

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Victorian Branch (Incorporated) Reg. No. A0030622E ABN 329 277 244



Northern Bugle



*Newsletter of the Northern Districts Sub-Branch
Issue No. 1. March 2022*

SERVICE TO THE NATION

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN DISTRICTS SUB-BRANCH

Darebin RSL, 402 Bell Street, Preston Vic 3072.

Postal Address: 402 Bell Street, Preston Vic 3072.

OFFICE BEARERS 2021 – 2022

PRESIDENT

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VICE-PRESIDENT

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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COMMITTEE

Norma McGrillen 9436 5909

Walter Blake 9740 6018

Alan Rundell 9738 2216

Joe Hewatt 9457 4391

Ian Williamson 0419 363 871

APPOINTED OFFICERS

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FIRST AID Walter Blake 9740 6018

BUGLE EDITOR Michael Fahie 0403 225 609

PROTOCOL Brian Atkinson 9457 7396

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TRIPS and TOURS. Joe Hewatt 9457 4391

RISK MANAGEMENT Harold Schadendorff 9434 3671

FUND RAISER Gladys Brumhead 9435 6220

RETURNING OFFICER Ian Williamson 0419 363 871

Unfortunately our Editor, Michael Fahie is still unable to produce the Bugle.

We wish Michael and his Family all the Best during this very difficult time.

It is important that the Bugle continues to be the important Communicator to all of our Members.

If anyone feels that they would like to take on being a "Temporary Editor" it would be very much appreciated. Only basic computer skills are required and you would be given much assistance. Please contact me if you would like more detailed information.

The Bugle is produced four times per year prior to March, May, September and December General Meetings.

Best Wishes to All.

Jeff Brumhead.
Assistant Secretary.

GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE AT THE DAREBIN RSL 402 BELL STREET PRESTON 3072
ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

EXCEPT

JANUARY (NO MEETING), (FATHER'S DAY) 2ND Sunday in SEPTEMBER,

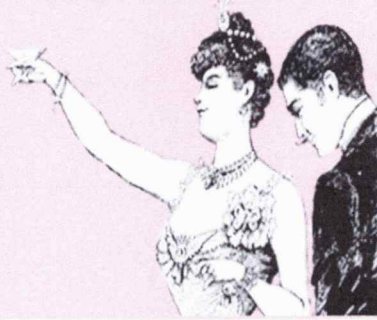
OCTOBER No Meeting (Memorial Service COMMENCING AT 10.00 HOURS).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING

May All Your Dreams Come True.

Best Wishes from the President, Committee and Members
To all birthday boys and girls – we hope you have a great day.

Happy Birthday!
It's not how old you are,
it's how you are old.



Don't get weirded out
about growing older. Our
age is actually the number
of years the earth has
been enjoying us.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Let's celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of our club members!

JANUARY

- 1 Marie Gehrke
- 1 Ged Kearney
Robert
- 1 Winther
- 8 Craig Kelberg
- 13 Donna Smit
Brendan (Guy)
- 18 Kelly
Frank
- 21 Ciechowski
- 23 Victor Duffey
- 26 Albert Davies
- 26 Brian Talbot
Kenneth
- 29 McKersie
Noelene
- 29 Stevens
- 30 Robert Finco
- 30 John Killian



FEBRUARY

- Andrew (Andy)
- 1 Scott
- 15 Colin Whitworth
- 21 Jean Bysouth
John (Jack)
- 22 Griffiths
Thomas (Tom)
- 27 Jephcott

MARCH

- 2 Michael Fahie
Robert (Rob)
- 8 Nielsen
- 9 Michelle Webber
- 10 John Sanders
- 13 Rodney Andrews
- 15 Wayne Brown
- 20 Douglas Carroll
Edwin (Eddie)
- 20 Hicks
- 22 Philip Blake
- 25 Robert Goff
- 27 Mervyn Carson



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BUGLE 6TH MARCH 2022



Welcome to you all for the March, 2022 edition of the Northern Districts Bugle. Your Committee is very proud that we have come out of the Pandemic in reasonably good shape. It has been a long process however, now we can look forward to a much brighter future.

On the 20th February, Dorothy and I were very pleased to represent our Sub-branch at an invitational luncheon to celebrate a State Branch RSL presentation of Life Membership and Gold Badge to Robert Cross, President Darebin/Preston RSL for his over 50 years service to the RSL. Victoria State RSL President Dr Robert Webster OAM carried out the presentation. Approximately 30 guests attended the event. A letter of congratulations from our Sub-branch has been forwarded to Bob thanking him for the support he and his staff have provided to our Sub-branch for nearly 25 years.

On the 20th March the Pucka NSAA Memorial Service will be held at which we will have the Brian Barnett Replacement Memorial Plaque Dedicated. We thank the State Branch for its support in including the Dedication Service within their usual Memorial Service. We also thank those in charge at Pucka ADF for their support and our own Hank Kreemers for his work in co-ordinating the creation of the Memorial Garden and the placement of the rock and attachment of the stainless steel plaque. Hank will also MC the whole of the Service. That is a lot of work and we sincerely thank Hank for that. We will have a past Chaplain, Don Kaus to conduct the Dedication Service. Noelene Stevens, sister of Brian Barnett will unveil the Plaque. All we need is you the members to be up at Pucka on the day. Should you require transport, please see one of our Committee Members and I am sure we will get you a lift. Complimentary lunch will be provided by the State Branch within the Cricket Pavilion and its surrounds.

Please keep healthy, happy and enjoy the rest of 2022.

E. Noel Blake

MEETINGS and FUNCTION DATES

INCORRECT INFORMATION

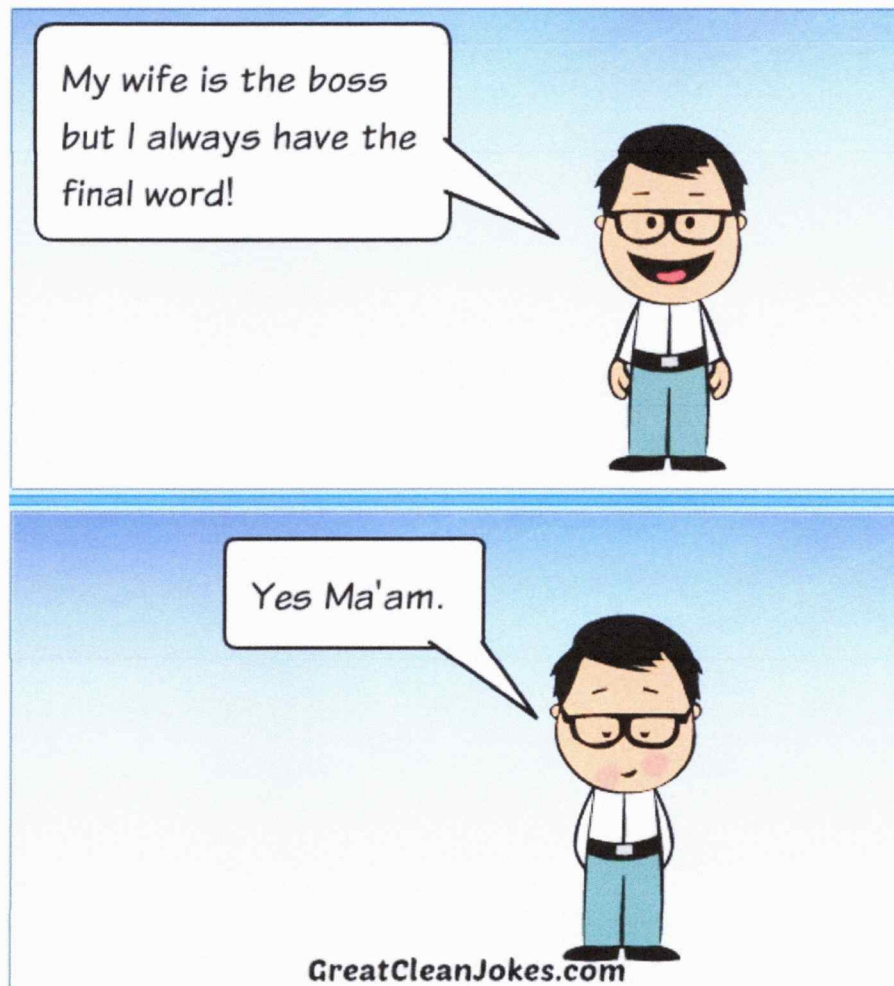
MONTH	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
MAR.	Sun 7 th	10.00 am	General Meeting.
	Sun 14 th	11 am	NSAA Day (Puckapunyal).
	Tues 30 th	2pm – 4pm	Committee Meeting.
APR.	Sun 4 th	9 am – 11.30 am	Easter Sunday.
	Sun 11 th	10.30am	Annual General Meeting.
	Sun 18 th	12.00am	ANZAC Memorial Service (RSL).
	Tues 20 th	2pm – 4pm	ANZAC Day Luncheon.
	Fri 23 rd	10.30 am	Committee Meeting.
MAY	Sun 25 th	11.00 am	ANZAC Memorial Service (Repat.).
	Sun 2 nd	10.00 am	To be Confirmed.
	Tues 25 th	2 pm – 4 pm	ANZAC Day March (Shrine).
JUNE	Sun 6 th	10.00 am	General Meeting.
	Tues 22 nd	2 pm – 4 pm	Committee Meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual Meeting will be held in the Darebin RSL Meeting Room on 3rd April 2022. The Darebin RSL has advised the Committee that the Function Room will not be available for the AGM due to other commitments. The AGM will therefore be held in the Member's Bar commencing at the usual Meeting time of 10.00 am, as there will be no ballot an early start will not be required. As usual, a short General Meeting will be held following the AGM. A table for twenty people has been booked in the Bistro for those Members who like to stay for lunch. The RSL will not admit anyone who is not fully vaccinated. Good news is that the RSL car park has been completed with under cover car parking. Entry from St Georges Rd. or Arthur St.

RETURNING OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF NOMINATIONS.

All positions will be declared vacant at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations closed on Friday 4th February 2022. The Returning Officer has advised that he holds nine nominations with no nomination for Secretary. Nominations cover all positions other than the Secretary.



Noel,
Please relay this to
Jeff
Cheers Spud.

Keith L. Murphy RMB 190 Highlands Road, Seymour Vic 3660
Mobile: 0409 806 885 E-Mail: spudseymour@gmail.com

16 FEB '22

Jeff,

The following article appeared in the Seymour Telegraph
P.18 today's date. Reproduction in the "Bungle" with
of course suitable acknowledgement of source? About Sunday
at the Shrine not many words would be required.!!.

Keith M.

18 SEYMOUR TELEGRAPH

A tribute to our 'Nashos'

14th FEB.

National Servicemen's Day was marked on Monday, when hundreds of thousands of Australian men who served our nation through compulsory military service after World War II were honoured.

Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Minister Andrew Gee said it was important to recognise those who stood up when called upon to defend their country.

"Australia's 'Nashos', as they are affectionately nicknamed, made a significant contribution to our nation's defence forces and rightfully wear the title with pride," Mr Gee said.

"I encourage all Australians to take time to reflect on the service and sacrifice of these men and ensure they continue to be appropriately remembered.

"The idea of compulsory military service would seem foreign to many Australians, particularly younger generations, but between 1951 and 1959, and again between 1964 and 1972, it was a reality for many young Aussie men.

"Around 227,000 men completed the compulsory six months' recruit training during 1951-1959, but



Pay tribute: Monday, February 14, was National Servicemen's Day.

it was in the second period from 1964 when 'Nashos' were deployed in significant numbers."

More than 804,000 men registered for national service between 1964 and 1972, with more than 63,000 called up to serve.

Of those, nearly 19,500 served in Borneo and Vietnam, while the remainder were part of support units in Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Australia.

More than 15,000 served in the Vietnam War, where some 200 died and more than 1200 were wounded.

Mr Gee said it was a little

known fact that from 1966, Australian infantry battalions in Vietnam were typically comprised of an equal mix of regular soldiers and national servicemen.

"At the time, most 20-year-old Australian men were required to register and were then selected for national service through the infamous 'birthday ballot', in which they were randomly selected by their date of birth," he said.

"My uncle Geoff was a Nasho who served his country at Nui Dat in 1967. My family and I are incredibly proud of his service, as all Australians should be very proud of our Nashos who answered the call to serve their nation.

"They personify our Australian value of service above self."

● Learn more about the National Service scheme of the Vietnam War era by visiting the Department of Veterans' Affairs Anzac portal at <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/vietnam-war-1962-1975/events/conscription/birthday-ballot>

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

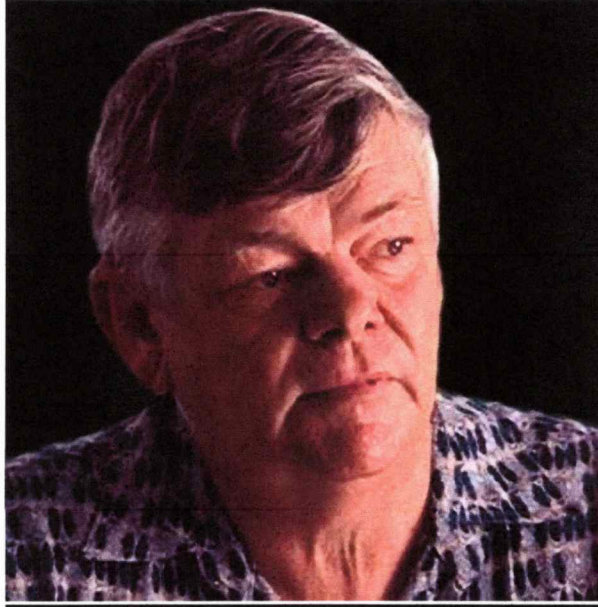
(VICTORIAN BRANCH) INCORPORATION

NORTHERN DISTRICTS SUB-BRANCH

MERCHANDISE

BERETS	9 @ \$27.00 = \$243.00
TIES	7 @ \$30.00 = \$210.00
POCKET PATCHES	8 @ \$15.00 = \$120.00
POCKET PATCH HOLDERS	8 @ \$5.50 = \$44.00
RAIN PONCHOS	15 @ \$2.50 = \$37.50
BERET BADGES	8 @ \$15.00 = \$120.00
LAPEL BADGES	7 @ \$14.00 = \$98.00
2006 LAPEL BADGE	4 @ \$14.00 = \$52.00
THE RISING SUN BADGE	1 @ \$10.00 = \$10.00
ENAMEL TIE BAR	2 @ \$15.00 = \$30.00
PLAIN TIE BAR	2 @ \$10.00 = \$20.00
PRINCE OF WALES LIGHT HORSE – BERET BADGE	1 @ \$10.00 = \$10.00
NORTH WEST VICTORIAN – REGIMENT BERET BADGE	1 @ \$10.00 = \$10.00
NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S – HAND HELD FLAGS	2 @ \$5.00 = \$10.00
PROUD NASHO BUMPER – STICKERS	4 @ \$2.50 = \$10.00
NASHO WINDOW STICKERS	<u>8 @ \$2.50 = \$20.00</u>
	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>\$1,044.50</u>

The Committee of the Northern Districts Sub Branch
offers 20% off all purchases made before 1st June 2022.



JIM RICHMOND – AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Jim Richmond served with the Australian Army in Vietnam, and in 1966 was wounded during the Battle of Long Tan.

In August 1966, 105 Australian and three New Zealand soldiers held out against an enemy force of over 2,000. It was in a rubber plantation near Long Tan. Jim Richmond was there.

"There was that much fire coming in - there was small like, the rubber trees around us, they were getting just like a magic finger was taking bits of rubber from the trees themselves. It was just, there was that much noise. You couldn't hear, like you're yelling out to your mates if they were okay but the noise was that bad that you couldn't try to find out how your friends were.

And the enemy fire, they were coming from the trees, from the ground. We were being overrun; we called in for artillery support. And a couple of those shorts went, well a couple of drop shorts, that they come instead of hitting the enemy, they fell a bit short and that's when I was wounded. It was like getting hit with about a twenty-eight pound sledgehammer. There was no pain but it felt as if me stomach was driven into the ground and me head and shoulders were like me feet and head were sort of meeting each other at the middle."

When the survivors of his platoon pulled back, Jim still lay on the battlefield. He was badly wounded.

"I started to pray during the night. I've never prayed for a long time. And I just hoped that if I could get through that night I promised the big fellow up top that I'd go back to church again. But I broke them promises when I come back home anyway."

The next morning, Jim's company returned. "Then I heard Sergeant Buick's voice. So I put me hand up. He's not a good looking bloke Bob, but I nearly could have kissed him that day anyway, so.

The dream I have all the time is all the young blokes that were killed on the day I still see their faces. Like Doug, Shorty, Mitch, Glen, you still tell them that when I wake up in that morning you know, that next morning that they'd all wake up with me, but they never do."

18 Australians died and 24 were wounded. The enemy lost hundreds.

Jack of All Parades

Looking for someone who's done it all? Meet Wayne Dixon – former reservist, firey, ambo, sub-Branch President, homecare volunteer, and more. If there's a parade going, Wayne probably belongs in it – but he'd say he just likes to help people.

I was an Army Reservist for about six years, and I've moved around a lot. When I was in Coonamble, I was President of the RSL sub-Branch for three years.

Back in Coonamble, I volunteered for St John Ambulance and the Rural Fire Service. When they had the big bushfires in Victoria, I drove the fire truck from Coonamble to Victoria. We spent more than a week there putting out bushfires, and I was flown to Victoria again a few years later to do the same thing.

Fighting those fires was an experience that'll live with me forever. We were all getting ready to go down there and watching the news on TV – they said people were losing houses and their lives. When we drove down, people held up little placards saying 'thank you' and waving to us.

You see all the burnt houses, and you turn around and it's all burnt everywhere, you just see burnt areas and places. It makes you so proud to be there though, to help each other in times of crisis like that.



LEAVING HOME

In the '80s, I had an aunt who used to live in Wangi Wangi, and I'd come down this way then and I just loved visiting the place. So when I started to get arthritis in my spine, I decided to move there to be closer to doctors. There's an Aboriginal Medical Centre in Cardiff and I go there now.

I'm single, and I've got a little Jack Russell terrier, Bear – he's about 11 years old, and I've had him since he was a puppy. I was staying with my cousins in Morisset and

looking around for a house for me and Bear. But things weren't working out and I was going to commit suicide at one point there.

At the RSL sub-Branch, I met an Affiliate member, Wendy – her father was a Vietnam vet, and she helps veterans looking for houses and jobs. Wendy got onto Mamour at RSL Defence Care RSL Defence Care and told him about me, and he was a really great help to me.

MAKING A HOME

Walking into my new place with Bear – it was freedom. It was. It's my own little granny flat, and I don't have to tread on eggshells like I would if I was at other people's places. I can do things myself – my own shopping, put up some photos for myself and make the place liveable.

I've got a little rocking chair on the veranda where I sit and rock on that. I don't drink – I haven't for so many years – but I go outside and have a smoke now and then.

When I first moved in, the neighbours welcomed me to the street and they're all good neighbours. If you're out the front there, they pull up and have a yarn, come up and have a yarn. Everything's nice and peaceful here. At night, there are no parties, you don't hear dogs bark or anything like that.

When I was ready to start looking for work, Mamour [through RSL Defence Care's financial assistance program] helped me get a laptop I could use to look for work, and connected me with the RSL Employment Program.

Then the bus driver at the Wangi RSL Club left, and the team there thought, "Who are we going to get as a bus driver?" So the manager rang me and asked if I would like the job. I said yes.

I'm going to do some training on the computer as well, and that'll give me another bit on my résumé. I sit with the guys at the sub-Branch, and the President there is looking for a Secretary. Soon I'll be able to help with that.

With my licence, I can help with the schoolkids from the Wangi Wangi Public School too. They've got a school carnival coming up next month and they've asked me, on my days off, if I'd like to drive them to the school carnival. I said, "Yeah, that's not a problem."

I'm getting familiar with all the people, and they're really nice. The boss is a good manager there, and the bar staff are really nice too. I marched on ANZAC Day and people were watching from both sides of the street. I did the lowering and raising of the flag, and then they said it was my day, and I should have the day off.

They all looked after me, even all the patrons. Everything's going good.

Northern Districts Sub Branch gratefully acknowledges the support received from the following sponsors.

Ms Ged Kearney MP

Federal Member for Cooper, Victoria

Australian Labor Party

Chamber

House of Representatives



Ged's office is available to assist members with questions or issues relating to the federal government and its departments.

Contact Ged's office on 9416 8690 or email ged.kearney.mp@aph.gov.au

