

PFH DISTRICT RSL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

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

1. Met with Brian Hollins from Legacy at Emu Park on Thursday 5 July to discuss ways the District and Legacy can co-operate with each other in welfare service delivery.
2. Attended the funeral of Glenda McKay, wife of the President of the Nashos CC Sub-Branch, Don McKay, in Rockhampton on Friday 6 July.
3. Attended a Mates4Mates Board meeting in Townsville on Tuesday 10 July.
4. Travelled to Brisbane for RSL State Board meeting on Thursday 19 July.
5. Travelled to Mackay for District Council meeting at Farview Tavern on Saturday 21 July.
6. Attended Bendigo Bank Networking Night in Emu Park on Wednesday 25 July.
7. Travelled to Mackay for District Life Members' Lunch on Saturday 28 July.

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

Voluntary Hours	162.5
Kilometers Travelled	1608
Nights Away From Home	7

District Council Meeting Saturday 21 July

The Council meeting was hosted by the Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub-Branch and held at the Farview Tavern in Mackay. I thank the Sub-Branch for attending to the organizational aspects of the meeting.

Diggers Golf Day

Les Palmer from the Mackay Sub-Branch has organised a Diggers Golf Day in Mackay on Sunday 19 August and in view of the number of ex-servicemen and women playing in the event, the District has donated \$300 towards the running of the event.

You can contact Les on 0437 451 635 for more details on the event.

2017 ACNC Documentation Lodgment

State Branch has advised that all sub-branches in the District have provided the necessary documentation for lodging with the ACNC.

I thank sub-branches for their co-operation in attending to this matter.

The next Council meeting will be held on Saturday 15 September at the Yeppoon Sub-Branch.

2018 District Life Members Lunch

The District Executive hosted a Life Members Lunch at the Shamrock Hotel in Mackay on Saturday 28 July.

10 life members with their wives and partners attended the lunch and all seemed to enjoy the get together and the camaraderie .

RSL Queensland Deputy President, John Strachan OAM, and his wife Judy, were our special quests. A big thank you goes to John and Judy for giving their time to travel to Mackay from Brisbane for the occasion.



From Left to Right: Alan Norman, Col Walz, Ron Bassan, Noel Wales, John Edwards, Wayne Carter, Dave Oliver, Ron Cameron, Fred Soper and Col Benson and in picture below, Barry Vains OAM and John Strachan OAM



Veterans Lunch in the Park Sunday 5 August 11am to 3pm

The Mackay Sub-Branch organized the above afternoon of camaraderie in John Breen Park North Mackay. Many veterans and their families attended. Great afternoon with a great turn out of approx. 50+people attending. Woodfired pizzas were a big hit!

A Mates4Mates representative from Townsville was also present at the event.



District Executive Meeting

The next District Executive meeting will be held on Saturday 25 August.

State Board Meeting Thursday 19 July 2018

State Government Community Gambling Fund

Please note that sub-branches are eligible to apply for funding from this source and need to consider this when looking to fund RSL welfare and commemorative programs.

Future State AGM 'S

The State Board has decided to hold the next 3 annual AGM's in Brisbane due to the high cost of holding the AGM in provincial cities.

State Strategic Plan

The strategic plan process for RSL Queensland has now been finalized and the Strategic Plan document has been approved by the Board.

I will let you know when the Plan document is placed on the State website.

The Defence Family Research Project

In 2017, RSL QLD commissioned marketing organization, Colmar Brunton, to undertake a research project into Defence Force families in Queensland(ex-service and those still serving).

The project is now complete and this valuable research will provide RSL QLD with demographic data on current and ex - Defence Force personnel and their families and will enable RSL QLD to enhance their strategic planning and target their services to particular areas of need.

A copy of the Defence Family Research Project: Key Findings Report document was provided to delegates in their information packs at the AGM in Cairns and this document needs to be made available to interested parties in the sub-branch by the AGM delegate.

ACNC Investigation

In late March 2018, the ACNC finalized their investigation and RSL Queensland received the formal outcome of the year- long investigation. The ACNC has identified some breaches of obligations under the ACNC Legislation in RSL Queensland's governance and has issued a Directions Notice. The Directions Notice compels RSL Queensland to undertake specific actions by a set date, otherwise the failure to comply with the direction is an offence and may result in further regulatory action including the loss of charitable status.

RSL Queensland accepted all the directions issued by the ACNC and the Board unanimously committed to implementing our Governance Improvement Plan and agreed to an independent, third party assurance of governance processes over the next 12 months.

The State Board is very conscious of the need to meet the time lines set by the Directions Notice.

An online copy of the Summary of Direction Notice is available at www.rslqld.org/governance

New State Constitution

Regrettably, the draft new constitution put to the AGM in Cairns failed to attract a 2/3 majority of delegate votes and we still operating under the old constitution from 2011. PFH District only had 1 sub-branch vote against the new constitution.

The adoption of a new Constitution for RSL Queensland is essential for us to modernize as an organization, improve our governance, and deliver a skills-based Board.

The outcome of this matter is very important as it relates directly to the ACNC Direction Notice issued and it is an integral part of the Governance Improvement Plan the Board of RSL QLD is committed to.

New State President, Tony Ferris, organized a meeting with the ACNC Commissioner on 9 July and his email report on the meeting was tabled at the recent District Council meeting and has now been forwarded to all sub-branches.

The State Board has endorsed a procedure and timeline for a Project Team to engage with members and sub-branches seeking feedback on suggested changes, have any amendments drafted, and for the submission of the new constitution to members via a postal vote.

The procedure and timeline was tabled at the recent Council meeting and has now been sent to all the sub-branches.

The procedure includes the following phases:

1. Preparation phase now complete (23/7/18)
2. Engagement with membership phase (to 20/8/18)
3. Drafting and Amendments to Constitution phase (to 3/09/18)
4. Adoption of Constitution phase (to 8/10/18)
5. Bring Constitution to Life Phase (to 24/12/18)

Feedback on the 2018 Constitution can be provided by emailing 2018Constitution@rslqld.org or visiting RSL State website at www.rslqld.org/2018Constitution

The District sent a questionnaire to sub-branches concerning the new constitution in early July and requested the questionnaire be completed and returned to the District Secretary by the end of July 2018.

The questionnaire's completion will give District an indication of how members feel about the new constitution and what changes they would like to see.

If you have not completed the questionnaire and returned it to the District Secretary, then I request that you do so ASAP.

The ATO Private Binding Ruling

The ATO responded to RSL QLD's application for a Private Binding Ruling in March 2018 and has determined that the historic out of pocket expenses paid to volunteer RSL QLD directors are be treated as income for taxation purposes. Further, they have now also advised that RSL QLD does not have to pay superannuation on these amounts.

RSL QLD has now received notice of what action the ATO expects, and retrospective PAYG statements have now been issued to present and past directors.

This ruling has huge implications for how these out of pocket expenses are treated at district and sub-branch level and an advice will be issued to districts and sub-branches in due course.

Transition to Employment Program

One of the major issues current veterans are faced with during their transition from the Australian Defence Force 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.

The pilot program was very successful and on 30 April 2018, RSL QLD launched this program Queensland wide. Response from veterans undertaking transition to date has been very positive.

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.

Centenary of Armistice Dinner

The District will be holding a dinner in Mackay on the evening of Friday 9 November 2018 to commemorate this historic event.

District Deputy President, John Edwards, is chairing a sub-committee which is planning and organizing the event.

An application for funding from the State RSL ANZAC and Centenary Commemorative Fund has now been completed, submitted and \$17 000.00 grant has now been approved.

Planning for the event is continuing.

Innovation Networks Committee

State Branch has set up the abovementioned committee and the District nominees on the committee were:

Warren Shearer – Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub-Branch

Rob Murray – Marian Sub-Branch

The Committee has now met in Brisbane and will continue to meet via technological means.

Warren Shearer is providing reports to delegates at District Council meetings.

District Strategic Plan

The District Plan is in the process of being reviewed.

It is planned for the amended plan to be submitted to the District Council at the September 2018 District Council meeting.

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 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 policy.

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, 26 members have availed of the program at a cost of \$7,407.30.

LiveLife Alarms Program

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

So far in 2018, 10 alarms have been issued at a cost of \$3,950.

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

District PAWS Coordinator

Phil has arranged for two basic welfare courses to be run in the north and south of the District as follows:

Tuesday 9/Wednesday 10 October 2018 at Yeppoon Sub-Branch

Tuesday 16/Wednesday 17 October 2018 in Mackay(venue to be advised)

A number of district sub-branch members have nominated for the courses and a minimum of 10 participants needed to run each course has been met. If you have not put your name forward, then you may be still able to attend. However you will need to contact Phil.

The running of the courses will be no cost to the sub-branches or participants.

Donations to Mates4Mates

Sub-branches are encouraged to consider donating funds to Mates4Mates if they are in a position to do so.

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 is Monday 20 August with the District Executive vetting the applications at District Executive meeting on 25 August 2018.

Get your applications in.

Sub-branches will be advised of application outcomes at District Council meeting on Saturday 15 September.

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.

The committee has advised that final submissions have to be in as follows:

Applications over \$20,000 - by end of August 2018

Applications under \$20,000 – by end of September 2018

District Veterans Welfare Fund

A further \$100,000 of funds was allocated to the District for 2018.

To date 9 applications have been approved by the District Executive at a year to date cost of \$57,002.

Further, the District has spent \$2,550 to date out of the \$10,000 budget allocated for Emergency Welfare.

I think you would all agree that the World War 2 veterans are special. They were brought up in the 1920's and 1930's and had a tough upbringing. A large number of their mothers had lost their husbands in the 1st World War and they assumed the physical and financial burden of bringing their sons and daughters up in a single parent family. These families had to face the hardship of the Great Depression. Then when World War 2 broke out in 1939, and like their fathers and uncles in World War 1, they enlisted in their thousands to fight for their country.

By then, the word ANZAC was so embedded in our national memory that the men of the 2nd AIF were seen as heirs to an established tradition and would be judged by the values which their fathers had manifested. As a result they came to value things like decency, honesty, integrity, generosity, doing the right thing, and being men of their word, where a handshake was their bond.

One such World War 2 veteran was Jimmy Geedrick. Sadly Jim passed away on Sunday 22 July. He was a long standing member of the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub-Branch.

Jim was a World War 2, Korean, Malaya Emergency, Borneo, and Vietnam veteran. He also served with the Occupation force in Japan after the war.

I had the privilege of meeting Jimmy in 1985 and worked with him at the Rockhampton Grammar School for over 10 years. He was a soldiers' soldier and had a wicked sense of humor. In recent times when his health was failing, I still went to see him and I am glad that I did.

We are losing the World War 2 veterans fast and I ask those sub-branches that still have them, to make sure you look after them as in the near future they will all be gone.

Vale Jimmy Geedrick.

Stay safe and continue the good work of the League.

Kindest regards

Barry Vains OAM

District President

The Last Post

Member ID	First Name	Surname	Deceased Date	Owner	Last Financial Year
1032703	Marjorie	Morris	3/08/2018	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	SM2014
1761336	Michael	Dilger	31/07/2018	Seaforth Sub Branch Inc.	SM2018
1546969	James	Clews	23/07/2018	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1518143	James	Geedrick	22/07/2018	Capricornia & Rockhampton F	SMLIFE
1518654	Albert	Phillips	21/07/2018	Farleigh & Northern Beaches	SMLIFE
1561569	Robert	Ware	20/07/2018	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE

District Council Meeting 21.07.2018

