

# **PFH DISTRICT RSL NEWSLETTER**

## **JANUARY 2018**

Welcome to the 2018 New Year. I hope everyone has taken the opportunity to take a break from RSL business and enjoy the festive season with family and friends. I have managed to take a couple of weeks off and Mandy and I were joyed to have our son and daughter with us over the Christmas period.

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

1. I travelled to Brisbane on 4 December to attend and chair an RSL State Audit & Risk Committee meeting.
2. While in Brisbane, I attended a Strategic Planning session for the Board of Mates4Mates.
3. On Friday 8 December, I attended the funeral and wake for an Emu Park Sub-Branch member's wife.
4. On Sunday 10 December, I travelled to Marian and attended the Christmas Party for the Marian Sub-Branch.
5. I attended the RSL State Board meeting in Brisbane on 14/15 December.
6. While in Brisbane on 15 December, I attended a luncheon at Mates4Mates to meet the newly appointed CEO of Mates4Mates.
7. I attended a general meeting of the Emu Park RSL on Sunday 17 December.

### **District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometres Travelled Statistics for December 2017**

Voluntary Hours	126.0 hours
Kilometers Travelled	1303 kilometers
Nights Away From Home	4

### **2018 Australia Day Awards**

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the recipients of the 2018 Australia Day Awards made by District are as follows:

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

Nicole, as the Secretary of the Springsure Sub Branch made a huge contribution to the construction of a new cenotaph in the town. Her prime achievement was being successful in securing \$130 000.00 worth of grants for the cenotaph construction. This was a remarkable achievement by such a small sub branch.

Les, has for many years been helping other members of the RSL in whatever way he can. He has been a president and a long-term member of the Veterans' Support Group. He has provided a transport facility to RSL members and war widows for hospital appointments and attendance at RSL meetings. He is now also involved with assisting those within Legacy.

### **District Executive Meetings**

There has been no meeting since my last newsletter was issued at the beginning of December.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 27 February 2018.

## **District Council Meetings**

There has been no meeting since my last newsletter was issued at the beginning of December.

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

## **State Board Meeting 14/ 15 December**

### **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.

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 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 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 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 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 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 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 53 ex-service personnel participating in the pilot program and to date this initiative has been well received.

### **State Based Minister for Veterans Affairs**

RSL Queensland has been 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.

Now that the State election is over and the government has been returned, lobbying will need to recommence.

### **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 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 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.

## **On Going Matters and Reminders**

### **District Website/Facebook**

New website address is [www.rslpfhdistrict.org.au](http://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 members.

### **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 comes 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 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.

With the coming of the new 2018 Year, I look forward to continuing my work as your District President and working with the sub-branches. I will be trying to get to as many sub-branch AGM's as I possibly can. If I can't get to your AGM, then I will certainly visit your sub-branch at another time during the year.

Remember, 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**

<b>Member ID</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>Deceased Date</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Last Financial Year</b>
2430720	Noel	Farmer	10/02/1933	14/12/2017	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE

### **DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR 2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
03.02.2018	8.30am	District Office Mackay
03.03.2018	8.30am	District Office Mackay
28.04.2018	8.30am	District Office Mackay
30.06.2018	8.30am	District Office Mackay
25.08.2018	8.30am	District Office Mackay
27.10.2018	8.30am	District Office Mackay

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
17.02.2018	*1.30pm	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 22 <sup>nd</sup>	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

**DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR 2018**

**\*NOTE TIME CHANGE**