PFH DISTRICT RSL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

The events, meetings, and services I have attended in the last month are as follows:

1. I travelled to Mackay on Wednesday 1 November to present the two Peter Jarrott Memorial Scholarships($2500 each) at the Mackay North State High School Awards Night.
2. On Friday 3 November, I attended the funeral of Bruce Acutt. Bruce was a psychologist who treated veterans for PTSD in the Central Queensland region and gifted the land at Cawarral on which the Cockscomb Veterans Retreat is now sited.
3. On Thursday 9 November, I was invited by the Capricorn Coast Historical Society to launch the book "Beersheba and Beyond" at the Yeppoon Library. The book was written by Norma Hempenstall, a longtime member of the Society.
4. On 11 November, together with Deputy President, John, and Vice President, Phil, we travelled to Springsure for Remembrance Day and the dedication of the new Springsure Cenotaph.
5. I attended the RSL State Board meeting in Brisbane on Thursday 17 November.
6. I travelled to Sarina on Saturday 18 November to chair and attend a District Council meeting.
7. I travelled to Hobart for a Board meeting of Mates4Mates on Wednesday 22 November.
8. I attended a general meeting of the Emu Park RSL on Sunday 26 November.
9. I attended the funeral of Geoffrey Horne on Tuesday 28 November and conducted an RSL Poppy Service. Geoffrey was a World War 2, Korea, and Vietnam veteran. He served in the army for going on 30 years and was an RSL member for over 40 years.
10. On Wednesday 29 November I travelled to Brisbane to attend a Mates4Mates end of year function.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometres Travelled Statistics for November 2017

Voluntary Hours	192.5 hours
Kilometers Travelled	3139 kilometers
Nights Away From Home	10

District Council Meeting held at Sarina on Saturday 18 November 2017

Board Governance

I urge members of Sub-Branch Boards to make themselves familiar with the TOBI booklet and undertake the on-line learning program so they become aware of what their responsibilities and duties are as a member of a Not-For-Profit Board.

Dental Health Pilot Program

The program has now been up and running since May 2017 and the District has paid around $9,465 in dental subsidies to RSL service members so far in 2017.

At District Council meeting it was resolved to continue the program in as a Pilot Program in 2018.

During 2018, the District Executive will review the program. Given the success of the program to date, I can see no reason at this stage why the program would not then become permanent.

LiveLife Alarms

The program is proving very popular with around 26 alarms issued to those in need.

Sub-Branch Presidents are reminded to keep an eye out for members who would benefit from this program.

District PAWS Coordinator

At Council meeting at Clermont, District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, was appointed to the position of District PAWS Coordinator.

Phil is now undertaking training in relation to the position.

In time, Phil will be contacting sub-branches about welfare and pension service matters.

Deliotte's Governance Study

As you are aware, the State RSL Board has engaged Deliotte's to conduct a study into governance in RSL Queensland. For sub-branch delegates who were at the State AGM, they would have seen an initial presentation by Deliotte's.

Deliotte's make a further presentation to District Council delegates meeting at Sarina. I thank delegates for their active and positive participation in the presentation. The interest shown and the questions asked was commendable and I was told by one of the Deliotte's representatives that the session was one of the best of the district presentations so far.

At the December 2017 State Board meeting, Deliotte's will be submitting the findings of their study and it was important that the views of our District members are taken into account if the RSL governance structures are to change. The State board will be reluctant to institute change if it does not have the backing of the membership.

A further round of district consultations by the State President, Stewart Cameron, and the President of the Constitution and Awards Committee, Roy Cunneen, is planned for early in the New Year.

The District President's Award

The District Executive has decided to introduce the District President's Award. The award will be a perpetual trophy and will be made to a sub-branch each year that has excelled in meeting the welfare and commemorative objectives of the League. The sub-branch's engagement with their community will also be considered when determining the award winner.

The District Executive will be responsible for deciding the winner of the award each year and the award will be presented at the Annual Dinner that is held in conjunction with the AGM.

The award will consist of a shield that will be engraved with the name of sub-branch that wins the award. The shield will be housed in the District Office but the sub-branch will get to keep a small replica of the shield.

The award will be made for the first time in 2018 and judging will relate to the performance of sub-branches during 2017.

Proposed Animals at War Memorial

The District has been approached for support for the construction of such a memorial in Jubilee Park in Mackay.

The District has given the person a letter which supports the proposal in principle and the person has undertaken to approach the Mackay Regional Council regarding the proposal.

We have received no feedback at this stage.

Mates4Mates

A presentation by Marc Diplock from Mates4Mates was made at the Council meeting and all the sub-branches were presented with a Mates4Mates information pack.

Mates4Mates is a fully owned by RSL Queensland and was set up in 2012 with the prime objective of assisting war veterans, especially the younger veterans, who are suffering from physically and psychologically injuries. Many of the mates suffer severely with PTSD and need all the help they can get.

At District Council meeting, the delegates decided to make a donation of $5,000 to Mates4Mates to go towards the Equine program.

I would like to urge sub-branches, when they are considering which organisations to make donations to, that they consider directing funds to Mates4Mates. I am aware that some sub-branches are making donations to organisations that have no links to the RSL at all. It is my belief that charity should start at home.

A donation to Mates is an easy way of spending money on welfare and the donation will be gratefully received and well targeted.

Cadet Funding for 2017

The allocation of cadet funding was ratified at the meeting and amounts have been made to the relative sub-branches.

When presenting the monies to the cadet units, will you try and get some publicity for the RSL in your local area.

Sarina Sub Branch presenting Cadet Fund.

Moranbah Sub Branch presenting Cadet Fund.

District AGM 2018

The executive position of Deputy President comes up for election at the AGM.

The District Secretary has forward a copy of a nomination form to each sub-branch and the forms will also be available through the District Office.

It is recommended that members nominating for the position take the time to read the TOBI Booklet (copies available from District Secretary) and then complete the on-line training module. This will give the nominee an idea of the role and the responsibilities of the position.

Travel Policy

At Council meeting, it was decided to amend the Travel Policy so that a kilometer rate reimbursement is to be paid for travel in lieu of a refund of petrol expense. This change will take place from 1 January 2018.

The rate will be at the DVA kilometer rate.

Changes to District By-Laws

Amendments have been made to the By-Laws to bring them up to date. The main change was to delete sub-branches that have ceased to exist and add the Gracemere Sub-Branch which transferred in from the Wide Bay District during 2017.

State Board Meeting Thursday 16 November 2017

ACNC Investigation

A communication went to sub-branches in late February advising that the ACNC was conducting an investigation into all RSL State Branches including Queensland.

Queensland welcomed the investigation and voluntarily supplied the information requested by the ACNC.

The State Executive and CEO met with the ACNC investigators in late June 2017 and the CEO has now provided additional information requested by the ACNC.

A further meeting with the State Executive and Board members, and the CEO, took place in the latter part of August.

The ACNC has indicated that they would like to see some changes to the Governance of RSL QLD.

The State Board has submitted a Governance Plan document to the ACNC for their approval or otherwise.

The investigation is ongoing and I will keep you posted on any further feedback we receive. The finalization of the investigation could take untill the middle of next year.

Transition to Employment Program

One of the major issues current veterans are faced with during their transition from the defence forces is finding a job.

RSL Queensland launched a pilot program in Townsville on 25 September 2017 for a six month period with the view to extending the program throughout Queensland.

There are presently 53 ex-service personnel participating in the pilot program.

State Based Minister for Veterans Affairs

RSL Queensland is lobbying the State Government to appoint a State based Minister for Veterans Affairs and to also mandate a certain number of public servant jobs for veterans.

The LNP opposition had announced a policy in this regard but the government had not done so.

Now that the State election has happened and a new government is in place, lobbying will probably has to recommence.

Sub-Branch Charters

RSL Queensland is prepared to take responsibility for providing protection for pre 1940 charters in an archive environment and provide the sub-branch with an appropriate copy for display purposes.

The following sub-branches have indicated that they will take up this offer:

Emu Park
Marian
Walkerston/Pleystowe

and I have advised State Branch accordingly.

The Emu Park Sub-Branch has provided their charter to the District Secretary and once the other two sub-branches have done the same, the charters will be forwarded to Brisbane.

District AGM Meeting Dates

State Branch wish to contain the District AGM's for 2019 to the months of March and April.

The PFH District AGM date has been set for Saturday 6 April 2019.

Conduct of Sub-Branch Executive

As advised in the last newsletter, a case has arisen in recent time where members of the executive of a sub-branch were availing themselves of free drinks and meals at the sub-branch's expense.

The State President has asked me to remind sub-branches that this sort of behavior will not be tolerated and members could find themselves in serious trouble.

On Going Matters and Reminders

District Website/Facebook

New website address is www.rslpfhdistrict.org.au

Sub-branches are encouraged to keep providing details of events, photographs, etc to Vice President, Phil Luzzi, or District Secretary, Lynette Ney, for placing on the district website and facebook page.

Drop in Centre at District Office.

The centre is now up and running with 4 computer terminals available for use by RSL members.

Can the sub-branches in the Mackay region spread the news that this new facility is now available to members.

New Constitution

The State Board will consider the Deliotte's Review of Governance report at the December Board meeting and will undergo a round of further meetings with the districts in the early New Year to seek members views on the Deliotte's model proposed.

It is planned that the new State constitution will be submitted to the 2018 AGM in June next year for approval or otherwise and the constitution will need to be finalized by March 2018 to allow this to happen.

ANZAC Centenary Commemorative Funding

Funding is still available until the end of 2018 to commemorate anniversaries of historical World War 1 events.

The District Secretary has a copy of the Terms of Reference and Guidelines for the funding program.

Applications are to be submitted using the "Event Plan" as a guide (located on RSL (Queensland Branch) website). Submissions are to be submitted through District so the completeness of the application can be checked.

Sub-branches need to be aware that funds will not be allocated to a single sub-branch unless there are geographic isolation reasons. Events need to be community based and in most cases sub-branches in a local area will need to combine and apply for the funding.

District Veterans Welfare Fund

A further $100,000 of funds will be allocated to the District for 2018.

Sub-branches need to start thinking about the welfare projects they will be applying for to benefit their members and should get the applications in early.

Remembrance Day at Springsure

Together with Deputy President, John, and Vice President, Phil, I had the pleasure of being invited to give the key note address at the Springsure Remembrance Day Commemorative Service. Following this service, the New Springsure Cenotaph was dedicated.

It was a great day and I would like to thank the President of the Springsure Sub-Branch, Adrian Wallen, and his members for the invitation. It was a tremendous effort by the Sub-Branch to raise $130,000 to construct the new cenotaph. I would also like to acknowledge Beau (Deputy President) and Nicole (Secretary) Johnston for their contribution to the project as well.

Well done Springsure and thank you for the camaraderie and hospitality.

IN HONOUR OF
THOSE WHO SERVED
LEST WE FORGET

It is that time of year again with Christmas and New Year fast approaching. As this will be my last newsletter for the year, I would like wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you all for the valuable voluntary contribution you have made to the RSL in 2017.

Please take time to have a holiday with your family and recharge the batteries. I intend to do so as I will get to spend precious time with my family. My daughter Kelly will be travelling from Darwin to spend Christmas with Mandy and I.

If you are travelling distances to be with your families, please take care on the roads and travel safe.

I look forward to catching up with you all in the New Year.

Kindest regards

Barry Vains OAM

District President

THE LAST POST

Member ID	First Name	Surname	Date of Birth	Deceased Date	Owner	Last Financial Year
1517994	Richard	Welsh	27/08/1923	25/11/2017	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1568342	Francis	Busby	22/07/1939	12/11/2017	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1503107	J	Kinder	15/09/1936	10/11/2017	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	SM2010
1518894	Don	Wait	11/01/1921	21/10/2017	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE

MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR 2018

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
17.02.2018	12.30pm	Gracemere Sub Branch 22 James Street Gracemere
17.03.2018 (AGM)	10.45am	Sarina Sub Branch 34 Central Street Sarina
19.05.2018	12.30pm	Moranbah Sub Branch Workers Club, Mills Avenue Moranbah
22-24.06.2018 (State AGM)	Starting 12.00pm 22nd	Cairns Convention Centre CNR Wharf & Sheridan Street, Cairns
21.07.2018	12.30pm	Farleigh Sub Branch Farview Tavern, 22 Chidlow Street, Farleigh
15.09.2018	12.30pm	Yeppoon Sub Branch 15 Normanby Street Yeppoon
17.11.2018	12.30pm	Marian Sub Branch Marian Hall, 1 Daly Street, Marian

Office Closure

The **RSL PFH DISTRICT OFFICE** *will be closed from:*

Tuesday 5.12.2017

And will reopen

Monday 8.01.2018

If you have an urgent enquiry please call the District President on 0439 658 606

The **RSL VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE** *will be closed from:*

Tuesday 5.12.2017

And will reopen

Monday 11.12.2017

If you have an urgent enquiry please call Tracey on 0448 943 604.