

PFH DISTRICT RSL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

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

1. On Sunday 11 February, I attended the Gracemere Sub-Branch AGM.
2. On Monday 12 February, I travelled to Emerald to attend the AGM of the Emerald Sub-Branch.
3. I travelled to Mackay on 14 February:
 - To attend the AGM of the Kuttabul Sub-Branch.
 - Together with the District Secretary, meet with the District's auditor to finalise the 2017 financial audit.
4. On Saturday 17 February:
 - I attended the opening of the museum/recreational hut at the Cockscomb Veteran Retreat at Cawarral which the District contributed funds to.
 - I attended and chaired a District Council meeting at the Gracemere Sub-Branch.
5. I attended the AGM of the Capricornia and Rockhampton Region Sub-Branch on Sunday 18 February and presented Life Membership to the President, Tiny Clark.
6. I travelled to Brisbane to:
 - Participate in a State Board Strategic Planning session on Wednesday 21 February.
 - Attend the February Board meeting on Thursday 22 February.
7. I travelled to Mackay on Saturday 24 February to attend a Memorial Service for Mackay Sub-Branch member, Bob Sim OAM.
8. Together with the Chief Financial Officer from State Branch, Joy Murray, I met with the presidents and other executive of the Yeppoon and Sarina sub-branches on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 February respectively.
9. I travelled to Brisbane on Thursday 1 March, to attend a Mates4Mates:
 - Board Strategic Planning session.
 - Board meeting.
10. I travelled to Mackay to:
 - Attend and chair a District Executive meeting on Saturday 3 March.
 - Attend the AGM of the Mackay Sub-Branch on Sunday 4 March.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics for February 2018

Voluntary Hours	197.0 hours
Kilometers Travelled	4017 kilometers
Nights Away From Home	11

Life Membership – Tiny Clark

As mentioned earlier, I had the honor and privilege of attending the Capricornia and Rockhampton Region Sub-Branch AGM on Sunday 18 February and presenting President, Tiny Clark, with Life Membership of the League.



Tiny has given long and dedicated service to the RSL since the 1980's as a member of the now defunct Rockhampton Sub-Branch and as a founding member of the Capricornia and Rockhampton Region Sub-Branch.

I am sure you will all join with me in congratulating Tiny for receiving this prestigious RSL National Award.

Vale – Bob Sim

As mentioned earlier, I had the sad duty of attending a Memorial Service for Bob in Mackay on Saturday 24 February. Our Deputy District President, John Edwards, did the RSL Poppy Service in a very capable and professional manner.



I was honored to lay a floral arrangement on behalf of the PFH District during the service.

Bob was a dedicated member of the Mackay Sub-Branch for over 45 years. The amazing thing about Bob's life was that he was also able to dedicate so much time to the cadet units in Mackay and the community at large.

I am sure you will join with me and convey our condolences to Bob's wife Gwen, and family.

New Sub-Branch Presidents

As you would be aware, The District is in the AGM season and a number of AGM's have already been held.

There have been a number of new sub-branch presidents elected. I acknowledge the following new presidents and thank them for taking on this very important responsibility and giving their time to the management of their sub-branch:

Luke Taylor	Mackay Sub-Branch
Cos Cameron	Gracemere Sub-Branch
Kevin Cahill	Seaforth Sub-Branch
Tammy Sprott	Finch Hatten Sub-Branch

District Council Meeting 17 February 2018

Centenary of World War 1 Armistice Dinner

At the meeting, the District Council ratified the District Executive's proposal to organize a dinner in Mackay to commemorate this historic event.

District Deputy President, John Edwards, has agreed to chair a sub-committee to plan and organize the event. John has approached members in the Mackay region to serve on the committee.

Nasho CC Sub-Branch Name Change

The Sub-Branch will be seeking approval from RSL QLD to change the name of their sub-branch to the "Rockhampton Combined Services" sub-branch.

At the meeting, the District Council, supported the name change and the proposal will now be submitted to the Constitution and Awards Committee for State Board approval.

Gracemere Sub-Branch Motion

The Gracemere Sub-Branch presented the following motion at the meeting:

"That RSL National be requested to lobby the Federal Government for Remembrance day to be gazetted as a national Public Holiday"

and the District Council supported the motion.

The motion will now be presented at the State Board for consideration.

District Strategic Plan

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

District Membership of Membership Innovation Networks Committee

State Branch is setting up the abovementioned committee and has asked the districts to nominate two members per district.

The District nominees are:

Warren Shearer – Farleigh and Northern Beaches Sub-Branch
Rob Murray – Marian Sub-Branch

District Executive Meeting Saturday 3 March 2018

2017 District Audited Accounts

The Executive reviewed the audited accounts for 2017 and received the financial accounts.

The accounts will be presented to the District AGM in Sarina on the 17 March 2018.

2018 District Budget

The Executive finalized the 2018 Budget which will be presented for approval at the District AGM.

Tony Cook Video

The Executive has decided to provide sponsorship of \$2,000 towards the production of the video.

Tony Cook is a country and western singer and a young veteran who is now living in the Emu Park area. He has written a song about his time in the service of his country and PTSD. The Livingstone Shire Council is also providing sponsorship and has given Tony permission to use the Emu Park Centenary of ANZAC Memorial as backdrop for his video.

The District will receive acknowledgement and publicity from this sponsorship. Tony will provide a copy of his song and video for putting on the District website.

State Board Meeting 21 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.

In November 2017, the State Board approved and 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, are carrying out a round of district consultations and will present a hybrid board structure version to the membership. This presentation will take place at the PFH District AGM in Sarina on 17 March 2018.

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.

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.

State AGM in Cairns 22/24 June 2018

At the AGM in Townsville in June 2016, a motion was put and passed which required RSL State to allocate \$2million to sub-branches each year for welfare spending. Legal advice has been received that this motion was invalid.

A motion will be put to the members in Cairns to rescind this motion and I ask that you give due consideration to supporting this motion.

This motion commits RSL Queensland to allocate these funds in perpetuity regardless of the financial position and this is not prudent management for the organization. RSL Queensland currently allocates \$1million to welfare funding by providing \$100,000 to each district.

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.

Only one nomination has been received and that is from the current serving Deputy District President, John Edwards, and John will be formally elected for a further 3 year term at the AGM in Sarina.

I congratulate John and I look forward to working with him in the future.

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 acknowledges that board members are aware of the sub-branch's Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policies.

Further, sub-branch board members should be aware that board members can be held liable for the debts of the organization if they allow the sub-branch to trade while insolvent.

It is recommended that at each meeting of a sub-branch, board members should rigorously review the financial position and once this happens pass the following motion:

“That in the opinion of the Board/Management Committee(whichever is appropriate) the sub-branch is solvent and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the sub-branch will be able to pay its debts when they become due and payable”.

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.

So far in 2018, 7 members have availed of the program at a cost of \$2067.

LiveLife Alarms Program

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

So far in 2018, 3 alarms have been issued at a cost of \$1185.

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.

Phil will be contacting sub-branches on how he can help with their welfare and pension services.

In the near future, Phil will be organizing for a basic welfare course to be run in the north and south of the district and sub-branch presidents are asked to encourage members to attend such a course so they can provide welfare services within their sub-branch.

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 the \$5,000 donation made by the District in November 2017, I am aware that the Emu Park and Seaforth sub-branches have since donated \$1,000 and \$5,000 respectively to Mates4Mates.

District Secretary, Lynette, has the relevant paper work that needs to be completed and sent with your donation to Mates4Mates.

Cadet Fund 2018

RSL State has increased the amount provided to the District from \$24,000 to \$33,750.

The Executive has decided to bring forward the date of allocation of the funds from November to Council meeting on 15 September 2018. Applications closing date will be in early August with the District Executive vetting the applications on 25 August 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.

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	Middle Name	Surname	Date of Birth	Deceased D:	Owner	Last Financi
1001596	John	A.	Breadsell	6/03/1934	24/02/2018	Seaforth Sub Branc	SMLIFE
1020625	Douglas	John	Keeton	23/02/1942	17/02/2018	Farleigh & Northern	SMLIFE
1555021	Grace	Margaret	Conaghan	22/10/1921	15/02/2018	Yeppoon Sub Branc	SMLIFE
1518751	H	G.	Stevens	11/06/1920	10/02/2018	Mackay Sub Branc	SMLIFE
1568994	Neville	A.	Taylor	8/01/1945	4/02/2018	Farleigh & Northern	SM2017
1762807	Harry	A.	Tricklebank	12/10/1929	3/02/2018	Capricornia & Rock	SMLIFE
1535141	Robert	Charles	Sim	15/02/1941	1/02/2018	Mackay Sub Branc	SM2017