooke AO RFD ED

President:
Colin Bell 3285 4232
3889 1993 Fax

Vice-President:
Bill Morriss 4632 2850

Secretary:
Howard Bazeley 3343 1417
3343 4195 Fax

Treasurer:
Warren Hegarty 4779 5590
4725 2272 Fax

Merchandise Manager:
Alex Nunn 5499 2810

Committee Members:
John Brosnan 5428 2627
Allen Callaghan 3396 3369
Ivan Davis 0422 677 790
Evan Edwards 3396 4349
Noel Findlay 3398 5515
John Hardy 4091 9309
Bruce Reedman 3488 0557
Tony Stevenson 3397 7512

Media Officer/Editor Nasho News:
Allen Callaghan 3396 3369
3396 5460 Fax
0409 219 058
allgwen@powerup.com.au

Membership Officer:
Ray Lower 5447 6691

Chaplain:
Captain John Tatters 3204 5985

Head Office & Membership Inquiries:
National Servicemen's Hall
Eric Sivell Park,
171 Boundary Road, Camp Hill, Brisbane 4152
Phone: 3324 1277
Fax: 3324 2777

Office Hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm
Monday, Friday

All Correspondence to:
P.O. Box 7014 Holland Park East Qld 4121
Email officeadmin@nashoqld.org.au
Web www.nashoqld.org.au

Front Cover

New Zealand Nashos display their banner and flag in the Reserve Forces Day march.
NZ had Compulsory Military Training from 1950 to 1958 and National Service from 1962 to 1972.

STATE RAFFLE

Your Museum needs you.
No, not as an exhibit but to buy a ticket in the raffle which will enable us to finish the Navy and Army exhibits.
See the enclosed letter.

Official NSAA Merchandise

OFFICIAL NSAA MERCHANDISE			
Beret			\$26.50
Beret Badge – Pewter			\$5.50
Beret Badge – Silver Six Sided Logo			\$20
Book – 20 Year History of the NSAA 1987 to 2007			\$25
Caps Embroidered with Nasho Logo			\$17.50
Coffee Cup with Nasho Logo			\$ 9.00
Cards – Get Well or Sympathy – Nasho (pack of 10 + envelopes)			\$7.50
Flag – Association Logo White Full Size (6'x3')			\$180
Flag – Association Logo White small size (hand waver)			\$12.50
Lapel Badge – Association Blue			\$5.50
Lapel Badge – Navy, Army or Air Force			\$6.50
Lapel Badge – Tri-service			\$6.50
Medals Full Size	Unmounted	Swing	Court
ADM	\$18	\$22.50	\$27.50
ANSM	\$18	\$22.50	\$27.50
Duo ADM+ANSM	\$36	\$45	\$55
Association	\$26	\$31	\$36
Miniatures	Unmounted	Swing	Court
ADM	\$12	\$16.50	\$21
ANSM	\$12	\$16.50	\$21
Duo	\$24	\$33	\$42
Association	\$16	\$20.50	\$25
Medal Ribbon bar with ADM+ANSM medal ribbons			\$12
Necktie with Nasho Logo			\$33.50
Nasho Pocket Patch – Bullion Thread – Red			\$36
Nasho Pocket Patch – Queensland Red Logo			\$ 9
Nasho Port			\$13.50
Nasho Key Rings			\$4.50
Number plate covers 'I Am a Nasho'			\$22
Shirts – Chambray short or long sleeves S M L XL XXL (add \$3 for XXXL size)			\$36
Shirts – Polo White or Maroon S M L XL XXL (add \$3 for XXXL size)			\$31
Stubby Holder with Nasho Logo			\$5.50
Video – 50 year anniversary celebrations			\$15
Video – Last March Out at Wacol			\$15
Wall Plaque – 6 sided Nasho Logo on Timber			\$42.50
Pay by Credit Card – add \$1.00			

NASHO NOTICEBOARD

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



NOTICE - GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia (Queensland) Inc. will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, 13th September 2008

Location: Hervey Bay RSL & Services Memorial Club, 11 Torquay Road, PIALBA.

Time: 1.00pm

Registration from 12.30pm for a 1.00pm meeting start.

Details of motions received to date are included as a proxy voting form in this newsletter.

All financial Ordinary Members including Life Subscribed Members and Life Members are entitled to vote at this meeting.

Proxy voting will be allowed and forms are enclosed in this newsletter. No other form will be accepted. Additional Proxy voting forms are available by request to the State Office. Completed Proxy voting must received before 5th September 2008 either by mail to National Servicemen's Association of Australia (Qld) Inc, PO Box 7014, HOLLAND PARK EAST Qld 4121 or by hand to the State Office at 171 Boundary Road, CAMP HILL Qld 4152.

Howard Bazeley
State Secretary

LOOKING FORWARD TO A WHALE OF A TIME AT THE STATE CONFERENCE AT HERVEY BAY?

Well you'll be high and dry if you haven't registered by Friday 29 August.

Contact State HQ now on (07) 3324 1277 and splash out from 12 to 14 September.

WINDOWS OFFICE 2007

If you are still using MS Office 2000 or 2003 but someone has sent you a PowerPoint presentation (.pptx), MS Word document (.docx) or Excel document using 2007, just click on the link below and download the Compatibility Pack and you will have no trouble in viewing these documents.

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en>

So, for people using MS Office 2007, you don't *have* to save your document "down" to a previous version for others not using 2007 to view it. Perhaps you could include this link when emailing a document to someone who is not using 2007 and ask them to download the Pack.

The only downside when opening up a document prepared in Excel 2007 and if you are using Excel 2003, is that it might not look exactly as it does if you are viewing the document in Excel 2007.

MINIATURES

There have been enquiries about three more protocol points. When do I wear my miniature medals? Your large medals are worn in the daytime and miniatures after 6p.m.

When do I wear my ribbon bar? Only on a uniform.

Which is correct during the Ode – an open or closed hand across my left breast? Your hand should be open and flat on your breast, unless Julius Caesar is on parade. Symbolically you are covering your medals out of respect for those who have died.

SMOKING HAS GRAVE CONSEQUENCES

STROKE : If you think someone has had a stroke, ask them to smile, speak or raise their arms over their head. If they can't, dial 000 IMMEDIATELY. Minutes are vital

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

The material contained in this publication is in the nature of general comment only, and neither purports, nor is intended, to be advice on any particular matter. Readers should not act or rely upon any matter or information contained or implied by this publication, without taking appropriate professional advice which relates specifically to their particular circumstances. The publishers and authors expressly disclaim all and any liability to any person whether an Association member or not, who acts or fails to act as a consequence of reliance upon the whole or part of the publication. Views expressed in any Editorial may not necessarily be those views held by the Management Committee.

LAST POST

1/727846 **Dwyer** Brian Edmond Wacol 2nd Intake 1958
 1/720430 **O'Brien** Brian John Wacol 1st Intake 1956
 1/724258 **Stephens** William Henry Wacol 1st Intake 1957

THEY SERVED AUSTRALIA



Vale: Warrant Officer Phillip James (Jonah) Jones of the 1st Field Squadron. 1940-2008

Phil Jones was a good friend of the National Servicemen's Association and attended many of our observances and parades. He was to have read one of the lessons at the Bayside Branch/Manly Lota RSL Sub-branch Service on 17 August to mark Vietnam Veterans' Day.

In a distinguished career, Phil, born in Bayside, rose to the rank of Warrant Officer 1 in the Australian Army before retiring and taking up a second career in the Queensland Police Bomb Squad. Not content with that he then joined the Army Cadets and rose to the rank of Captain. He also is well known to Nashos as the organiser of the Reserve Forces Day Parade in Brisbane and he died on 29 June as the march stepped off.

His medals told the story – two tours of duty in Vietnam as a Field Engineer (Sapper), booby-trap expert and tunnel rat and service in Malaysia, Borneo, Papua-New Guinea and of course in Australia. He had National Servicemen in his teams in Vietnam and is quoted in Nasho News as finding no difference between Regs and Nashos. He observed that Viet Cong bullets made no distinction.

Mrs. Beth Dwyer wishes to thank all Nashos for their sympathy and support following the death of her husband, Brian Dwyer, on 12 June 2008. He was a member of Redlands Branch and Beth remains a Supporter.

NASHO DAZE

By Ron Parsons



TRI-NASHOS MARCH IN BRISBANE

National Servicemen from three countries marched in the annual Reserve Forces Day Parade in Brisbane on 29 June.

They are from Australia, New Zealand and France.



The banners tell the story. Behind the Redlands banner are both Redlands and Bayside Nashos. Next is the banner of the Compulsory Military Training Association of New Zealand. Then came the flags of the French Veterans Association of Queensland many of whom were called up for National Service and saw action in Algeria and Vietnam. Their ranks include two Legion of Honour winners.

The New Zealanders were marching in an Australian parade for the first time since their formation two years ago. A total of 13 flew to Brisbane bringing their banner and flag.





The French Veterans contingent marched with the NSAA for the first time also. Their ranks include National Servicemen and regulars who fought in Algeria, Tunisia and north Africa and in Vietnam in the 1950s against the Viet Minh. President Louis Sultan and member Francoise Chabriere hold the Legion of Honour for bravery.



And it wouldn't be a parade without the National Servicemen's Memorial Pipes and Drums – described on Anzac Day by an ABC commentator as the best turned out band in the march.

Where to next – Hervey Bay in September, then Stanthorpe in March. I know that we planned on Proston but they don't have a suitable Park. Therefore, the Granite Belt before it gets too cold. It's not the year for the Apple and Grape Festival but it is that time of the year, so we're looking forward to some tasty sampling.

The dates are 13 - 23 March and the venue is the 'Top of the Town' Tourist Park. Phone 1800 030 123 to book your site, but hurry as there are a lot of fruit pickers already booked. Don Weimer. President: 3349 1472.

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

Three generations marched on ANZAC Day



Our Annual 70th Birthday Party was held at the Townsville RSL on Saturday, 10th May with some 125 people attending. 9 Members and 9 Supporters who turn 70 years of age this year celebrated the occasion. Entertainment was provided by our resident band – Lorraine Hegarty on Keyboard, Ben Hobson on Guitar, George Morgan on drums and vocal renditions by Warren Hegarty. Visiting artists were the North Queensland Cloggers. President Warren presented

Townsville Sub-Branch President Rod McLeod with a framed Honour Roll of National Servicemen who lost their lives in Borneo and Vietnam. It is proudly hung in a prominent position in the ANZAC Bar of the RSL. A book on the History of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia over the past 20 years 1987-2007 was also presented to the RSL Library. It turned out a most enjoyable evening. On Saturday, 14th June, our band Warren, Lorraine, Ben and George entertained the Ingham Branch to celebrate their 6th Anniversary Dinner. By all accounts it was a great night with some people were reluctant to go home. On Sunday, 15th June, 34 Members/Supporters travelled by Bus to Ayr to take part in the Burdekin Sub-Branch GET TOGETHER prior to the start of the cane crushing season. The highlight of the day was a visit by our world famous Bush Poet Melanie Hall who told some very humorous stories of her time with the Ulysses Motorcycle Club who were at the Showgrounds for their National Convention and AGM. Our next activity will be our Bus Trip to Bowen for our GET TOGETHER with the Coral Coast and Mackay Branches on Sunday, 27th July. Referring to the 3 Generations who marched with us on ANZAC Day in the June Issue 90, their Photo arrived too late for inclusion, so hope it can be included in this issue.



TOOWOOMBA (Meeting: Bi-monthly 2nd Tuesday Odd months 1900 hours. Venue: Irish Club Hotel)

Toowoomba Branch hosted the visiting New Zealand contingent for two days at the end of June. There was a Meet and Greet at the City Golf Club on Thursday night 26 June. On Friday morning we all went to Picnic Point for smoko in the rotunda and to take in the view from this well known location. Next was to the Cobb & Co Museum, housing many things Australian, mainly early transport. From there the party moved to the Milne Bay Military Museum, which is well supported by our local Nasho branch and contains a very good collection of military memorabilia with particular emphasis on the 25th Battalion. A BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all at the museum. The next visit of interest was the State National Servicemen's Memorial in East Creek Park where visitors placed poppies on the memorial. Local and Kiwi Nashos met at the Irish Club Hotel for dinner that night with speeches and presentations taking place after the meal. A great time was had by all. Saturday saw our friends depart, heading back to Brisbane. A small group from our branch went to Brisbane on 29 June for Reserve Forces Day march. Queensland Governor, Quentin Bryce took the salute in King George Square. Lois Morriss, WIFE OF State Vice President Bill, was able to introduce the New Zealand ladies to Her Excellency, to their delight. At the conclusion of the march the Toowoomba group went on to State HQ for lunch, where we again met up with our Kiwi friends before they departed for New Zealand. Many thanks to all who helped make this a memorable few days for both locals and visitors.



TOURING CLUB

Early fears that our outing to Goondiwindi would only bring mediocre attendance proved premature as the crowd turned out to be one of our best. Those who did not come missed out on a very happy and entertaining ten days. To my way of thinking there was only one down-side and that was it became too cold to have a sing along after dinner. That is everyone wanted the warmth of their vans and/or their cots. However, it wasn't only Gundy, I believe it was cold everywhere.



Our Class Photo shows us decked out in our finery just before having morning tea with the Gundy Mayor. At our Civic Reception one of our members Denis Keightley made a presentation to the Mayor. This is his story. On the 1st August 1937, the foundation stone for the Goondiwindi Town Council Office and Civic Centre was laid by the Honourable M E Hanlon, Minister for Health and Home Affairs. During the same function, the Mayor, Alderman E H Campbell, was presented with a Desk Set by the Architects - Addison and McDonald in appreciation of the work Eddie Campbell had put their way, with this building and other works around the

Town. Eddie Campbell was my cousin, and the Desk Set, still in its satin lined box, was given to me to look after when Eddie died in 1962. The set has been in the bottom of a cupboard all this time, 46 years. I felt it was a shame that nobody ever saw it, so I decided to give it back to the people of Goondiwindi. At the Civic Reception the Goondiwindi Regional Council gave the NASHO Touring Club on 22nd May, I presented the Set to the Mayor, Graeme Schue, to be put on display at the Civic Centre, for all to be able to see.

NASHOS ABROAD

Nashos from Brisbane and the Gold Coast have paid homage to Australian Diggers on battlefields from France to Vietnam.

They are amongst a growing number of Australians travelling overseas to see where relatives fought and often died.

They laid wreaths on behalf of their families, National Servicemen and all Australians.



Private John McDowell was a brave man – the type of Australian who continues what he is doing despite danger all around him. The citation for his Military Medal tells his story: “On 30 March 1918 in Sailly-le-sec south of Albert, 1268 Private John Kissonck McDowell [an Army cook] was engaged in preparing a hot meal for the troops in the trenches. The men had had very little to eat and only the water from their water bottles. The Germans, seeing the smoke from his cooker, shelled the wrecked building in which he was working. While others took cover, Private McDowell continued to prepare the meal and make arrangements for its distribution which owing to his devotion to duty and courage was possible even during the lulls in the enemy attack. His conduct is much admired by the men of his company and it was only due to his example and fine soldierly bearing that the hot meal was able to be served to the troops immediately the enemy attack had been defeated.”



His Granddaughter, Nicky Bertwhistle (above) and her husband Brian – Senior Vice President of Gold Coast North Branch - visited Villers Bretonneux to lay a wreath on his grave.

Private McDowell, who drove a horse drawn cab in Mackay, was killed only two months later, leaving a widow and 11 children. He is buried in France with his 59,000 comrades who also lie in France, Belgium, Gallipoli and Palestine.



The school and its classrooms are a small piece of Australia with photographs, maps and other displays lining the walls. The courtyard features posters of cricketers, Ricky Ponting and Damien Martin! Brian and Nicky presented the school with three books on Australia and kangaroo pins as prizes.

World War One, which had taken millions of lives on all sides and caused widespread devastation in France, Belgium and Russia, ended only six months later with the Armistice.



In Vietnam, the 18 Australians, including 11 National Servicemen, killed in the battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966, were remembered by a group of visiting Australians.

Brian Cahill, a Bayside Nasho (at right); Alex McKean, a Vietnam Nasho (4th from right) and another Vietnam Veteran, Bronte Kramer and their partners were in a group that visited the site to lay red roses on the white cross that stands as a Memorial to D Company of 6RAR who fought a pitched battle in monsoonal rain in the Long Tan rubber plantation. They described the day as a mixture of pride and sadness and the realisation how the thin rubber trees provided no protection to the soldiers on either side.



This year, Villers Bretonneux came into focus for Australians with the first ANZAC Day Dawn service held there. A total of 1200 Diggers died and thousands more were wounded re-taking the small French town from the Germans on 25 April 1918 as World War One reached its climax. The residents have never forgotten their sacrifice.

The children of Robinvale, in Victoria, gave the children of Villers Bretonneux a new school and today the French children play under the sign that reminds them of the Diggers 90 years ago.

Another Queensland school has joined the wreath exchange program. The Nanango State Primary School made 10 wreaths and laid them on the School Memorial on Anzac Day. The materials were supplied by the South Burnett Branch. The wreaths will be flown to Belgium where the Basisschool de Mote, a primary school in Ypres, will lay them on the grave of Pte John Hunter, from Nanango and nine other Diggers on Remembrance Day. Two more Queensland schools have asked to join the exchange program, bringing the total so far to five.

ROCKHAMPTON (Meeting: 4th Monday each month 1900 hours. Venue Criterion Hotel Quay Street)

After a busy period selling memorabilia leading up to ANZAC Day, times have been quiet and for those members and supporters and their partners and wives who volunteered their service for our stalls a BBQ was held at the residence of Ken and Joan Tracey. This function was well attended with a most enjoyable time being had by all. The Capricornia Country Club held a special golf day to raise funds for Angel Flight. Our Branch assisted by manning a BBQ area and selling drinks both at the booth and traveling the course in a golf buggy. Our Merchandising Officer received tuition on how to drive the buggy, but to no avail. The Branch has two fund raising sausage sizzles arranged for October.

SOUTH BURNETT

ANZAC Day in the South Burnett saw a wonderful turnout at a Heritage listed Boondooma Homestead. The station being one of the original very large areas taken up in the 1860's and we attended by invitation of the restoration committee. As well, Nashos attended their own local services in the various towns throughout the area. The Nasho



contingent, after attending the Dawn Service in the respective towns, arrived at the homestead and our own Joe Petersen was given the job of arranging the march. Approximately 15 members made the trip and proudly led the march behind the Branch banner which was carried by a group of local girl guides. The service that followed was very moving in which Nashos had a very prominent part. There was an estimated 1500 people there to witness the event. The service and the part the Nashos took in it, was the topic of conversation for the whole week and the branch is pleased that we accepted the invitation to attend, in fact we made such an impression the Chairman of the Committee restoring this heritage site has invited us back next year.

On Thursday 24 April our President and 5 other Nashos attended a very touching service at the Nanango State Primary School where 2 pupils from each class laid wreaths (made by each class) beneath the Australian Flag. In attendance was the nephew of Pte Jack Hunter the Australian Digger that had been found in France after 90 years and re-interred over there. Ten wreaths were selected out of the many lain at the school to be flown overseas to be laid on Remembrance Day by the school children over there.

STANTHORPE (Meeting: 4th Wednesday every 2nd month 1930 hours. Venue: RSL Club)

Recently our Branch received an invitation from our comrades just over the border to attend a dinner function at Tenterfield Bowls Club which we accepted and 17 members from Stanthorpe attended on quiet a chilly night, but our reception was a very warm one and we soon enjoyed a lot of stories jointly experienced in bygone days.

The Tenterfield Branch, presented us with a certificate of Goodwill and Friendship which was gratefully received by our Secretary and he suitably responded on behalf of our branch. The Guest Speaker was Lt Col Glenn Taylor and he addressed the gathering in the most informative way by a very easy voice and also by a visual display by video, on all engagements that Australian Forces are presently involved. It was well received by the good crowd who attended. The meal was excellent and the hospitality and comradeship top notch.



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

The belated Mother's Day picnic held at Mudjimba on 8th June was well attended and enjoyed by everybody. Our next picnic will be held at La Balsa Park, Buddina on 10th August. August is going to be a very busy month for our



Branch. On 25 June a group of New Zealand Nashos and their wives were touring the Sunshine Coast. Ray Lower was their guide and Pat Woods gave a talk at Mary Cairncross Park, Maleny. Pat Tempest welcomed the tourists to the coast at a luncheon at Nambour RSL. The day went off well. The next general meeting of the branch will be on the 9th September – RSL Maroochydore. On Friday 15th August VP Day celebrations will be held at Drysdales Funeral Home, Nambour at 1200 hours. Monday the 18th August is Long Tan Day and we have been invited to march with the Vietnam Vets at Caloundra at 1100 hours.

GYMPIE (Meeting: 2nd Sunday Bi-monthly even months 1400 hours. Venue: Gympie RSL)

Gympie Branch's last two meetings have been very well attended with both members and support members. The Anzac Day March was well attended and was a successful day for all. Some members are considering attending the State Conference in September and one member is going to Brisbane for the reserve forces day while others will attend the March being held in Wondai on the 6th July. Members are looking forward to a B.B.Q. social get together some time in the coming months. On Veterans Day the 17th August the R.S.L. is unveiling the latest Mural in Memorial Lane in Gympie. Members will be attending the unveiling and marching later in the afternoon.



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

Members of Warwick branch visited our branch on 18th May. After a meet and greet and morning tea at Queens Park it was onto the bus for a tour of places of interest in the Ipswich area with our tour guide Councillor Sheila Ireland. After a BBQ lunch it was to Queens Park Nature reserve and Nerima Gardens before our visitors returned home. Although the weather was very cold and windy a great time was had

by all. On 21st May we were invited by Councillor David Morrison to visit Springfield. Members boarded the bus for Springfield and after a briefing on the area by Councillor Morrison and morning tea we were guided on a tour of the region. After lunch we were shown the University and then through the Orion Shopping Centre. The highlight of the trip was a visit to Brookwater Golf Club where we boarded golf buggies for a trip around the course. We don't know what the golfers thought as a convoy of out of control Nashos invaded the course (group photo). Many thanks to Councillor Morrison for spending the day with us as a great day was had by all of those who attended. Speaking of Springfield, the unveiling and dedication of the memorial at the Springfield College campus will be 30th October at 0945 hours. Our branch was well represented at the Inaugural Reserve Day ceremony held at the RSL Memorial Park on 28th June with a wreath being laid on behalf of the Ipswich Nasho's. Members also attended Reserve Forces Day parade in Brisbane on 29th June. Another bus trip is planned for later in the year. Members will be notified of the date as time draws closer.

MARYBOROUGH (Meeting: 1st Tuesday each month. Venue: Maryborough RSL.)

Twenty nine members and supporters celebrated the birthdays of Brenton Bahr, Dell Birt, Lyn Foster, Margo Lawton and Brian Johnson at the residence of Brenton and Beryl Bahr. The celebration cake was baked by Beryl and shared by all.



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

Forty-six Redlands Nashos enjoyed a hearty and tasty fish and chip dinner at Samsons Seafoods at Raby Bay on Monday night, 16th June. Everyone rugged up thinking it would be a cold night in the open venue, but the weather took a turn for the better and it was a beautiful evening. Some of the members are heading off on the 20th June for a four day bus trip to Bundaberg and surrounding districts. More about that next issue. On a sadder note, I wish to note the passing of our esteemed member, Brian (Superman) Dwyer. A contingent of Redlands Nashos formed a guard of honour at Hemmant crematorium chapel where Evan Edwards conducted the service ably supported by our new chaplain, Ray Richmond, with an address by State Chaplain Major John Tatters. A wake was held at the Redlands RSL following the funeral. Our condolences and friendship go out to Brian's widow, Beth, and their family, some of whom travelled from as far away as the Queensland Gulf, Perth and Chile.



NSAA RETIREMENT VILLAGE PLANNED

The Association is in serious discussions about being involved in the development of a retirement village on the north side of Brisbane.

It would be modelled along the lines established by the RSL.

There would be a combination of one, two and three bedroom villas. A community centre, heated swimming pool, small bowling rink, golf putting green and caravan storage would be included in the design.

PROJECT VALUED AT \$55MILLION

The total project would be valued at over \$55,000,000.

Queensland President, Colin Bell, said the Commonwealth Bank has examined the project and offered its complete support and the necessary funding.



In 1958, retirement for 1pl A Coy 1st Intake at Wacol meant lights out ready for another long day starting at Reveille at 6a.m.

He said the village would be developed in three stages with the first villas available in the early part of 2010.

It is expected that the prices for the villas will range from \$265,000 to \$340,000 depending on size and facilities. All of the villas would have their own lockup garage and would come complete with items such as window coverings and light fittings. 'We are examining a partnership with a commercial company with extensive experience in the development and management of retirement villages. This would provide the professional skills needed to develop and manage the facility'

Mr.Bell said the Association proposed that a separate company be formed to handle the development and ownership of its interest in the retirement village.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN PURCHASE

The President said the NSAA was now calling for expressions of interest by members and others in purchasing a unit.

'We are also offering members the opportunity to assist the Association in financing the project by way of secured loans with a suitable interest rate. Any member interested in assisting with finance can contact the office for information'. Mr.Bell said the State Management Committee would nominate suitably experienced persons for the management board of the retirement village.

'This is an exciting initiative by the NSAA for its members', he said.

THE DEMON DRINK

The wowers are in full swing again defining more than four standard drinks as 'binge drinking' – the latest big health no-no.

My Granddad had never heard of a standard drink and he certainly had more than four at a time. He was told that if he didn't ease up, he wouldn't live more than a year and he died at 80. Of course, he was 79 when they told him...

Alcohol is actually good for you – in moderation. Research has shown that a glass of red wine or a nightcap such as a whisky, Drambuie or Bundy Rum is far better than sleeping pills. It is often conveniently overlooked that Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine when supplies ran out at a wedding. St Paul enjoined us to take a little wine for our stomach's sake. The Greeks and the Romans enjoyed wine, but usually drank it mixed with water.

In the Middle Ages ale or beer was a standard ration for working men and far safer to drink than the water from polluted wells or streams. But like anything else abuse of alcohol carries serious health risks including liver and brain damage.

The Government has taxed more heavily alcopops which are mixtures of white spirits such as vodka and cider with fruit juice and other sweeteners. The danger is that young people, particularly girls, don't realise how potent spirits are. The Government's action would be more credible if they had simply lowered the alcohol content in alcopops as with mid and low strength beers. The message about alcohol remains the same – enjoy a drop but don't let it get the drop on you.

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.
1800 636 660
Proudly Australian Owned

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

Where were the NASHOS when the power went out? Trying to cook a BBQ breakfast for Mothers Day of course!. Power was restored with a minimum of fuss. The outing was held at Centenary Lakes and attended by twenty-six early risers. A box of chocolates was presented to all ladies present. Games of bocce followed rounding up an enjoyable morning. A certificate of appreciation was presented to our Patron, Mr. Lou Piccone by vice president Allen Dean at a luncheon held at the Hambleton Hotel, Edmonton on Friday 16th May. It was a fitting tribute bestowed on Lou for his generosity and support given to our branch of the National Servicemen's Association over many years. Responding, Lou thanked our organization for honouring him in this way.

Relay For Life

Over the weekend of May 31st and June 1st our branch again participating in the annual cancer fundraiser Relay For Life. This Celebration of Life believed to be one of the nation's biggest with 3000 individuals participating to make up 178 teams and raising over \$460,000. Footsore and weary our team named "sMASHing" (i.e. smashing cancer) made up of your favorite MASH characters did themselves proud by taking out the award for the "Best Site."



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

Our last meeting was held at the Dalby RSL Memorial Club on 7/6/08, this being the long weekend there were a few members unable to attend. The members from each town reported that the ANZAC services and marches were very well attended. Our branch is once again trying to organise a trip to Roma for our October meeting so we can meet up with members living there and further west. Our next meeting will be held in Miles on the second Saturday 9/8/08 at 10.30 hours. Not the First Saturday.

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

The following was submitted by one of our members, John Smyth, A115309. "This is a story of two Wynnum boys. Noel Gronvold and John Smyth.

Both went to Wynnum North Primary School and Wynnum High and Intermediate (which is now just Wynnum High School). Noel left in sub-junior to become an apprentice cabinet maker. I left after Junior to become a Technician in Training with the P.M.G. Department. Our main socialising was at the various dances and balls held in the Wynnum area. Noel was called up for National Service and entered Wacol in January 1953 in D Coy. 14 Platoon (which won the Telegraph Shield). After his training Noel joined 30th Medium Regiment R.A.A. at Moorooka for his 2 years of service in the C.M.F. He went on to own his own cabinet making business and retired to Cedarvale where he joined the Beaudesert Branch Nashos. I was called up and entered RAAF Amberley in January 1954. I was hoping to follow my technical trade but alas, along with my P.M.G. mates, we did Airfield Defence, (except for a few who were placed in other sections). The Queen visited Australia in 1954 and we 'street-lined' in Brisbane when she was departing and also at Eagle Farm. After National Service I joined 23 Squadron Citizen Air Force in 1963 and served for 21 years. I retired to the Gold Coast and in 1996 joined the then, Gold Coast Branch, which is now Gold Coast North. In September 2007, the Gold Coast North Branch invited the Beaudesert Branch to a BBQ at the Mudgeeraba Light Horse Museum, (which is well worth the visit), where the memorable re-union took place. Not having seen each other for over 50 years, it was very exciting. We plan to keep in touch. So, to all Nashos, keep your eyes open, you never know what old friends you may meet !!" Our Branch has recently donated \$1,000 to the Wacol Museum Fund. We are currently planning with Labrador State School to establish a memorial in the school grounds for their use. Their involvement in the wreath exchange program with French/Belgium schools will also be discussed.



Another item for the Newsletter. "Nashos will be pleased to hear that our Vice President, Brian Bertwistle, was recently honoured in the Queen's Birthday honours, being made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). Brian was awarded this honour for service to the transport and logistics industry, particularly through support for educational programs and driver and vehicle safety initiatives"

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



Our outing on Sunday 16th March and a coach load of members and wives departed Bundaberg at 0600 hours to link up with the Mary Valley Rattler at the Gympie Railway Station. The journey took us through the hills and valleys along the Mary River stopping at Kandanga and then on to Imbil where the local theatrical group entertained the passengers with a re-enactment of bushrangers holding up the train. The coach picked us up at the Imbil Station and we moved on to Borumba Dam for a BBQ lunch before returning home at 1730 hours. It was a long day but all the weary travellers agreed it was an enjoyable adventure. Anzac Day saw 8 branch members attend the Bargara Dawn Service (three shown in attached

photo). The service commenced as the sun rose above the horizon and heralded by a P51 Mustang passing overhead. Upon conclusion of the service the parade marched back to the Bargara Hotel for the traditional gunfire breakfast. At 0830 hours 58 Nashos assembled for the Bundaberg march which for the first time progressed to Alexandra Park. Following the ceremony the Nasho contingent marched back to the RSL where they dispersed and were joined by their wives for a reunion luncheon at the QCWA Rooms. Our latest social function was a BBQ lunch at Baldwin Wetlands on 19th June where everyone enjoyed a sunny winter day. The past three monthly general meetings have all been well attended. June was a particularly volatile meeting which went much longer than normal revolving around an issue that has yet to be resolved.



CABOOLTURE (Meeting: 3rd Tuesday each month 1930 hours. Venue: Caboolture Seniors Building.)

We had a visit from President Alan Clayton of Brisbane North Branch. ...Donations of \$1000.00 To War Widows Association, \$1000.00 to Memorial in Canberra, \$350. to S.M.C were approved. On Tuesday 24th June our Branch welcomed a party of National Servicemen who are touring the state after visiting several branches. The Nashos (10) and 4 Ladies from New Zealand (the long white cloud.) This welcome occurred naturally at the Memorial Park Wamuran where a barbeque was held to greet our Guests. President John Osbourne with our Secretary Alec Nunn did the honours with Welfare Noel McEwan. Pine Rivers attended also With 45 enjoying the lunch prepared by our Ladies Committee, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Also plenty of liquid refreshments on hand. Of course a lot of talk was exchanged of what happened long ago. After lunch our Past President Bill Newton moved to the Memorial and entertained our guests with the history of the achievement of the Club in obtaining this site for a Permanent Memorial. The New Zealanders were quite impressed with the way Bill delivered his speech. Then a tour to a pineapple plantation. A small contingent of our members attended Reserve Forces Day in Brisbane. After which we attended a Barbeque. Officials for year ahead President John Osbourne 34088912, Secretary Alex Nunn, 54992810 Email cabnash@bigpond.net.au Treasurer Geoff Murray 38880561 Welfare Noel McEwan 54966254.



OPERATION SURFERS

THE HONOUR ROLL (* National Serviceman)

- *Pte D.E. Abbott 1RAR 30 May 68
- *Pte E.J. Bailey 1RAR 13 May 68
- *Pte L.N. Brown 3RAR 26 May 68
- Pte A.J. Cooper 3RAR 26 May 68
- Cpl I. K. Dawson 1RAR 14 May 68
- *Pte J. W. Desnoy 3RAR 26 May 68
- Cpl R.B. Hickey 1RAR 13 May 68
- Sgt P. E. Lewis 3RAR 13 May 68
- Pte R. L. McNab 1RAR 13 May 68
- *L/Cpl W.H.Martin 1RAR 16 May 68
- Pte C. R. Nisbet 1RAR 14 May 68
- *Pte J.A. O'Brien 1RAR 13 May 68
- *Cpl J.G. Pearce 1RAR 14 May 68
- Gnr C.J. Sawtell 12 Fd Regt 13 May 68
- *Gnr I.J. Scott 12 Fd Regt 13 May 68
- *Pte L.R. Sheppard 1RAR 13 May 68
- *Pte W. M. Thomas 3RAR 26 May 68
- *Pte B. M. Trimble 1RAR 13 May 68
- *Pte A. J. Wallis 1RAR 16 May 68
- *Pte R. C. Watson 1RAR 13 May 68
- *Pte H. W. White 1RAR 16 May 68
- *Cpl. J. H. Whitton 1RAR 13 May 68
- *Pte J. T. Worle 3RAR 28 May 68
- *Sig A. H. Young 104 Sig Sqn 16 May 68
- *Pte B. T. Young 1RAR 13 May 68

This year marks the 40th anniversary of one of the most sustained operations in the Vietnam War.

Operation Surfers, from 12 May to 6 June 1968, saw the Australian Army with RAAF and American support inflict another heavy defeat on the Communist forces in their operational areas.

A total of 25 Australians died, including 15 National Servicemen, and 100 were wounded but the North Vietnamese Army and its Viet Cong allies lost 275 confirmed dead.

The fighting included the successful defences of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral in the face of determined assaults by concentrated enemy forces.

FSB CORAL

The excellent Australian and New Zealand military reference site **Digger History** www.diggerhistory.info, run by a Nasho, describes Operation Surfers as 'the largest unit action by Australian forces in the Vietnam War'.

Digger History says: "During the 'Mini-Tet' offensive mounted by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces in May 1968, the 1st Australian Task Force deployed two battalions to an area twenty kilometres north of Bien Hoa city to intercept and disrupt the approach of enemy forces towards the capital, Saigon, or the Bien Hoa-Long Binh base complex. Several fire support bases (FSBs) were established to provide defended firing points for artillery and mortars which would cover foot patrols to be sent out by the battalions (1 and 3 RAR). One of these FSBs was dubbed "Coral", situated seven kilometres north of the town of Tan Uyen.

Occupation of Coral was begun on 12 May, but the defences remained unfinished when, at about 3.30 am on 13 May, it was attacked following a brief but intense rocket and mortar barrage. The 1RAR mortar platoon position was over-run, along with one of the 102 Field Battery's six 105 mm M2A2 howitzers in the base.

With the aid of extensive air support, the attack was beaten off by 6.30 am and the captured gun-pit was retaken - still with the gun in it." The mortars also were recovered.

Where the Battle of Long Tan in 1966 had begun with unforeseen contact by D Company 6RAR with NVA and Viet Cong forces, the Communist attacks on Coral and Balmoral were planned and carried out in strength. Again, the co-ordination and determination of the Australian units including infantry, artillery, cavalry, armour, engineers, signals, air reconnaissance and the RAAF proved the decisive factor. The Engineers laid two Claymore minefields that were effective as both early warning of attacks and deterrents.



The No.6 gun, a 105mm M2A2 howitzer of the 12th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, on the morning after the first series of attacks on FSB Coral. The first wave of Communist forces had overrun the gun and attempted to disable it. It was retaken in the counter-attack by the Australian units. Note the rifles stacked around it ready for action. The gun is now in the collection of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Digger History continues: "Nine Australians were killed and 28 wounded, while the attackers lost more than the 52 bodies they left behind.

At 2.15 am on 16 May Coral again came under attack, this time from a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) force estimated at three battalions strong. The base was now defended by armoured personnel carriers of A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, and 1RAR's rifle companies, all of which were heavily engaged; part of the A Company position was occupied for a period, but the enemy was forced to withdraw. The attack was repelled after four hours of fighting, with the Australians having suffered five men killed and nineteen wounded. Two members of an American battery which had reinforced the base were also wounded. Only 34 enemy bodies were recovered, but blood trails and drag marks indicated that many more casualties had been removed.

On 22 May Coral was subjected to yet another rocket and mortar barrage, but this time the NVA troops were dispersed by return fire from 1RAR's mortars as they formed up to attack. Although there were further bombardments on 26 and 28 May, and patrols sent out from the base came into contact with the enemy, Coral was not seriously threatened again. During fighting on 26 May the base's defenders even turned the tables on the NVA by sending a troop of Centurion tanks from C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment (which had arrived as reinforcements three days earlier), outside the perimeter wire with infantry support; these engaged and destroyed most of a NVA bunker system that had been discovered.



Enemy efforts on 26 May were primarily focused on another FSB named "Balmoral", which was established about 4.5 kilometres further north on 24-25 May by 3RAR supported by tanks.

The defenders easily threw back assaults launched against Balmoral on 26 and 28 May. On the latter occasion, the attacking NVA regiment lost at least 42 killed and seven prisoners, but again casualties were thought to have been higher. One Australian was killed and six wounded."



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 5th September/folding date 26th September

NASHO NEWS IN COLOUR

Nasho News is now on the NSAA Queensland website in full colour. Go to www.nashoqld.org.au and click on Nasho News. So you can email your Branch News and colour photos to the Editor at allgwen@powerup.com.au with a cc to Fred Petersen at wtfred@tpg.com.au. You can change bmps to jpegs by using the resize feature in Outlook Express or Windows. If you don't know how, look it up in the Help section. Request an electronic receipt so you know we've got your email. You will still need to send a hard copy to the office at P.O.Box 7014 Holland Park East 4121 or straight to the office if you don't have email. We're now working on the breathtaking Cinemascope and stereophonic sound... Allen Callaghan and Fred Petersen.

BAYSIDE (Meeting: 3rd Tuesday each month 1900 hours. Venue: Manly-Lota RSL.)

Bayside Branch will hold a combined Memorial dedication and service with the Manly-Lota RSL Sub-branch at 11a.m. on Sunday 17 August to commemorate Vietnam Veterans' Day. The commemoration will be at the Manly-Lota RSL Hall in Melville Terrace, Manly. The Association's Paton, Major General Kevin Cooke AO RFD Ed, who served in Vietnam, will give the Address. Families of National Servicemen and Vietnam Veterans will be invited to attend. Members and their partners visited the Brisbane Maritime Museum at Southbank on 10 July, followed by lunch.

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

The Reserve Forces Day march, on June 29 this year, in addition to our NSAA Branches, consisted of members of the CMT, i.e. members of the New Zealand equivalent of our National Service, a New Zealand Artillery band, a contingent of members of the French Foreign Legion from Noumea. Brisbane South's trip to Cedar Creek Winery on the 17th July was an enjoyable day with 47 members attending. For those members wishing to have their details listed on the Nominal Roll, pick up a registration form at the general meetings or contact Head Office on 3324 1277. Registrations are being processed at H.Q. whilst Alex Garlin tours Australia.

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

The Brisbane West NASHOS have been busy selling up a storm with raffle tickets and merchandise on offer at several locations, including Redbank Plains Shopping Centre, Bunnings Oxley, Lions Soccer Club and the Blue Fin Fishing Club.



Our deepest thanks go to Knight Frank Pty Ltd, Bunnings and their team, the Blue Fin Fishing Club and Lions Soccer Club for their kind assistance and invaluable support.

The mid year raffle was drawn on the 30th of June and was won by Amanda Bale of Bellbird Park. Congratulations to Amanda and we hope she enjoys the Bunnings Vouchers to the value of \$500. Our next function will be a BBQ for members and their families held prior to our monthly meeting at Cascade Park, Forest Lake on the 3rd of August at 930 hours. All those attending are asked to RSVP to contacts below.

Our meetings are held on the first Sunday of the month usually at the Durack Bowls club on the corner of Blunder and Bowhill Roads at 1030 hours (not next month). If you are interested or wish to find out more please contact the secretary Andrew Sweeney (Ph) 0402 807 276 or (e-mail) bris.west.nasho@gmail.com