

PFH DISTRICT RSL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018

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

1. On Thursday 6 September evening, I attended a Central Queensland AICD Briefing and Discussion on Not for Profit Governance in Rockhampton and participated as a Panel member.
2. On Sunday 8 September, I attended a general meeting of the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub-Branch (Nashos CC Sub-Branch) in Rockhampton.
3. On Thursday 13 September, together with District Deputy President, John Edwards, District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, and Neil Wales from Kuttabul Sub-Branch, I travelled to Emerald to welcome Mackay ultra-runner and young veteran, Wayne McMurtrie, who is on a Run for Resilience of 1500 kilometers from Brisbane to Winton, into Emerald and have dinner with him and his road crew.
4. On Saturday 15 September, I attended and chaired a District Council meeting at Yeppoon.
5. Travelled to Brisbane for Media Training and District Presidents meeting on Wednesday 19 September and RSL State Board meeting on Thursday 20 September.
6. Travelled to Mackay on Monday 24 September to meet with Corporate Services State Asset Manager, Briston Toft, to discuss joint State and District property in Mackay matters.
7. Attend Emu Park Sub-Branch general meeting on Sunday 26 August.
8. While in Mackay, I attended a Civic Reception held on Tuesday 25 September by the Mackay Regional Council and Mackay Sub-Branch for Run for Resilience runner, Wayne McMurtrie.
9. On Saturday 29 September, I travelled to Sarina to attend Sarina RSL Sub-Branch Centenary Commemoration Dinner Dance.
10. On Tuesday 2 October, I travelled to Brisbane to attend and chair a State Audit & Risk Committee meeting.

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

Voluntary Hours	183.5
Kilometers Travelled	3171
Nights Away From Home	7

VALE – Don McKay

It is with deep regret that I advise of the passing of Don McKay on Tuesday 25 September.

Don was President of the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub-Branch (Nashos CC Sub-Branch) for many years and was a tireless worker for the Sub-Branch and the RSL in general. He had recently lost his wife, Glenda.

On behalf of the District, I convey our deepest sympathy to Don's Family.

Run for Resilience

Mackay ultra-runner and young veteran, Wayne McMurtrie, set off from ANZAC Square in Brisbane on a 1,500 kilometer Run for Resilience on 1 September 2018. The run took 22 days and ended in Winton in Central-Western Queensland on 22 September.

The run was the reversal of the original journey of the troop trains from Winton to Brisbane that took the World War 1 original ANZACS to war and reflected on the ANZACS journey home when they returned after the end of the war in November 1918. The run by Wayne was a mark of remembrance and commemoration for all Australians involved in conflict – past and present.

Wayne was raising funds for, and raising the awareness of, the plight current veteran's PTSD.

On the run he travelled through the PFH District from Rockhampton west to Emerald and the Gemfields. I would like to thank the Gracemere, Blackwater/Bluff, and Emerald sub-branches for looking after Wayne and his road crew along the way.



The Mackay Sub-Branch, in conjunction with the Mackay Regional Council, held a Civic Reception for Wayne in Jubilee Park on the evening of Tuesday 25 September. The reception was attended by the Mayor, Greg Williamson, and RSL State President, Tony Ferris, travelled from Brisbane for the function.

At the District Council meeting held in Yeppoon on Saturday 15 September, it was decided that the District donate \$1,500(\$1 per kilometer) to Wayne's nominated charity, PTSD Resurrected, and the donation was made to Wayne by myself and District Deputy President, John Edwards, at the Civic Reception.

I would like to sincerely thank Mackay Sub-Branch President, Luke Taylor, and Sub-Branch members for planning and organizing the Civic Reception and for donating a substantial amount of monies(around \$1,300) to Wayne to cover the cost of the fuel for the road vehicle during the run.

District Council Meeting Saturday 15 September



District Executive Resources Expenditure Policy

The policy was tabled at the District Council meeting in Yeppoon and the policy was approved.

Sub-Branch Support Program

A draft copy of a policy and guidelines for the program was tabled at the District Council meeting and the Council approved the introduction of the program.

The District Secretary will send a copy of the approved policy and guidelines for the program to all sub-branches.

Sub-branches in need of assistance are encouraged to apply for funding.

Allocation of Cadet Funding

The District Council approved the applications for cadet funding as recommended by the District Executive at the meeting.

The District Secretary has advise sub-branches directly of the application approvals.

District Council Meeting Dates for 2019

16.02 2019	Emu Park
06.04.2019	Emerald (AGM will be held in morning followed by District Council Meeting)
20.07.2019	St. Helens
21.09.2019	Rockhampton (Combined Services Sub-Branch)
16.11.2019	Mackay

District Executive Meeting

The next District Executive meeting will be held on Saturday 27 October.

State Board Meeting Thursday 23 August 2018

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 the regional cities. Considerable cost savings can also be made with quotes being sought for the three events.

State Strategic Plan 2023

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

A summary of the document can be viewed on the State website www.rslqld.org/governance Then click on Strategic Vision.

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 and the September 2018 report has been completed and provided to the ACNC.

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 are 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 forwarded to all sub-branches.

The ACNC has recently made further comments in relation to State President's report(in red on Tony's email) and this further email was sent to all sub-branches.

The State Board had previously 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 going to members via a postal vote.

The procedure and timeline was sent to all the sub-branches.

At September Board meeting, it was decided to change the procedure and timeline with the proposed new constitution to be presented to the 2019 AGM for adoption or otherwise. This change to the timetable was made so as to allow sufficient time to consult with the members on the proposed new constitution and make further amendments after the consultation period if the members so desire.

The Project Team has now finalized a new proposed constitution and in early October the document will be published on the website and a copy will be provided to all sub-branches. Consultations through the districts will also commence around this time.

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 Queensland launched this program Queensland wide. Response from veterans undertaking transition to date has been very positive.

The Employment Ready Program which is part of the Employment Program was recently launched.

On Going Matters and Reminders

State Government Community Gambling Fund

Please note that that sub-branches are eligible to apply for these grants and should consider this avenue as a source of funds for maintenance and air conditioning of sub-branch halls/buildings etc.

District Website/Facebook

Website address is www.rslpfdistrict.org.au

Sub-branches are encouraged to keep providing details of events, photographs, etc to Vice President, Phil Luzzi, or District Secretary, Lynette Phillips, 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.

The Guest Speaker for the evening is World War 2 veteran and Rat of Tobruk, Gordon Wallace.

The dinner will be funded jointly by the District and a funding grant from the State RSL ANZAC and Centenary Commemorative Fund. This grant for \$17,000 has now been approved and the funds have been received by District.

Further details were provided to sub-branch delegates at District Council meeting in Yeppoon on Saturday 15 September and will follow from the District secretary.

Innovation Networks Committee

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

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 next District Council meeting on the 9 November.

Sub-Branch Board Governance

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 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 resolve the following statement:

“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”.

The District Secretary is in the process of arranging for the Governance Team in State Branch to present a governance course at the District Council meeting in February 2019.

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.

At District Council meeting in Yeppoon on Saturday 15 September, the Council considered the program and decided to make it permanent.

So far in 2018, 35 members have availed of the program at a cost of \$11,450.00.

LiveLife Alarms Program

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

So far in 2018, 12 alarms have been issued at a cost of \$4,440.

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(Shamrock Motel)

A number of sub-branch members have nominated for the courses and a minimum of 10 participants was needed to run each course. The running of the courses will be at 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.

ANZAC Centenary Commemorative Funding

Funding for this program has now ceased.

District Veterans Welfare Fund

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

To date 16 applications have been approved by the District Executive at a year to date cost of \$75,512.

Further, the District has spent \$3,550 to date out of the \$10,000 budget allocated for Emergency Welfare.

As advised earlier, at the recent District Council meeting at Yeppoon, the District Council approved the Sub-Branch Support program.

The main objective of this program is for the District to provide recurrent financial assistance to sub-branches when there is a genuine need. While we operate on the premise that the sub-branches are separate entities and responsible for their own destiny, the District Executive accept that there will be times when the District may need to step in and provide assistance to a sub-branch.

If a sub-branch president feels that he/or she has a genuine case for assistance, then I urge you to submit an application. Further, members of the District Executive stand willing to discuss a matter with you and provide guidance.

I reiterate that it is pleasing to see the initiatives that some sub-branches are undertaking in the welfare and commemorative areas. Keep up the good work.

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	Date of Birth	Deceased Date	Owner	Last Financial Year
1136101	William	Fergus	22/04/1924	3/10/2018	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1021569	Donald	McKay	14/09/1937	25/09/2018	Rockhampton Combined Serv	SMLIFE
1017276	Charles	Bugeja	12/12/1934	5/09/2018	Walkerston-Pleystowe Sub Br	SMLIFE
1015736	Coral	Burt	25/03/1934	28/08/2018	Mackay Ex-Service Women	SM2011

MEMBERSHIPS

	<26 yrs	26-35 yrs	36-45 yrs	46-55 yrs	56-65 yrs	66-75 yrs	76-85 yrs	86+ yrs	Total
Blackwater/Bluff Sub Branch	5	19	44	98	155	400	218	103	1,042
Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc	0	0	1	0	5	17	13	21	57
Carmila Sub Branch	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	6
Clermont Sub Branch Inc.	0	0	2	1	3	7	2	3	18
Emerald Sub Branch Inc.	0	1	3	4	8	19	3	2	40
Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.	1	5	3	17	22	81	32	15	176
Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub Branch	1	0	0	3	2	19	8	1	34
Finch Hatton Sub Branch Inc.	0	1	4	7	4	6	9	0	31
Gemfields Sub Branch Inc.	1	0	1	1	6	22	9	2	42
Gracemere & District Sub Branch Inc.	1	2	7	5	13	18	5	5	56
Kultabul Sub Branch Inc	0	0	0	0	2	6	3	2	13
Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	0	1	3	6	14	42	28	25	119
Marian Sub Branch Inc.	1	1	1	2	10	10	6	0	31
Mirani Sub Branch	0	0	0	2	5	1	0	0	8
Moranbah Sub Branch	0	1	10	5	2	3	0	0	21
Nebo Sub Branch	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch Inc	0	0	0	2	2	6	25	0	35
Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	0	2	1	8	18	37	25	7	98
Seaforth Sub Branch Inc.	0	0	0	1	2	2	10	1	16
Springsure Sub Branch	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	1	7
St Helens Sub Branch	0	0	0	1	3	3	5	0	12
Walkerston-Pleystowe Sub Branch Inc.	0	2	1	11	6	32	8	3	63
Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.	0	1	2	16	24	54	24	14	135
	5	19	44	98	155	400	218	103	1,042