

PFH DISTRICT RSL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

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

1. I travelled to Mackay and worked with the District Secretary in the District Office on 10/12 January.
2. Together with District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, I met with the President of the Nasho's CC Sub-Branch On Sunday 21 January to discuss some sub-branch matters.
3. I attended the Livingstone Shire Council Australia Day Awards Ceremony on Thursday evening of 25 January to support Yeppoon Sub-Branch members, Brian and Evelyn Daley who were nominated for an award. While Brian and Evelyn did not win the award, I take this opportunity, on behalf of the PFH District, to sincerely thank them for the huge voluntary welfare contribution they have made to the RSL and Capricorn Coast community over many years.
4. I attended a general meeting of the Emu Park Sub-Branch on Sunday 28 January.
5. I travelled to Brisbane to participate in Mates4Mates Board Strategic Planning session on 30 January and attend a Mates4Mates Board meeting on 31 January.
6. I travelled to Mackay on 1 February:
 - To participate in meeting with District Secretary, Lynette Ney, and RSL QLD District Support Services Manager, Henriette Draaijer, on 2 February.
 - Attend and chair a District Executive meeting on 3 February.
 - Attend Mackay Sub-Branch general meeting on 3 February and present a Bronze Australia Day Medallion to Mackay Sub-Branch member, Les Palmer.
7. I travelled to Brisbane on 5 February to attend and chair an RSL QLD Audit & Risk Committee meeting.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometres Travelled Statistics for January 2018

Voluntary Hours	156.0 hours
Kilometers Travelled	1246 kilometers
Nights Away From Home	6

2018 Australia Day Awards

I announced in my last newsletter that the recipients of the 2018 Australia Day Awards made by the District were as follows:

- Silver Medallion – Mrs Nicole Johnson, Springsure Sub-Branch
- Bronze Medallion – Mr Les Palmer, Mackay Sub-Branch

I attended a general meeting of the Mackay Sub-Branch on Sunday 4 February and presented Les with the award certificate and the medallion.



Because Nicole is now resident on Groote Island, I was not able to present Nicole with her medallion in person. Her certificate and medallion was sent to Nicole via the post with an appropriate congratulatory letter.

I know you will all join with me and congratulate Nicole and Les on being awarded these prestigious Australia Day medallions.

District Executive Meeting 3 February 2018

Centenary of World War 1 Armistice Dinner

The Executive is proposing to organize a dinner to commemorate this historic event. At the next District Council meeting, a proposal will be put to the meeting for ratification.

Nasho CC Sub-Branch Name Change

The Sub-Branch will be seeking approval from RSL QLD for a name change. The proposal will be submitted to the next District Council meeting and they are seeking District support for the name change.

District Strategic Plan

The District's Strategic Plan to 2020 is in the process of being reviewed.

District Council Meetings

There has been no meeting since November 2017.

The next meeting will be held at the Gracemere Sub-Branch on Saturday 17 February 2018.

ACNC Investigation

A communication went to sub-branches in late February 2017 advising that the ACNC was conducting an investigation into all RSL State Branches including Queensland.

RSL 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 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 2017.

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

The State Board has submitted a Governance Plan document to the ACNC for their approval and the plan has been accepted.

Progress is being made in meeting the requirements of the Governance Plan.

The investigation has not been finalised but I will keep you posted on any further feedback we receive. The finalization of the investigation could take until the middle of 2018.

Deloitte's Governance Study

As you are aware, the State RSL Board engaged Deloitte's in June 2017 to conduct a study into governance in RSL Queensland.

Deloitte's has travelled throughout Queensland and made presentations to each of the 10 Districts and sought member views and feedback on what changes they were contemplating.

Deloitte's presented their final report recommendations to the State Board at the December 2017 meeting. The report has been posted on the RSL State website and was sent electronically to each sub-branch through the districts before Christmas. I urge members to access a copy and study the recommendations.

The State President, Stewart Cameron CSC, and the Chair of the Constitution and Awards Committee, Roy Cunneen, will be carrying out a round of district consultations early in the New Year to seek the views of the RSL membership. The State Board's position is that they will be reluctant to institute changes to the State Board governance structure if it does not have the backing of the membership.

The outcome of this matter is very important as it relates to the ACNC investigation currently in progress and the presentation of a new state constitution to the next AGM in Cairns in June of this 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 over 50 ex-service personnel participating in the pilot program and to date this initiative has been well received.

Sub-Branch Charters

As reported in previous newsletters, 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 Emu Park Sub-Branch is the only sub-branch who wished to avail of the offer and their charter has been sent to State Branch.

District AGM Meeting 2019 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.

Extra Funding to Districts

State Branch has allocated an extra \$25,000 worth of grant funds to our District. The guidelines for the allocation of these funds will need to be drawn up and in due course we will advise details to the sub-branches.

On Going Matters and Reminders

District Website/Facebook

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 for use by our membership.

District AGM 2018

The executive position of Deputy President comes up for election at the AGM at Sarina on Saturday 17 March.

The District Secretary has forwarded a copy of the nomination form to each sub-branch and the form is also available from 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 understanding of the role and the responsibilities of the position.

Travel Policy

Sub-branches are reminded that the District Travel Policy has been amended so that a kilometer rate of reimbursement is to be paid for travel in lieu of a refund of petrol expense. The rate will be at the DVA kilometer rate.

This change came into effect from 1 January 2018 and a claim form will need to be completed. A copy of this form is attached to policy document or available from District Office.

Sub-Branch Board Governance

Following on from the Governance Training provided by the District Secretary at the District Council meeting in Clermont in September 2017, I will continue to remind sub-branches that members of sub-branch boards need to familiarize themselves with the TOBI booklet and undertake the on-line learning program so they understand what their responsibilities and duties are as a member of a Not-For-profit Board.

In terms of the TOBI Booklet, sub-branch boards should also ensure that board members have a written appointment which sets out these responsibilities and duties and acknowledge that board members are aware of the sub-branch's Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policies.

Dental Health Pilot Program

The program has now been up and running since May 2017 and the District Council has resolved to continue the pilot program into 2018.

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

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is now permanent and is proving very popular with our members in need.

Sub-branch presidents are reminded to keep an eye out for members who would benefit from the program.

District PAWS Coordinator

In September 2017, Phil Luzzi was appointed to the position of District PAWS Coordinator. In the latter part of 2017, he has been undertaking training in relation to the position.

In the New Year, Phil will be contacting sub-branches on how he can help with their welfare and pension services.

The District President's Award

The District Executive decided in 2017 to introduce the District President's Award. The award is a perpetual trophy that will be awarded to a sub-branch each year that has engaged with their community and excelled in meeting the welfare and commemorative objectives of the league.

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

Donations to Mates4Mates

In addition to \$5,000 donation made by the District in November 2017, I am aware that the Emu Park Sub-Branch also donated \$1,000 to Mates4Mates in December 2017.

If other sub-branches have also made a donation, can you please let me know.

Cadet Fund

RSL State will again make \$24,000 available to the District in 2018.

Sub-branches need to start liaising with the cadet groups in their areas to establish what their needs are.

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.

At the recent District Executive meeting, the Executive members undertook to be represented at as many sub-branch AGM's in the District as possible. This is not always possible due to timing and

geographic distances. If we are not able to get to your sub-branch AGM, then we will ensure that we visit a general meeting of that sub-branch during the year. Sub-branches who have not advised the District of their AGM date should do so as soon as possible.

In ending, I again emphasise that the District has considerable welfare and cadet funding provided by State Branch and I urge you to submit applications for the funding. Please feel free to talk to me or any other member of the District Executive about your ideas to access this funding.

Kindest regards

Barry Vains OAM

District President

THE LAST POST

Member ID	First Name	Surname	Date of Birth	Deceased Date	Owner	Last Financial Year
1568994	Neville	Taylor	8/01/1945	4/02/2018	Farleigh & Northern Beaches	SM2017
1535141	Robert	Sim	15/02/1941	1/02/2018	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	SM2017
1568346	Theodore	Williams	5/06/1924	25/01/2018	Clermont Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1558049	John	McMenamin	18/01/1933	21/01/2018	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1517895	George	Shuttleton	3/06/1924	30/12/2017	Capricornia & Rockhampton	SMLIFE
2430720	Noel	Farmer	10/02/1933	14/12/2017	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MEMBERSHIPS

Members yet to renew since 2017 By District and Sub Branch		
Pioneer-Fitzroy-Highlands District		222
	Blackwater/Bluff Sub Branch	1
	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc	22
	Carmila Sub Branch	7
	Clermont Sub Branch Inc.	12
	Emerald Sub Branch Inc.	17
	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.	16
	Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub Branch	20
	Gemfields Sub Branch Inc.	13
	Kuttabul Sub Branch Inc	1
	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	12
	Marian Sub Branch Inc.	9
	Moranbah Sub Branch	13
	NASHO CC Sub Branch	11
	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	10
	Seaforth Sub Branch Inc.	5
	Springsure Sub Branch	3
	Walkerston-Pleystowe Sub Branch Inc.	12
	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.	38
Grand Total		222



Mines victims and clearance

www.mivac.org.au

MiVAC assists those unfortunates still suffering on a daily basis from the terrible effects of war in the highlands of Vietnam.

Please visit the website for information about this wonderful organization, and if you are interested to join, membership is \$10 per year and fall due on July 1 each year.

Membership and donations can be made on the website or to Lyn Clark at the Capricornia and Rockhampton Region Sub Branch. Please feel free to contact the District Secretary for Lyn's contact details.